

# NOTES & QUERIES

FOR

SOMERSET AND DORSET

EDITED BY

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*"Attempt the end, and never stand to doubt;  
Nothing's so hard, but search will find it out".*

HERRICK.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. With this issue is enclosed a separate 4-page section containing replacements for the Montacute illustrations which formed the centre-piece to the March issue. It was not felt that the originals, particularly Plates 2 & 3, allowed a satisfactory comparison of the handwritings (their prime purpose) to be made.

**262. THE MASSEY BRIGADE IN THE WEST.** During the Civil War a Parliamentary brigade of cavalry operated in the West under the command of a former Royalist turned Parliamentarian, Major-General Edward Massey.<sup>1</sup> Historians have never really known who served in this brigade, which was notorious for its ill discipline and criminal behaviour, but several documents have now been found which enable us to reconstruct its officer corps and regimental organization. Since many were west country men, it is to be hoped that local historians may be able to shed further light on them, now that their names are known. The central document for reconstructing the brigade's officer corps is a petition presented to the Houses of Parliament in July 1647, signed by 113 officers; the text of the petition and the names of the signatories follow.<sup>2</sup> The names have been numbered consecutively by columns as they appear, and these numbers will be used as means of identification in subsequent discussion. The columns of signatures have also been noted, since they are largely regimental and have significance.

To the right Honourable the Lords & Commons in Parliament assembled  
The humble petition of the Commissioned Officers of Major generall  
Massies Brigade  
Sheweth.

That sundry of your petitioners have beene your souldiers ever since the very beginning of these unhappie times, alwayes with constancy & willingnes (even when affaires were lowest undergoing the hardest duty in greatest danger, expending their owne & friends Fortunes (for the supplye of both their owne & Souldiers wants, even in such particulers as only concerne the States service; as with other your Armies have from time to time received supplyes from your Magazines, & other Recruits) expending their persons & lives, many Sealing their faithfull affections to this iust Cause, and becom its Managers with dropps of bloud (not grudging the residue). All along wading through deepe wants & extremities, especially of late under the command of our now Maior Generall, occasioned by that slender provision hath beene made for us, none receiving since the generall reducement above 6 weekes pay, some lesse, though others (with whom wee have beene equally yoked in all other particulers of disadvantage) have beene much better provided for, Soe that the Souldiers extraordinary wants & Discouragements have inevitably occasioned the sadd effect of disquiett to the Countrey & discontent to the officers, by which more then ordinary Opportunity of Iniury others offences have beene laid on our Browes, though severest Justice hath never beene baulked by us, against any Convicted Offender, Nay our Severities have increased with our wants, as our particuler Orders, & their execution will witnesse; Reckoning the Countreys suffering our owne; in which wee are truly misfortunate, not faulty, being soe much the more industrious for our Souldiers Restraint, by how much their poverties provoke them to insolencies, wherefore unlesse wee are obnoxious to any personall Obieccion of dishonor or dishonesty, from which our guiltles Consciences acquitt us, and desirously submitt us to any test.

Our humble suit is

That as our gracious god hath prospered our Actions (as well as others) with Successe in many considerable Acheivements, soe that your Lords would bee pleased to owne our indeavours by such recompence as was promised to all, & hath largely beene performed to others.

Next that our former behaviours may gaine your future confidence so these lasting troubles (which god in mercy determine shall either render us usefull here, or those loud crying miseries of Ireland transport us thither, or your Iudgements dispose of us elsewhere hastily still submitting to your pleasure) where ever wee shall bee disposed of, and since obedience and affection mutually betweene superiors & inferiors, hath beene a considerable furtherance to the publique service, & our personall content & encouragement, that wee may continue our companyes & Comanders by which wee doubt not (by gods contynued blessing on our faithfull indeavours) soe successfully to discharge such trusts, as your wisdomes shall thinke us worthy of, that wee shall purchase the share in your esteeme that now others enjoy beyond us, which is the obiet of our ambition & shall be (next gods glory) of our Industry

And your petitioners shall ever praye &c.

Col. 1: 1 Edward Cooke; 2 Edw. Wood; 3 Hen. Baker; 4 Jo Fettiplace; 5 Rich. Clunny; 6 And. Woodd; 7 Robte Ambersome; 8 Raphe Warren; 9 Saml. Martin; 10 Jeremy Savage; 11 Peter Smith; 12 John Vivyan; 13 Roger Bridges; 14 Peter Miserye; 15 Edward Bowdin; 16 John Medlin; 17 John Peters; 18 John Rosse; 19 John Wormewoode; 20 Laurance Whaed [or ? Whaehaed]; 21 Thomas Heridge; 22 Edward Peirce; 23 John Leetch; 24 William Wilson.

Col. 2: 25 Ro: Harley; 26 W. Willughbye; 27 Tho. Evans; 28 John Hay; 29 Christophe Clos; 30 Fra. Cotton; 31 John Favoritt; 32 Samuel Wilkins; 33 Nicho: von Staden; 34 Johan: Kingwell; 35 John Perne [or ? Perns, Peine, Perdins]; 36 Henry Traberger; 37 Robert Scott; 38 William Hilkin; 39 Marcus Yeu; 40 Christian Sweede; 41 John Lodowicke; 42 Samuel Hattfield; 43 Perss Buller; 44 John Bicke; 45 John Ramsey; 46 Mathewe Fromknight; 47 John Muskett.

Col. 3: 48 R. Thorpe; 49 Tho: Jervoise; 50 Arnolt Cooper; 51 Robert Massie; 52 Fra: Sharpe; 53 Tho: Gorges; 54 Rosse Maguire; 55 Tho: Mathewes; 56 Tho. Hollaway; 57 Will. Hayes; 58 Will. Sharpe; 59 Ed. Norgrove; 60 Will Rowles; 61 Will: Howard; 62 Richard Woodaway; 63 Tho: Shurley; 64 Ralph Blades; 65 Chales Buckler; 66 Zakary Gennings; 67 James Selby; 68 Abrah: Pennefather; 69 John Andrewes; 70 Will Farnley; 71 Wil. Davis; 72 Nich: Bocker.

Col. 4: 73 Ja. Heane; 74 J: Brodrepp; 75 Her: Pyne; 76 John Awbrey; 77 Hen Fitzjames; 78 Rich: Waddon; 79 Jo: Benion; 80 Rich Dasset; 81 Joseph Swettnam; 82 Thom: Begge; 83 Jo: Manifold; 84 Geo: Pinsent; 85 Mathew Nicols; 86 Amos Long; 87 An Coomes; 88 John Marsh; 89 John Martin; 90 Martin Kelloway.

Col. 5: 91 Hen Taylor; 92 Tho: Swettnam; 93 Elizeas Gray; 94 John Stock; 95 Edward Bridges.

Col. 6: 96 Jo Chaffin; 97 W. Braddon; 98 Jol: Jarheim; 99 Tho: Alley; 100 John Morris; 101 Tho; Wansey; 102 John Trefuse; 103 John Trehane; 104 James Fitzierod; 105 Pro: Samson; 106 Robert Bulwer; 107 Joseph Hellier; 108 Henery Hatherly; 109 Walter Fisher; 110 John Clare; 111 James Sparnoll; 112 Walter Williams.

Col. 7: 113 George Walters.

The preceding signatures were not set to the petition at random, but it has only been possible to discover this fact through the separate discovery in the Public Record Office of an account book for the Massey Brigade, broken into pieces and found in an uncalendared and unindexed box.<sup>3</sup> This lists a large number of the signatories to the petition and gives their ranks and regimental affiliations. 43 of the 113 signatories may thus be 'placed'. The resulting scheme shows that the columns of signatures were by regiment:

**Senior Staff Officers:** 1-6, 8, 9, 39 Col. Edw. Cooke; Edw. Wood,



Quartermaster General: Hy. Baker, Adjutant General: John Fettiplace, Judge Advocate to the Western Forces: Rich. Clunny, Scoutmaster General: Andrew Wood, Marshal General: Maj. Raphe Warren, Commissary General: Sam. Martin, Assistant to the latter, Capt. Marcus Yeo, Commissary.

**Massey's Regiment:** 25-33 Maj. Robt. Harley: Cpts. W. Willoughby, Thos. Evans, John Hay, Christophe Clos (former Captain-Lieutenant of Massey's own troop), Frs. Cotton, John Favoritt: Capt.-Lt. Saml. Wilkins (of Massey's own troop); Lt. Nich. von Staden (Lt. to Lt.-Col. Anth. Buller of this regiment in Aug. 1645)

**Col. Edward Cooke's Regiment:** 48-54, 56, 58, 60, 63 Maj. Robt. Thorpe: Cpts. Thos. Jervoise Arnold Cooper (the only leftover from Col. Popham's regt of Somerset horse: he must have filled a vacancy here and stayed behind when the Somerset horse departed), Robt Massey, Frs Sharpe, Thos. Gorges: Capt.-Lt. Rosse Macguire (of Cooke's own troop); Lts. Thos. Hollaway (Lt. to Cooper), Wm. Sharpe (Lt. to Francis S.): Cornets Wm. Rowles, Thos. Shurley (Cornet to Jervoise).

**Col. John Fitzjames's Regiment:**<sup>4</sup> 73-76, 78 Maj. Jas Heane: Cpts. John Brodrepp, Hercules Pyne, John Aubrey; Lt. Rich. Waddon (Lt. to Heane).

**Col. Sir Frs. Drake's Regiment:**<sup>5</sup> 12, 96-98, 101, 102, 113, 99, 84 Cpts. John Vivyan, John Chaffin, Wm. Braddon, Wm. Jarheim, Geo. Walters; Lts. John Trefusis (Lt. to Braddon), Thos. Wansey (Lt. to Chaffin), Cornet Thos Alley, Corporal Geo Pinsent.

Many other officers are mentioned by name in the account book, but are not among the signatories to the petition. By 1647 the brigade is seen to have consisted of a general staff, four regiments of horse and at least one troop of dragoons, under Capt. Augustine Nicholl and attached to Fitzjames's regiment.<sup>6</sup> Also attached to his regiment were two companies of foot, under Capt. Wm. White and John Jewell.<sup>7</sup> Due to the nature of this brigade, it is quite possible that these were mounted foot and were more dragoons than infantry. The only other evidence in the account book for the presence of infantry is the existence in 1645 of an Adjutant General of Foot, Thos. Rush.<sup>8</sup> But apart from the three captains previously mentioned, the word used to describe groups of soldiers is invariably *troop*, which refers to cavalry; the word *company*, used for foot at that time, never appears. There can be no question of the Massey Brigade containing any substantial body of foot nor being constituted in the normal sense of an army ready to fight a set-piece battle on its own, which required infantry. In fact, there is not even evidence for the existence of a train of ordnance of any size. The brigade seems to have been a roving band of unruly horsemen, which attached itself to successive garrisons (containing foot and ordnance) or liaised with the New Model Army as a western cavalry reserve. But this free-wheeling group of horsemen was no fox-hunting meet: four regiments descending on an area must have seemed like a plague of locusts. A New Model regiment of horse in 1647 contained 600 men.<sup>9</sup> But horse regiments traditionally had been larger,

perhaps 1000 men each. It is hardly possible that Massey's Brigade could have been less than 2000 men; indeed, it may have contained between 4000 and 5000 men altogether. One can, therefore, understand why its lack of proper discipline was considered alarming, and its voracious requirements of food and provision — often seized by force from local farmers — severely depleted the resources of whole counties over a period of years.

The General and two of the three Colonels did not sign the 1647 petition: Massey himself had been elected M.P. for Gloucester in 1646 through the influence of the Harley family,<sup>10</sup> and Colonels John Fitzjames and Sir Francis Drake were absent from at least late 1645, when they were appointed sheriffs of Dorset and Devon respectively.<sup>11</sup> This lack of the presence of truly authoritative commanding officers cannot have helped discipline since it meant that thousands of men under arms were left to the control of junior officers for months on end. It is doubtful whether Fitzjames ever resumed control of his regiment after leaving to return home to Leweston, but, as was the case with absentee commanders, he would have continued to be entitled to full pay as both Colonel and Captain of Horse. In March 1646, however, its behaviour was so outrageous that a group of dignitaries, including the famous Rev. Hugh Peter, was assaulted and robbed on the high road by Fitzjames's men, despite having special passports signed by Fairfax guaranteeing them safe conduct. This scandal was raised in the House of Commons,<sup>12</sup> which ordered the Committee of the West that Fitzjames must investigate the conduct of his men and 'their great outrages and violences' and send the offenders to London, but this seems never to have been done;<sup>13</sup> probably the entire regiment was guilty or covered for each other. Although Fitzjames was succeeded as sheriff on 4 Dec. 1646 by Edward Hooper<sup>14</sup> and was, thus, free to leave his county and return to his men, he appears understandably to have shrunk from the possibility. There was little prospect of it being to his financial advantage by that time and the large arrears settled on him by Parliament near the beginning of his term as sheriff were in all likelihood the last money he ever saw from his military office, so starved of funds did Parliament keep the Massey Brigade in order to try and force its disbandment.<sup>15</sup>

Colonel Cooke was definitely the senior colonel, with responsibility for Fitzjames's command and, in Massey's absence, the brigade as a whole, as is clear from surviving correspondence.<sup>16</sup> His own regiment originated in the army of Sir William Waller and was sent to the West in April 1645, when it consisted of 600 horse.<sup>17</sup> He was a younger son of Sir

Robert Cooke of Highnam near Gloucester and became a Quaker eventually, but according to Firth 'seems to have shared Massey's political views' and (like Massey), turning royalist, in the end 'was in great favour with Charles II after the Restoration'.<sup>18</sup> A narrative by him describing the seizure of the King from the Isle of Wight in 1648 survives.<sup>19</sup>

Considerations of space limit the many points of interest to be discussed about the Massey Brigade, but the author has accumulated a vast quantity of evidence about its activities and intends to follow with an account of its criminal outrages and the attempts by both Parliament and Fairfax to curb its despoliation of the West Country. The immediate task is to continue the survey of the officer corps as represented at its disbandment by the 1647 petition and to that end a simple alphabetical list follows of all the 113 signatories named above with footnotes giving information so far discovered about individuals.<sup>20</sup> The 43 whose names and ranks are given above as found in the 1645 account book are marked +.

|                                  |                                 |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| + Alley, Thos.                   | Fisher, Walter                  | Medlin, John                    |
| Ambersome, Robt.                 | Fitzjames, Hen. <sup>33</sup>   | Miserye, Peter                  |
| Andrewes, John <sup>21</sup>     | Fitzjerod, Jas.                 | Morris, John                    |
| + Aubrey, John <sup>22</sup>     | Fromknight, Matthew             | Muskett, John                   |
| + Baker, Hen.                    | Gennings, Zachary               | Nicols, Matthew                 |
| Begge, Thos.                     | + Gorges, Thos. <sup>34</sup>   | Norgrove, Ed.                   |
| Benion, Jo                       | Gray, Elizeas <sup>35</sup>     | Peirce, Edw. <sup>48</sup>      |
| Bicke, John                      | + Harley, Robt. <sup>36</sup>   | Pennefather, Abraham            |
| Blades, Ralph                    | Hatherley, Hen.                 | Perne?, John <sup>49</sup>      |
| Bocker, Nich                     | Hattfield, Saml.                | Peters, John                    |
| Bowdin, Edw.                     | + Hay, John <sup>37</sup>       | + Pinsent, George <sup>50</sup> |
| + Braddon, Wm. <sup>23</sup>     | Hayes, Wm. <sup>38</sup>        | + Pyne, Hercules <sup>51</sup>  |
| Bridges, Edw. <sup>24</sup>      | + Heane, Jas. <sup>39</sup>     | Ramsey, John                    |
| Bridges, Rog.                    | Hellier, Joseph                 | Rosse, John                     |
| + Brodrepp, John <sup>25</sup>   | Heridge, Thos.                  | + Rowles, Wm. <sup>52</sup>     |
| Buckler, Chas.                   | Hilkin, Wm.                     | Samson, Peter <sup>53</sup>     |
| Buller, Perss. <sup>26</sup>     | + Hollaway, Thos. <sup>40</sup> | Savage, Jeremy                  |
| Bulwer, Robt.                    | Howard, Wm.                     | Scott, Robt.                    |
| + Chaffin, John <sup>27</sup>    | + Jarheim, 'Wm.' <sup>41</sup>  | Selby, Jas.                     |
| Clare, John <sup>28</sup>        | + Jervoise, Thos. <sup>42</sup> | + Sharpe, Frs. <sup>54</sup>    |
| + Clos, Chris. <sup>29</sup>     | Kelloway, Martin <sup>43</sup>  | + Sharpe, Wm. <sup>55</sup>     |
| + Clunny, Rich.                  | Kingwell, John                  | + Shurley, Thos.                |
| + Cooke, Edw.                    | Leetch, John                    | Smith, Peter <sup>56</sup>      |
| Coomes, Ant. <sup>30</sup>       | Lodowicke, John <sup>44</sup>   | Sparnoll, Jas. <sup>57</sup>    |
| + Cooper, Arnold                 | Long, Amos <sup>45</sup>        | Stock, John                     |
| + Cotton, Frs.                   | + Macguire, Rosse               | Sweede, Christian               |
| Dassett, Rich.                   | Manifold, John <sup>46</sup>    | Swettnam, Joseph <sup>58</sup>  |
| Davis, Wm.                       | Marsh, John                     | Swettnam, Thos. <sup>58</sup>   |
| + Evans, Thos. <sup>31</sup>     | Martin, John                    | Taylor, Hen.                    |
| Farnley, Wm.                     | + Martin, Saml.                 | + Thorpe, R. <sup>59</sup>      |
| + Favoritt, John                 | + Massey, Robt. <sup>47</sup>   | Traberge, Hen.                  |
| + Fettiplace, John <sup>32</sup> | Mathewes, Thos.                 | Trehane, John <sup>57</sup>     |

|                                   |                               |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| + Trefusis, John <sup>60</sup>    | + Warren, Raphe <sup>66</sup> | + Wood, Andrew              |
| + Vivyan, John <sup>61</sup>      | Whaed, Laurance               | + Wood, Edw. <sup>67</sup>  |
| + von Staden, Nich. <sup>62</sup> | + Wilkins, Saml.              | Woodaway, Rich.             |
| + Waddon, Rich. <sup>63</sup>     | Williams, ?Lt. Walter         | Wormewoode, John            |
| + Walters, George <sup>64</sup>   | + Willoughby, W.              | + Yeu, Marcus <sup>68</sup> |
| + Wansey, Thos. <sup>65</sup>     | Wilson, Wm.                   |                             |

[The following abbreviations are used below: *CJ*, Commons Journals; *CSPD*, Cal. of State Papers Dom.; HLR, House of Lords RO: HMC, Hist. MSS Commission: SP, State Papers]

1. See his entry in *DNB*.
2. HLR, Main Papers, July 1647; all abbreviations have been extended.
3. SP 28/144 Part 10 ff. 103-6 (separate piece) and 107-30 (remainder). This commences as 'The Receipt Book for the Muster, Aug. 15th 1645' and continues (f.114) as 'The receipt booke for the Muster of Major Generall Massey his Brigade taken November 8th 1645', but with entries as late as Jan. 13 1645/6. The musters and payments were supervised by Col. Robt. Bennet, as treasurer, later a prominent Cornish M.P.
4. The Colonel's personal accounts are SP 28/266 Part 3/68-72. 78.
5. Also known as the Plymouth Regiment from its origins. Its previous commander had been Col. Elizee Leighton. It was led in the field by Major Richard Stephens, who had been appointed to the post on 6 May 1645 by special order of Parliament's Committee of the West. He did not sign the above Petition, perhaps his sympathies were at variance with those of his fellow officers. His accounts are SP 28/265 Part 3/316-25.
6. Brigade accounts, ff. 114-20.
7. *Ibid.* Jewell died on service in Ireland by 1651, leaving a widow, Mary; see *CJVII*, 39a.
8. *Ibid.*, f.125r.
9. C. H. Firth & Godfrey Davies, *Regimental History of Cromwell's Army*, I, xx.
10. Massey and the Harleys were political allies of the Presbyterian faction, see HMC *Portland MSS*, III, 128-37. Major Robt. Harley took command of the regiment during Massey's increasingly frequent absences at Parliament.
11. HLR Main Papers, Sept. 25 1645, and *CJ IV*, 285a.
12. *CJ IV*, 483b-484a.
13. *Ibid.*
14. *Ibid.*, 739b.
15. *Ibid.*, 427a.
16. *CSPD*, 1645-7, 340-1.
17. *CSPD*, 1644-5, 398.
18. Edmund Ludlow, *Memoirs*, ed. C. H. Firth, I, various refs. and also in Joshua Sprigge, *Anglia Rediviva*, *CSPD*, 1644-5, and Firth & Davies, *op. cit.*
19. Bodleian, Tanner MS LVII f. 437, printed in J. Rushworth, *Historical Collections*, VII, 1344.
20. Officers in the 1645-6 account book, but not listed in the Petition, remain for future discussion. The present consideration of the officers of the brigade is inevitably a preliminary exercise without claim to completeness.
21. He is the Capt. in command of two troops of horse sent to reinforce Massey from Newport Pagnell, formerly under the command there of Sir Saml. Luke (see *CSPD*, 16445, 118, etc.). He had previously (1643-4) served under Col. John Meldrum, when his lieutenant had been the later Massey officer, von Staden (SP 28/267 Part 4/86). Since von Staden was in Massey's own regiment, Andrews may also have been his captain there, but as the regiment already had so many captains I have hesitated to assign Andrews to it.
22. Apparently a Somerset militia officer; his accounts are SP 28/266 Part 3/45-50.
23. Leased sequestered estate at Little Petherick, Cornwall, 1652 (*Cal. Comm. Compounding*, 3059); appointed one of two Cpts. of Cornish Militia in 1655 and 1656 (SP 25/77/Part 3 End/884 and 867). His accounts are SP 28/266 Part 3/158-62. He was ordered by Council to oppose 'the common enemy', July 9 1659 and was a 'violent enemy to the late King' in 1660 (*CSPD*, 1659-60, 16, 330).
24. Possibly of Leigh on Mendip (see Howard & Stoaite, *Somerset Protestation Returns*).
25. See C. H. Mayo, *The Minute Books of the Dorset Standing Committee*, xxxi-iii.

26. Probably the Capt. Buller mentioned as serving with Capt. Thos. Evans early in 1645 (*Letter Books of Sir Samuel Luke*, ed. H. G. Tibbutt, 496; hereafter, *Luke*). Possibly also related to the Lt.-Col. Anth. Buller mentioned in the brigade in late 1645, himself in turn probably the Major B. sent earlier to the brigade in command of a double regiment of horse, severely under strength at 400 men, in nine troops. Massey merged these new forces with his own regiment, totalling altogether a mere 600, but they immediately engaged in 'robbing, spoiling and plundering of the people', for which Buller must be held responsible (see *CSPD*, 1644-5, where Buller's first name nowhere appears).
27. Named Capt. again in the Dorset Militia (*CSPD*, 1650, 505) and evidently son of John the elder of Sherborne, a religious sectary, who favoured toleration for Quakers (SP 18/130/46). Appointed Lieutenant of Dorset Militia in 1655 and 1656 (as n.23 above), indicating his acceptability to the Protectorate. He was brother-in-law of Thos. Sansom (Samson) of Sherborne, a close relation of the Massey officer, Peter S., and together they sold their interest in Sherborne Almshouse property in Cheap Street, Abbots Fee tithing, 1664. In 1655 Sherborne royalists who said too much in their cups were placed in his custody (*CSPD*, 1655, 244-5). In 1659 he was one of 'Lambert's champions' and erected the Commonwealth's arms in Sherborne (*SDNQ*, 13, 179-81). At the beginning of the Monmouth Rebellion he was arrested as a precautionary measure (*CSPD*, 1685, 178).
28. Probably the Capt. who raised a company of foot in Oct. 1644 for the Glos. Militia and an associate of Maj. Robt. Harley (HMC *Portland MSS*, II, 128).
29. Until Apr. 1645 Capt.-Lt. to Commissary-Gen. Hans Behre (*CJ*, IV, 120a). Massey's certificate for the troop of 60 horse which he brought to serve in his regiment after May 1645 is SP 28/144 Pt. 10/44. After the disbanding of the Massey Brigade, Clos (sometimes Clause or Claes) served as Capt.-Lt. to Col. Edw. Cooke's own (?militia) troop of horse until this too was disbanded by Feb. 1648.
30. Apparently of Dorchester; mentioned as Cornet in Mayo, *op. cit.*
31. A protegee of Sir Oliver & Sir Saml. Luke, mentioned repeatedly in *Luke*. Evans served for four years with Massey, becoming a close friend. He was very concerned with maintaining discipline and was thus far more responsible and professional than most of the officers of the Brigade, but his efforts were mostly fruitless.
32. Doubtless a relation of John F. Royalist M.P. for Berks. (disabled to sit, 1644), possibly his nephew and heir who became a baronet, 1661 (Burke's *Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies*).
33. Younger bro. of Col. John F. (see *SDNQ*, XVI, 222). Copies of letters from the latter to Aubrey, Cooke, Manifold and Edw. Wood are to be found in his Letter Book I in the Northumberland MSS.
34. Son of Hen. G. of Batcombe and bro. of Col. John; both brothers were later M.P.s for Taunton and prominent under the Protectorate (R. Gorges, *The Story of a Family ... Gorges*, 207-14). His accounts are SP 28/267/ Pt. 2/80-2.
35. Probably of Compton Valence; see parish records, *Dorset Protestation Returns* and *Dorset Hearth Tax Assessments*.
36. Bro. of Col. Edw. H., M.P., of the New Model Army and son of Sir Robt., M.P., of Brampton Castle, Herefordshire (HMC *Portland MSS*, III, *passim*); his accounts are SP 28/267 Pt. 1/124-31.
37. Previously Capt.-Lt. to Col. John Dalbier (*CJ* IV, 120a); came to the Brigade with Clos under Buller. Possibly the John H. who in 1654 was Commissary of Murray (HMC *6th Report*, 683a).
38. See Mayo, *op. cit.*, where John 'Hays', the Capt. is possibly confused with this Ensign William.
39. Born 1613 at Little Dean, Glos., died April 1655 at Hispaniola as Major-Gen. and second in command of the W. Indies expedition (*CSPD*, *passim*). SP 16/514/92 is a certificate signed by Col. John Fitzjames of his service as a Major in his regiment of horse from May 1645 to the disbandment of Massey's Brigade in Oct. 1646, during which time he kept six horses and received 14 weeks pay 'according to the new Establishment'. His accounts are SP 28/266 Pt. 3/80-6. He had been Lt.-Col. of Foot and Capt. of Horse in the Dorset Militia before he became Major under Fitzjames (*SDNQ*, XXIII, 34, 50). His wid. married one of his later officers, Capt. Rich. Yardley (*SDNQ*, XIX, 178, & XXII, 272).

40. Seems to have served by Aug. 1642 in the regiment of Col. Sir Thos. Jervoise (SP 28/143/f.28 loose).
41. Called William in the Account Book, but a Dutch mercenary (Jobst Wilhelm van) recruited by Col. Lord Robartes, whose Capt.-Lt. of Foot and then of Horse he was. 1642-44. His lengthy accounts are SP 28/267 Pt. 1/132-42.
42. Often spelled and probably pronounced Jarvis; evidently the son of Col. Sir Thos. J. of Hants. or Surrey, knighted Aug. 1607 (and see n.40); in command of a troop of Kentish horse assigned to Massey in June 1645 (CSPD, 1644-5, 597-8).
43. Quartermaster: probably of Clifton Maybank (see Mayo, *op. cit.*, 377, 390, *Dorset Hearth Tax Assessments* and residents' lists for Clifton tithing, 1660-79, in DRO Digby Papers).
44. Real name Hans, formerly a Cornet under the mercenary Col. John Dalbier in 1644 (SP 28/267 Pt. 2/57). He seems to have been a Dutch officer and probably related to Francis and Walgrave Lowicke, Dutch merchants residing and trading in London in 1641 (SP 16/497/153-4).
45. A Lt.-Col. L. took a message to Massey on 24 May 1645 (CSPD, 1644-5, 519). The surname occurs at Crewkerne, Hinton and Seaborough in the 1642 *Protestation*.
46. A Cornet (see Mayo, *op. cit.*); possibly from Sherborne or Lillington.
47. The General's brother (Luke, 458) and active with him in the field in 1645 (CSPD, 1644-5, 519).
48. Possibly the Capt. P. mentioned by Col. Edw. Harley in a 1645 letter (HMC Portland MSS, III, 139-40); this Peirse commanded Harley's own troop of horse *outside* the New Model and probably accompanied Major Robt. Harley to join the Massey forces. He was probably related to Rich. and Jas. Pearse, both Lt. Cols. of the Devon Militia in 1650 (CSPD, 1650, 504, 507).
49. Or Peine?, the most doubtful signature to the Petition. Mayo has a Lt. Payn, but nowhere in the account book is there a Payn or anyone who could be this man.
50. Possibly from Devon, a Corporal in Drake's Regiment (SP 28/267 Pt. 2/149), who settled at Weymouth after the War. Ensign in garrison there under Heane. 1650 (A. R. Bayley, *Civil War in Dorset 1642-1660*), bought freedom before 1652 (M. Weinstock, *Weymouth & Melcombe Regis Minute Book, 1625-1660*). Will P.C.C. 1668 *Shene*.
51. See SDNQ, XII, 306, for biog. notice. His troop when based at Lyme in late 1645 committed terrible crimes (*to be discussed in a forthcoming article*).
52. A Cornet, probably related to Robt. R., Col. of Devon Militia (CSPD, 1650, 504).
53. Son of Wm. Sansom of Sherborne a staunch local Parliamentarian, bapt. 9 May 1616, and related to Thos. S. (see n.27 above). Entries for Peter and his family occur in Sherborne parish register, 1645-53.
54. Probably Quartermaster S. mentioned by Capt. Thos. Evans in a 1644 letter whom he seems to have expected to join him soon (Luke, 355).
55. Probably son of the above and treated as protégé by the Lukes, who obtained his commission as Cornet in 1645 (Luke, 96, 501).
56. As the only Smith among Massey's officers he must be the Capt. in Mayo, *op. cit.*
57. Their ranks, as Quartermaster of Horse and Lt. respectively, discovered from *CJ*, V, 217b: from the political circumstances must have been trusty Presbyterian allies of Massey's group, prepared to fight the Independents at London in 1647.
58. Probably sons of either Lawrence or George S. of Sherborne. Lawrence, son of another Lawrence, an attorney, was a prominent bureaucrat of the Commonwealth in London, serving on various commissions from 1643 and examining military accounts as a Parliamentary treasurer in 1646 (SP 16/514 Pt. 2/82); he was still a freeholder of Sherborne in 1657 (DRO Digby Papers). Joseph was apparently the Capt. S. who married Hannah Mews of Purse Caundle (SDNQ, XVII, 3, 31).
59. He had originally served under Col. Cooke in 1643, so was genuinely his right hand man: his accounts are SP 28/265 Pt. 2/137-53.
60. Son of John T., sen., of Cornwall, who signed a letter to the Privy Council in 1622 (SP 14/130/91), was appointed Vice-Admiral of Cornwall, 1645 (*CJ*, IV, 311b), and was a Cornish Militia Major (Bulstrode Whitelocke, *Memorials*, 1732 ed., 176b). The younger John was appointed with his father to the Cornwall Committee in 1644 and became a Cornwall Commissioner for Assessment, 1644 and 1647, and with his uncle or brother, Nicholas T., recruiter M.P. in Long Parliament representing Cornwall Shire, for Ireland, 1648 (SP 28/267 Pt. 2/75: *Acts and Ordinances of the Interregnum*, I, 459, etc.).

61. Related to and possibly son of Sir Francis V. of Cornwall, who was knighted 1619 and signed 1622 letter with John Trefusis above. Others of the family were seated at Trelowarren, the 1st bart. (cr. 1645) being a passionate Royalist. Capt. John V. became a Cornwall Commissioner for Assesment, 1647, for Ireland Assesment, 1648 and 1649, and of Militia, 1660 (*Acts and Ordinances*, I. 962, 1079; II. 31, 294, 1429). He was appointed Lt. of Cornish Militia in 1655 and 1656 (SP 25/77 Pt. 3 End/884, 867).
62. For earlier service, see n.21 above.
63. Of Bradpole and undoubtedly the Lt. in Mayo, *op.cit.*, 377. He was recommissioned Lt. of Horse in 1651 (CSPD) and arrested for 'dangerous discourses' in 1661 (CSPD). Probably related to John W., M.P. for Plymouth and a member of the Committee of the West which oversaw the Massey Brigade.
64. A merchant of Barnstaple in 1643 and resident at Cork by 1656, by which time he had become a Major (SP 18/129/113-4 and CSPD, 1655-6 and 1656-7). It is quite likely that he was related to Capt. Thos. W., Heane's Adjutant-General, who was killed with him at Hispaniola in 1655 (Firth & Davies, *op.cit.*, 720).
65. Apparently from Wilts., where Major Hen., Capts. John and Hugh W. all served in the Militia under Col. Edmund Ludlow (SP 28/267 Pt. 1/26-31, 86-94). Thomas's Petition of 1653 was referred to the Army Committee (CSPD). He was re-appointed Lt. at Hurst Castle, Hants., 1659, having been dismissed previously for disaffection to the Protectorate. He was, thus, apparently a republican or radical, unlike the majority of Massey officers, who supported the 'Presbyterians'.
66. His accounts are SP 28/266 Pt. 2/150-60.
67. An Edw. W. sought payment of £7000 from the Admiralty in 1656 (SP 18/131/86 and CSPD) and in 1660 a Capt. Edw. W. was a Royalist fighting in Flanders (Firth & Davies, *op. cit.*, 678).
68. Described as one of the 'Commissioners for the Western Army' (SP 28/265 Pt. 3/318). [An enormous amount of assistance in the preparation of this article and in the identification of many of the officers has been received from Adrian Moon, whose specialist knowledge of Sherborne and of Dorset has been invaluable in helping to place them in their West Country contexts.]

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ROBERT TEMPLE

**263. SOMERSET IRON.** The 36 volumes of 'Lismore Papers' at Chatsworth include much correspondence of that dedicated entrepreneur Richard Boyle, Great Earl of Cork (1566-1643). A 19th. cent. calendar in the National Library of Ireland (Ms. 12813) gives a good indication of the numerous letters which throw more light on the Witham ironworks and on the earl's attempts to import Irish iron ore into Bristol.<sup>1</sup>

The first letter on the subject is from Mr. Doughty of Bristol and is dated 3 Feb., 1619/20. It gives particulars of his dealings with several merchants for the sale of iron, refers to the heavy duty on it and tells Lord Boyle (as he then was) that a custom house man newly come from London has informed him that no Privy Counsellor or nobleman ever paid duty so it would be desirable for Boyle to keep his ironworks in his own hands. The same day a Christopher Woodward writes to Boyle to assure him that he will be as good a chapman for his iron as anyone in Bristol, and if it be true, as credibly reported, that all the new works in the Forest of Dean were to be put down, he will be able to sell 200 tons a year. On 7 Feb. there is a letter from Richard Challoner to Boyle reporting that 20 tons out of 120 tons of bar iron have, thanks be to God, safely arrived in Bristol

and telling him that as an undertaker for the King his manufactured iron should pass free of duty. On 9 Feb. George Hellier, a servant of Challoner, writes to Boyle that he has just arrived in Bristol from Milford Haven and says he will do his best to sell the sow-iron, but that £4. 10s. [per ton].<sup>2</sup> is an extreme price. Hellier writes again on 26 March: Mr. Hopton is going to give up his works; his (Boyle's) iron is too hard for rule, no one will give more than £5 for the pipestaves and some in the City, not having the sale of his bar-iron, report it to be worse by 10 groats in a 100 than the Forest iron.

After this there is a gap until 11 Oct. when John Doughty again writes to Boyle describing his dealings with Hopton and others for iron. On 14 Nov. comes a complaint from Challoner: the iron is so bad that he is unable to make good the payment he had promised to Boyle. Evidently the matter was resolved, for on 10 Dec. Challoner writes again to Boyle (since 16 Oct. raised in the peerage to the Earldom of Cork) having heard that he now has his ironworks near Tallow in his own hands. He thanks for the preference given him for the purchase of bar-iron and tells him that he has sent over his servant Hellier to enter into a covenant with him. On 29 Dec. Cork writes to Doughty saying that he was glad to hear that the iron had been sold to Mr. Hopton who would pay for it at Paul's tide.

On 4 Feb., 1620/21 Lord Cork receives the unwelcome intelligence from Hellier that he never knew money so scarce and that Mr. Woodward had disgraced the iron in the market. More bad news is followed by good. Doughty tells the Earl on 28 March that Mr Hopton had not yet sent for 1 lb. of the iron he had bought, but on 27 May Thomas Smith is able to report to him that he was doing well: his sales of iron had risen 20s. a ton, the Londoners having laden all the iron in Bristol, for the works in Sussex fail much and iron is very scarce in London. Incidentally, he could not get any ling, stockfish or caviar in the city (Bristol). Sales now extend to Dorset. On 25 July William Freke writes to say that Hellier had dealt with a kinsman of his, Mr. Thomas Pitt of Blandford, who commended the metal of the iron, but wished it otherwise drawn, and the same complaint is made on 5 Dec. by Doughty, who adds that Mr Hopton has said he will buy more sow-iron when he has used what he has and not before. On 13 Dec. Hellier acknowledges to Cork the receipt of 38 tons of iron part of which he has sold to Mr R. Aldworth, the chiefest merchant in Bristol, for £12. 15s. 0d. a ton. Hellier is much hated by the ironmasters, he says, for introducing Cork's iron into the market, but doubts not to find a sale for it if care is taken that it is well-drawn. Mr. R. Hopton will not buy any more sow-iron unless he is allowed for 18 cwt short weight in a previous parcel. Hellier promises to see



him on the subject when he returns from Parliament before Christmas.

There is a solitary letter from Hellier to Cork in 1622 dated 29 June. He has not yet sold one ton of the iron but hopes to do so at Bristol Fair. The best Forest iron now sold for £11 a ton. On 3 Feb. 1622/23 Hellier asks Cork to send 5 or 10 ton of iron at £11. 15s. a ton to George Heard of Bridport. The Forest iron will not fetch more now. Three days later Doughty writes to say Hellier will do his utmost to advance the price of iron, but money is scarce. In a final letter of 9 Aug. 1623, Hellier sums up his account and asks for a general discharge.<sup>3</sup>

1. J. P. Ferris has also drawn on these Lismore papers for references to the Witham ironworks at this same period in his recent 'Iron Lady of Somerset' (*SDNQ*, XXXI, 351).
2. See Ferris *op. cit.*, where a figure of £4 is quoted.
3. It is probable that the original letters at Chatsworth, which I examined on another occasion and for another purpose, contain more detail which it would be useful to extract.

Frome

MICHAEL McGARVIE

**264. THE DATE OF WORLEBURY WINDMILL.** The writer has noted elsewhere the discovery of evidence for the existence of a predecessor to the present Worlebury windmill, which stands at the eastern extremity of Worlebury Hill about 2½ miles ENE of the centre of Weston-super-Mare (National Grid ref. ST 349633).<sup>1</sup> It has for long been suspected that the stone-built windmill tower, now known as The Observatory, was erected at some time in the second half of the 18th cent., but the exact date of its construction has remained unappreciated. A deed of 25 Dec. 1764 at the Somerset Record Office, however, provides evidence not only of its exact age, its function, the reason for its construction and the names of people involved in the scheme, but also the fate which befell its immediate predecessor on a site close by.<sup>2</sup>

The document in question is a conveyance of a small piece of ground on which to build a new windmill to George Wollen, shopkeeper of Worle. It was made by Mary Bishop, widow of James Bishop, former lord of the manor of Worle, her son James, her late husband's brother, Joel, and Thomas Mullens of Long Ashton, who had all been appointed by the elder James to dispose of his manor of Worle. The deed's property description runs as follows:

... in consideration that the said George Wollen hath undertaken to build and erect a good and substantial windmill for the grinding of corn on the ground hereinafter mentioned and granted and that a good and substantial windmill may be erected and built as a publick good for the benefit of the said parish of Worl (*sic*) and all other parishes adjacent in the vacancy of the old windmill lately by accident burnt down .... doth grant unto the said George Wollen all that little splott piece or parcel of common hill ground allotted out or intended to be allotted out for the building placing and

erecting of a windmill for the grinding of corn by estimation twenty yards square ... at the east end of the common hill called Worhill near unto or adjoining on the east side of the land whereon the old windmill lately stood ....

Overseers' account and rate books happily survive through the 18th cent. for Worle parish. They cast some light on the ownership of both old and new mills and suggest that work on the new began in the year following the conveyance, that is in 1765.<sup>3</sup> Rates show that in 1760 the (old) mill was held by Mrs Hannah May and that she was succeeded in 1761 by George Wollen in whose favour the 1764 conveyance was made. The Worle marriage register provides the answer to this apparent change by showing that George had come into possession in the classic way by marrying the lady on 28 April 1761.<sup>4</sup> The 1762 rate is mutilated, 2pp. having been cut out just where the mill entry should occur, but rates continue to be levied in 1763 and 1764, when Wollen himself was overseer, which strongly suggests that the old mill's destruction had occurred in 1764.<sup>5</sup> By the same token, as there is no break in rate entries after 1764, it seems equally likely that the new stone mill was built in 1765, immediately after the grant of the site.<sup>6</sup> Wollen, who was again overseer in 1768, remained in possession of the mill up to 1770 and presumably died in that or the following year, as Hannah re-appears in the 1771 rate and so continues to her death in March 1786.<sup>7</sup> She in turn was replaced as owner by Dennis May, her son by her first marriage, and he it was who held at the time of the Worle Enclosure, 1801-1803, and whose objection gave the first clue to the existence of the old mill.<sup>8</sup> Another group of deeds in the Somerset Record Office dated between 1831 and 1872 not only charts the ownership in this period, but also shows that the mill passed from Dennis May to his son, Edward, and was eventually sold by the latter's trustee after his death in 1841.<sup>9</sup>

Written evidence of the mill's earlier history is restricted to the rate books, which show Thomas May junior preceding Hannah as holder to 1758. He first appears in the rate for 1741/2; to 1740/1 a Dennis Sheppard was rated for a mill and bakehouse, but at a higher rateable assessment. As there is no overlap between the two rates, it seems very likely that the same mill is intended.<sup>10</sup> Mill and bakehouse are specifically mentioned as being in Sheppard's hands back to 1730; earlier rates omit the property detail, but as he continues under the same assessment of £8. 10s. and in the same relative position in the rate entry back to the earliest rate of 1705, it seems safe to assume that the mill had existed from at least the beginning of the 18th cent. Indeed it is perhaps not outrageous to suppose, as the writer has outlined elsewhere, that a medieval mill stood on or close to the site of the surviving tower, if for no other reason than that it is such an obvious position, even if its exact site was

not perpetuated by later mills.<sup>11</sup> A likely site, which might repay detailed examination on the ground, is at the extreme eastern end of Worlebury golf course, where a very rough area, overgrown and very uneven, abuts onto its eastern boundary wall. The place is just a few yards west of the Observatory and fits in exactly with Dennis May's description of the position of the old mill in his objection to the Worle Enclosure.

1. *Weston-super-Mare Mercury, Somerset and Avon Herald*, 27 April 1984. The evidence came from an objection to the inclusion of the sites of the present and former mills within the area proposed to be enclosed under the Worle Enclosure Act of 1801.
2. SRO DD/HB 25. This deed also proves that the windmill depicted on this site on Emanuel Bowen's map of Somerset of 1755 is not the surviving tower, but the old windmill. [This deed was briefly referred to in the *Weston Mercury* for 21 March 1975 (Som. Ed.)]
3. SRO D/P/Wor 13/2/1-3, 1705-1805.
4. Do. 2/1/3
5. I am obliged to the Somerset Editor for drawing my attention to the marriage entry and for help in interpreting the rate entries and May relationships.
6. Although this is by no means to imply that the old windmill was necessarily built of wood, it may well have been, but there is no evidence either way in the documents studied. Windmill fires were by no means confined to wooden structures: for example, the stone-built windmill at Locking Vale about 3 miles ESE of Weston-super-Mare (ST 358616) was gutted by fire in July 1962 and left an empty masonry shell. Until then all its internal machinery had remained intact and in good order. Part of the remaining structure has since been incorporated in a private house. See A. J. Coulthard & M. Watts, *Windmills of Somerset and the Men who Worked Them*, 1978, 53-4.
7. D/P/Wor/2/1/4.
8. F. A. Knight, *The Seaboard of Mendip*, 1902, 247, has reference to the 'broken arms of the former mill still to be seen 40 years ago' (i.e. c.1860).
9. SRO DD/HB 26. By coincidence, the mill was mortgaged to an Edmund May, a Worle brewer in 1849 and released to his widow, Susannah, in 1872, upon mortgage default.
10. The mill is depicted on Strachey's map of Somerset, 1736. The christian name, Dennis, may be significant.
11. n. 1. *op. cit.*

Weston-super-Mare

N. J. CORCOS

**265.** SYDLING ST. NICHOLAS PARISH REGISTER 1800-12. Until books with printed forms were introduced in the year 1813 for entries of baptism and burial the relative information supplied by the incumbent of the parish, or his clerk, could be minimal. In Corscombe in the first half of the eighteenth century there are a number of examples of children being baptised with no mention of either parent's name and in some burials an entry such as, *the widow Hallett buried* was often deemed sufficient, and it was the exception to give age at death until the last quarter of the eighteenth century when some parsons added this. In the opening years of the nineteenth century the Sydling register recording baptisms and burials contain a great deal of information, indeed, much more than was to be required in the post-1812 period.

There are many references to the Devenish family which had probably resided in the parish since the time of Henry VIII though Hutchins has no pedigree and there is nothing in any of the Heralds' Visitations of the county. However, in the Visitation of London, 1634, there is the pedigree of Robert Devenish of Cordwayner Ward, third in descent from Henry Devenish of Upsidling,<sup>1</sup> a description of the arms he bore being Vert, a saltire engrailed or between 4 crosses crosslet fitchy argent. *Crest*: A demi-tyger salient vert armed and tufted or, holding in the dexter paw a cross crosslet fitchy argent. *Motto*: SUB CRUCE VIRESCO.<sup>2</sup> This Robert Devenish was probably the original grantee for there is no heraldry on any of the Devenish memorials in the church. In 1525 Henry Devenysche is taxed on goods valued at £22, a substantial amount, and in 1543 presumably he, or his son who was another Henry, is taxed on £20 goods in Fyffhed, which tything T. L. Stoate identifies as Fifehead Sydling in Sydling parish.<sup>3</sup>

With regard to the Smith family which receives mention below Hutchins says that the estate of Sydling was purchased by Sir William Smith of an Exeter family in 1718; he died in 1752. In 1868 the property was sold by his descendant to Joseph Gundry of The Hyde, Bridport.

- 1800 The Inhabitants of Sydling were in the Spring of this year in number 509-84 of which number were Inhabitants of Upsydling. The Dissenters were reckoned to be 155.  
 July 22 John James, son of John Wyldbore Smith Esqr. and Elizabeth Ann his Wife, received into the Church. This Child was born and baptized the tenth of April 1800 in ye parish of St. George, Hanover Square, London (Grandson of Sir John Smith Bart of this Place)
- 1801 April 1 Henry Devenish, yeoman, Tenant of Sir John Smith's Farm at Upsydling, married — aged 28 [buried]  
 The Inhabitants of Hilfield were 97. NO Dissenters — Thos. William Curate
- 1802 Decr 29 Mary, Daughter of Robert Collins, a Soldier in the 2 Regt of Dragoon Guards, and Jane his Wife. This Child was born in June 1801 [baptized]
- 1803 Aug 28 Edward son of James and Ann Hicks, aged 14. This youth was accidentally shot by one of his Companions when playing with a Gun [bur]
- 1804 July 21 George Devenish of Plush, Yeoman and a private in Capt'n Haines' Troop of Yeomanry Cavalry, was buried with military Honours — died in a Consumption Aet 28
- 1805 June 16 Joseph, son of Joseph Jeanes (Landlord at the Remedy, Hilfield) & Sarah his Wife [baptized]
- 1806 Dec 28 John Hutchins Laborer aet 70. Great grandson of the Revd John Hutchins formerly Vicar of this P[ar]ish & grandson of Peter younger Brother of the Revd Richard Hutchins, Father of the Historian of Dorsetshire [buried]
- 1807 Feb 3 Emmanuel Son of William Kiddle, aged 12 years. He died of the scarlet Feaver a disease wch has prevailed in the Southern Counties for the last 12 months

1808 July 3 was baptized Louisa the daughter of John Worten (of the people called Gipsies) and Fanny his Wife.

Baptized in the year 1806 9 Males 8 Females *NB* Two Children born this year have not been baptised viz a Daughter of William Devenish of Upsydling & a Daughter of William Frome al's Bridle

*On fly-leaf* 1804 Recd from John Devenish 13 shillings & 4 pence for putting up a head Stone to the Memory of his Father Robert Devenish. Recd 6 shillings & 8 pence for Burying Mr George Devenish who died at Plush.

1807 Recd from Mr Matthew Devenish one Guinea for erecting a Tomb for his son Mr Henry Devenish late of Upsydling.

On another page of the register is pasted a printed notice consisting of Dr Haygarth's Rules to prevent infectious fevers. 23 Jan. 1800.

1. His son Robert, c. 1683-1704 was Norroy King of Arms; there is a Memorial Inscription in Mortlake Church, Surrey. No male descendants are known of this London branch.
2. W. G. Godfrey, *The College of Arms* (1963).
3. T. L. Stoate, *Dorset Tudor Muster Rolls* (1978), p.83.

P. N. DAWE

**266. A SOMERSET CORONER'S ROLL, 1315-1321.** The Dunster Castle muniments, accumulated by its de Mohun and Luttrell owners, survive in vast numbers from the 13th cent. and are now housed in the Somerset Record Office. Of these, the records to 1650 were ably sorted and listed by the lawyer and pamphleteer, William Prynne, 'out of a confused chaos during his illegal close imprisonments' (*his words*) in the Castle in 1650. The archival principles which he followed for the broad divisions of his catalogue were generally sound and his arrangement has survived intact to today, but not surprisingly he can be faulted on matters of detail. One of his divisions consisted of records for the hundred of Carhampton, and in the process of a detailed examination of these with that interest in mind I found a roll which certainly bore as a heading to the first membrane, 'Hundredum de Carhamptone', but which proved on investigation firstly to relate to a wider area and secondly to be a coroner's roll for part of the reign of Edward II. Such records are rare anywhere and so far as is known to date this is a unique survival for Somerset. Presumably Prynne was misled by a title which he expected to find in these records and placed this roll with the normal court rolls for the hundred, where it remained undisturbed and unrecognized for over three centuries.<sup>1</sup>

The 58 inquests recorded in this roll were conducted over a period of nearly six years by a single coroner, Ralph fitz Urse of Williton. He was descended from Robert fitz Urse who seems to have been a half brother of Becket's murderer, Reginald. Reginald died without male issue and eventually Robert's great grandson, John, succeeded to a moiety of Reginald's Williton estate, the remainder having been granted to the Knights Templar in expiation for the murder of the archbishop. At

John's death his son Ralph was a minor, but in due time he succeeded his father as lord of the manor of Williton, was knighted c. 1300, elected coroner in 1315 and died in or shortly after September 1321. As a coroner's heir was legally bound to produce his father's roll of inquests at the next county eyre, his son, also Ralph, seems to have taken the precaution of having this document copied in expectation of an early visitation of the justices. The last general eyre in Somerset had been held in 1280 and although the next did not take place until 1358, it must have seemed probable in 1321 that another was imminent. To make sure that this coroner's record would be available when required, Ralph the younger evidently had the details of these inquests copied from his father's notes, perhaps by the clerk who had accompanied the elder fitz Urse on the many occasions when he was summoned by the bailiffs of the hundreds or boroughs to hold an inquest. This document, unused because no Somerset eyre took place within 30 years, remained among the fitz Urse papers, passing by marriage first to the Durburghs, then to the Hadleys and finally to the Luttrells.

Thus, Ralph's daughter Hawise married Hugh Durburgh of Heathfield in 1344. As her father had no son to succeed him Hawise inherited his estate and in this way the document apparently became the property of the Durburghs. Their line died out with the death of Hawise's grandson, Tracy, whose sister Alice inherited his estate. She had married Alexander Hadley in whose family the coroner's roll remained until the marriage of Margaret Hadley to Thomas Luttrell c. 1550, when the much-travelled manuscript came to rest in the muniments room of Dunster Castle where Prynné discovered it one hundred years later.

The office of coroner was established in 1194. A coroner was generally elected at the county eyre by the knights and freeholders, though occasionally by the justices themselves. After 1200 most boroughs appointed their own coroners. One inquest in this roll was held in Bridgwater (no. 41) by Ralph fitz Urse who was, of course, a county coroner. Perhaps the borough coroner was for some reason unavailable and no doubt a case of patricide would have required investigation with as little delay as possible. In fact a fortnight elapsed before an inquest was held. One inquest was held in the borough of Dunster, but surprisingly the borough of Watchet, so close to Williton, was not visited by the coroner. Could this mean that Watchet appointed its own official<sup>2</sup>

A medieval coroner's main duty was to investigate any unnatural, violent or mysterious death which occurred in his district, but he also attended felons in sanctuary who had agreed to abjure the realm, was concerned with outlawry and heard appeals. His work involved much travelling, often in bad

weather and over rough country, so old or unfit men were not elected to the office. No doubt this partly explains why coroners rarely seem to have died in office, though our coroner apparently did so. A minor in 1280, Ralph fitz Urse must have been about fifty years of age when he was elected in 1315 and could have been expected to continue in office for some time after 1321.

Medieval coroners were unpaid, though they probably received modest travelling expenses. Apparently some were paid a penny for viewing a body and received fodder for their horses. Not everyone who was nominated was willing to serve, but most seem to have undertaken these troublesome and responsible duties without protest. Knighthood was at first a qualification, but later during the 14th and 15th cents. they were chosen from lesser men who may have felt that the status and power conferred on them by their office fully compensated them for its disadvantages. This, however, could not have applied to Ralph fitz Urse who was already a knight and a man of importance in West Somerset.

It was a prime duty of the coroner to ensure that any inquiry which he made resulted in profit to the crown. Every opportunity was taken to amerce the tithings, witnesses and other persons concerned with an inquest. For example, if a homicide took place in daylight, the tithing where it happened was always amerced. Whenever possible, therefore, in order to avoid amercement murders were reported as having occurred during the night. A felon's chattels were forfeit to the crown and great efforts were made to recover them. Any article or animal which could be said to have caused a death was a deodand and forfeit to the king. Again one or more of the tithings was responsible for its value. With so many demands for money it must have been of advantage to many people to hide an incident leading to a death for which the coroner would normally be summoned and it is hard to believe that there were not many more such deaths than are recorded in the coroners' rolls, especially in a desolate and thinly populated area like the uplands of Exmoor.

One of the coroner's most important duties was to maintain a written account of his inquests, but a formal roll was rarely compiled until he was summoned to produce it in court. His records were kept on small pieces of parchment which the justices at the county eyre would not accept. One coroner's heir was actually imprisoned for presenting these instead of the formal roll. It is easy to understand why Ralph fitz Urse the younger felt obliged to have his father's records properly prepared for a county eyre, though, as we have seen, this never took place during his lifetime.

The number of coroners elected for each county varied from five in Kent to two in Sussex. Somerset probably had three. At

Baldwin Malet's death in 1369 his successor as coroner was required to be of the 'parts of Mendip, Brent Marsh, Wrington Marsh, Dundry and Whitestone', as the other county coroners lived over thirty leagues away. Ralph fitz Urse also served a district. All his inquests were held within about fifteen miles of his home and only the inquest at Middlezoy (no. 37) took him beyond Bridgwater into the Somerset Levels.

There are 58 legible or partially legible records of inquests in this roll. Three inquests were held from 9 Oct 1315 to the end of the year, fourteen in 1316, fourteen in 1317, three in 1318, eight in 1319, seven in 1320 and seven up to Sept 14, 1321. The scripts of two inquests are almost illegible and it has not been possible to determine the date of either.<sup>3</sup> The 56 identifiable inquests have been enrolled by hundreds<sup>4</sup> and then chronologically within each hundred by County Court dates. This court met at 4-weekly intervals on Mondays throughout the year, presided over by the sheriff. Somewhat surprisingly, with the exception of the one inquest held in Dunster (38), the County Court date given invariably precedes that of the inquest. This suggests that the Court was deemed to stand prorogued until the next court opened, otherwise one would have expected the date of the court to be that of the succeeding sitting, when some record of the incident might have appeared. In two other instances (11, 41) the court date given is more than four weeks before the date of the inquest and it is not clear why the next court did not apply.<sup>5</sup> The inquests are entered in the following order of hundreds: Carhampton (nos. 1-13), 1315-21, Williton (14-22), 1316-21, Andersfield (23-26), 1316-19, Cannington (27-30), 1316-19, Milverton (31-33), 1315-21, Wellington (34, 35), 1316-17, Langford (36), 1316, Whitley (37), 1317, North Petherton (40), 1317, Kingsbury West (42), Free Manors (43-58), 1315-20. Mr Edward Williams<sup>6</sup> believes that Ralph fitz Urse dealt with most of the inquests assembled in the hundreds of Carhampton, Williton, Cannington and the Free Manors, but in the others he may have been sharing the duties. This must have been so in Whitley hundred and almost certainly the case in Wellington and Bridgwater. Conversely, it could well be that another coroner at times deputised for him and that, thus, we do not have a complete record of coroner's inquests in West Somerset during these years. It must, however, remain a representative picture.

Although inquests were held into other matters, all those recorded here with one exception<sup>7</sup> concern accidental, violent or otherwise abnormal death. No one whose death occurred in strange circumstances was too insignificant to require the attendance of the coroner, his clerk, a number of jurors and representatives of the nearest tithings. The death of a tiny child or a feeble old vagrant was sufficient to set in motion the wheels



of the law which brought Sir Ralph fitz Urse to view the body and to hold an inquest attended by some forty persons. Twelve of the bodies viewed were of children, aged between sixteen weeks and nine years; at least five of the deceased persons were beggars; there were thirteen women and nine people were victims of violence.

Edward Williams examined the names of the persons summoned to serve as jurors to see if these revealed anything about the composition of the juries. His careful analysis shows that over this period of six years three quarters of the jurors served only once. The juror who attended most often was William Carvyle of the Williton hundred whose name appears eleven times, three times at the head of the list, which perhaps implies that on those occasions he acted as foreman of the jury. Richard de Curlynch appears nine times. He is also of Williton hundred and perhaps both these men were well-known to the coroner. John le Grynder of the same hundred served seven times. His occupation might have caused him to visit many of the farms in the neighbourhood. A close knowledge of the highways and byways could have made him a useful person to have on hand at an inquest. Roger Pym's name is found three times, always as the first-named juror. This may indicate that the Pym's were already a family of some eminence in Cannington. However it must be said that many of the first-named jurors do not appear to have been men of note in the community.<sup>8</sup>

Nearly all the juries number twelve men, but one (Porlock, 10) has 14 and others have less than 12. The bailiff of the hundred must have had a difficult task in getting in touch with the freemen required for jury service and sometimes this must have proved too difficult to accomplish in the time available. In addition representatives of the tithing where the body was found and of three nearby tithings, mainly drawn from the same hundred, were summoned to attend.<sup>9</sup> No indication of the numbers involved is given, but possibly the tithingman plus four attended from each. I had originally thought that the abbreviation in the text referred solely to tithingmen, but Dr. R. F. Hunnisett<sup>10</sup> is certain that it stands for tithings, and I now accept this. In spite, however, of difficulties of communication, the time of year and the need to bring such numbers of people together, the coroner seems to have worked with commendable speed: no less than 37 of 55 dated inquests were held within 4 days of the date of death and only 9 were delayed more than 7 days.

With the exception of the single abjuration of the realm (47), the inquests fall into two patterns. Where a dead body was found, the finder had to proclaim the hue and cry and had to produce two pledges, presumably to support his non-

involvement, the coroner viewed the body and held his inquest; the jurors and tithings established the circumstances, the verdict was pronounced and any necessary further orders given. On the other hand, if the deceased lived long enough to be given the last rites, neither hue and cry nor pledges were required, the circumstances were set down before the jury was named and they merely confirmed the verdict.

In the following calendar entries it may be assumed, unless otherwise stated, that the year in the text is that of the County Court, that the body was found in the tithing given at the head of the entry, that the hue and cry (if appropriate) had been raised and that Ralph fitz Urse attended as coroner. Parish and tithing names, when used as place names, have been given their modern form where that can be established, but where they are used as the sole element of a surname they have been left in the original form.<sup>11</sup> In fact, all surnames have been left unchanged with the exception of *Faber* which has been put as ... (the) Smith of ... and *Cocus* as (the) Cook. Inevitably, there are occasional uncertain readings, particularly of surnames, and these have been enclosed in square brackets (see 28, 36, 40, 41). Arbitrary decisions have had to be made in the case of ambiguous letter forms (n/u/v; c/t). As far as possible the simple language suggested by the original has been conveyed in the translation used in the calendar, and the general meaning is normally clear, although again one or two phrases have defied translation (28, 43). Finally, the first inquest has been given in full in the extended original before its calendar entry.

1. The roll's reference now is DD/L P31/1.
2. Or was it simply trouble-free in this period?
3. Nos. 39, 42. In addition, 23, 24, 28, 38 and 41 are to varying degrees illegible as a result of heavy discoloration.
4. Plus one each for the boroughs of Dunster (38) and Bridgwater (41).
5. We know from other inquests that the next County Court in both instances was held on its regular date.
6. Author of the *Parish Surveys* of Carhampton and Luxborough.
7. The one inquest (47) which did not concern an abnormal death was held at Cleeve Abbey in April 1317, when a self-confessed felon abjured the realm and was duly banished by the coroner.
8. This is perhaps open to argument. Assuming that the juror first named is to be regarded as foreman, at least 20 out of 41 different individuals (several served more than once, other names cannot be read) can be identified in the 1327 Lay Subsidy (printed in *Som. Rec. Soc.* vol. 3) as coming either from the tithing where the body was found (6), or another of the named neighbouring tithings (10), or elsewhere in the hundred (4). They were also among the more highly rated and in 7 cases were the highest in their tithing. (*Som. Ed.*)
9. No tithing representatives were required for the borough inquests, nor for the hundred of Langford, which presumably only had the one tithing. Two instances have been noted where tithings were summoned from across hundred boundaries (4, 17): Winsford (Free Manors) and Strington and Otterhampton (Cannington).
10. Of the Public Record Office, author of 'The Medieval Coroner' (Cambridge, 1961).
11. Thus John le Taillour of Bicknoller, but John de Bekenalre.
12. I am indebted to a number of patient people without whose help I should never have been able to begin the task of reading and translating this script: my friend, Mr Frank Carter, for identifying the document and for referring it to Dr Hunnisett; the latter for

correcting my transcriptions of a number of inquests, advising me on the form of the calendar and encouraging me to complete the work; the staff of the S.R.O. for generous help and especially Mr Derek Shorrocks, the County Archivist, who read the final version of the calendar and saved me from some disastrous howlers and who has helped iron out inconsistencies in the edited text; and finally the fellow members of our local history research group with whom I have been able to discuss my readings from month to month and in particular Dr Margaret Freeman-Archer, in whose house we met. She has been a most willing and efficient typist and has shared with me the problems and, I hope, the pleasures of unravelling this fascinating manuscript.

Minehead

DOUGLAS STEVENS

## APPENDIX

### A. Transcription of first inquest

#### HUNDREDUM DE CARAMPTONE

Comitatus Somersetensis die lune in festo Sancti Michaelis Archangeli Anno regni Regis Edwardi filii Edwardi Regis ix

#### *Decenna de Menehevede*

Contigit die lune proxima post festum Sancti Michaelis Archangeli anno regni Regis Edwardi filii Regis Edwardi ix quod Petrus le Semeth de Menehevede invenit Willelmum de Poukewalle de Estlocombe mortuum apud Middelcombe in decenna de Menehevede qui clamorem levavit et cetera; plegii eiusdem inventoris Radulphus Toky et Johannes de Poukewalle.

Et visus fuit die Jovis proxima sequenti per Radulphum filium Ursy coronatorem qui inquisitionem inde cepit per sacramentum Roberti Everard, Ricardi Wyard, Nicholai atte Fenne, Rogeri Sparke, Willelmi Cokrode, Johannis le Kyng, Willelmi Henri, Roberti Stacy, Willelmi Franke, Ricardi Prekeprout, Thome Hamelyn, Roberti Capeleyn et decennas de Menehevede, Avele, Woctone, Alreforde et Porloke.

Qui dicunt quod dictus Willelmus de Poukewalle venit de foro de Donesterre die dominica proxima post festum Sancti Michaelis anno predicto donec pervenit apud Middelcombe in decenna de Menehevede et ibidem quidam maliciosi extranei et incongniti ipsum Willelmum obviaverunt saltem felonice in eundem Willelmum fecerunt percusserunt ipsum et vulneraverunt super capud eius unde obiit die predicto. De nominibus felonum nec de catallis eorum nichil potuit inquiri. Ideo preceptum est Johannis<sup>1</sup> Erleghe tunc vicecomiti Somersetensi quod ad turnum suum melius inquirat.

1. An error for Johanni

### B. Calendar of inquests, 1-58

#### HUNDRED OF CARHAMPTON

##### **Somerset County Court, 29 Sept. 1315**

1. *Minehead tithing.* On 6 Oct. Peter le Semeth of Minehead found William de Poukewalle of East Luccombe dead at Middlecombe and raised the hue and cry; pledges, Ralph Toky and John de Poukewalle. Inquest held 9 Oct. Jurors: Robert Everard, Richard Wyard, Nicholas atte Fenne, Roger Sparke, William Cokrode, John le Kyng, William Henri, Robert Stacy, William Franke, Richard Prekeprout, Thomas Hamelyn, Robert Capeleyn and the tithings of Minehead, Avill, Wootton Courtenay, Allerford and Porlock.

Verdict: William de Poukewalle came from Dunster market place on Sunday 5 Oct. until he reached Middlecombe, where certain wicked and unknown strangers attacked him and wounded him on the head, whereof

he died on the day abovesaid. Nothing could be learned of the names of the felons nor of their goods. Therefore the sheriff, John de Erlegh is ordered to make better inquiry at his tourn.

**Somerset County Court, 5 July 1316**

2. *Minehead tithing.* On 10 July John, son of Stephen de Alcombe, went to the meadow at Wallen and pastured the sheep of the Prior of Dunster at Alcombe. He was playing a game by himself and as he jumped he fell on his own knife, causing a mortal wound in his leg. He received the last rites of the church and lived until 16 July. Inquest held 20 July.

Jurors: Geoffrey de Avele, William Monceaux, Roger Sparke, Gilbert le Pestour, William de Cokrode, Robert Stacy, Nicholas de Harwode, Richard Prekeprout, Nicholas atte Fenne, Robert Capeleyn, Roger Roche, Robert atte Brigge and the tithings of Minehead, Avill, Timberscombe and Wootton Courtenay.

Verdict as above.

3. *Minehead tithing.* On 17 July Simon le Tournour of Periton found his son Gilbert dead there; pledges, Gilbert de Periton and Ralph Toky. [*Inquest on same date as last and before same jury*].

Verdict: Gilbert le Tournour was at his father's house in Periton. He picked up a knife from his father's bench and while going to the hall door he fell on it and gave himself a mortal wound by which he died at once by misadventure. He was 1½ years of age. The knife is worth 1d for which Minehead tithing will answer.

**Somerset County Court 2 Aug. 1316**

4. *Exford tithing.* On 31 July John Broun of Bedminster found his son John dead; pledges, William Rondolfe and Robert Gordoun. Inquest held 8 Aug.

Jurors: John Clerk de Uppehulle, Walter de Herdcombe, Robert de Chubyete, John de Herdecumbe, Gervase de Almansworthe, William Clerk atte Ford, John Homound, John le Brasene, John Gilberd, Roger de Chubyete, Richard le Frere, Peter Hanecok and the tithings of Exford, Almsworthy, Cutcombe and Winsford.

Verdict: John Broun junior was at the house of Richard le Drenkere and he wished to go into the garden for a drink from the well, and as he tried to draw water from it in a dish he fell in and by misadventure was drowned. He was 2½ years of age. It is ordered that the well should be filled in. The dish is worth ¼d for which the Exford tithing will answer.

**Somerset County Court 30 Aug. 1316**

5. *Withycombe tithing.* On 2 Oct. Richard Crop of Withycombe found Richard le Elyman dead at Sandhill; pledges, Thomas and Paul Uppehulle. Inquest held 5 Oct.

Jurors: Robert de Sandhulle, Geoffrey de Avele, Gilbert le Pestour, Robert Moritz, Thomas de Mershehode, Roger de Potforde, Robert atte Churchehye, William de Holeweye, William Hughe, Hugh de Rokeleye, Robert le Gardyner, John le Glover of Dunster and the tithings of Withycombe, Carhampton, Briddicote<sup>1</sup> and Brown.

Verdict: In the night of 2 Oct. three robbers and felons, strangers and unknown, came to the house of Richard le Elyman at Sandhill, stole from him, tied him up and struck him on the head, causing mortal wounds from which he died at once. The felons immediately fled and of their chattels or names nothing could be found. Therefore the Sheriff at his tourn has been ordered to inquire about their names, chattels and harbourers.<sup>2</sup>

1. A tithing of Brone cum Britecote occurs in the 1327 Lay Subsidy; here they must be regarded as separate tithings. The name survives as a farm name, Bredicott, in Carhampton.

2. *receptores* — anyone who gave them lodging, for which they were liable to amercement.

**Somerset County Court 9 May 1317**

6. *Avill tithing*. On 13 May John atte Yete of Avill found Joan Blokeworthe of Devon dead; pledges, Roger Miller of Avill and Geoffrey Miller. Inquest held 17 May.

Jurors: Robert de Sandhulle, Robert Everard, John de Hywysh of Lynch, Walter de Cloudesham, Nicholas de Harwode, Thomas atte Brigge, Gilbert le Pestour, William de Alvernecote,<sup>1</sup> Andrew (the) Smith (*Faber*) of Dunster, William de Holewey, Simon atte Burgh, Adam atte Rewe, Robert Moritz and the tithings of Avill, Wootton Courtenay, Timberscombe, and Carhampton. Verdict: Joan de Blakeworthe went across Bynneworthe bridge and falling into the water was drowned by misadventure. The bridge is worth 2d for which Minehead tithing will answer.<sup>2</sup>

1. Probably Allercott.

2. Bynneworthy bridge is in the isolated pocket of land in the tithing of Minehead, near Knowle, probably at Cowbridge. The body was evidently washed downstream into the tithing of Avill.

**Somerset County Court 27 Aug. 1319**

7. *Porlock tithing*. On 7 Sept. Richard Nogher of Whitstone found his daughter Ellen dead; pledges, Simon de Yernesbere and Richard de la Wytestone. Inquest held 11 Sept.

Jurors: William Jan, Robert atte Worthe, Roger Sparke, William le Kyng, William atte Worthe, William le Soutere, Robert Stacy, William Franke, Henry Cokard, William Schote, John le Kyng and the tithings of Porlock, Allerford, Bossington and West Luccombe.

Verdict: Ellen dropped an apple in a spring<sup>1</sup> at Whitstone and in trying to reach it she fell in and was drowned by misadventure. She was two years of age.

1. The latin word is *fons* and is translated thus rather than as a well, for which an order to fill in might have been expected. It was possibly a spring with a pool used by the shepherds of Porlock Common.

**Somerset County Court 24 Sept. 1319**

8. *West Luccombe tithing*. On 8 Oct. Roger de Hecbaldenham of Shropshire was in the barn of the rector of East Luccombe throwing down straw from a stack and he fell on his neck, whereby he died, but before that he had the last rites of the church and lived until 18 Oct. Inquest held 20 Oct.

Jurors: William Wenemer, Geoffrey Jewas, Roger Sparke, William Cokrode, William Persoun, Peter de Locombe, William le Kyng, William atte Worthe, Thomas de Combe, Robert Stacy, William Sparke, Robert atte Worthe and the tithings of West Luccombe, Allerford, Wootton Courtenay and Porlock.

Verdict: as above. The stack of straw is worth 3d and West Luccombe tithing will answer.

**Somerset County Court 22 Sept. 1320**

9. *Almsworthy tithing*. On 3 Oct. Thomas de Pyrkeslade was working in his forge at Prickslade<sup>1</sup> and as he wanted to go out of the door a beam of the forge fell on his head, whereby he died; but before that he had the last rites of the church and he lived until 6 Oct. Inquest held 11 Oct.

Jurors: William de Ketenor, John de Holte, John Pirou, William de Alvernecote, William de Cokrode, William Franke, John Bakeleyn, Robert Stacy, John Fabian, Walter de Leucote, William Purgi, Richard le Mei and the tithings of Almsworthy, Wootton Courtenay, Wilmersham and Porlock.

Verdict: as above. The beam is worth 1d for which Almsworthy tithing will answer.

1. In Exford.

**Somerset County Court 15 Dec. 1320**

10. *Porlock tithing*. On 30 Dec. Nicholas de Harwode of Lucott<sup>1</sup> found his daughter Eghelina de Harwode dead at Bellbrook in Exmoor; pledges, Walter de Leucote and Simon de Apssella. Inquest held 5 Jan. 1321.

Jurors: Nicholas de Harwode, William Wenemer, Geoffrey le Hyne, John Fabian, William Purgi, William Franke, Robert Stacy, John atte Fenweye, William atte Worthe, John Bakeleyn, William le Kyng, John le Kyng, William Cokard, Walter de Leucote and the tithings of Porlock, Bossington, Almsworthy and Wilmersham.

Verdict: Eghelina was coming from Molton in Devon on 24 Dec. to make her way towards her father's house at Lucott. At Bellbrook night and snow overcame her and buried her body, whereby she died by misadventure.

1. In Stoke Pero.

**Somerset County Court 12 Jan. 1321**

11. *Almsworthy tithing*. On 12 Feb. Richard Dykke of Almsworthy found William Hamound of Exford and his sister Alice dead at Exford; pledges Roger le Muleward of Almsworthy and Adam atte Rowe of Edgcott. Inquest held 23 Feb.

Jurors: John Pirou, Walter de Wochdene, John de Cristesham, Adam de Cristesham, Robert de Bykkome, Henry Roket, John atte Sterte, William le Orler of Cutcombe, William le Frere, William Ketenor junior, John de Herdecombe, John de Ketenor and the tithings of Almsworthy, Exford, Cutcombe and Quarne.

Verdict: In the night of 12 Feb. William and Alice were in the house of John Hamound at Exford when straw from a cot bed<sup>1</sup> fell on the fire, burned the house down and William and Alice with it. They died by misadventure.

1. *Caneletum*.

**Somerset County Court 6 April 1321**

12. *Hawkwell tithing*. On 9 April John le Taillour of Hawkwell found his son William le Taillour dead there; pledges Henry de Harwode and Adam de Hauckwelle. Inquest held 11 April.

Jurors: Henry de Harwode, Adam atte Thorne, William Clerk of Cutcombe, John de Northecombe, John atte Sterte, Walter le Hopere, Robert Sayly, Robert atte Brigge, Adam de Hauckwelle, Walter Caproun, Hugh Gerveys, Walter de Weddone and the tithings of Hawkwell,<sup>1</sup> Luxborough Everard, Cutcombe and Timberscombe.

Verdict: William was lying in his cot next to the fire in his father's house and by misadventure was burned to death. He was 16 weeks old.

1. By 1400 Hawkwell (in Cutcombe) was no longer a tithing in the Carhampton Hundred roll.

**Somerset County Court 24 Aug. 1321**

13. *Carhampton tithing*. On 3 Sept. Henry Proute found Robert le Vayre of Carhampton dead at Dunster harbour; pledges William le Vayre and John le Vayre of Carhampton. Inquest held 4 Sept.

Jurors: Robert Everard, Gilbert le Pestour, William de Holewey, William Everard, William de Revers, Geoffrey Tery of Woodcombe, Maurice Percyval, Hugh de Westwyk, John de Modbury, Thomas atte Mersche, John Loverych, John Pays and the tithings of Carhampton, Withycombe, Avill and Briddicote.<sup>1</sup>

Verdict: Robert le Vayre came from Wales on 31 Aug. and he lay down at Dunster harbour and died by misadventure of wretchedness and want.

1. See 5n. above.

## HUNDRED OF WILLITON

**Somerset County Court 15 Mar. 1316**

14. *Sampford Brett tithing*. On 21 Mar. Jordan le Coke of Sampford Brett found Thomas le Moul of Bishopswood dead there; pledges were Adam Larde and Nicholas Gedy. Inquest held 23 Mar.

Jurors: William de Carvyle, John Broun, William Frankeleyn, John le Gryndere, Richard atte Rixen, John Clerk of Williton, John de Coleforde, Richard le Kneyt, Hugh Jordan, William de Wolferton, Thomas in the Alres,<sup>1</sup> Roger Sanfyn and the tithings of Sampford Brett, Williton, West Quantoxhead and Stogumber.

Verdict: Thomas le Moul, old and weak, came from Bishopswood on 20 Mar. Going towards Williton, looking for something to eat, he came to Blackman's Hill in Sampford Brett and there, because of weakness and want, he died by misadventure.

1. Alders.

**Somerset County Court 2 Aug. 1316**

15. *Wood tithing*. On 28 July John Herde of Wood found John Sone of Wood dead there; pledges John Swan and William le Skynnar. Inquest held 5 Aug.

Jurors: John de Ludehywysh, Thomas le Fizours, Nicholas de Stanforde, William Carvyle, Walter Olyver, Hugh Jordan, Thomas de Combe, Roger Sanfyn, John Jordan, Henry atte Slade, John de Bykenalre and the tithings of Wood Advent, Stogumber, Elworthy and Bicknoller.

Verdict: On 28 July John Sone was in his own sheepfold at Empnetridge in Wood and he wanted to drive his sheep to their pasture and there he was struck by a thunderbolt<sup>1</sup> and died immediately by the contrivance of the devil.

1. *Latin is toni* (cf. the classical latin *tonare* to thunder), presumably for 'thunderbolt' commonly regarded as the destructive agency in a lightning flash and, being supernatural, the devil's work.

**Somerset County Court 6 June 1317**

16. *Chipstable tithing*. On 29 May William Boghechurche of Chipstable found Roger Potel of Brompton Ralph dead at Wyllenehevede<sup>1</sup> near Westcote in Chipstable tithing; pledges John Boghechurche and Richard Bynethechurche. Inquest held 16 June.

Jurors: Stephen de Leghe, Walter atte Wytheghe, Walter de Chudecombe, Nicholas de Stanforde, Richard de Stanforde, Henry de Wyllescombe, William de Batescombe, Richard atte Weye, William Bogeheye, Thomas de Halsdene, John Hanbriger, Thomas Arondel and the tithings of Chipstable, Huish Champflower, Skilgate and Raddington.

Verdict: Roger Potel coming begging to Chipstable reached Willenhevede near Westcote and there because of hunger and helplessness he fell to the ground and died by misadventure.

1. A field at Venn on the border with Clayhanger and Raddington is called Wilden Head on the Chipstable tithe map.

**Somerset County Court 18 Dec. 1318**

17. *Bincombe tithing*. On 27 Dec. William le Wyse of Bincombe found Richard Stretche of Nether Stowey in Philip de Columbers' barn there; pledges John Schortmannesforde and Adam Snel. Inquest held 30 Dec. Jurors: John le Bole, Walter de Galamston, Henry de Hanbridge, William Cordywan, William de Coumych, William de Edenstone, John le Brode, Reginald Wason, Randolph Grym, John Byssop, William Bacoun, Walter le Mareschal and the tithings of Bincombe, Honibere, Stringston and Otterhampton.

Verdict: On 27 Dec. Richard Stretche was threshing in Richard de Columbers' barn at Stowey and a stomach disease overcame him and he died by misadventure.

**Somerset County Court 12 Mar. 1319**

18. *Honibere tithing*. On 18 Mar. John de Churchelonde of Stringston found Henry Martyn of Knighton dead at Fairfield; pledges Henry de Culverstrete and William le Spenser. Inquest held 21 Mar.

Jurors: Walter atte Wytheghe, William Carvyle, John atte Thorne, John Snyffemore, Richard le Kneyt, Vincent de Stoke, John de Tettehulle, Walter Olyver, William Nichol, Richard de Rabbek, John Hehcok, Richard atte Rixen and the tithings of Honibere, Kilton, Kilve and Bincombe.

Verdict: Henry Martyn had had the falling sickness<sup>1</sup> for 7 years. He was overcome by it in the ox house of William Vernay of Fairfield, fell to the ground and died at once by misadventure.

1. Epilepsy.

**Somerset County Court 2 July 1319**

19. *Sampfurd Brett tithing*. On 6 July William Fychet of Sampford Brett found Adam Duole on the great bank of the stream<sup>1</sup> there; pledges William in the Hele and William le Fokkere. Inquest held 8 July.

Jurors: Richard de Curlynch, Thomas in the Alres, William de Hartrowe, John le Gryndere, Richard le Kneyt, Walter Olyver, John Jordan, Roger Sanfyn, William Placegrene, Thomas le Tailleur and the tithings of Sampford Brett, Bicknoller, Stogumber and Lodhuish.

Verdict: Adam Duole went to play beside the stream, fell into it and was drowned by misadventure. He was 2½ years old.

1. There is a steep bank south west of the present main road from Williton to Taunton.

**Somerset County Court 27 Aug. 1319**

20. *Bicknoller tithing*. On 8 Sept. Roger de Cosdone junior found John de Cosdone senior of Halsway dead; pledges William de Uppecote and Richard de Hallesweye. Inquest held 12 Sept.

Jurors: Richard atte Rixen, Jordan de Chepmannecombe, John le Tailleur of Bicknoller, John le Gryndere, John de Wolferstone, Roger Sanfyn, William Mymmes, Ralph de Thorncombe, William de Uppecote, William Placegrene, Andrew Red, Richard le Herd and the tithings of Bicknoller, Halsway, Crowcombe and Sampford Brett.

Verdict: John de Cosdone was at Stogumber church on 8 Sept. He wanted to go to his home at Cosdone and when he reached the Yard water which flows between the free manor of Nettlecombe and Bicknoller tithing, as he was trying to go over it on a piece of wood lying across it, he fell and was drowned by misadventure. The wood is worth 1d and Nettlecombe and Bicknoller tithings will answer.

1. He drowned in the stream which marked the boundary between the tithings, so both were responsible for the deodand, though Nettlecombe was not represented at the inquest.

**Somerset County Court 17 Dec. 1319**

21. *East Quantoxhead tithing*. On 4 Jan. 1320 Ralph de Colecombe of East Quantoxhead found John Hugh of Old Knowle dead; pledges John atte Burgh and Walter Tresour. Inquest held 7 Jan.

Jurors: William Pavely, Robert atte Combe, John le Gryndere, Richard atte Dyche, John de Goghelemor, Nicholas atte Dyche, John Hethcok, Walter Olyver, Ralph Osomer, John Jordan, Roger Sanfyn, William Mymmes and the tithings of East Quantoxhead, West Quantoxhead, Kilve and Kilton.

Verdict: John Hugh had had the falling sickness for five years. He fell to



the ground in the stable of the lord of East Quantoxhead<sup>1</sup> and died by misadventure.

1. Sir Andrew Luttrell.

**Somerset County Court 24 Aug. 1321**

22. *Bicknoller tithing*. On 12 Sept. John Manyland found John de Chulvecombe dead at Chilcombe; pledges Robert Lonyale and Elias atte Brigge of Bicknoller. Inquest held 14 Sept.

Jurors: Richard atte Rixen, William Frankeleyn, John Porchatz, John de Wolferstone, John de Bekenalre, Roger Sanfyn, William Piacegrene, William Mymmes, William Carvyle, Nicholas Carvyle, John Broun, Henry Broun and the tithings of Bicknoller, Stogumber, Halsway and West Quantoxhead.

Verdict: The house of Robert le Somonour at Chilcombe by chance caught fire and John, who was inside, was burned to death by misadventure.

**HUNDRED OF ANDERSFIELD**

**Somerset County Court 12 April 1316**

23. *Blaxhold tithing*. On 19 April Hugh le Brut of Blaxhold found Philip Bandyouchoun of Bishop's Lydeard dead; pledges Gilbert Wyrke and Richard Folk. Inquest held 27 April.

Jurors: William Bereford, Walter de Cantoke, William Mareschal, William de Almanesheye, Gilbert de Halsdene, Walter Payn, Richard de Grobbehame, Walter de la Hegheu, Thomas de Grobbehame, Adam de Enmore, Roger Coxe, Michael de Molendino and the tithings of Blaxhold, Enmore, Lexworthy, Heathcombe, Broomfield and Merridge.

Verdict: Philip Bandyouchoun, Adam de Bykeforde and William Gorre were together coming from Bridgwater market place on 19 Apr. They came to la ..... de Wythege in Blaxhold where Adam de Bykeforde and William Gorre .....<sup>1</sup> and they feloniously assaulted, robbed and [struck him] on the head [whereby he died].

1. Could read 'quarrelled with the said Philip'

**Somerset County Court 22 Nov. 1316**

24. *Heathcombe tithing*. On 8 Dec. .... of Heathcombe found Alice de [Behulle dead there] .....; pledges John de .... Inquest held 11 Dec.

Jurors: Roger de Gothurste, William de Bereford, Walter de ..., ... de Halsdon, Reginald atte Watere, Walter Payn, Thomas de Grobbehame, Hugh de Grobbehame, ... .., Adam de Enmore, John (the) Cook and the tithings of Heathcombe, Blaxhold, Enmore and Goathurst.

Verdict. On 3 Dec. one-eyed John de Congeresberry came at twilight to Alice de Behulle's house in Heathcombe tithing, feloniously killed her, stole her goods and fled. Before committing this felony he had harboured at William de Sakewebbe's house. Nothing has been discovered about his chattels. The sheriff of Somerset is ordered to find out if John is still in the county.

**Somerset County Court 11 Apr. 1317**

25. *Blaxhold tithing*. On 17 Apr. Gilbert Wryk of Enmore found John le Comere of Bristol dead; pledges Richard Folk and Gilbert le Reve of Blaxhold. Inquest held 21 Apr.

Jurors: William de Bereford, Walter de Cantoke, William de Almanesheye, Gilbert de Halsdene, Reginald atte Watere, Walter Payn, Thomas de Grobbehame, Adam de Enmore, Walter Moldesone, William atte Stole and the tithings of Blaxhold, Enmore, Heathcombe and Merridge.

Verdict: John le Comere stayed on Cantoke (Quantock) in Blaxhold tithing on 17 Apr. Because of hunger and helplessness he died by misadventure.

**Somerset County Court 12 Mar. 1319**

26. *Enmore tithing*. On 15 Mar. Roger Trot found Richard Scalere dead in the house of the priest of Baldwyn Malet there; pledges John Lelecok and Robert atte Brigge. Inquest held 18 Mar.

Jurors: William de Bereford, William de Almanesheye, Walter Payn, Reginald atte Watere, Thomas de Grobbeham, Walter de Rokesworth, Adam de Enmore, Walter Moldesone, Walter le Gardynere, Walter Coleforde, Michael atte Mulle, Michael atte Lane and the tithings of Enmore, Lexworthy, Blaxhold and Pignes.

Verdict: Richard fell from a ladder in the priest's house at Enmore and broke his neck. He died by misadventure. The ladder is worth 1d for which Enmore tithing will answer.

**HUNDRED OF CANNINGTON****Somerset County Court 2 Aug 1316**

27. *Wick tithing*. On 5 Aug. Geoffrey le Schetere of Burton found William Cole of Kilton dead; pledges Henry de Colverclyvestrete and Richard Dobel. Inquest held 10 Aug.

Jurors: William Nichol, William de Edyston, William Stretche, John de Tettehulle, Vincent de Stoke, William (the) Smith of Stringston, Robert Cordywant, John Durling, Thomas de Culverstrete, Henry atte Hethfelde, Thomas Broun and the tithings of Wick, Stringston, Shurton and Adescombe.

Verdict: William Cole had been ill for the last half year. Coming towards Randolph Grym's house, he reached some land belonging to Fairfield and there because of weakness he died a sudden death.

**Somerset County Court 13 Mar. 1318**

28. *Aisholt tithing*. On 5 Apr. Nicholas Persoun ... found Robert de Coleford dead at Postridge; pledges were ... Parchelonde and Robert Holyng. Inquest held 8 Apr.

Jurors: Roger Pym, John le Bole, Henry [Bosc-], John Loynte, ... Thomas de Doddeshame, Walter Mayn, Gilbert atte Clyve, Roger atte Crosste, John ..., Hugh Mody, John atte Churcheye and the tithings of Aisholt, Currypool, Fiddington and Chilton.

Verdict: Robert de Coleford took [fire] from Sir Hugh Popham's house and carried it to his oxhouse and ..... of Sir Hugh and he gave fodder to the bullocks and fire caught in the straw and both Robert and the oxhouse were burned by misadventure.

**Somerset County Court 23 Oct, 1318**

29. *Plainsfield tithing*. On 9 Nov. Elias de Wodecrofte found William de Odebroke dead at Stonyngford; pledges Roger le Taillour of Plainsfield and William atte Orcharde. Inquest held 13 Nov.

Jurors: Roger Pym, Walter de Gilhutton, Roger de Hakcheforde, John le Bole, John Ka, John Loynte, John Fychet of Cannington, Adam Chandos junior, John Gornay, Walter Payne, John Robyn, Henry Hambrig and the tithings of Plainsfield, Aisholt, Fiddington and Spaxton.

Verdict: On 8 Nov. illness overcame William de Odebroke at Stonyngford in Plainsfield. He died by misadventure.

**Somerset County Court 22 Oct. 1319**

30. *Gothelney by Chilton tithing*. On 16 Nov. John Blay of Charlinch found Robert le Toukere of Spaxton dead in Gothelney near to Chilton tithing; pledges John atte Yete junior and senior. Inquest held 18 Nov.

Jurors: Roger Pym, Roger de Hacheforde, Richard Pruet, John de Gornay, John Fichet, John Stenyng, John atte Yoe, Henry Hulacre, Roger

Parseheye, William de Almanesheye, Walter Payn, Thomas de Grobbeh-am and the tithings of Chilton, Currypool, Cannington and Spaxton. Verdict: Robert came into Gothelney begging and he had had the falling sickness for the past eight years. He fell into the water and died by misadventure.

## HUNDRED OF MILVERTON

**Somerset County Court 24 Nov. 1315**

31. *Hagley tithing*. On 14 Dec. William Miller of Stawley found Robert son of John le Toukere dead; pledges John le Toukere of Hagley and William atte Wortheghe. Inquest held on 20 Dec.

Jurors: John de Reigny, John Sencler, Richard de Apperleye, John de Halse, William de Clippewelle, Thomas le Yonge, Roger de Cottheeye, John Frankleyn, John atte Doune, John Pore, Walter Chuket, Walter Geffray and the tithings of Hagley, Stawley, Bathealton and Greenham. Verdict: On 13 Dec. Robert came close to the river Tone in Hagley tithing. He wished to lop with a little sickle some branches from the alders alongside the river for firewood. A branch broke so that Robert fell into the water and was drowned by misadventure. The little sickle is worth 1d for which Hagley tithing will answer.

**Somerset County Court 10 May 1316**

32. *Runnington tithing*. On 14 May Simon Pope of Runnington found William Consail of Preston Priors and John, son of Walter atte Brugge of Pixton, dead in Ilondesmede; pledges Henry le Bonde and John le Bonde. Inquest held 16 May.

Jurors: John Frankleyn, John atte Dounelonde, Richard atte Hulle, John atte Mulle, William de Cotteheye, Adam de Cotteheye, Laurence Lane-cock, Richard atte Wode, William (the) Smith of Sampford, John atte Brigge, John Catheman, Adam de Burcombe and the tithings of Runnington, Langford Budville, Wellisford<sup>1</sup> and Sampford Arundel.

Verdict: William Consail and John, son of Walter atte Brigge, together were coming from Wellington market on 13 May. At Broadbridge they wanted to ride across the Tone on one mare, but because of the height of the water they were drowned by misadventure. The horse is worth 6s. for which Runnington tithing will answer.

1. In Langford Budville.

**Somerset County Court 4 May 1321**

33. *Greenham tithing*. On 1 May Ralph (the) Smith de la Mede wanted to knock down the chimney of his forge with one of his blacksmith's hammers in order to repair it. He hammered at his chimney until it leaned over, but as he went out of the door of his smithy the chimney fell on his head, injuring him fatally. He died on 1 May, but before that he had the last rites of the church. Inquest held 7 May.

Jurors: John Sencler, Richard de Apperleghe, Richard de Uppehulle, Roger de Cotteheye, Laurence de Thorne, William de Northcote, John de Halse, Richard atte Forde, John Totebere, John de Togghelonde and the tithings of Greenham, Kittisford, Wellisford and Stawley.

Verdict as above. The chimney and hammer are worth 3d for which Greenham tithing will answer.

## HUNDRED OF WELLINGTON

**Somerset County Court 22 Nov. 1316**

34. *Perry tithing*. On 10 Dec. Richard atte Purie found William Horny dead at Thornheye; pledges William Budde and Richard de Werdesforde. Inquest held 17 Dec.

Jurors: William de Harcombe, Jordan le Coke, John le Wytekneyt, Richard de Horweye, John Richer, Richard atte Mulle, Geoffrey atte Benche, John Dounelonde, Adam Hateman, Henry de Pynnokesmore, Walter Molendmarch, John Planz and the tithings of Perry, Woodford, Ford and Westford (Werdesford).

Verdict: On 9th Dec William Horny, coming from the market at Wellington, reached Thornheye and there from hunger and weakness he fell to the ground and died by misadventure.

**Somerset County Court 21 Nov. 1317**

35. *Church tithing.* On 23 Nov. John Bamptua found John Tottenas of Devon dead in the Church tithing of Wellington; pledges Richard Coulyng and Thomas Thewan. Inquest held 29 Nov.

Jurors: William de Harcombe, Jordan le Coke, Nicholas de Ponte, John Dounelond, Geoffrey atte Bouche, Philip atte Leye, Stephen Lavandare, Richard atte Mulle, William de Alreheye, John atte Yete, Walter Wolf, John Richer and the tithings of Church of Wellington, Ford, Buckland and Westford.

Verdict: John de Tottenas was coming along the highway from Wellington begging and the wind blew and broke a branch of an elm whereby a part fell on his head and struck him so that he died at once by misadventure. The elm is worth 2d for which Church tithing of Wellington will answer.<sup>1</sup>

I. J. K. Ridler has reminded me that:—

'Elm! She hateth  
Mankind and waiteth  
To drop a limb  
On the head of him  
Who in any way trusteth her shade.'

#### HUNDRED OF LANGFORD

**Somerset County Court 20 Dec. 1316**

36. *Langford tithing.* On 1 Jan. 1317 William Corvyn of Langford found Henry le Schephurde of Bridport dead; pledges Stacy<sup>1</sup> and Richard le Yongere. Inquest held 13 Jan.

Jurors: William de Condenham, Ralph de Condenham, Robert atte Hulle, Richard [Bour'], Thomas de Bosco, Ralph de Bosco, Philip atte Leye, William de Harcombe, Geoffrey atte Bouche, Richard atte Mulle, John atte Yete, William Wolfe and the tithing of Langford.<sup>2</sup>

Verdict: Henry le Schephurde was in the service of William de Condenham. On 31 Dec. 1316 he wanted to demolish a wall of an old house there with a pickaxe, but it fell on him and crushed him so that he died immediately by misadventure. The pickaxe is worth 2d for which Langford tithing will answer.

1. No forename given.

2. Langford hundred apparently had only one tithing, though 'decennas' is written, perhaps from habit.

#### HUNDRED OF WHITLEY

**Somerset County Court 4 July 1317**

37. *Middlezoy tithing.* On 12 July John Frend of Middlezoy found Richard Tok of Moorlinch dead; pledges Nicholas Seman and Nicholas Richeman. Inquest held 19 July.

Jurors: John atte Halle, William de Sow, Richard Fychet, William de Cristeschurch, Walter le Clerk, John le Leche, William Michel, Philip (the) Cook, Simon atte Slo, Benedict de Thorngrove, John Uppehulle, Walter le Crese and the tithings of Middlezoy, Westonzoyland, Othery and Moorlinch.

Verdict: Richard Tok was killed by an unknown stranger in the field at Othery and was removed by him to Smalemoredych in Middlezoy tithing. The unknown stranger immediately fled and nothing has been discovered of his name or his chattels. The sheriff is ordered to make a more thorough investigation at his tourn.

**Somerset County Court 9 Mar. 1321**

38. *Dunster borough*. On 5 Mar. Thomas Syant atte Merssh near Dunster found Simon Adam of Marsh dead in a conduit in the port of Dunster; pledges Adam Tole and Walter le Chepman. Inquest held 6 Mar. Jurors: Robert Red, Robert Hamelyn, Adam le Masoun, ... Mod ... Thomas atte Merssh and William Everard.

*[The rest of this membrane has been badly damaged by moisture. The verdict appears to be that Simon was using a hammer and when it was raised the hammer broke and part fell upon, presumably, his head. As he was found in a conduit he may have been stunned and then drowned. He died immediately by misadventure. The hammer worth 1d.]*

39. *[The record of this inquest is almost completely illegible. The year is 10 Edward 11 (1316-1317), earlier than the previous inquest and therefore not another incident concerning the borough of Dunster. Seen with the help of ultra-violet light it appears to be a Bridgwater inquest, but the only other Bridgwater inquest is no. 41, not, as might have been expected, no. 40. The finder's name could be John (Adams). On the next line the word 'obiit' appears, which must mean that the verdict was recorded before the names of the jury. Therefore it follows that the deceased lived long enough to be given the last rites of the church].*

**HUNDRED OF NORTH PETHERTON**

**Somerset County Court 4 July 1317**

40. *Shearston tithing*. On 18 July John atte Wode found Robert de Cornwale dead at Haddeleghe; pledges Gilbert and John Syloke. Inquest held 21 July.

Jurors: Hugh de Reigny, Adam Beche, Thomas Claville, Reginald de Fractino, John Galiot, John le Bole, John Gedy, John Bal, John le Porter, Robert [Ocrig?], Henry Wylyng, John Fundyng and the tithings of Shearston, Thurloxton, Newton and Petherton.

Verdict: Robert de Cornwale went to Haddeleghe in Shearston tithing on 15 July where, because of hunger and destitution he fell to the ground and died by misadventure.

**BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER**

**Somerset County Court 9 Feb. 1321**

41. On 27 Feb. John, son of Thomas de Burgoyne of Bridgwater, went berserk in his father's house during the night. In his madness he wanted to kill his brothers and sisters and, alarmed by their cries, their father left his bed and tried to stop him. However John attacked his father with his own knife and gave him a mortal wound from which he died on 12 Mar., though before this he received the last rites of the church. Inquest held 13 Mar. Jurors: John Boye, Richard Maydoune, Walter de Estone, Richard Lonegar, Richard [Bort], Robert le Spycer, Eustace Toper, John Benet, Richard Wrench, ... William de Cantole and Peter Roper. Verdict as above.

**HUNDRED OF KINGSBURY WEST**

**Somerset County Court .....**

42. *East Bagborough tithing*. On Wednesday on the morrow of ..... John

le Cok de ..... found John P..... [*The verdict seems to be given before the names of the jurors and the deceased evidently had the last rites.*]

The jurors include: .... atte Dyche, John de [Peteyn] ... .. John .... John Cridelond and the tithings of East Bagborough, [Bishops Lydeard, Eastcombe and East .... ]

Verdict confirmed. The deodand was a horse worth 20s for which East Bagborough tithing will answer.

#### FREE MANORS

##### Somerset County Court 29 Sept 1315

43. *Preston Priors tithing.* On 16 Oct. Habraham atte Forde of Preston Priors found a strange man dead in a lane between Preston Priors and Milverton in a place called Gorrenhende. His pledges were William Kybbel and William Hayne senior. Inquest held 19 Oct.

Jurors: Roger Torel, Henry de Stanforde, Robert de Stanforde, Thomas atte Putte, John Barbican, Walter Godryche, Laurence de Bosco, Walter Garlaund, Nicholas Ley, John de Beyndon, Philip Bolt, Henry de Hundesmore and the tithings of Preston Priors, Preston Torel, Halse and Brompton Ralph.

Verdict: On 16 Oct. the dead man with three others, strangers and unknown, came.....<sup>1</sup> to the house of Gilbert le Fissliere of Halse where they had breakfast and at breakfast they agreed to go to Bampton Fair. After breakfast they set out on their way, in agreement and peaceably, until they came to the lane called Gorrenhende and there it happened that two of them cut the throat of the deceased, so that he died at once, and the fourth man they struck on the head because he refused to help them. The two unknown felons immediately ran away. Nothing has been discovered about their names and chattels. Therefore the sheriff of Somerset, John de Erleghe, is ordered to conduct a more thorough investigation at his tourn.

<sup>1</sup>. *exhupto*. I have not been able to establish the meaning of the word, which is clearly written.

##### Somerset County Court held by Matthew de Furneus, sheriff of Somerset, 20 May 1316

44. *Winsford tithing.* On 20 May Ralph and Henry de Prestcote of Cutcombe tithing came to Stetfold Rocks in Almsworthy tithing and there they feloniously attacked Richard, son of Walter de Herdecombe and with the agreement and consent of William de Wythecombe they struck him on his head and shoulder whereby he died on 21 May, having first received the last rites of the church. Inquest held 23 May.

Jurors: Richard de Bradley, Richard de Knapelok, John de Herdecombe, ... .., ... de Wodelonde, Roger Crydel, William de la Bury, William de Stoddone, and the tithings of Winsford Dulverton, Brompton Regis and Exton.

Verdict as above. The felons Ralph de Prestecote, Henry de Prestecote and William de Wythecombe fled at once. The chattels of Ralph and Henry de Prestcote are 4 bullocks worth 13s 4d, 1 cow 3s, 3 calves 6s, 4 heifers 6s 8d, 1 mare 3s, 1 pig 12d, 1 weak milch cow 12d, 5 wethers 5s, 3 ewes in lamb 3s, a total of 42s, for which the tithing of Cutcombe will answer. Nothing can be found concerning William de Wythecombe's chattels. The bailiff of the Free Manors is ordered to seize the felons Ralph, Henry and William and to pay to send them to Somerton gaol.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>. Presumably he was given the authority to spend what was necessary to send them to Somerton under escort. The shire courts had been transferred from Ilchester to Somerton in 1278 and by 1280 the gaol had also been moved there. In 1366 the shire and circuit courts returned to Ilchester and by 1371 the prison at Somerton was no longer the county gaol. (*V.C.H. Som.*, III, 139).

**Somerset County Court held by John de Kyngestone, sheriff of Somerset, 5 July 1316**

45. *Brompton Regis tithing*. On 5 July Adam atte Thorne of Upton found Walter atte Hegheu of Upton dead; pledges William Godman and William Grafton. Inquest held 7 July.

Jurors: John de Hortonescombe, Robert de Lyncombe, Robert Cridel, William Comyn, William Henry, William atte Wode, William de Greenslade, William de Hachelyn, Walter atte Wytheghe, Randolph atte Buri, William Neal, Nicholas Cogghe and the tithings of Brompton Regis, Huish Champflower, Skilgate and Clatworthy.

Verdict: Walter atte Hegheu had had the falling sickness for six years. At Haddecombe<sup>1</sup> near St. George's well in Brompton Regis tithing, because of his illness, he fell down and died at once by misadventure.

1. Could this be Haddon Combe? The river Haddeo (probably originally Haddon Yeo) flows between Upton and Brompton Regis.

**Somerset County Court 17 Jan. 1317**

46. *Nettlecombe tithing*. On 30 Jan. William de Wodeforde found Cristina de Combeflori dead at Rowdon in Bromparke; pledges Walter Dolecok and William le Hethene. Inquest held 1 Feb.

Jurors: Richard de la Roche, William de Combe, William Carvyle, Nicholas Carvyle, Thomas de Cloudeham, John atte Yerde, Richard de Curlynch, Richard de Babboke, John Bourgrom, John Carvyle, John de Coteford, Walter Olyver and the tithings of Nettlecombe, Sampford Brett, Bicknoller and Monksilver.

Verdict: Cristina, a poor child, was at Rowdon seeking alms on 29 Jan. She was abandoned in la Bromparke in Nettlecombe tithing. They do not know by whom, because she was without a father and mother, and she was aged a year or more. She died at once from weakness and the cold. John de Kyngestone, the sheriff of Somerset, is ordered to make a more thorough investigation.

**Somerset County Court 14 Mar. 1317**

47. *Cleeve tithing*. On 23 Mar. Nicholas, son of Elena la Brewestore of Taunton, entered the conventual church of Cleeve Abbey and remained there until 7 April. On that day he confessed to Ralph fitz Urse, coroner, and a jury of twelve free men that he had stolen two maplewood cups worth 9s and a tunic worth 3s.

Jurors: Robert de Sandhulle, Randulph de Leghe, Roger Clerk of Cleeve, Roger atte Torre, John de Lavandare, Adam Langeham, William de Holeweye, Thomas le Hopere, John Bogheweeye, Robert le Lange, Adam de Feronacre, Walter Engelson, and the tithings of Cleeve, Monksilver, Nettlecombe and Lodhuish.

On that day he abjured the realm and was given two days in which to make his way to the port of Lyme.

**Somerset County Court 9 May 1317**

48. *Williton tithing*. On 15 May Walter Selemere of Williton found Beatrice, daughter of Ralph Alford of Williton, dead at La Yoldeya;<sup>1</sup> pledges Ralph and Walter Alford. Inquest held 19 May.

Jurors: Nicholas de Waltone, Thomas de Cloudeham, Richard de Curlynch, William Carvyle, John Broun, John atte Ya, John le Gryndere, Thomas in Alnetis of Williton, Gervase Arnold, William Frankeleyn, Robert le Yonge, Richard Dodde and the tithings of Williton, Nettlecombe, Monksilver and Stogumber.

Beatrice went to pasture a cow next to the water at Yoldeya in Williton tithing. She wanted to cross the stream, but fell into it and drowned by

misadventure. She was nine years old.

1. Latham's *Revised Medieval Latin Word-list* gives 'eya' as an island in a marsh.

49. *Brompton Ralph tithing*. On 19 May 1317 William de Abbedyke found an unknown girl dead in the vicinity of la Yoldemenestre<sup>1</sup> near the lake; pledges John Mailoysel and Richard de Schornweye. Inquest held 21 May. Jurors: William Carvyle, John Broun, Randolph de Leghe, Richard de Curlynch, John le Gryndere, Thomas in Alnetis of Williton, Robert le Vynche, John atte Yote of Watchet, Nicholas le Palmere, Adam Snokyn, Robert de Caneforde, Henry de Blakewelle and the tithings of Brompton Ralph, Williton, Nettlecombe and Cleeve.

This unknown girl was thrown over by the waves of the lake next to la Yoldemenestre. By estimation she was 4 years of age.

1. There is no record of an old minster here and there is no lake today, though the valley through which the stream runs may have been liable to flood in former times. The finder came from Abbedyke. Could this be the 'abbey dyke', a dam near the mill north of Combe Bottom? A terrace has been levelled in the steep western slope of the valley, a few years north of the mill. Perhaps we should look for the old minster at this point. Ref. ST 082312.

50. *Nettlecombe tithing*. On 31 May 1317 William de Wodeforde found Alice, daughter of Ralph atte Forde, dead; pledges John and Hugh atte Yerde. Inquest held 4 June.

Jurors: Richard atte Rixen, John de Coleforde, John atte Ya, John Broun, William Carvyle, Roger Sanfyn, John (the) Smith of Curdon, John Jordan, Richard le Kneyt, John atte Yerde, Walter Bytheya and the tithings of Nettlecombe, Williton, Bicknoller and Sampford Brett.

Verdict: Alice wished to cross the water at Goteforde on 19 May. Because of the strength of the stream she fell in it and was drowned by misadventure.

#### Somerset County Court 4 July 1317

51. *Cleeve tithing*. On 9 July John le Webbe of Cleeve found Avice, wife of Roger atte Halleheghyn of Carhampton dead at the Grey Cliff;<sup>1</sup> pledges John Bogheweye and Richard Leykoghe. Inquest held 13 July.

Jurors: William Carvyle, Nicholas Carvyle, Robert Merige, David de Leighe, Thomas in Alnetis of Williton, Richard de Curlynche, Richard Placegrene, William Schorte, Thomas Placegrene, Benedict de Leghe, Gilbert Houslyfe, John le Glover of Dunster, Thomas de Cloudesham, William atte Burlonde and the tithings of Cleeve, Williton, Nettlecombe and Monksilver.

Verdict: Avice atte Halleheghen wanted to go to the sea to load a certain fishing boat from the sea at Grey Cliff and she was struck by the waves so that she went under and died by misadventure, but first she remained delirious for one week.

1. Probably the alabaster cliffs at Blue Anchor.

#### Somerset County Court 29 Aug. 1317

52. *Williton tithing*. On 2 Sept., John Skyle of Williton found Thomas, son of Richard de Fockwelle, tailor, dead at Inegrave;<sup>1</sup> pledges John Waperey and Ralph atte Lanehende. Inquest held 4 Sept.

Jurors: Nicholas de Walton, John Broun, Richard de Curlynch, Thomas de Cloudesham, Thomas in Alnetis of Williton, John le Gryndere, Adam Snokyn, Adam Est, Walter de Ponte of Watchet, Gregory Pilloke, John Snokyn, Henry Gilbert and the tithings of Williton, Cleeve, Nettlecombe and Sampford Brett.

Verdict: Thomas was close to the water between Inegrave and Doniford on 2 Sept. and by misadventure he fell in and drowned.

1. Probably Egrove — ST 088421



**Somerset County Court 21 Nov. 1317**

53. *Williton tithing*. On 21 Nov. Richard Foggyn of Cleeve found Cecilia, daughter of Richard le Lange of Cleeve, dead; pledges Adam le Coke and William le Large. Inquest held 23 Nov.

Jurors: Nicholas de Barton, Richard de Curlynch, Nicholas Carvyle, William Carvyle, Thomas in Alres of Williton, John Clerk of Williton, John Bytheya, Walter de Ponte of Watchet, Robert le Vynch, John Snokyn, Adam Snokyn, John Snyffemer and the tithings of Williton, Nettlecombe, Cleeve and Monksilver.

Verdict: Gunnilda Foghyn, at that time mad, came into Williton tithing on 21 Nov. She wounded Cecily and cut her throat with a knife, whereby she died at once by misadventure.<sup>1</sup> She was three years old. Gunnilda was immediately arrested and detained until 23 Nov. Then she was sent to Somerton gaol<sup>2</sup> by order of the coroner. She has no chattels. The knife is worth ½d and Williton tithing will answer.

1. Presumably because Gunnilda was not considered to be responsible for her actions.

2. See note 44.

**Somerset County Court 25 Aug. 1320**

54. *Winsford tithing*. On 29 Aug. James Bynortheweye found John de Nethercote dead at Nethercote; pledges William de Nethercote and Thomas de Wydecombe. Inquest held 3 Sept.

Jurors: Roger atte Slade, William le Filour, Richard de Bradeleghe, Walter de Herdecombe, Richard de Knapelok, John de Nethercote, Adam Herbard, William de Uppecote, Richard atte Nasshe, Thomas de Wydecombe, Richard Davyd and the tithings of Winsford, Dulverton, Bridgeford and Exton.

Verdict: John, son of William de Nethercote, went to play close to the river Exe. He slipped and fell into the water and was drowned by misadventure. He was 4 years old.

**Somerset County Court 22 Sept. 1320**

55. *Williton tithing*. On 6 Oct. Roger Yely found Henry, son of Walter Beauflower of Stream, dead at Stream; pledges William Mere and Nicholas Hobbe. Inquest held 16 Oct.

Jurors: John de Ludehywysh, Richard Curlynch, Thomas in Alres of Williton, William Carvyle, Henry atte Combe, Thomas Rondolfe, Randulf de Leghe, Thomas Warde, Geoffrey Lovet, William Mymmes, Gervase Arnold, Thomas Placegrene and the tithings of Williton, Nettlecombe, Monksilver and Cleeve.

Verdict: William le Famit<sup>1</sup> of the Formarsh of the hundred of Carhampton came near Stream in Williton tithing on the night of 6 Oct. from the tavern of William Mere into the highway, where a quarrel occurred between William and Henry so that William struck Henry on the head with the bar of a door whereby he died at once. William immediately ran away. His chattels were 1 pig worth 2s, 1 fish trap for the sea 4s, 1 net 3s, a shelter<sup>2</sup> 12d, a total of 10s for which Carhampton tithing will answer. Williton tithing will answer for the bar worth ½d.

1, Or? Fanut or Faunt

2. Camera.

56. *Cleeve tithing*. On 18 Oct. Michael de Craucombe found William, son of Henry le Soutere of Washford, dead; pledges Peter Noel and Lewis Dreng. Inquest held 19 Oct.

Jurors: John de Ludehywysh, Robert de Sandhulle, Richard de Curlynch, Thomas in the Alres, Robert de Caneforde, Randulf de Leghe, John atte Hegheu, Thomas le Fizours, Roger le Clerke of Bilbrook, Thomas

Rondolf, Gervase Arnold, Henry atte Slade and the tithings of Cleeve, Monksilver, Nettlecombe and Williton.

Verdict: William, Henry le Soutere's son, was in his father's house at Washford during the night of 18 Oct. There was a fire burning in the house and fuel which was in the house fell on it and burned both the house and William completely, so that he died immediately. He was two years old.

**Somerset County Court 20 Oct. 1320**

57. *Cleeve tithing*. On 18 Oct. whilst Julia, wife of Henry le Soutere, was in her house at Washford a fire was burning in the house and fresh fuel above ignited and burned the house and Julia, whereby she died on the following Tuesday, 21 Oct., but first she had the last rites of the church. Inquest held 24 Oct.

Jurors: the first nine as in 56, plus William de Combe, William le Fizours, John Clerke of Williton and the tithings of Cleeve, Williton, Nettlecombe and Monksilver.

Verdict as above.

**Somerset County Court 15 Dec. 1320**

58. *Brompton Regis tithing*. On 23 Dec. Henry de Halse de la Bury found Denise de Brompton Regis dead at Hortonescombedoune;<sup>1</sup> pledges Michael le Spyndlere and Simon le Toukere. Inquest held 29 Dec.

Jurors: Robert de Lucy, William Monceaux, John de Hortonescombe, William de Vonetrow, John de Lyddone, Robert Crydel, John de Coumeshevede, John Comyn, Roger Asshehulle, Walter de Cokesla, Roger Comyn, John Batyn and the tithings of Brompton Regis, Dulverton, Exton and Winsford.

Verdict: Denise came from Withiel mill and wanted to go to beg at Hortonescombe and upon Hortonescombedoune snow and weakness overcame her and weighed her down so that she died by misadventure.

1. Probably Hurscombe Down on Blagdon Hill, over 1,000 ft. altitude.

267. CHRISTIAN NAME *RABAGE*. I am wondering if any readers can give an explanation of the girl's name *Rabage*, nine examples of which I have noted in Dorset in the period 1525-1662. No mention of this name occurs in any of the well-known reference books on Christian names. Some uncommon names one finds mainly limited to a particular area as, for example, Warburg (and various spellings) in Wareham vicinity, but this name had a fairly wide distribution. Three examples are:

Rabage Atwell paid Subsidy, 1545 at Portland

Rabbagg Wortley married, 1604 at Winfrith

Rabbidge Flambert assessed on 4 hearths. 1662 at Hinton St Mary.

P. N. D.

268. *DE INSULA (DE LISLE) FAMILY*. This family acquired several estates in Dorset following the Norman conquest. Bryan de Insula, a great friend and supporter of King John, became tenant in chief of Blandford Bryan near Blandford — now called Bryanston. I am having difficulty in tracing any representation of the armorial bearings of this family or any information as to Bryan de Insula's ancestry. Any help on these points would be appreciated.

Blandford Forum Museum

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## BOOK REVIEWS

269. H. M. Porter, *Saint Aldhelm* (revised ed., 1984. Pp. 24, £1); M. McGarvie (ed.), *Crime and Punishment in Regency Frome* (1984. Pp. 64 + 11 illus., 1 map, £3.50); M. McGarvie, *Sir Henry Newbolt and Orchardleigh* (1985. Pp. 24 + 9 illus., £2); all publ. by Frome Society for Local Study; E. Gee, *A Glossary of Building Terms used in England from the Conquest to c. 1550* (Frome Historical Research Group, 1984. Pp. 96, £6). Four more booklets have appeared in recent months under the imprint of this busy Society to mark the Frome 1300 celebrations. First in date order and fittingly as the basis for the celebration is the brief life of the founder of the monastery by the river called From, whom the author sees as one who had to reconcile the ancient British church in Somerset and Dorset with the rising Saxon church.

Dr Gee's *Glossary*, the one non-local work, was originally aimed at his specialist peers, but was expanded for the benefit of the non-specialist. It is an amalgam of medieval English, Latin and French, interspersed with modern English equivalents, and is embellished to advantage with original quotations under many entries and a useful bibliography. A pioneer work in a field such as this must inevitably lead to a revision in due course, when Som. Rec. Soc. vol. 4 might be added to the bibliography and latin nouns standardised in the nominative case.

The Society's General Editor, who shares his subject's affection for Orchardleigh, has written of the personal and literary associations of Sir Henry Newbolt (perhaps best now remembered as the author of 'Drake's Drum') with the home of his wife's family and, in particular, has investigated fact and tradition behind the writing of his poem, 'Fidele's Grassy Tomb'. Finally and in complete contrast he has edited and set in their local context the lively journals of Isaac Gregory, who served in 1813-14 and 1817-18 as one of the two unpaid High or Hundred Constables for Frome, an office which also involved him in daily (and often nightly) duties for the enforcement of law and order in the town itself. The journals provide a view from and of levels of society not often represented and, moreover, have been well composed by one who comes through as a humane man, something of a philosopher, occasionally filled with a sense of his own importance, but equally capable of poking fun at himself. Mr McGarvie is to be commended for making the complete journals known now to a wider public.

D. M. M. S.

270. M. D. Costen (ed.), *Wesleyans and Bible Christians in South Somerset* (Som. Rec. Soc., vol. 78, 1984. Pp. xxvi + 387. £15 to non-members from Local History Library, Taunton Castle). Somerset has continued its policy of giving variety to its records publications and has served Methodism well by breaking new ground in this way. With commendable energy, Mr Costen has prepared this lengthy calendar of the minutes and accounts of the South Petherton Wesleyan Circuit from its establishment in 1808, together with the comparable records of its poor relation, the Crewkerne Bible Christian Mission, from 1823. In an informative, but all too brief, introduction, he looks at the origins, development and finances (or lack thereof) of the two Circuits and makes interesting contrasts of their membership and style of authority; he also adds a useful glossary of terms.

Those who have heard the Editor speak on the subject will wish that he had shared his knowledge more widely with the reader and the introduction could have been further improved by an explanation of the nature and shortcomings of his sources and his method of editing. A lateral rather than a vertical use of sources might have produced a tighter and more meaningful text, but Mr Costen has chosen to present the documents as found and as fully as possible and his decision must be respected; users will prefer this to the selective approach sometimes followed in the past.

D. M. M. S.

271. J. B. Bentley & B. J. Murless, *Somerset Roads The Legacy of the Turnpikes Phase I — Western Somerset* (Som. Ind. Arch. Soc., 1985. Pp. 112, 8 maps, illus. £4). As the title suggests, this is more than a simple survey of the county's turnpike system. Certainly, it begins with a description of the turnpike network and has made use of documentary sources and the pioneer work thereon of Sir Robert Hall, but it is also and essentially the product of several years' intensive work in the field (or rather on the roadside). Alterations and improvements through the turnpike period and beyond — even to the 1985 Hatch Beauchamp by-pass — are recorded trust by trust and road by road and some 500 features — mile posts, stones, boundary marks, tollhouses, etc. — are logged under similar divisions and all are plotted on the series of maps.

This must be a nearly unique venture and the second phase, to cover the eastern third of the county will be eagerly awaited. Perhaps the only regret is that the co-authors have limited themselves to *post* 1974 Somerset. The roads excluded are surely still part of Somerset's legacy.

D. M. M. S.

272. D. Hawkins, *The Tess Opera* (Thomas Hardy Soc. Monograph No. 3, 1984. Pp. 23 + 8 illus., 75p. available from Charity Ho., Cranborne.) People may be forgiven for not knowing that *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* had been produced as an opera, for, indeed, Desmond Hawkins, even at the time that he was commissioned to write a radio dramatisation, did not know. It is much to his credit that he discovered the correspondence between Thomas Hardy and Baron d'Erlanger, the composer, and has deposited the letters in the Dorset County Museum.

The opera seems to have been dogged by ill-luck: in Naples in 1906, its first public performance, Mount Vesuvius provided an unwanted *son et lumiere*; and in Covent Garden its reception coincided with the death of Edward VII. Despite some acclaim, the opera was not a financial success, though Hardy was certainly not deterred by the miserably low royalties which he received. By 1929, when the BBC bravely broadcast a live production, the critics were not impressed. Perhaps Hardy's own dramtization of *Tess* in 1925 overshadowed the operatic version.

This is a pleasantly written and well researched publication, and I would recommend it to all those interested in Hardy literature.

G. J. D.

273. *Some West Country Lock-ups* by L. E. J. Brooke 20 pp.+ 62 full-page line-drawings. Fox Publications, £7.95.

This well-produced book offers a description of lock-ups in the counties of Wiltshire, Somerset, Avon, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, personally identified by the author, with a short but scholarly introduction. The value of the book is greatly enhanced by the author's excellent line-drawings which provide a valuable record of the remaining examples of this once common feature of the local scene in town and village. A most attractive and unusual addition to West Country topography.

L. C. H.

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