

Articles:

Continuity in local and regional identity: the evidence of family names

David Hey 2

Lost churches and chapels of Torquay; part 2: non-conformist chapels

Lorna Smith 7

The 'Great Sir Thomas' Acland and his Norwegian namesake; Part 2: Sir Thomas meets his namesake

Keith G. Orrell 15

A Victorian obsession: William Wykes-Finch and North Wyke

Greg Finch 24

Reviews

31

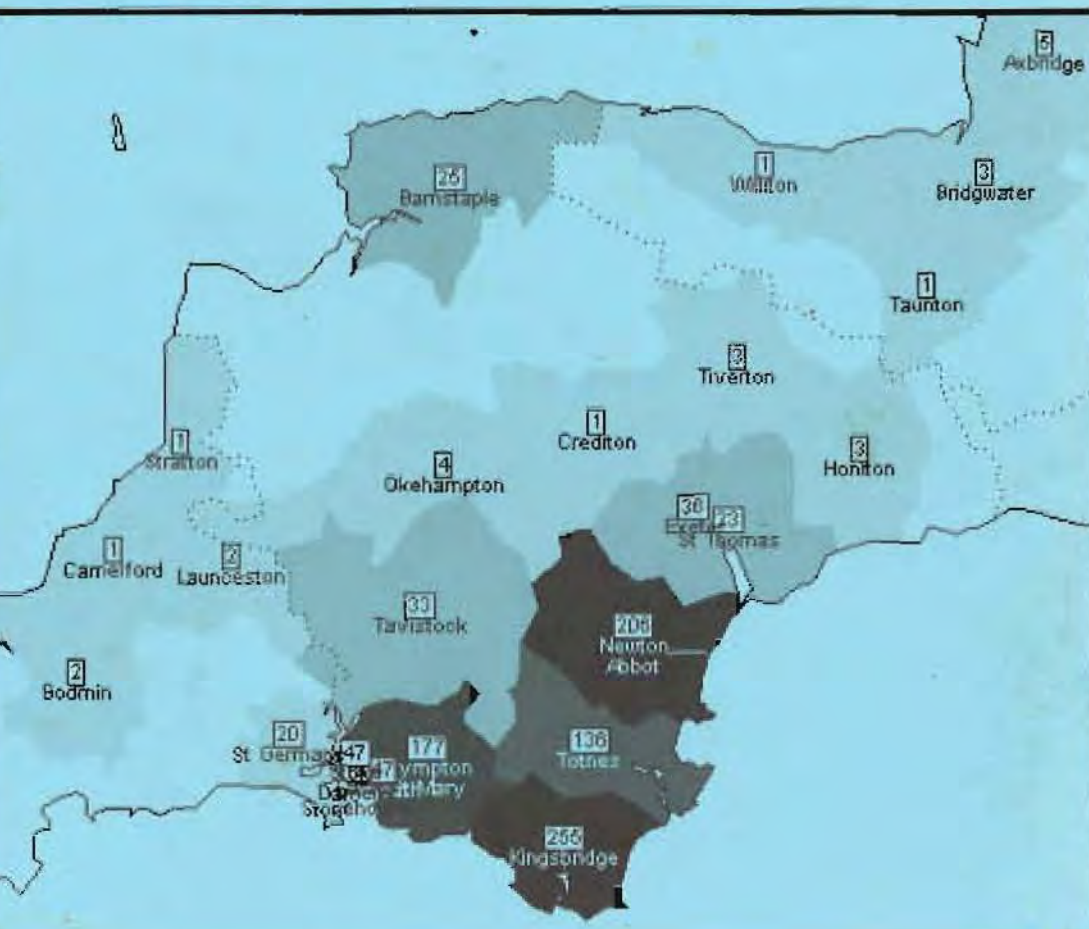
© Devon History Society 2006 ISSN 0305 8549

The Devon Historian

Spring 2006

72

Journal of the Devon History Society



THE DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY

Past Presidents

Professor W.G. Hoskins (1969-73); Lady Aileen Fox (1973-5);
Dr C.A. Rulegh Radford (1975-7); W. Best Harris (1977-81);
Frank Booker (1981-2); Professor Joyce Youings (1982-6); Crispin Gill (1986-9);
Professor Ivan Roots (1989-93); Dr Basil Greenhill (1993-6);
Dr Harold Fox (1996-9); Dr W.B. Stephens (1999-2003)

Officers

President	Professor Nicholas Orme
Chairman	Mrs Shirley Purves
Vice-Chairman	Miss Elizabeth Maycock
Hon. Secretary	Mrs Margaret Lewis
Hon. Treasurer	Dr Sadru Bhanji
Hon. Editor	Dr Andrew Jackson
Council	Miss Pamela Clifton, Brian Clist, Tony Collings, John Draisey, Arnold Sayers, Robin Stanes, D.L.B. Thomas, Michael Weller <i>Co-opted:</i> Professor Joyce Youings, Mrs Sheila Stirling, Adrian Reed

Membership

All correspondence relating to membership, personal local history interests and offers of work or assistance should be sent to Mr David Thomas, 112 Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4RW.

Subscriptions

The Devon Historian is available free to all members of The Devon History Society. Membership subscriptions run annually from 1 May to 30 April and for the coming year will be as follows: Individual: £10.00; Family (that is two or more individuals in one family): £15.00; Corporate (libraries, institutions): £15.00; Affiliated societies: £10.00; Life Membership (open to individuals only): £100.00. Please send subscriptions to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr Sadru Bhanji, 13 Elm Grove Road, Topsham, Devon EX3 0EQ.

Devon History Society Conferences and Meetings

The Society's Spring Meeting will be held at Modbury on Saturday 25th March 2006, in the White Hart Hotel. The Summer Meeting will be held at Chagford on Saturday 1st July 2006, in the Jubilee Hall.

The Devon Historian is typeset and printed by Bartlett Printing, Exeter.

Contents, Volume no. 72

Spring 2006

Articles:

Continuity in local and regional identity: the evidence of family names	David Hey	2
Lost churches and chapels of Torquay; part 2: non-conformist chapels	Lorna Smith	7
The 'Great Sir Thomas' Acland and his Norwegian namesake; Part 2: Sir Thomas meets his namesake	Keith G. Orrell	15
A Victorian obsession: William Wykes-Finch and North Wyke	Greg Finch	24

Reviews:

Todd Gray (2005) <i>Exeter remembers the war: life on the home front</i>	Sadru Bhanji	31
John Grier and Doreen Mole (2004) <i>A brief history of Plymouth hospitals</i>	Sadru Bhanji	31
Patrick Hutton (2004) <i>I would not be forgotten: the life and work of Robert Stephen Hawker</i>	Frances Thompson	33
Gerald Wasley (2004) <i>Plymouth - a shattered city: the story of Hitler's attack on Plymouth and its people 1939-1945</i>	Nick Smart	34
Paul White (2005) <i>The south-west highway atlas for 1675</i>	Helen Harris	35
G. Woodcock (2005) <i>Tavistock's yesterdays: episodes from her history, 14</i>	Helen Harris	36

Correspondence from members and other information	38
Society reports and notices	38
Report and minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting	39

Cover illustrations: front cover, John Gendall, 'Killerton, seat of Sir Thos. Dyke Acland, Bt. M.P., 1828. R. Ackermann, London (Somers Cocks Catalogue 0254; reproduced with the kind permission of Devon Library and Information Services from the collections held in the Westcountry Studies Library, Exeter); back cover, distribution of the surname Luscombe in Devon, by Poor Law Union district, 1881 Census (reproduced with kind permission of Archer Software).

Continuity in local and regional identity: the evidence of family names

David Hey

Despite the mobility of modern times, every county in England still has groups of distinctive surnames that are found only rarely in other counties. This is of interest not just to the family historian who is searching for ancestors, but to the local historian who is trying to identify districts to which people felt they belonged. This sense of belonging not just to a town or rural parish but to a wider neighbourhood was undoubtedly stronger in the past, but is still recognisable today.¹

The quickest way to recognise a local surname is to use the CD-format *The British 19th century surname atlas*.² This provides instant coloured map distributions for every surname in the 1881 census. Very often, the local or regional distribution of a surname is startlingly clear. A good example from Devon is the occupational name, Dymond, and its variant, Daymond, meaning a dairyman.

Of the 1,050 men, women and children who bore the name Dymond and the 164 Daymonds, 560 lived in Devon and 178 in Cornwall. London, which always skews the distribution because it was such an attraction for the young, had a further 108. Otherwise, this was undoubtedly a south-western name.

The easiest local names to spot are those derived from place-names. The 1,535 Luscombes who were recorded in the 1881 census were overwhelmingly from south Devon (see back cover illustration). The Luscombe in Harberton parish, near Totnes, is the obvious candidate for the source of this name, though there are other possibilities. We have to work backwards in time, using genealogical methods and the distributions revealed by earlier records, such as the hearth tax returns of the 1660s and 1670s. There are many pitfalls, including the ways in which surnames sometimes changed over the centuries. The Hampshires, for example, are heavily concentrated in the West Riding of Yorkshire, but that is because the name is a contraction of Hallamshire, the ancient name for the Sheffield district.

The available dictionaries of surnames were compiled by linguists who had little interest in the approaches of local and family historians. They tell us, for instance, that the surname Arscott is most likely to be derived from the place of that name in Shropshire. The 1881 census, however, has no Arscotts in that county; the 614 people with that name were nearly all from Devon. The home of this family name is Arscott in the parish of Holsworthy (Fig. 1). We have to work backwards in time, using genealogical methods and the distributions revealed by earlier records, such as the hearth tax returns of the 1660s and 1670s. There are many pitfalls, including the ways in which surnames sometimes changed over the centuries. The Hampshires, for example, are heavily concentrated in the West

Riding of Yorkshire, but that is because the name is a contraction of Hallamshire, the ancient name for the Sheffield district.

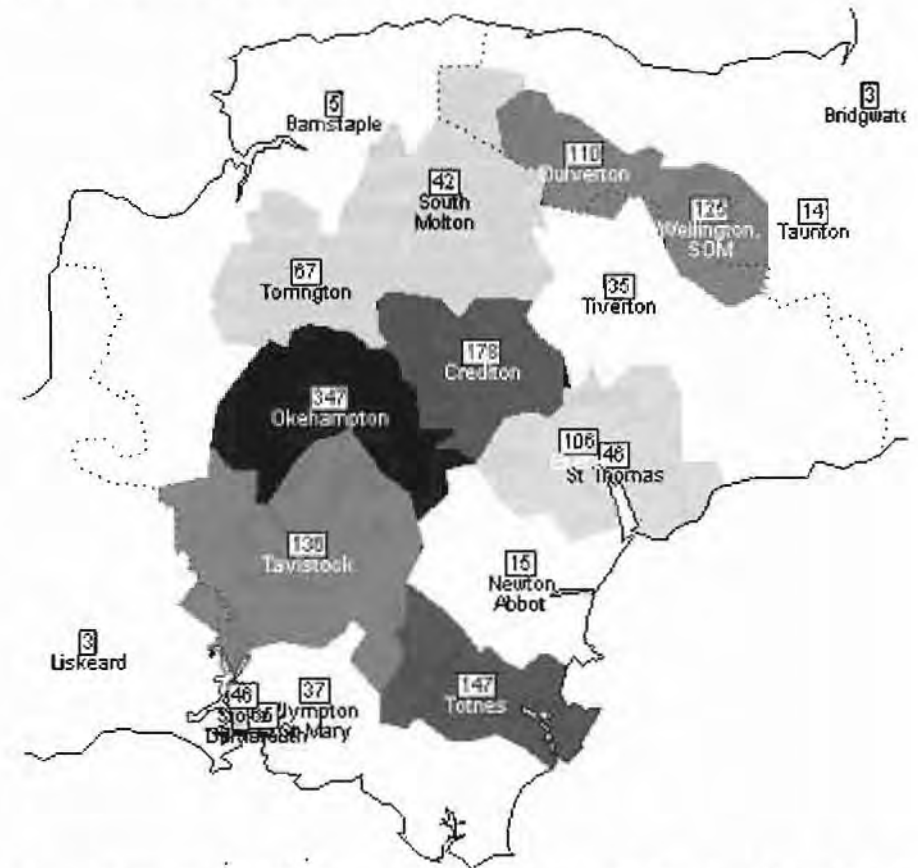


Figure 1: Distribution of the surname Arscott in Devon, by Poor Law Union district, 1881 Census (source: Archer Software 2003; reproduced with kind permission of Archer Software).

It seems likely that very many of the distinctive surnames of England have a single-family origin and that the 1881 distribution points to the locality where a name originated in the Middle Ages. DNA testing is beginning to support or disprove such claims for individual families. The distribution patterns of many names from other categories - topographical, personal, nicknames and occupations - are sometimes as distinct as those derived from farmsteads and hamlets. The dictionaries inform us that Cobbold is derived from two Anglo-Saxon elements meaning 'famous, bold', but they do not tell us that this is a very rare name that is confined to Suffolk. Likewise, they inform us that Ashurst comes from a small ash wood and they note counties in the south of England where such a wood might

have been the source of the name, but the 1881 map shows that this is a Lancashire name, concentrated near Ashurst, Wigan. Of course, many names have multiple origins. Nevertheless, they often have a regional distribution. Tucker is the south-western equivalent to the northern Walker and the eastern Fuller. Venn is a Devon and Somerset dialect version of Fenn, and the occupational names Hellier (roofer), Hodder (maker or seller of hoods) and Furmage (cheese maker) are found chiefly in and around Dorset and Devon. In 1881 Hoskins (a pet form of a name derived from an Old English personal name) was scattered thinly in Devon and Somerset and neighbouring counties (Fig. 2), while Hoskin was a Cornish version, and Hosking was confined to Devon and Cornwall.

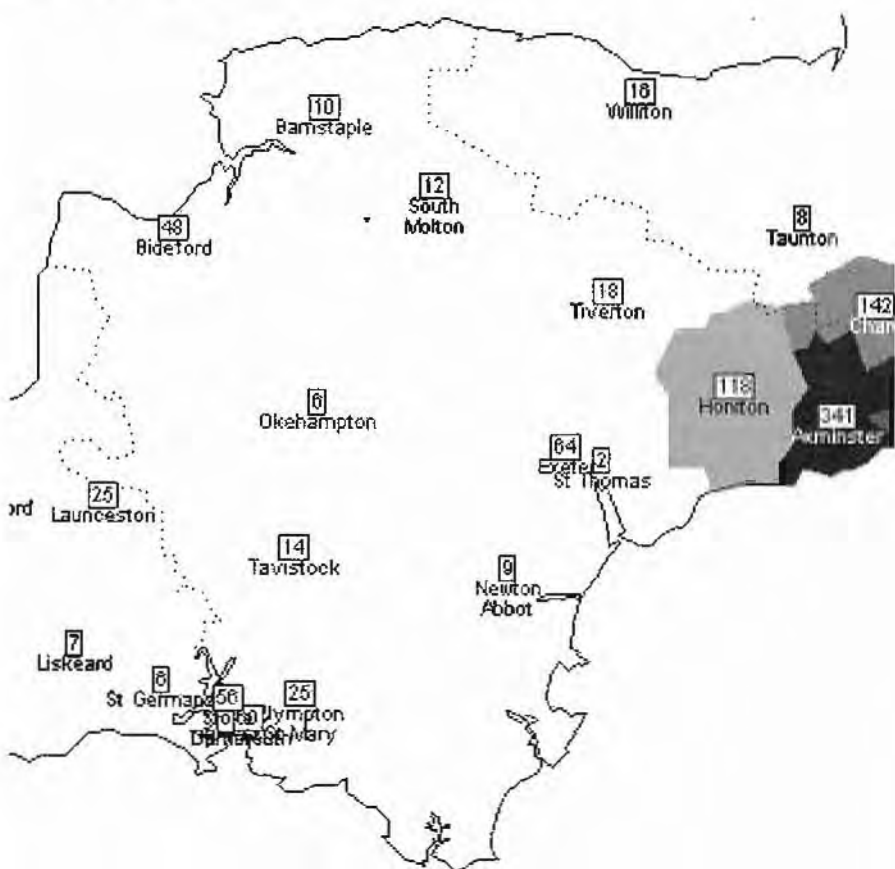


Figure 1: Distribution of the surname Hoskins in Devon, by Poor Law Union district, 1881 Census (source: Archer Software 2003; reproduced with kind permission of Archer Software).

When we look at the distribution maps more closely, we see that it is not enough to say that a name belongs to a particular county. The pattern is often much more local than that, especially when we map the hearth tax returns of the late seventeenth century. In the West Riding of Yorkshire, for example, Ackroyd or Akeroyd is a Calder Valley name in the textile district to the west of Halifax. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, as trade and population expanded, the name moved down the valley from its original 'oak clearing' high on the hills. When we turn to surnames such as Broomhead, Creswick, Dungworth and Staniforth, however, they are absent from the Calder Valley but prominent further south in what Daniel Defoe described as 'the country called Hallamshire'.

These days, 'country' is used only in the sense of England, Wales, and so forth, but anciently it was a common term - the equivalent of the French *pays* - for the neighbourhood with which people were familiar and to which they felt they belonged. The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines this sense of 'country' as: 'A tract or district having more or less definite limits in relation to human occupation, eg. owned by the same lord or proprietor, or inhabited by people of the same race, dialect, occupation, etc.'

This sense of a wider neighbourhood than a parish, bordered by the nearest market towns, was recognised by Victorian novelists. A Thomas Hardy character says, 'We will leave Casterbridge as quietly as we have come, and go back to our own country'. George Eliot's Silas Marner says, 'But your ways are different: my country was a good way off'. Richard Gough, a Shropshire yeoman who wrote the history of Myddle, his native parish, in 1701, used the term in phrases such as, 'He was a person well reputed in his country' or 'She did much good in the country'. Remarkably, the 1901 census returns for Myddle reveal exactly the same picture of stability and limited movement as that in Gough's day two centuries earlier. Of the 135 male householders, 35 had been born in Myddle parish and 76 in neighbouring places. In other words, 82 per cent of these householders came from the 'country' that Gough knew so well. Only one man had crossed the River Severn from south Shropshire and very few had ventured from beyond the county boundary. In the age before the motorcar most people still lived in intensely local worlds.

Identifying the different 'countries' within a county is an obvious task for local and regional historians. The study of family names and of historical demography (marriage patterns, depositions in poor law settlement cases, the movement of apprentices or farm servants, and the such like) are obvious starting points before turning to vernacular architecture, the nature of the work, and local speech. Another George Eliot character, describing her native place twenty miles away, said, 'They have a different sort of life, many of 'em... they work at different things - some in the mill and many in the mines... we've many more Methodists there than in this country'.

The families with distinctive local names were often the 'core families' with a network of connections that gave a 'country' its character. The more successful ones were the yeomen and craftsmen who practised the local trades and who tended to stay put, but others sharing the same names were labourers, servants or

apprentices. In *Anna of the five towns* of 1902, Arnold Bennett wrote, 'Mynors belonged to... one of those families which by virtue of numbers, variety, and personal force seem to permeate a whole district, to be a calculable item of it, an essential part of its identity'. They were the ones who preserved the customs of a place, including the way in which local people spoke. Newcomers learned to adapt to these ways in order to become accepted. The process is observable to this day, when you hear the children of Pakistani immigrants speak with a broad Yorkshire accent. The study of family names allows an entry point into the world of local connections and identity.

Notes and references

1. This article is a much-abridged version of a lecture delivered to the Annual Conference and General Meeting of the Society on 15 October 2005. The various perspectives and references discussed here can be examined more fully in Hey, 2000. See also Hey, 2003.
2. Archer Software 2003; available from www.archersoftware.co.uk

Bibliography

Archer Software (2003) *The British 19th century surname atlas*, Dartford: Archer Software.

Hey, D. (2000) *Family names and family history*, London: Hambledon.

Hey, D. (2003) 'Recent advances in the study of surnames', *The Historian*, 80, 13-7.

David Hey is Emeritus Professor of Local and Family History at the University of Sheffield. He is author of *Family and local history in England* and *The Oxford guide to family history*, and editor of *A history of Myddle*.

Lost churches and chapels of Torquay; part 2: Non-conformist chapels.

Lorna Smith

This article is the second and concluding part of a study of the lost churches and chapels of Torquay. This piece turns to the fate of the non-conformist chapels.¹

It was in the eighteenth century that Edward and John Henley travelled to Exeter from Torre to hear John Wesley preach. In 1788 the Henleys began preaching from a room in George Street, and then from Edward's home in Swan Street. John lived at Barton, and in 1802 he built a thatched chapel there - it may have been a converted cottage, because an adjacent cottage was purchased to allow for expansion. This remained in use until sold in 1954. Wesley Close now covers the site.

By 1807 the congregation had outgrown Edward's house, and two cottages of a row of eight in Fleet Street were acquired and converted into the 'Chapel in the Meadow'. Services continued there until 1852 when flourishing congregations necessitated removal to a purpose built chapel in Rock Road. The Chapel in the Meadow and the accompanying terrace of houses were demolished in 1864, and the row of shops from Rock Road to George Street were built still forming part of Fleet Street. The site of the chapel became the premises of Peter Thomas, draper. In the 1880's this was taken over by J.F. Rockhey, twice Mayor of Torquay. Rockheys became a household name, and although part of the Harrods Group from the middle of the last century, the name was unchanged until 1973 when it was altered to Dingles. Various mergers and take-overs resulted in it becoming part of the House of Fraser until closure in 1988. The premises stood empty for two years until Burger King took over the building in 1990.

The Rock Road chapel soon became too small, the position being exacerbated when Mary Henley's three hundred strong Sunday School moved from Temperance Street to the chapel; so a site was purchased in Union Street, the Schoolroom opening in 1878 and the Chapel in 1879. The Rock Road premises were sold for £2,000 and became a sanitary and hygienic steam laundry (Fig. 1). In 1926 a disastrous fire gutted the Union Street church and there were thoughts of abandoning the site. In the end the church was rebuilt and remained in use until 1974, when the congregation joined with Market Street Methodist and Belgrave United Reformed Churches, and in 1976 moved into the new Central Church in Tor Hill Road. The Union Street site was sold for £642,500 to Mothercare. The church and schoolroom was demolished and shops and offices built.

It was in the 1850s that the sect known as Primitive Methodists began meeting in Torquay. In 1863 they purchased, for £650, the Baptist Chapel in Temperance Street when the Baptists moved into their new chapel. When the congregation had raised enough money it bought a large house at the top of Market Street, which was demolished and the foundation stones of a chapel laid in 1877. When the congregation joined Union Street Methodist Church in 1973 the

church was sold to make way for shops and offices, a scheme that did not materialize. The site was used by a garage for a car display area for a time, and finally was bought for the development of sheltered housing.



Figure 1: The ruins of Rock Road Chapel (the roofs of Torhaven beyond).

The church that was to become closely linked to Union Street and Market Street Methodist Churches came into being through a Mr Joshua Wilson of Tunbridge Wells, who while staying in Torquay in 1866 was distressed to find so little provision for non-conformist forms of worship. With the help of local friends he set up a fund and very soon land at the junction of Belgrave Road and Lime Avenue was secured and a wooden building erected. The building, costing £1,500, seated five hundred, had a zinc roof, gas lighting and patent stove heating; and was opened for worship in April 1867 as a Congregational Church. The leaders were adamant that it was a church and not a chapel. The nucleus of the congregation came from the Abbey Road Independent Chapel. Fund raising continued and resulted in the purchase of part of Morgan's Nursery in Tor Hill Road. In November 1870 the new church designed by Mr J.W. Rowell was opened; it had cost £5,500 and was named Belgrave. Three years later the wooden church was sold to the East Vitifer Mining Company on Dartmoor for the accommodation of miners. It was subsequently re-erected in Moretonhampstead as Assembly Rooms, but burnt down in 1882. In the Second world war Belgrave Church was damaged by the bomb that fell in Tor Hill Road, and although it was repaired after the war underlying problems remained. This, coupled with diminishing congregations in a building designed to seat a thousand, caused the church authorities to look at schemes for redevelopment. This was in the late

1960s at the same time as Union Street Methodist Church was thinking along the same lines. The two churches came together and decided to sell the Union Street Church, to demolish Belgrave, and build a new church on the site. In 1976 Central Church was officially dedicated. In the early twentieth century Belgrave had had responsibility for the mission chapel at Edginswell, another lost chapel that is now a private residence.



Figure 2: Cary Street Chapel (later St George's Hall, now Fabric World).

In the previous article on lost churches of Torquay, the story is told of the Independent chapel that became an Anglican community.² The fifteen members of the congregation who refused to change denomination worshipped first in a store room in Swan Street, and then built their own chapel in Cary Street, now Lower Union Lane. It was sold in 1877 for £1,200, and became known as St. George's Hall; it is now a shop (Fig. 2). During its life as a chapel circumstances were not always happy. In 1843 dissent arose in the congregation and a large number seceded to set up a chapel in William Pengelly's schoolroom in Lower Braddons Row. The schoolroom was to become the offices of the *Torquay Directory* and then the *Torquay Times*. After a period as a small shopping complex it became a bar now known as Red Snapper. When the Independents left there they worshipped in Union Hall. Finally in 1846 land was acquired in Warren Orchard at the junction of Abbey Road and Rock Road, and the Rock Meeting House was opened in 1847. This became Abbey Road Congregational Church and finally Abbey Road United Reformed Church. After closure in 1981 the buildings were demolished to make way for the Tor Haven sheltered housing complex. Barton seems to have been a centre for non-conformity. Baptists met here early in the

nineteenth century and built a chapel in Fore Street. By 1884 this had ceased to have a separate existence but services continued to be held there. In 1924 a minister was appointed and the chapel continued in use until the new Baptist Church was opened in Happaway Road in 1946. The original building is now two dwellings (Fig. 3).



Figure 3: Baptist Chapel (now private residences).

A Bible Christian chapel was erected in East Street, Torre, in 1849. After the union of the fringe sects of Methodism in 1908 it became Zion Methodist Church. It finally closed in 1954 to become a tyre depot and is now warehousing.

Another 1860s chapel was St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Torwood Gardens, fondly known as the 'Scotch Church'. Membership was so small by 1950 that the premises were sold to the First Church of Christ Scientist for £8,500. The Christian Scientists had been in Torquay since 1928. Their meeting place on Victoria Parade was requisitioned by the Royal Air Force during the Second world war and in 1944 was damaged seriously by fire. The remaining part of the building was refurbished after the war and remained a church until 1951. The Christian Scientists stayed in Torwood Gardens until 1987 when they left Torquay for a time. The church stood empty for some time and then became a nightclub of ill repute, calling itself the Monastery. It was finally closed down by the Police and still stands empty.

An interdenominational mission hall was built in Innerbrook Road, Chelston, for Mr Levi Powell. After 1903 it became a Methodist New Connexion Chapel. In the 1960s it was taken over by the Devon County Council and became the

kitchens for the School Meals Service and later a Care Centre. Finally it was bought by the Torbay Borough Council for the use of the Torbay Olympic Gymnasts' Club; the Club to pay back the purchase price. It is still in use as a gymnasium (Fig. 4).



Figure 4: Innerbrook Road Mission Chapel (now the Torbay Olympic Gymnasts' Club).

Although not strictly chapels, a mention must be made of the accommodation of the Plymouth Brethren and the Society of Friends. There was a substantial meeting room for the Brethren in Warren Road built in 1852, but it was closed during the Second world war. It is now the West of England Auction Rooms. At the other end of the town during the same period there was a meeting at the Torre Hill Room, which continued in existence until very recently, and is now the Korean Martial Arts Centre (Fig. 5). Probably the best known Gospel Hall was the one in Fore Street, St Marychurch, because of the connection with Philip Gosse the marine biologist, and its description in Edmund Gosse's autobiography, *Father and son*.³ The site has since been redeveloped as commercial premises.

In 1853 a start was made on a building in Warren Road for the Society of Friends. By 1855 it was nearly finished when the contractor demanded money. A disagreement arose between the contractor and architect and no money was paid over. The contractor retained possession and turned the building into a dancing saloon. There was a public scandal and it took legal action to restore the building to the Quakers. In the 1950s the Society of Friends left the premises, and for a number of years worshipped in a room in Belgrave Congregational Church schoolrooms. The Warren Road premises were taken over by the Samaritans (Fig.

6). The Belgrave Schoolrooms were bought by Devon County Council in the mid 1970s, and became an old people's day centre now maintained by Age Concern.



Figure 5: Torre Hill Gospel Hall (now the Korean Martial Arts Academy).

Salem Chapel in Lower Braddons Row, now Braddons Hill Road West, was started by Robert Stark in 1841 for a congregation known as the Starkites. The chapel closed after his death in 1854, and became the School of Science and Art later known as the Vivian Institute. It was enlarged to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, and later became the Torquay School of Art and Crafts. This was then absorbed into South Devon Technical College, and the building ended its days as an eating house.

Two other Methodist chapels were situated in Western Road: St Marychurch closed in 1954, and is now a private house, and St George's at Watcombe has disappeared under Bigbury Way. Two Roman Catholic chapels have recently closed. These were the chapel of the former St. Vincent's Boys' Orphanage, now standing empty, and the Church of St James Fisher and St Thomas More in Hele Road, which has now been demolished.

Conclusion

Considered here, and in the preceding article, are the main churches and chapels of Torquay that have disappeared. It is amazing how many were built in such a short space of time and in such a small area. It must be remembered that in the nineteenth century into the beginning of the twentieth century a further eleven Anglican, seven free-church and three Roman Catholic churches were built which are still in use.



Figure 6: The Society of Friends (now The Samaritans)

Notes and references

1. See Smith, 2000. The research undertaken for this study is based on the secondary references listed in the bibliography; *Kelly's Directory of Torquay and Paignton*, 1931, 1936, 1946, 1953 and 1963; and local newspapers accessed through the local studies index at the Torquay Public Library.
2. Smith, *ibid.*, 25.
3. Gosse, 1907.

Bibliography

- Criticus (1905) *Churches and chapels of Torquay*, Torquay: Mackenzie and MacDonald.
- Ellis, A.C. (1907) *An historical survey of Torquay*, Torquay: privately published.
- Gosse, E. (1907) *Father and son*, London: Heinemann.

- Pike, J. (1992) *Torquay: the place and the people*, Torquay: Torquay Centenary Committee.
- Russell, P. (1960) *A history of Torquay and the famous anchorage of Torbay*, Torquay: Torquay Natural History Society.
- Smith, L.R. (1986) *Forward on the pilgrim way: a brief history of Central Church, Torquay*, Torquay: privately published.
- Smith, L.R. (2005) 'Lost churches and chapels of Torquay', *The Devon Historian*, 70, 24-6.
- White, J.T. (1878) *The history of Torquay*, Torquay: Privately published.

Lorna Smith was on the staff of Torquay Public Library from 1954 until retirement in 1998. She qualified as a Chartered Librarian in 1963 and was subsequently cataloguer, Assistant Reference Librarian with special responsibility for local history, and latterly also Railways Studies Librarian at Newton Abbot Library. She has also been valued by the Devon History Society for preparation of its Index series.

The 'Great Sir Thomas' Acland and his Norwegian namesake; part 2: Sir Thomas meets his namesake

Keith G. Orrell

Introduction

An earlier article discussed the establishment of the Acland-Tellefsen connection.¹ While on a sketching holiday in Norway in 1807 the tenth Baronet Sir Thomas Dyke Acland² of Killerton House established a firm friendship with the musician, Johann Christian Tellefsen, in Trondheim. After receiving a portrait of Sir Thomas just prior to their first son being baptised, Johann Tellefsen and his wife decided to christen him Thomas Dyke Acland Tellefsen in recognition of their close feelings for Sir Thomas.³ This second article describes the face-to-face meeting of the tenth Baronet and Thomas Tellefsen, the establishment of the latter as an important pianist/composer, and the latter years of himself and his English namesake.

Sir Thomas meets his Norwegian namesake (1848)

The year 1848 saw the resumption of the Acland-Tellefsen connection. This was the year of the French Revolution when a Republic was declared. In the spring of that year Thomas Tellefsen and Frederic Chopin, who had by now developed a close mutual friendship, escaped from Paris and came over to Britain; Tellefsen to further his reputation as a professional pianist and Chopin to give a series of concerts on behalf of Polish refugees from the unsuccessful revolutions.⁴ Tellefsen had preceded Chopin slightly in their flight from Paris, and so when Chopin arrived (on 20 April) he was able to show his former teacher some of the London scene.⁵ Tellefsen was clearly starting to move in influential circles because on 8 June he was invited to a soirée at the house of Sir Robert Inglis, the Tory politician who had succeeded Sir Robert Peel as MP for Oxford University, and the life-long friend of, and financial adviser to, Sir Thomas Acland. It was at this soirée that Thomas Tellefsen met his namesake for the first time, as the following letter he wrote to his mother describes:

London 8 June 1848

Dear Mother!

... I have some very pleasant news for you. I have made the acquaintance of Thomas Acland and in the most peculiar way. One evening I was invited to a soirée in Sir Robert Inglis' house. He is a very respectable man and you always find the greatest diplomatic celebrities like Lord Aberdeen⁶, Palmerston⁷ and even the poor Mr Guizot⁸ in his home. Sir Inglis [*sic*] introduced me to different people and finally said: now I would like to present to you a man who has been travelling in Norway and very much would like to talk to you. Just imagine how surprised I was!

I saw in front of me an old, lively and handsome man by the name of Thomas Acland. We immediately became friends and I explained to him about my name. He then introduced me to the whole party as Thomas Acland Tellefsen! It was such a pleasant moment. I just wish you and dear father were here.

Since that evening I have visited him several times even if his home is far from London. He lives with his family in Exeter. He is very friendly to me and sends best wishes and greetings to father...⁹

Unfortunately there do not appear to be any records of Tellefsen's visits to Killerton. It is certain, however, that they would have been greatly appreciated, not just by Sir Thomas but also by the musically talented Lady Acland, and it is most likely that Thomas Tellefsen played on the Killerton organ and the Broadwood piano!

Tellefsen's early career and Chopin's last years (1848-9)

The period 1848-9 was a critical time in Chopin's life. His stormy affair with George Sand had recently ended (in August 1847) and his tubercular condition was starting to drain all his energies. However, his friendship with Thomas Tellefsen was a source of strength to him and much appreciated by Tellefsen himself, who in a letter (dated August 1848) to his family in Norway wrote:

Chopin is and remains my best friend; our residence together in London, where we both were strangers, has drawn us closer in a remarkable way and has taught us to know each other...¹⁰

Chopin's visit to England and Scotland was overseen by Jane Stirling, a wealthy Scottish spinster and former pupil, and someone who clearly saw herself as the person to replace George Sand in Chopin's affections! In retrospect, the tour she organised was far too strenuous for the ailing composer, but he felt obliged to go along with it. In September 1848 Chopin stayed with Jane Stirling's widowed sister in Johnstone Castle near Glasgow, from where he wrote, on 11 September, to his close friend Camille Pleyel in Paris:

My Dear Friend,

Instead of a letter I am sending you M. Tellefsen who is going to spend a few days in Paris. M. Ed Rodrigues spoke to you about him before the '48 revolution. He is my pupil; he has been most helpful to me and will be still more so by sending me news of you. He will tell you also all that I am doing – I wish he could tell you what I should do, but I don't know that myself – all I know is that I shall always love you, always.

Your most sincerely devoted

F. Chopin

Do be kind to him.¹¹

During his visit to Britain Chopin played at many functions, giving public concerts in Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh, and visiting numerous Scottish castles. He returned to London in November, now very ill, but was able to perform at the Guildhall on 16 November. He travelled on to Paris soon after, but his health worsened and he died on 17 October the following year (1849) at the tragically young age of thirty-eight. He was accorded a state funeral at the Madeleine on 30 October, paid for at great expense by Jane Stirling.¹²

Thomas Dyke Acland Tellefsen, pianist/composer (1849-1860)

In the first half of 1849 Thomas Tellefsen (Fig. 1) himself made a tour of England and in a letter to his mother in December 1849 relates:

Before his death he [Chopin] told his sister that I should be the one to teach her daughter [Ludka]; you can imagine what that means to me. He also expressed the wish that I should finish his Pianoforte Method; I am working at it already, with great enthusiasm.¹³



Figure 1: Photograph of Thomas Tellefsen (reproduced with kind permission of the Ringve Museum, Trondheim).

Such an assignment demonstrates Chopin's trust in his pupil, but as the project was never completed it raises speculation as to whether Tellefsen was quite equal to the task!

Nevertheless, Thomas Tellefsen made an extremely successful Paris debut in April 1851 in the Hotel Lambert, the residence of the Polish prince, Aleksander Czartoryski, and became regarded as an outstanding concert pianist, and a particularly admired interpreter of Chopin's music. He attracted many pupils, particularly amongst the upper classes¹⁴, and took over some of Chopin's former pupils including Jane Stirling. During the 1850s, Tellefsen gave many successful concerts in Paris, Honfleur, London and Stockholm, and numerous ones in his country of birth, in Christiania (Oslo), Bergen and Trondheim. Certain of these concerts included performances of his two new piano concertos, the second concerto, in F minor, becoming particularly popular during his lifetime.

In 1858 he married the Norwegian singer Severine Bye. The family mixed with high Parisian society and their large residence became a centre for the Scandinavian community in Paris. Ole Bull, Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson and Hans Christian Andersen all visited on several occasions.¹⁵

Tellefsen's concert repertoire gradually included more of his own works. His interpretations of Chopin's music were particularly praised. He also performed baroque music on his own harpsichord, and participated regularly in chamber music, mainly of the Viennese classics, with other renowned musicians in Paris

such as Francois Delsarte, Auguste Franchomme and Charles-Eugene Sauzey. Tellefsen, Franchomme and the composer Charles Gounod were all actively involved in the *Club des Mozartistes* founded by Chopin's former student, Princess Czartoryska.

Sir Thomas' personal losses (1851-1856)

Whilst Thomas Tellefsen was consolidating his musical reputation Sir Thomas Acland was continuing to fulfil his parliamentary obligations, speaking regularly in the House on all manner of liberalising measures. The 1850s, however, brought him some severe personal blows.

In 1851 an outbreak of scarlet fever led to the death of the wife of his son Tom and their three-year old child, and this was followed by a fire that burned down the thatched house at Holnicote that was being used by Tom and his remaining family. Then in the spring of 1856 the death occurred of Sir Thomas' closest friend and confidant, Sir Robert Inglis, but this was followed by the more crushing blow of Lydia's death on 23 June. She had borne him ten children in forty-eight years of marriage and had travelled with him to many countries, her more inflexible personality having been the ideal complement to his more ebullient, impulsive nature. In her later years she had played the Killerton organ rather more than previously. Music had been her chief relaxation and, during the earlier years 1835-1841 when Samuel Sebastian Wesley was the organist of Exeter Cathedral, she had received lessons from him, and he in turn had dedicated his *Six pieces for chamber organ* to her, which he wrote specially for the Killerton organ.¹⁶

Sir Thomas' last years (1858-1871)

There followed further bereavements in the family that took their toll on Sir Thomas' constitution, and in March 1858 he decided to withdraw from parliament and public life. His period of public service had extended back to the Napoleonic wars! Within three years a statue had been erected in Northemhay Gardens, Exeter, in recognition of the high regard given to him by the whole county of Devon. The inscription on the statue begins 'Erected as a tribute of affectionate respect for private worth and public integrity...'¹⁷

He still remained quite active throughout his seventies, supporting many causes. During this period his personal idiosyncrasies, by way of his great generosity of spirit, his large hearted but somewhat undisciplined good humour, and his notorious unpunctuality, all came more to the fore! In 1863 the Grillion's Club celebrated its Golden Jubilee, with Sir Thomas being one of only two original members. However, the Acland name continued to be borne in parliamentary circles through his son, Tom, who had been re-elected in 1865 as a liberal member under Gladstone and was a fellow member of the Grillion's Club.

In his later years Sir Thomas (Fig. 2) took even greater pleasure in his estates, particularly in the Killerton estate, which was now being used as a trial ground for plants brought from all over the world by the enterprising nurserymen of the firm of John Veitch.



Figure 2: Photograph of Sir Thomas Acland taken at Bude in 1867 by Harry Thorn (reproduced with kind permission of The National Trust).

However, on 22 July 1871 in his eighty-fourth year the 'Great Sir Thomas', as he was affectionately known to all his friends and estate workers, died suddenly and peacefully. He was buried at Columb John on the Killerton estate beside his wife, where a massive patriarchal tombstone records their ten children and thirty-

seven grandchildren. His death left a gap in the Devon landscape as if a great tree had fallen.¹⁸

A number of memorials in different places were erected for the 'Great Sir Thomas' but it is likely he would have liked none better than the cross of Cornish granite, bearing the names of forty friends, which stands on the western edge of the beautiful Killerton estate that he had done so much to create.

Postscript one

The Acland family still flourishes with the present baronet, Sir John Dyke Acland, being the sixteenth in succession. Killerton House and estate were given to the National Trust in 1944 by the fifteenth baronet, Sir Richard Acland. As most local readers will know the beautiful landscaped gardens are open to the public throughout the year, and the attractive house, which houses many fine portraits and furnishings, and musical items including a Broadwood piano, a Clementi square piano of 1817, in addition to the chamber organ (referred to above), is open from spring to autumn each year.

Thomas Tellefsen's later years (1860-1874)

During the 1860s Sir Thomas' namesake in Paris was also in declining health. He was forced to reduce his performing and teaching activities, and concentrated more on composing.

As a result of the disturbances arising from the Franco-German war the Tellefsens came to stay in London during the years 1870-1873. However, on returning home Thomas' health deteriorated and he died, just three years after Sir Thomas, on 6 October 1874 at the modest age of fifty-one years, and was buried in Paris.

During his lifetime Thomas Tellefsen received numerous honours and awards for his musical activities, his most prestigious probably being his appointment as Knight of the Order of St. Olav by his city of birth. He composed mainly for the piano, including mazurkas, nocturnes, waltzes and Norwegian dances. He also wrote a substantial amount of chamber music including sonatas for piano & violin, a sonata for piano & cello and a trio for piano, violin & cello. His most ambitious works were two piano concertos, the first in G minor being 'a close but rather impressive copy of Chopin'.¹⁹ There are manuscript compositions in the Oslo University library and in the Ringve Museum in Trondheim. The latter museum also holds portraits and photographs of the composer, and some furniture inherited from the home of Chopin in Paris (Fig. 3).



Figure 3: Photograph of part of the Chopin Room in the Ringve Museum, Trondheim, showing the portrait of Thomas Tellefsen by the Swedish artist Sophie Ribbing (1835-1894) painted around 1870, below which is furniture from Chopin's house and the original manuscript of Tellefsen's piano concerto, No. 2 (reproduced with kind permission of the Ringve Museum, Trondheim).

Tellefsen's musical output comprises 44 works all of which were published by the Parisian firm Richault. They are typically romantic in style, but with rather less ornamentation than Chopin's compositions. His music borrows quite extensively from Norwegian folk music but these borrowings tend to be episodic and do not dominate the total structure of the pieces.

Pastscript two

Following Tellefsen's death his music became rather neglected, but in recent years it has experienced a strong revival of interest, with recordings of much of his piano and chamber music being now available. Very recently, recordings of his two piano concertos have appeared.²⁰

In recognition of this exceptional Acland-Tellefsen connection, an evening concert of Tellefsen's piano music, interspersed with a talk about the historical connection between the two gentlemen, was given in the Music Room at Killerton House on 5 July 2005; and a similar event has been arranged in conjunction with the National Trust, Sidmouth Centre, to be held in Sidholme, Sidmouth, in November 2006.

Acknowledgements

I have inevitably drawn heavily on Anne Acland's authoritative book of the Acland family, particularly chapters five and six. I am most indebted to Ms. Sissel Guttormsen, Curator of the Ringve Museum, Trondheim, for providing me with valuable information on the face-to-face meeting between Sir Thomas and Thomas Tellefsen. I am also most grateful to Ingrid Dalaker of the Institute of Music, the Norwegian University of Science & Technology, Trondheim, for providing important details of Tellefsen's life and compositions.

Notes and references

1. Orrell, 2005.
2. See Acland 1981 and *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* 2004, 159.
3. Curator of the Ringve Museum, Trondheim, Norway, personal communication, 12 February 2004.
4. Hedley, 1974.
5. Zaluski, 1993.
6. Lord Aberdeen (1784-1860), Scottish statesman and Prime Minister.
7. Lord Palmerston (1784-1865), English statesman and Prime Minister.
8. Francois Pierre Guillaume Guizot (1787-1874), French historian and statesman. He was Prime Minister to King Louis Philippe but was sacked from his position just prior to the 1848 revolution, and with the King escaped to exile in England.
9. Sissel Guttormsen, Curator of Ringve Museum, Trondheim, personal communication, 16 February 2004, translated.
10. Ingrid Loe Dalaker 2004; sleeve notes for the CD recordings of Tellefsen's chamber music (Simax Classics, PSC 1226) and piano music (Acte Préalable, AP0049, AP0062 and AP0064).

11. The son of Ignaz Pleyel (1757-1831), pianist and founder of the famous piano firm. Camille (1788-1855) became a partner in 1821 and was joined by Friedrich Kalkbrenner (see Orrell, 2005) in 1824.
12. Eisler, 2003.
13. Eigeldinger, 1986, 184.
14. In a letter dated April 1851 he recounts that his clientele includes '4 princesses, a duchess and countesses I cannot count!'
15. Dalaker, *op. cit.*
16. See Acland, *op. cit.*, 72.
17. Acland, 1902, 21. Unfortunately, this statue in Northemhay Gardens has been vandalised (decapitated), but the inscription is intact.
18. See Acland, 1981, 75.
19. Samson, 1996, 205.
20. Simax Classics, PSC 1232.

Bibliography

- Acland, A. (1981) *A Devon family, the story of the Aclands*, Chichester: Phillimore.
- Acland, A.D.H. (ed.) (1902) *Memoir and letters of the Right Honourable Sir Thomas Dyke Acland*, London: Privately printed.
- Eigeldinger, J.-J. (1986) *Chopin: pianist and teacher as seen by his pupils*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Eisler, B. (2003) *Chopin's funeral*, London: Abacus.
- Hedley, A. (1974) *Chopin*, London: Dent.
- Orrell, K.G. (2005) 'The "Great Sir Thomas" Acland and his Norwegian namesake: Part 1: the establishment of the Acland-Tellefsen connection', *The Devon Historian*, 71, 25-34.
- Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (2004), Vol. 1, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Samson, J. (1996) *Master musicians. Chopin*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Zaluski, I. and Zaluski, P. (1993) *The Scottish autumn of Frederick Chopin*, Edinburgh: John Donald.

Dr Keith Orrell is a retired Reader in Chemistry of the University of Exeter, where his specialisms were physical chemistry and spectroscopy. He has had a lifelong interest in classical music, with a particular recent interest in Scandinavian music. The author can be contacted at Rosemount, 6 Glebelands, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 8UB (01395 519820), or at korrell@uk2.net.

A Victorian obsession: William Wykes-Finch and North Wyke

Greg Finch

The fine Tudor tomb of 'Warrior Wykes' stands against the north wall of St Andrew's Church in South Tawton, on the northern fringes of Dartmoor. He was a prominent and renowned member of a long-established local family. His tomb was restored in 1881 by a wealthy Victorian clergyman, the Rev'd William Wykes-Finch, a descendant of the 'Warrior'. He also gave the church the stained glass window that rises above the tomb. Just to the left of the window is the brass wall tablet commemorating the Rev'd Wykes-Finch himself, who owned the ancestral mansion of North Wyke, a few miles away across the fields. It is a corner typical of many quiet country churches up and down England. However, the life of William Wykes-Finch was less typical of the Victorian gentry than might seem from a casual glance at these memorials.¹

He was born in the parish, in 1832, but as the son of a village tailor, rather than as the heir to an ancient country estate. His family had lived in the parish for several generations, surviving on the fringes of existence as farm and road labourers, small farmers, and craftsmen. Many are the references to Finch family members in the Churchwardens' accounts - as recipients of parish relief, rather than as members of the Vestry dispensing church funds. For a young boy born into such a family in the 1830s, it would have been hard to imagine a life very different to that of his immediate forbears, and such indeed proved to be the case for William's brothers. But William was lucky, bright - and driven.

To start with, he was lucky that there was a charity school in South Zeal, decades before the advent of universal education, and which he was able to attend in the 1840s. However, this in itself cannot explain how he came to enter St John's College, Cambridge, as an undergraduate in 1854. The only direct clue is a brief unsigned note attached to a file of papers now in the Westcountry Studies Library in Exeter written during William's lifetime. This claimed that Henry Arthur Hoare, of Oxenham, a member of the wealthy Hoare banking family of London, 'detected signs of genius' in the young William Finch, and provided the means for him to remain in education.² There is but circumstantial evidence to support this claim, but it is nonetheless suggestive. Hoare was the patron of the school at South Zeal, and did much else for the parish, including the provision of pumped water - still commemorated in the square outside the church. His nephew, Henry Ainslie Hoare, later to become the fifth Baronet and take up residence at the Stourhead estate in Wiltshire, had himself attended St John's College in the 1840s. A private tutor in Taunton who prepared William for entrance to St John's was a contemporary of Henry Ainslie Hoare at St John's.³ It is possible that Hoare's network in the county and beyond provided further encouragement and support. Nonetheless it must have been a daunting experience. Despite this William achieved first class grades during his early years in Cambridge as a mathematics

student and graduated with a good degree.⁴ Fortune and talent go so far; William was clearly also motivated to drive well beyond the boundaries of his upbringing.

The motivation was an obsession with his family's history. William's grandmother was Mary Wykes, said to have been the last of the Wykes family of North Wyke, and she married William's grandfather Charles Finch, a labourer, in South Tawton in 1788.⁵ While William was still a child, his Aunt Betty ingrained in him a deep sense of an alleged wrong that had been done to his Wykes ancestors nearly two centuries earlier, forcibly depriving the family of its estate, and reducing it to humble circumstances.⁶ It became William's lifelong passion and ambition to 'right this wrong'. In 1895, at the age of sixty-three, he achieved his dream and became the owner of the North Wyke mansion and estate.

This was not some fairytale legal restitution of ancient wrongs; nor did William achieve his goal by becoming a captain of Victorian industry, or through the rewards of some high office in the Church or state. Rather, he married money. On graduating from Cambridge he took a job teaching mathematics at Sandbach Grammar School in Cheshire and took his Holy Orders. While at Sandbach he met Emily, the daughter and heiress of a wealthy local salt mine owner, Josiah Perrin.⁷ Whatever the feelings Emily and William had for each other, Victorian class realities might well have prevented marriage, but as far as we can tell Josiah was quite content to admit William into his family and fortune. It is possible that William used his Cambridge career to cover the tracks from his humble origins. I feel it is more likely that Josiah, a self-made man himself, recognised in William a kindred spirit.⁸ He was ambitious, intelligent, determined to rise above a poor childhood, and self-confident enough to fill the role of respectable country gentleman with great gusto. William was named as an executor of Josiah's will not long after becoming his son-in-law, and he and Emily came into a considerable inheritance after Josiah's death in 1869.⁹ He gave up teaching, and was content with what appears to have been the relaxed curacy of a country parish in Worcestershire for the next decade or so. In familiar fashion the fruits of the industrial age were returned to the land. The growth of the chemical industry on the bleak Lancashire plain around Warrington stoked the demand for Cheshire rocksalt. Rents and profits from the Perrin saltworks, mines and River Weaver barges enabled the purchase of a large country property near Kidderminster in 1884, and William exchanged his remaining paid employment for civic duty as a J.P., member of the local Board of Guardians, County Councillor and a variety of other good works in rural Worcestershire.¹⁰

It also secured the foundation from which he could 'right the ancient wrong' done to his Wykes ancestors, both through the resources available to restore his ancient family's material position, and the time he could now devote to genealogical research. He made his first public mark in South Tawton in 1881 with the restoration of the tomb of 'Warrior' Wykes' and the donation of the accompanying stained glass window. The ancient family seat of North Wyke and its 500 acres of land came up for sale in 1895. To mark his triumphal purchase William changed his name by deed-poll to Wykes-Finch, cementing his self-proclaimed position as the head of the ancient house.¹¹ It is tempting to think that

in so doing he also put himself at a further distance from the family of labourers, small farmers and village craftsmen with which the name Finch would have been largely associated in South Tawton. North Wyke was in a ruinous state but over the next few years William undertook a major programme of restoration and extension in a further recycling of profits from the 'workshop of the world' into the pursuit of a medieval idyll. A century on, the thoughtful and sympathetic nature of the restoration, and the quality of the masonry and woodwork is still plain to see. The views of Emily, but for whose fortune none of this would have been possible, are hard to discern, but it appears from the odd circumstantial glimpse that she took a genuine interest in North Wyke. Her father's wealth had been hard won from the grimy saltworks on the banks of the Weaver, and she had been brought up within shouting distance of the chimneys, winding gear and wharves. It would not be surprising if she regarded the ownership of old country estates and the respectability of marriage to a learned cleric due - if distant - reward for her father's sacrifices and energy, particularly when it appeared to bring with it membership of an apparently ancient family.

William seems to have at least dabbled in research into his family for decades, but then engaged in it much more seriously in the 1890s. At around the same time he came across the Lega-Weekes family, also engaged in the hopeful pursuit of the Wykes family deeper and deeper into the medieval 'fog'. The artistic Clelia Lega-Weekes had returned to London from Massachusetts in the 1880s as a widow with her two talented daughters Ethel and Oceana (apparently so named from having been born during an earlier Atlantic crossing). Research into her South Tawton Wykes family ancestors launched Ethel into a lifelong interest in Devon's medieval history that is charted through her many contributions to the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association* and *Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries*.¹² Lacking the means to pursue this as a full-time occupation she took advantage of her location in London to carry out paid research in the Public Record Office, and took a commission from William Wykes-Finch to help complete research that he appears to have started personally. They crossed swords; William's bold leaps of romantic genealogical imagination were too much for the cautious Ethel Lega-Weekes to take, but it was some years before she felt able to shed the burden of having compromised her academic integrity.¹³ However, whether Ethel forsook it, or William simply claimed it, the research he commissioned into the history of the Wykes family of North Wyke was published in his name in an article in the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association* of 1903, and William could look back with satisfaction at his success in securing the future of the manor house and estate for generations to come. A privately bound offprint of the article contains a reproduction of a portrait of William (see Fig. 1).¹⁴

There was, however, a problem. William and Emily had no children. There were several Finch nephews and nieces, children of William's three elder brothers, and they were to be found towards the end of the century as domestic servants in Torquay, builders in Plymouth and local shopkeepers. They were all overlooked, except for William Robert Finch. William senior groomed him as his prospective

heir from a relatively early age. Although much less bright than his uncle, William Robert also went to Cambridge - with William senior's help - and entered the Church. He eventually became a Canon of Newcastle Cathedral, and married into a respectable church family that appears to have been close to the Perrins of Cheshire.¹⁵ Dutifully, he too changed his name to Wykes-Finch in later life.



Figure 1: William Wykes-Finch.

Alas for William senior, by 1900 it was clear that William Robert and his wife Christiana were also going to remain childless. And so, at the very time William had established himself as the head of the ancient family of Wyke, he was running out of heirs he considered suitable.¹⁶ He decided that after William Robert died, the estate would go to female relatives so distant that their most recent common ancestor with William had died in the 1590s - 'Warrior' Wykes.

However, they were daughters of the ancient county family of Fursdon, fellow landowners in South Tawton. Their grandfather - the Rev'd Edward Fursdon - was in the right place and position to have been one of those in Hoare's circle who could have helped William in his formative years on his way to Cambridge. William's plans were enshrined in a long and complicated will, including the conditions that those who inherit must add 'Wyke-' to their name, and must keep the portraits of William and Emily in their place of honour at North Wyke.

William died in 1920 at his estate in Worcestershire, where, despite the resources and attention lavished on North Wyke, he spent most of his later life. He and Emily visited Devon just once or twice each year. He is commemorated in St Andrew's Church ('The Repairer of the breach, the Restorer of paths to dwell in'), but he is buried with his wife in the Perrin family plot at Davenham in Cheshire. One wonders if he felt truly at home back in South Tawton. Perhaps the place and the old faces reminded him too much of origins that he seems to have found too awkward to talk of, for all his outward self-confidence. His public life as magistrate and county councillor was lived halfway across England, his debt to those who helped him on his way never clearly acknowledged.

His nephew William Robert outlived him by a mere two years. With the North Wyke estate and mansion at stake, his trustees, sons of old college friends, were faced with a number of legal challenges and disputes to manage over the next few years, including the claims of a previously unseen Reginald Finch, who presented himself as a fellow descendant of William's grandmother, Mary Wykes. In the end though, the meticulous detail laid down by William in his will ensured that his forceful personality still held sway from the grave. As he intended, Harriet Sneyd (*née* Fursdon and soon to become Wykes-Sneyd) inherited the estate. The ultimate irony is that within a few years North Wyke was sold again. In the depths of the agricultural depression of the late 1920s it was purchased by the tenant, Edwin Stanbury. He had farmed the land for over thirty years, throughout the whole period of decay, restoration, contest and inheritance.¹⁷ It was arguably the Stanbury family who provided the real stability at North Wyke, day in and day out, for all of William's lifelong efforts to re-establish his family's inheritance for his own posterity. However, one hopes that William would at least recognise that the estate appears to have a stable future today given the evident care with which it is managed by the staff of its current owners, the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research.

Notes and references

1. The late Bob Barron, of Finch's Foundry, Sticklepath, and I, first came across William Wykes-Finch in a very remote branch of our shared Finch family tree many years ago. An earlier version of this article appeared in *The Beacon*, the South Zeal area community magazine, in 2004.
2. Westcountry Studies Library/Family files/Finch.

3. Venn and Venn, 1922-54, 496; St John's College/Biographical Archive/Finch. The life of Henry Arthur Hoare, Victorian benefactor, appears not to have been written up by contemporaries or any later writers.
4. Tanner, 1917, 517.
5. Devon Record Office/South Tawton Parish Registers.
6. Wykes-Finch, 1903, 360-425 describes the events of the 1660s at length.
7. Venn, *op. cit.*, 496; Northwich Registration District Marriage Certificate, March 1862.
8. Josiah Perrin, 1794-1869, was born in Stockport and appeared to work in the Cheshire salt industry and the associated barge trade on the River Weaver for most of his life, building up a substantial interest in mines in the Winsford area. He lived within sight of the wharves and mines until the end of his life. Calvert, 1915; Bagshaw, *Directory of Cheshire*, 1850; The National Archives/1851 Census returns/HO107/2166/222.
9. Principal Registry of the Family Division, November 1869.
10. Venn, *op. cit.*, 496; Wilcox, 1900, 141-2; *Kelly's Directory of Worcs*, 1900, 48.
11. *The Times*, 11 May 1896; North Wyke estate records, privately held.
12. Obituary, *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, 1949, 25-6.
13. '... it may be that I myself, in some of my earlier papers, have passed on... other equally unfounded statements, from having been, like most tyros, over-ready to "accept as gospel" whatever had been given to the world in print (though I believe I have always been careful to add a reference to my "authorities")'; Lega-Weekes, 1912, 566.
14. The image did not accompany William's article when it appeared in the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association* in 1903, but was inserted as a frontispiece to his privately bound offprints. The same image appeared in the piece written about William in *The Cable and Agricultural World* in 1900 (Wilcox), so it is quite likely that they took the original photograph. It remains possible that the published image was reproduced from William's portrait rather than a photograph. This would probably have been the portrait referred to in his will as having been painted by Edward Fellowes-Prynne, brother of the architect responsible for the restoration of North Wyke, George Fellowes-Prynne. It has not been possible to establish the whereabouts of either an original painting or photographic image. The author would welcome any information on the portrait's survival and current ownership.
15. Venn, *op. cit.*, also 496; Perse School archives, personal communication, 10 September 2003; *Who Was Who*, 1992, 891.
16. At least ten nephews and nieces were still alive in 1901, together with at least nine great nephews and nieces. It is not currently known if they have any living descendants.
17. Principal Registry of the Family Division/Wills: 1913 (Emily); 1920, 1922 (William); 1922 (William Robert); 1926, 1927 (Frances Christiana, widow of William Robert). South Tawton and District Local History group, Ethel Lega Weekes archive, ELWGSTSZ, Letter to EL-W, 23 June 1926 (a catalogue of

the archive is available in Westcountry Studies Library). North Wyke estate records, privately held.

Bibliography

- Calvert, A.F. (1915) *Salt in Cheshire*. London: Spon.
- Lega-Weekes, E. (1912) 'William Wykes, "First Recorder of Exeter"; and Wykes, Sheriff of Devon', *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, 44, 566.
- Tanner, J.R. (ed.) (1917) *The historical register of the University of Cambridge to the year 1910*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Transactions of the Devonshire Association*. 1949, 81, 25-6.
- Venn, J. and Venn, J.A (eds) (1922-54) *Alumni Cantabrigiensis*. Part 2. Vol. 2., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Who Was Who* (1992) *Vol. 2, 1916-1928*. 5th edition. London: Black.
- Wilcox, A. (1900) 'Interview with a landowner in three counties: The Rev. W. Wykes-Finch. The Monks, Chaddesley Corbett'. *The Cable and Agricultural World*, 2 June, 141-2.
- Wykes-Finch, W. (1903) 'The ancient family of Wyke of North Wyke, Co. Devon', *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, 35, 360-425.

Dr Greg Finch is responsible for strategy and business planning for a division of a large company, and is a part-time recreational researcher into family and local history in Devon. His doctoral thesis of 1984 explored the economic history of Devon during the Industrial Revolution. He lives in Northumberland and can be contacted by email at the following address: gregpfinch@hotmail.com.

Book reviews

Todd Gray (2005) *Exeter remembers the war: life on the home front, Exeter: The Mint Press; 337 pages, illustrations, softback, ISBN 1903356415, £14.99.*

It is said that civilisation began when families amalgamated to form clans. Tribes and nations then came into being and soon set about the task of fighting each other. If the precursors and precipitants of warfare represent the worst of human nature, the response to it often brings out the best in the innocent civilian left at home. As well as being an important record, this book is a heart-warming account of a city coping with adversity. On the other hand, it mentions also the darker aspects of human behaviour. Fascist parades through Exeter were not uncommon in the years leading up to the Second World War. During it, the American forces stationed around the city insisted on racial segregation. Some thrust into positions of authority over their neighbours behaved as officious, bumptious fools. Some took advantage of others' misfortune to indulge in looting. The darkness of the 'Black out' gave the criminal an unexpected opportunity. Morale was high, but morals took a dip. Casual, opportunistic romances were commonplace and the consequences could be harshly dealt with.

In a previous publication, reviewed in *The Devon Historian* 70, the author drew on various official records. This time, he concentrates on accounts given by the 'man (or in most cases, woman) on the street'. Some were obtained *verbatim*; others from local and national archives. They range from humour to tragedy, but most are about getting on with life under a real threat of hardship, if not death. Dr Gray deserves respect, not only for his assiduity, but also for the way in which he has pulled together various sources to make a coherent and well-readable whole. The references are well set out, and it was a pleasure to come across a book with an index.

This book can be recommended highly to all interested in Devon's recent history. It should be of interest also to those concerned with social and military history in general. It will probably never be read, or even noticed, by those who could benefit most from it. The young man who barges into an old lady while racing against an Exeter Traffic Warden to his illegally parked status symbol will, sadly, never realise that he owes his life-style, if not his life, to the 'stupid old fool who didn't get out of my way'.

Sadru Bhanji

John Grier and Doreen Mole (2004) *A brief history of Plymouth hospitals, Plymouth: Old Plymouth Society; 91 pages, 61 illustrations, softback, ISBN 1900457067, £6.50 plus £1 p&p (from Mrs D. Mole, Old Plymouth Society, 625 Budshead Road, Plymouth PL5 4DW).*

This work is the seventh of a new series of publications by the Old Plymouth Society, and is written by its Chairman and Secretary. For those unfamiliar with the Society, it is worth mentioning that previous publications in the present series concern Plymouth's historians, the Palmerston forts, tracing Plymouth's history

through memorials and similar material, the Navy Victualling Department, the city's late medieval bounds, and the Plymouth and Stonehouse leats,

The writers describe forty institutions, beginning with a leper house recorded in 1301. Not all fall within the modern view of a hospital; but, on the other hand, the reviewer has no quibble with the inclusion of, for example, orphanages, workhouses and convalescent homes. The first two incorporated accommodation for the sick and the last can be seen as providing a less intensive form of hospital care. After the leprosy hospital, institutions serving a general function are described and then the specialist facilities. Within this classification a chronological order is followed. The space devoted varies from a single paragraph on the Stonehouse workhouse to seven pages concerning Mount Gould Hospital. This unevenness derives, at least in part, from variations in the documentation available. The account of the Lying-in Charity, for example, appears to stem from a single diary entry of 1801. Similarly, that of the Royal Eye Infirmary is limited by the deliberate destruction in 1937 of a number of records concerning that institution. The authors have made good use of the data that was available to them, and provide a valuable contribution to a relatively neglected aspect of local history. In particular, they chart the gradual development from local individual philanthropy to participation in a state-run system of universal care. As to placing Plymouth within the national picture, it is noted that the Royal Naval Hospital led Europe in its design and lay-out, and that Plymouth was planning her modern-style 'super hospital' as long ago as 1943; but there is little else on how Plymouth compared with the rest of the country. However, as the authors' intention was to provide a brief history, it is perhaps unfair to make too much of this point.

The book is well-presented, and has an attractive cover. The text is clear and accompanied by many black and white illustrations, mainly photographs. A number of these are based on material in private hands. It is nice to see this being brought into the public domain. The out-of-town reader intent on exploring the sites of the various institutions would perhaps have liked a map, but one covering all the places mentioned would probably be too lacking in detail to be of much value. The absence of a full list of references is acceptable in a book of this length. A comprehensive bibliography and a list of sources are provided instead, but some may find the latter too rudimentary. The reviewer is slowly and reluctantly coming to terms with the provision of an index becoming apparently the exception rather than the rule. To a certain extent this is compensated for in the present work by a list of the hospitals in order of appearance. Despite these criticisms, the book can be highly recommended. Although it gives the impression of being intended primarily for the Plymouthian, it should prove of interest to all concerned with the history of how society cares for its less fortunate members. The Old Plymouth Society deserves congratulations, and the reviewer looks forward to its future publications.

Sachru Bhanji

Patrick Hutton (2004) *I would not be forgotten: the life and work of Robert Stephen Hawker*, Padstow: Tabb House: 250 pages; hardback, ISBN 1873951442, £20.00; paperback, ISBN 1873951485, £14.95.

If, in the middle of the nineteenth century, you had spotted a strangely-attired figure riding his pony across the border between Devon and Cornwall, the likelihood is that you would have recognised him as the Reverend Robert Stephen Hawker, vicar of Morwenstow and Welcombe; philanthropist, mystic, practical joker, eccentric and poet. Anyone who ever met this larger-than-life character must have found him unforgettable.

Now, more than a century after his death, he is still far from forgotten - Google yields 33,800 sites in response to his name; much 'Hawkeriana' exists (see the book's illustrated section); Westcountry newspapers regularly acknowledge his importance to the area as a whole; Cornwall recognises him as the composer of its unofficial national anthem:

And have they fixed the where and when?
And shall Trelawney die?
Here's twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why!

His versifying was only one dimension of this remarkable man, and Patrick Hutton believes that Hawker has been grievously underrated as a poet. The well-documented life serves Hutton as a framework for a study of the poetry. Hawker's symbolism draws on religion, folklore and the classics, and many of the poems reflect personal and local events. If the links Hutton makes between the life and the work are sometimes tenuous, his enthusiasm for his subject is engaging. The poetry is readable, if in small doses, being very much a product of its time. Its themes are not so much reflective as exhortative - less the 'emotion recollected in tranquillity' of Wordsworth; more the product of the hymner and bard. Hutton suggests, interestingly, that if Hawker had handled his public relations as effectively as Wordsworth did, his poetry might have seen more acclaim. The book's title is King Arthur's plea 'I would not be forgotten', from Hawker's rousing epic *The Quest of the Sangraal* generally considered to be his best poem. Hutton sets it beside Tennyson's contemporary *Idylls of the King*, as well as Malory's fifteenth-century *Morte d'Arthur*, and indeed Hawker's version is shown to hold its own. I have to admit that, faced with the opening line, 'Ho! for the Sangraal! vanished vase of Heaven!' I could not help thinking of *Monty Python*. Tennyson, on the other hand, exclaimed 'Hawker has beaten me on my own ground!'

A major fault with the editing of this book is the clumsy placing of the poems where they interfere with narrative flow. Often, on turning a page, I found myself suddenly having to search for the continuation of the sentence I was reading. Because extracts of the poems are already quoted liberally in the commentary, poetic sequences frequently appear twice in close juxtaposition. What should be a creative tension between the life and the work becomes a distraction that fragments the reading process. I also wondered about the decision to list the poem titles rather obscurely in a sub-section of the main index.

Before I read the book, I preferred Hawker the man to Hawker the poet, and I have not changed my mind. Although some of the lore about him may be apocryphal as Hutton shows, his exuberant philanthropy is legion, as are his robust humour and often sardonic wit. This is a man who brightened dull church services by introducing Harvest Festivals; who gave refuge to the shipwrecked; whose notes describe reaching out and touching angels. And just look at his marriages! Speaking of which, Hutton mentions in passing that of the eighteen verses of the poem *The Wreck*, Hawker wrote only three, the rest being the work of his first wife Charlotte. The question begs to be asked: if she wrote five-sixths of one of his poems, what proportion of those ten large volumes actually came from his pen? Mmmm. *Plus ça change*. Perhaps the next Hawker study should be undertaken by a student of gender linguistics. And who *did* actually write the Cornish national anthem?

The woman who was to be his second wife described him as 'slightly cracked ... but a very clever old soul.' Travelling by train to London to meet her, he wore seaboots and a fisherman's jersey, with a red handkerchief tied around his head. Now there's poetry!

Frances Thompson

Gerald Wasley (2004) *Plymouth - a shattered city: the story of Hitler's attack on Plymouth and its people 1939-1945*, Tiverton: Halsgrove; 176 pages, illustrations, hardback, ISBN 1841142727, £19.95.

This revised version of Gerald Wasley's 1991 *Blitz: an account of Hitler's aerial war over Plymouth in March 1941, and the events that followed* is, though as clumsily titled, an attractively produced and reasonably priced book. Much in it will be of interest to Plymouthians, not least the reproduced photographs of 'then and now' situations.

The author's stated intention, however, is not to provide a popular account of the Plymouth Blitz but to contribute to the local history of the city. He praises the unwavering courage of the inhabitants during the devastating bombing raids of March and April 1941 and criticizes government (local and central) for neglect and insensitivity.

Described as a pleasant place to live in before the war, the Plymouth of this book had the naval base and dockyard to provide employment, with good shops and theatres. But placed high on the Germans' list of important military targets at war's beginning, the city's vulnerability to air attack increased after the fall of France. The Germans had the means to bomb Plymouth at any moment of their choosing. Identification from the air was simple, even by night, and such electronic jamming devices as the British possessed could only interfere with German bombers' navigation systems inland. And yet, as the author maintains, Plymouthians felt they were living something of a charmed life over the winter of 1940-1941; the months which classically define Britain's 'Blitz'. There were air raids, but enemy air activity over the city was sporadic. Compared with the inhabitants of London, Coventry and Liverpool they had, thus far, got off lightly. It was as though they were living through their own elongated phoney war; a

period which the author renders pregnant with the coming inevitability of mass destruction. Defences, both active and passive, were, he says, inadequate. Gladiator fighters (never mentioned without the accompanying adjective 'obsolete') were few in number, as were anti-aircraft guns. Fire-hose couplings and hydrants were not standardized and auxiliary services were below strength. Moreover, systematic fire-watching was hampered by the number of locked empty properties. In short, set against the certainty of a German attack, lay domestic lethargy.

The author is also critical of central government. He finds it scandalously inexplicable, for example, that having been deemed an evacuation area before the war (that is a place from which people were to be evacuated) Plymouth was reclassified as 'neutral'. Indirectly he nudges the reader towards concluding that had Plymouth's population been thinned-out by official evacuation, the human cost of the March-April Blitz would have been much reduced.

This is very much the tone of the book. The conception of Plymouth as victim is so strong that administrative inadequacy is spotted everywhere. The field of vision is clear and insistent, but also narrow. Concerned only with Plymouth, the author regards just about everything done officially, from the removal of iron railings to not implementing evacuation, as though a campaign of civic insult was afoot. He must know that it was not only Plymouthians who lost their railings and that in other parts of the country evacuees proved remarkably reluctant to stay evacuated for long. But unencumbered by any sense of breadth he blames 'them' and not 'us' for the ineffectiveness of the city's post-Blitz evacuation programme. The city council, criticized for not organizing the nightly trek out into the countryside in March, is criticized again for its efforts to assist the trekkers in April. So it goes on.

Had the author been less insistent on maintaining that important people in London 'had it in' for Plymouth his account of the destructiveness of the Blitz would have been more measured and therefore impressive. Local historians, of course, concentrate on the locality. But in writing as though Plymouth was the only 'shattered city' of the Second World War Gerald Wasley sells himself and his project short. A slightly broader approach, with just a hint of comparativism, might have reduced the paranoia quotient and touched on themes of wider interest. Plymouth may be unique, but the city's wartime fate was not. In common with other places considered strategically important, it was subject to bombing attacks so heavy and sustained that defences - active and passive - were simply overwhelmed.

Nick Smart

Paul White (2005) *The south-west highway atlas for 1675*, Launceston: Tamar Books; 160 pages, illustrated, softback, ISBN 1899383824, £9.99.

In this work Paul White has made available to a wider readership with commentary - maps relating to Devon and Cornwall and parts of Somerset and Dorset which were originally produced in 1675 by cartographic publisher John Ogilby in his *Britannia, volume the first*. The information gathered by Ogilby

resulted from a complete recording of main highways throughout England and Wales obtained by a team of surveyors in a way that had not previously been attempted. It represents the first survey of reasonable accuracy to be produced, pre-dating the one-inch mapping of Devon - the first county to be so treated - by Joel Gascoyne, published in 1699. The study, which was intended as an aid to travellers, covered 'post routes' only, and not the network of byways, although turnings from the main routes, with name indications, are shown.

It was a time when the establishment of turnpikes in Devon was still well in the future, and many of the routes described are of very ancient origin. They tended to follow ridges, with steep descents to river valleys, to be crossed by ford or clapper bridge, with a sharp ascent on the other side. Some, with use, became 'holloways', with loose soil and mud being pushed to the sides, contributing to the building up of hedgebanks. Many such routes were the fore-runners of modern road systems, in other cases they have been abandoned to remain as perhaps just a minor track, or a pair of hedges across grassland. Generally referred to as 'ways', rather than 'roads', the routes' upkeep had from medieval times been the responsibility of landlords across whose land the rights had become customary, or, in many cases, of the Church, until the duties of maintenance fell to the parishes.

Ogilby's maps were produced in strip format, somewhat similar, as the author recalls, to the form in which the AA has provided route information to enquirers in more recent times. For the purposes of his modern book, Paul White has divided these and reproduced them as adjacent sections down each page, so that they are easy to follow. He has retained the original spellings, which the commentary assists in de-ciphering. Where enclosed, routes are defined by continuous double lines, but where they pass across open country broken lines are used.

The text is supplemented by brief relevant extracts from Celia Fiennes' *Through England on a side-saddle*, published twenty years later, from William Marshall's *The rural economy of the west of England* (1796) and from the Reverend S. Shaw, 1788. Illustrations include reproductions, or part-reproductions, of old prints, and of several decorative cartouches. A good index is provided.

It is evident that the author derived much pleasure from tracing many of the old routes, which sometimes emerged as forgotten and overgrown trackways. Reading the book makes one want to reach for modern large-scale maps and to seek out places where routes that were later diverted to more gentle gradients, to accommodate wheeled vehicles, still bear signs of straighter courses that may now be just footpaths.

Helen Harris

G. Woodcock (2005) *Tavistock's yesterdays: episodes from her history*, 14, privately printed by the author; 96 pages, 24 illustrations, softback, no ISBN, £4.95.

It was perhaps coincidental that Gerry Woodcock's latest annual publication in his series reached this reviewer on the same day that the newest Harry Potter book was causing excitement in bookshops. For, although the Woodcock work is

received with less euphoria than that of Rowling, it is awaited and siezed eagerly by numerous readers in Tavistock and beyond.

This, his fourteenth instalment, is of outstanding interest. The author, former Head of History and Head of Sixth Form at Tavistock School, is also a prolific local writer, and he has drawn on his vast amount of acquired knowledge as well as from further research sources that he notes in his Preface.

Of the fifteen chapters, the first, entitled 'Wool', is of particular interest, giving an outline account of Tavistock's woollen industry from the time of Tavistock Abbey through to the trade's demise in the twentieth century. A short piece is devoted to the nineteenth century engineer John Taylor who, as a young man, made his considerable mark in the district before becoming a national figure. A fascinating account is given in 'The War against the Demon' (drink) and of the Temperance Movement in which Tavistock - as other places - engaged with intensity. There is a continuation (from earlier issues) of the writer's account of the history of Tavistock School, this time recording its development and high reputation in Victorian times under the renowned headmaster the Rev. Edward Spence.

Written in the author's usual pleasant style, with the occasional touch of wit, *Tavistock's yesterdays* 14 is both informative and enjoyable to read.

Helen Harris

Book received for information

Below are books sent to the Society either for information rather than for review, or that include some local historical content on Devon that may be of interest and value to members, but insufficient in extent for a full review in this journal.

Philip Waters (2004) *Competitive sailing at Appledore, 1934 to 1971*, Appledore: North Devon Museum Trust; 48 pages, illustrations, softback, ISBN 1898546711, £3.50.

Dorian Gerhold (2005) *Carriers and coachmasters: trade and travel before the turnpikes*, Chichester: Phillimore; 288 pages, illustrations, hardback, ISBN 1880773273, £19.99.

Correspondence from members and other information

The Hon. Editor is pleased to receive notices concerning museums, local societies and organisations, information about particular research projects, as well as notes, queries and correspondence from Society members. Such items can be reproduced in *The Devon Historian*, space permitting.

Old Plymouth Society

The following speakers are scheduled to give talks to the Old Plymouth Society in 2006:

- 17 Mar. 2006 Mr Patrick Bowes, 'Townscape Heritage Initiative - an update'
21 Apr. 2006 AGM
Mr Tony Romang, 'A history of Hoe Fields'
Mr David Chamberlaine, 'A letter from Plymouth'
19 May 2006 Mr Roderick Martin, 'Plymouth's mineral water companies and their bottles'
15 Sep. 2006 Mrs Jill Drysdale, 'Bodies on the beach at Wembury'
20 Oct. 2006 Dr Todd Gray, 'Plymouth in the early 1600s'
17 Nov. 2006 Dr John Salvatore, 'The work of the Historic Environment Officer'
08 Dec. 2006 Prof. John Widdows, 'The Tamar Estuary a changing environment'

Meetings are normally held in the Spurgeon Hall, Mutley Baptist Church, Plymouth, at 7.00 for 7.30pm start. The Society's Hon. Secretary is Mrs D Mole, Old Plymouth Society, 625 Budshend Road, Whiteleigh, Plymouth, PL5 4DW; 01752 774316).

The Lustleigh Society

Speakers scheduled to give talks to The Lustleigh Society in 2006 include:

- 22 Mar. 2006 Mrs Sheila Phillips, 'The Buckfastleigh Caves'
26 Apr. 2006 Mrs Helen Harris, 'Devon's century of change'

Unless otherwise stated meetings are normally held in the village hall at 7.30pm. The Society's Programme Secretary is Mary Marsham, Cleavelands, Bovey Tracey, TQ13 9NG; 01752 774316; mjm@cmfs.biz.

Society reports and notices

Membership and subscriptions

The Society is pleased to attract the membership of local history groups that are not yet affiliated members. The first year of membership for an affiliated society is £5.00. Existing affiliated societies are reminded to contact the Hon. Treasurer, whenever there is a change of contact and correspondence address: Dr Sadru Bhanji, 13 Elm Grove Road, Topsham, Devon, EX3 0EQ.

Programme organisation

The Committee of the Society is seeking a new Programme Secretary, or help from a couple of individuals who may like to share the work associated with this position. The main responsibilities of the Programme Secretary are the organisation of the Annual Conference and AGM, and the Spring and Summer meetings of the Society. The Committee would also welcome the help of any affiliated societies that are able to host and organise one of the Society's Spring or Summer meetings.

Those interested in contributing to programme organisation are asked to approach the Hon. Secretary (01404 42002, sn3681@eclipse.co.uk).

Devon History Society website

The Society's website can be found at <http://www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk>. The website gives information on the following: the contents of the current and recent issues of *The Devon Historian*; programmes of forthcoming events; links to useful websites; and a message board for comments, queries and answers.

Report and minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting

Abridged Report and Minutes of the thirty-fifth Annual General Meeting held at the University of Exeter School of Education on 15 October 2005 (NB: the formal Report and Minutes containing transcripts of the officers' annual reports will be available for inspection at the 2006 AGM or may be inspected at reasonable hours by appointment with the Honorary Secretary). The President, Dr Nicholas Orme, was in the Chair.

1. Apologies for absence: apologies for absence were reported from Mrs Margaret Lewis, Mrs Clare Greener and Mr Arnold Sayers.
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting: the formal Report and Minutes of the thirty fourth Annual General Meeting, an abbreviated version of which had been printed in *The Devon Historian* No. 70, was approved by those present and signed by the President.
3. There were no matters arising out of the Minutes.
4. & 5. A joint report by the Chairman and the Honorary Secretary on the previous year was presented by the Chairman, the Secretary having presented her apologies for absence from the Meeting. The Chairman said that, apart from the business meeting attended by Council members and the presentation of the Book of the Year award, a talk was given by Mr Stuart Blaylock entitled 'Archaeology above Ground Level', a talk by Mr Peter Beacham entitled 'Changing for Good' and a talk illustrated by slides by Mr Tony Collings entitled 'One Man's Ramblings'. Two members of the Council attended a retirement party for Mr Ian Maxted at the Central Library in July. The Spring Meeting was held at Bradninch in March with a talk by Mr Warwick Knowles on a project concerned with a local building partnership and one by Mr John Hutchings on the Duchy of Cornwall. The

Summer meeting was held in Holsworthy where Mrs Helen Harris gave an illustrated talk on the Bude Canal and Mr Peter Christie gave one entitled 'Church, Sex and Slander'. The town trail was walked in the afternoon and the museum visited.

6. The Honorary Treasurer reported that the 2005 membership was: honorary life members 2; life members 14; individual ordinary members 216; family ordinary members 24 (Total 256); Corporate members 26; affiliated societies 56. Concern was expressed about the fall in ordinary membership (2005: 256; 2004: 276; 2003: 291). Referring to the Financial Report:

	2005	2004
Gross income	£4728.42	£5065.30
Gross expenditure	£4477.09	£5274.37
Excess of income over expenditure	£251.33	£209.07
BUILDING SOCIETY ACCOUNT		
(£) Transfers in	£480.00	£480.00
Interest	£127.30	£100.76

Carried forward to 2005-2006 £5523.65 (plus £6837.67 with Building Society).

Mr David Pike audited the accounts last year and had agreed to undertake the duty this year. The Honorary Treasurer proposed and Mr D.L.B. Thomas seconded that Mr Pike should be re-appointed auditor and this was approved *nem con*.

7. Dr Andrew Jackson presented his first annual report as Honorary Editor. He expressed his thanks to his predecessor, Mrs Harris, for her assistance during his take over of office. Certain changes had been made to *The Devon Historian*: 'Notes for Contributors' were now printed on the back inside cover and date and volume number are printed on the outside of the back cover as is a list of articles printed. Quotations for printing the journal were obtained and, with the approval of the Council, one chosen. This and other savings by use of Email, desktop and word processing methods has resulted in a significant reduction in the overall cost of production. The President thanked the Editor for his work.

8. It was reported that the Spring meeting would be held at Modbury in March and the Summer meeting at Chagford in July. Miss Maycock reminded the Meeting that she and her fellow Events Secretary would be resigning at the end of the current Society year. It was essential that replacement of the appointment should be considered at the January meeting of the Council.

9. The acting secretary said that the Honorary Secretary had reported that no nominations for officers or other members of the Council had been received. Resignation from the Council was reported from Mrs Clare Greener. It was agreed *nem con* that existing officers and members should be re-elected. Mrs Stirling, Professor Youngs and Mr Reed were confirmed as co-opted Members of the Council.

10. No notice of any other business had been received prior to 8 October 2005.

The President declared the meeting closed.

The Devon Historian

Correspondence for the Hon. Editor and contributions for publication in the Society's journal should be sent to Dr Andrew Jackson, Hon. Editor, The Devon Historian, School of Education and Lifelong Learning, University of Exeter, St Luke's Campus, Heavitree Road, Exeter, EX1 2LU, or by email to A.J.H.Jackson@exeter.ac.uk.

Books for review should be sent to Dr Sadru Bhanji, 13 Elm Grove Road, Topsham, Devon EX3 0EQ, who will invite the services of a reviewer. It is not the policy of the Society to receive unsolicited reviews.

The contents of articles and reviews reflect the views of their authors and not those of the Society.

Notes for contributors

The Hon. Editor welcomes articles to be considered for publication in *The Devon Historian*. Normally, the length should be between 2,000 and 4,000 words (plus endnotes, references and bibliography), although much shorter pieces of suitable substance may also be acceptable. Pieces of more than 4,000 words can be reproduced in separate articles, or in exceptional circumstances printed in full.

It is preferred that articles are word-processed using double line spacing and page margins of 3cm, and submitted by email attachment in Word format. However, the editor will accept versions by post on disk, CDROM, as typed hardcopy, or in clear handwriting. Authors should ensure that the journal's style is adhered to on such matters as the restrained use of capital letters, initial single inverted commas, and the writing of the dates thus: 1 July 2005. Article layout conventions also need to be followed. Endnote numbers through the article and a corresponding list of notes and references at the end should give details of primary sources used, and indicate where books and other articles have been quoted, paraphrased or derived from. Bibliographies are required to list all books and journal articles that have been quoted, paraphrased, cited, or in some way have informed the content of the article. The format of references and bibliographies in this volume of the journal can be followed. Illustrative material can be submitted electronically in most formats, or as a good quality print or photocopy. Where relevant it is the responsibility of authors to ensure that copyright holders have granted formal permission for the reproduction of images.

The final format of articles is at the discretion of the Editor.

Back issues

Current and back issues of *The Devon Historian* are available from Mr David Thomas, 112 Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4RW. Members may purchase available back issues at £3 each including postage and, when ordering, should state the issue number(s) or publication date(s) of the journal(s) required. Mr Thomas is always glad to receive copies of earlier numbers of *The Devon Historian* in good condition.