

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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NOTES AND QUERIES FOR SOMERSET AND DORSET (SDNQ) has been published in unbroken sequence since 1888. At present two parts are issued annually.

CONTRIBUTIONS are invited on the history, architecture, archaeology, genealogy and folklore of Somerset and Dorset, including industrial history and archaeology. The Editors welcome copies of or extracts from MSS. or other records, as well as queries on matters of like interest. All communications, preferably typewritten, should be sent to one or other of the Editors. Contributors wishing to have spare copies of the parts containing their communications must inform the Editors when sending them in. The charge will be 60p each.

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HON. SECRETARY/TREASURER. Subscribers will be sorry to learn that Leonard Hayward, who has held these joint offices since 1965, has been compelled to resign on health grounds. He has been succeeded by Hugh Jaques, known to at least half our readership as Dorset's County Archivist; his home address is given inside the front cover and this should be used for *SDNQ* purposes.

333. ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOMERSET AND DORSET NOTES AND QUERIES. The centenary of *SDNQ* is an occasion for congratulation on its survival. An account of the formation and early management is given in the issue of March 1988 (XXXII, 641-3). The centenary also prompts a backward look to what *SDNQ* was like when it started and a consideration of the circumstances of its beginning, of the fortunes of its contemporaries, and of the purposes which such periodicals serve.

SDNQ is notable not only for its survival but also for its continuity. From 1888 to 1960 it was printed in Sherborne by the same firm, Sawtells, and has had only two changes of printers since, to Hammetts of Taunton in 1961 and to C. J. Creed of Bridport in 1974. Inevitably the editors have changed rather more often, but have had some long terms of office. From the beginning there have been separate editors for Somerset and for Dorset. The founding editor for Dorset, the Revd. Charles Herbert Mayo, continued until 1921, and has had only six successors. The Somerset editors have been even fewer, only five in all, including the noted Somerset antiquary F. W. Weaver, for 26 years from 1890, the Revd. G. W. Saunders from 1916 to 1950, and T. J. Hunt for nearly 26 years between 1951 and 1976. Loyalty or staying power of that sort is presumably one of the reasons why *SDNQ* has kept going when most comparable journals have failed.

Of course there have been changes. The most striking in looking back to the first volume, for 1888-90, is the greater amplitude of those days. Each issue was larger than those of today, and publication was quarterly, as it remained until 1950, becoming three times a year in 1951 and twice a year in 1957. Successive volumes on the shelves are all much the same length, but until the First World War each volume covered only two years compared with the five years to a volume now. The separate contributions, however, tended to be short: although a few ran to half a dozen pages, the average was two thirds of a page.

In the content of the issues the balance between Somerset and Dorset seems to have been kept fairly well; it looks as though the Somerset editor or the editor for Dorset (who for reasons unknown observed that distinction of style) was ready to put in a relatively substantial item relating to his county if he felt that the other county was getting more than its share. There was no formal distinction or separation between Notes and Queries, and when all the contributions tended to be short it was not always clear to which class they belonged: many notes included if not an actual query at least an expression of doubt or an invitation for further information, and few of the queries failed to impart some relatively arcane knowledge. On a very rough calculation, the notes (including comments on earlier notes or answers to queries) outnumbered the queries about three to two, and about half the queries received an answer.

More difficult than distinguishing the notes from the queries is classifying the subject matter which they cover. Rather more than a third of the contributions related to history and particularly local history, in which church history figured largely, not surprisingly since the clergy were a high proportion of the subscribers and the contributors. The historical content of the journal is much greater if it is taken to include the items on genealogy and biography, which between them provided nearly a fifth of all the items in the first volume, apart from a significant number on heraldry. Place names, still a subject where the amateur could dabble without fear of rebuke from the expert, were a frequent source of speculation and overlapped with the discussion, almost as frequent, of language and dialect which in turn merged into questions of folklore. Prehistoric and Roman archaeology made a surprisingly small showing, and natural history did little better notwithstanding numerous contributions from the author and local landowner J. C. Mansel-Pleydell.

Some contributors wrote frequently, including some of the local clergy, but by no means all of even the regular contributors were local. From Oxford wrote the Revd. Professor John Earle, the distinguished Anglo-Saxon scholar, and the professor of anthropology, Edward (later Sir Edward) Burnett Tylor. Several of those writing from London and other major cities were evidently professional men, like J. S. Udall of the Inner Temple, or scholars like E. A. Fry of King's Norton, Birmingham. Contributions came not only from distant parts of the country but also from New York and other places in the United States, most of them being genealogical inquiries.

Many other counties had Notes and Queries but few kept them going for long. Nearly all were started within a short period: leaving aside the *Warwickshire Antiquarian Magazine*, published from 1859 to 1877, *Gloucestershire Notes and Queries*, in 1879, was the first of fifteen that had been launched by 1895. Most of those were also short lived, only six surviving to publish in 1900, along with *Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries* started in that year and the *Home Counties Magazine* started the previous year (see Table). *Sussex Notes and Queries*, a latecomer in 1926, and the *Cheshire Sheaf* continued until 1971. In several counties, after separate publication had ceased, the county Notes and Queries survived for some years as a section of another journal, often the transactions of the county archaeological society. In a few counties the Notes and Queries were not an original publication but the reprinting of items that had first appeared in a local newspaper.

Apart from SDNQ the only county Notes and Queries to remain in publication in 1988 is *Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries*. Perhaps a pair of counties is better able than one alone to sustain such a periodical, or perhaps something in the character of the south-west is conducive to the study of history, archaeology, and genealogy. Mention should also be made, however, of the *Bedfordshire Magazine*, begun in 1947 and still going strong, since its content is much more similar to that of Notes and Queries than to that of glossier and more superficial publications with names like Loamshire Life and Barsetshire Countryside.

A quick survey suggests that if other journals with the character of *Notes and Queries* are also counted (the *Cheshire Sheaf*, the *East Anglian*, the *Home Counties Magazine*, and the *Westmorland Note Book*), twenty-one English counties or groups of counties have had their own Notes and Queries. Eight of those twenty publications relate to two or more counties: five to pairs of counties, the *East Anglian* to Cambs., Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, the *Home Counties Magazine* to Berks., Bucks., Essex, Herts., Kent, Middlesex, and Surrey, and *Northern Notes and Queries* to the four northern counties; five counties figure in the list more than once. Of thirty-nine counties it seems that only six have not had at least a share in a Notes and Queries: Herefs., Hunts., Lancs., Oxon., Staffs., and Worcs.

In the order of the foundation of county Notes and Queries, SDNQ comes right in the middle. The first editors were aware of following a trend: 'It has been widely felt that the Counties in question should not be the last to possess a Repository for the

preservation of facts relating to the present or past history of the district, and a medium of intercommunication among those who are connected with it by ties of birth or interest, and it is in obedience to repeated calls, which it was felt could no longer be disregarded, that this periodical is now placed in the hands of the subscribers. The success which has attended the appearance of "Notes and Queries" in other quarters encourages the Editors in the belief that earnest supporters will not be wanting for this youngest candidate for popular favour.'

The heyday of county Notes and Queries in the eighties and nineties seems to follow the establishment of county archaeological societies by a decade or so. It looks as though the transactions published by those societies were too narrowly historical and archaeological in their range of interest and too much given over to full-length articles and reports of meetings to satisfy the needs that county Notes and Queries were intended to meet. The characteristic choice of title indicates a sense of affinity with the national weekly *Notes and Queries* (fortnightly from 1942, quarterly from 1984). That periodical, established in 1849, was itself continuing a tradition which may be traced back to such seventeenth-century publications as the *Athenian Gazette* or *Casuistical Mercury*, published from 1691 to 1696, 'resolving all the most nice and curious questions proposed by the ingenious'. For a hundred years or more from 1731 the *Gentleman's Magazine* provided its readers with a monthly diet that included general news, literary criticism, and antiquarian and topographical items.

By 1849 the significance of the *Gentleman's Magazine* among English periodicals had declined, but if the original purpose of *Notes and Queries* was to fill the gap its approach was more practical and utilitarian. Taking its motto from Dickens's Captain Cuttle, 'When found, make a note of', it declared in its first editorial that half the lies that are current in the world owe their origin to a misplaced confidence in memory and that those who are best informed are generally the most ready to communicate knowledge [the notes] and to confess the ignorance [the queries]. The national *Notes and Queries* included items on archaeology, local history, dialect, and folklore, but those topics were to be more conveniently covered by local journals. When after thirty years of *Notes and Queries* the county Notes and Queries began to multiply, the national weekly became more predominantly literary and linguistic.

The need for county Notes and Queries was evidently not strong enough for more than eight such periodicals, of which half related to more than one county, to survive into the

twentieth century, but it remained strong enough for three more to be started or revived later. Clearly one of the chief difficulties was to maintain a steady supply of short contributions, and it is easy to understand why the interval between publication and the contributions themselves gradually lengthened. The same difficulty presumably explains why the editors, of SDNQ as of other county Notes and Queries, took to publishing longer items as serials. Sometimes they were extended essays or articles which might alternatively have appeared in the journal of the local archaeological or historical society; more often they were editions of long documents. While it is better to have those editions in serial form than not to have the documents in print at all, it is an unsatisfactory way of publishing extensive historical texts, which are better included in series devoted to publishing records. Short texts are another matter.

The growth in the number of record-publishing societies is perhaps a small contributory cause of the decline of county Notes and Queries. More significant causes are the reduced reliance on the printed word as a means of communication, increasing specialization of interests, the greater number of specialist national journals, the growing use of newsletters, and a widening of horizons which perhaps more than offsets the expansion of interest in archaeology, local history, and family history over the last forty years or so. Typewriters, telephones, television and radio, word-processors, conferences, and photocopiers are some of the things that have ousted the printed word, even for those with old-fashioned interests. A hundred years ago, the reader who wanted to know about long barrows was expected to want to know also about names in -ing and inquisitions post mortem and borough seals and May Day customs, but not any more. Today, moreover, to inform himself on any one of those topics, he subscribes to at least one national specialist periodical; to discover where the topic is being discussed or to announce his interest he resorts to a newsletter; and in pursuing his studies he will seek comparative material from other parts of the country or the world.

Nevertheless there remains a need for a county Notes and Queries. First, a periodical that is more frequent, shorter, more digestible, and more varied than, say, the annual transactions of the archaeological society or the occasional volume of the county record society both encourages and satisfies interest in local studies. Secondly, some things that are worth publishing can and should be put quite briefly, and relatively short items fit better into a slim Notes and Queries than into a larger

publication. Thirdly, many articles deserve to be published that combine more than one subject or bridge the gaps between subjects, and that is perhaps especially true within what may be defined as local history in the widest sense, embracing archaeology, topography, genealogy, folklore, and much else. Lastly, and particularly close to the present writer's interests, it is enormously useful to have a place for publishing short items on documents, whether discussions, lists, calendars, abstracts, transcripts, or translations.

For those reasons, and also for the high quality of the publication, the counties of Somerset and Dorset are fortunate in having had a hundred years of *SDNQ*. Long may it flourish.

Years of publication of county Notes & Queries
(and similar journals)
1879--1940

	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
Beds NQ	-----						
Berks NQ		--					
Ches Sheaf	-----		-----	-----	-----	-----	) (to 1971)
Devon & Cornw NQ			-----	-----	-----	-----	)
East Anglian		-----	-----				
Glos NQ	-----						
Hants NQ	-----						
Home Cos Mag			-----				
Leics & Rut NQ		-----					
Lincs NQ		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Mdx & Herts NQ			---				
Northants NQ	-----			-----	-----		
Northern NQ				--			
Notts & Derb NQ		-----					
Salop NQ	---	-----					
Som & Dors NQ		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	)
Suss NQ						-----	) (to 1971)
Westmid Note Bk		-					
Wilts NQ		-----	-----				
Yorks NQ	-----						
	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940

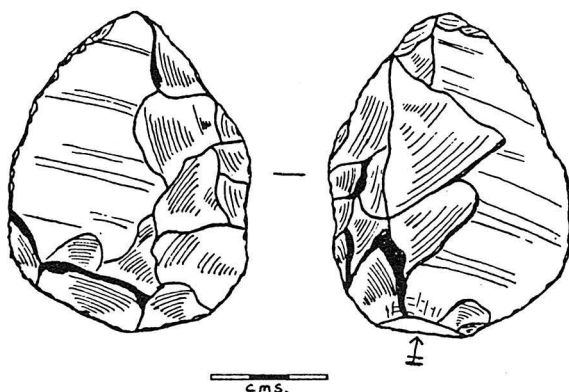
Note also Warws Antiquarian Mag published 1859--77.

334. A 'CORDATE' HAND-AXE FOUND AT PRIDDY HILL. The cordate hand-axe described and figured below was found on the surface of arable land at NGR ST 51355330, 265m O.D., in Nov. 1986. It may be classified in accordance with 'Bordes' subdivisions of 'Mousterian' tools, as being of 'Acheulean' tradition.¹ Its overall dimensions are 82mm length, x 62mm breadth, x 23mm thickness, its weight is 100gm. It has been formed on a thick flake of greensand chert. Two other hand-axes, and an elongated point, were previously found on this site. In addition, a large chopper-core of tea-cosy type and a 'levallois' point were found by the writer approximately 500m away to the south-east.²

That man of the middle palaeolithic or 'Mousterian' period was active on Mendip is suggested by the finding of material which is typologically attributable to him at the Hyaena Den and the Rhinoceros Hole at Wookey Hole, and at the Uphill Quarry Caves near Weston-super-Mare.³ It is probably not unreasonable to suppose that hunting bands ranged over Mendip during this long period, and that Priddy Hill may have been one area of their 'open site' activities.⁴

1. Francois Bordes, 'Mousterian Cultures in France', *Science*, Sept 22, 1961.
2. *Search*, 21, 1985/6, pp. 8-13 (Banwell Soc. of Archaeology).
3. E. K. Tratman, etc., 'The Hyaena Den (Wookey Hole) Mendip Hills, Somerset', *PUBSS*, 12 (1971), 245-279; R. A. Harrison, 'The Uphill Quarry Caves, Weston-super-Mare', *Ibid.*, 14 (1977), 233-254.
4. Thanks are due to Mr. H. J. Sheppard for permission to collect at the site. This implement will join other finds referred in this note, which were previously given to Axbridge Museum.

BRIAN HACK



Cordate hand-axe from Priddy Hill, Somerset

335. THE MEDIEVAL MONUMENTS OF LIMINGTON, SOMERSET.

'From Ivelcestre to Limington village about a mile. One Juuerney was owner of this toun and lordship, he lyith richely buried yn a fair chapelle on the north side of the parochie church of Limington.

Ther lyith at the feete of Juuerney a woman vaylid in a low tumb with an image of stone.

Ther lyith also in the south arche of the same chapelle a gentilman and his wife, I think also of the Juuerneys.'

So wrote the celebrated antiquary John Leland about the year 1540, and the visitor to St. Mary Limington will find the monuments in the north chantry chapel just as Leland described them.¹ This happy situation is, however, misleading as the chapel was restored in the 1930s in a manner undoubtedly inspired by Leland's description.² In Fryer's accounts of these monuments published in 1916 and 1917 the arrangement of some of the figures was clearly different.³ Before dealing with the sculptural effigies, and in order to consider all the monuments chronologically, it is necessary to examine initially the group of 13th cent. grave covers, now built into a recess on the north side of the chancel arch. These six fragments (*pl. 1*) were found under the floor in 1882.⁴ Four of them have been assembled to form a composite coffin lid incongruously mounted upside down. It is by no means certain that all four belong together, but it is clear that the two separate pieces represent two further memorials. All the fragments appear to be made from blue lias which has a tendency to flake off in layers along the bedding plane. This stone would have been available locally from quarries at Keinton Mandeville and Charlton Mackrell.⁵ Probably because of its tendency to decay, very few floor stones or monuments in blue lias survive from the medieval period and this adds to the importance of these Limington fragments.

The detail is carved in shallow relief in a very accomplished manner. The three cross head designs are all based on a straight armed cross. That on the lower right of *pl. 1* is the least complex but is embellished by the addition of crosslettes between the arms of the main cross and the remains of stems sprouting from the (missing) cross shaft. The other two heads show such close similarity that they were probably carved by the same hand. In both examples there is an abundance of typically 13th cent. stiff leaf detail branching from the cross arms and forming a halo around it. Four inward facing flowers are set discreetly between the arms of each cross. This feature is taken almost to excess on the inverted cross head, where little flowers are appended all round the periphery. It is necessary to travel as far as the

Cathedral at Wells to see 13th cent. grave covers which can even approach the quality of these at Limington. They probably date from the second half of the 13th cent. and could have been set up some 50 years before the earliest of the sculptural effigies.

The effigial monuments lie in the north chapel. They comprise a single figure of a lady lying on a low plinth, the large effigy of a knight below an arch in the north wall and a pair of figures on a raised base on the south side. All are carved from the local Ham stone. The earliest of the effigies is undoubtedly the single lady, whose costume details date in general terms to c.1300. A further 11 Ham stone effigies of ladies of this period have been identified and more may come to light in neighbouring regions as yet inadequately surveyed.⁶ They share many general traits, but close comparison of detail is made difficult by the fact that so many are badly worn and weathered. The Limington lady alone lacks an animal at her feet, but, as the slab has been roughly cut at the foot, it is conceivable that any animal might have been lost. This figure appears most closely to resemble the lady at Withycombe.⁷ Telling details lie in the arrangement of the drapery: both ladies have their surcoats gathered up and held by the forearm at a point close to the wrist, producing long deep vertical folds down the centre of the body, with a group of three bag-shaped folds below the elbow; both wear a wimple with many creases under the chin and a veil which falls to the shoulders well away from the neck. Unfortunately, a close parallel for the Limington lady affords no further refinement of her date. Further research into the Ham stone ladies is necessary to improve upon a general dating of c.1300.

The knight lies on his right side, but with his face turned upward. This unusual attitude was used occasionally in the first half of the 14th cent. The effigy of Sir Richard de Stapledon c.1320 in Exeter Cathedral is slightly turned, while that at Landkey, also in Devon, is positively 'propped up' on his left elbow, as is the mid-century military effigy at Bere Ferrers.⁸ There are two slightly turned Ham stone effigies in Dorchester from later in the 14th cent., but the only other examples of this attitude, carved in Ham stone and of a similar date, are the figures at Pendomer and Chilthorne Domer.⁹ There is strong evidence for a south western tradition of carving figures resting on their sides. But there are isolated examples further afield and, in fact, the Limington combination of a side resting posture with an upward turned face is most closely paralleled by the singular figure of Sir Robert Shurland (c.1320) at

Minster-in-Sheppey in Kent.¹⁰

The most useful dating evidence for the Limington knight is afforded by the remarkable armour depicted. He wears an early version of a bascinet, not secured to the mail coif, but kept in place by a strap under the chin which is attached to the bascinet at quatrefoil mounts. This type of bascinet is extremely rare on effigies but is repeated on the Ham stone figure at Kingsdon.¹¹ The Limington knight wears considerable protection on his arms with two pieces covering the upper arm, a single vambrace protecting the forearm and small couters at the elbows. None of these arm defences are shown at Kingsdon, Pendomer or Chilthorne Domer. His hands are encased in flamboyant gauntlets, very similar to those represented at Kingsdon. Despite the twisted attitude of the effigy the shield is still carried conventionally on the left arm, which means that its charge can only be seen from above. The hands are not joined in prayer (as might be expected). Instead the left hand grips the guige and the right rests on the sword pommel, rather limply for such an active figure. This arrangement recalls the posture of the later 13th cent. sword-handling knights, but without their vigorous portrayal. The gown divides over the thigh, revealing the hauberk beneath and gambeson below that, upon which there remain significant traces of the original turquoise paint. More polychrome can be seen elsewhere on the figure. The poleyns are particularly fine. They have squared corners with cinquefoil mountings for the straps which secure them. They have an elaborate cross carved in relief which may represent metal re-inforcement of leather. The Pendomer and Kingsdon figures have similar but less elaborate poleyns. Below the knees greaves are worn, and sabatons cover the feet. Both are re-inforced or decorated in a similar manner to the poleyns. The knight's head rests on a large helm carved in great detail and remarkable realism. There is a very rudimentary form of visor, improbably hinged at the top and with a re-inforcing or decorative strip down the front. The remnants of a crest can be seen on top of the helm. Additional plate defences of the type worn over the mail of the Limington figure were introduced during the second decade of the 14th cent. They are so confidently handled by the sculptor of the Limington knight that they were clearly an established part of his repertoire; a date after 1320 would be appropriate for the figure.

The final monument under consideration is the pair of effigies under the arch between the chapel and the nave (*pl. 2*). Mention should be made here of Fryer's description of the male figure.¹² He seems to have been unduly influenced by the

presence of the sword and cross-legged attitude into believing it to be a military effigy. His assertion, that the mail would have been painted on gesso now lost, is refuted by the presence of polychrome on the stone and the total absence of even vestiges of gesso. It is clear that the person is represented, not in military guise, but in the costume of a 14th cent. civilian. Fryer's description is highly imaginative but bears little relation to the visual evidence. His dress is almost exactly paralleled by that of figures depicted in the Luttrell Psalter of the 1340s.¹³ He wears a knee-length over tunic which is split at the front, with elbow-length sleeves which end in lappets hanging to hip level (*pl. 2*). Below the over tunic may be seen the hem of the tunic proper. His hair lies smoothly on the crown but has then been arranged into hanging ringlets. Towards the middle of the 14th cent. fashion moved away from the conventional 13th cent. curl around the neck, but the particular hair style of this civilian seems not to have been described elsewhere, although a pair of corbel heads on either side of the chancel arch at Chilthorne Domer show similarities with the Limington pair of effigies, and the male corbel head comes close to reproducing the hair style of the Limington civilian. He wears a hood which is folded down over his shoulders revealing a very muscular neck. His hands are in prayer and he carries a sword at his left side.

On the left of the civilian is the effigy of a lady. She wears a kirtle below a sleeveless surcoat with a boat-shaped neckline. This neckline and the cut of the shoulders is once again seen on figures in the Luttrell Psalter. Her wimple is tucked below the neck of her surcoat and supplemented by the use of a gorget, which covers the point of her chin and is then pinned up to her cornettes (*pl. 2*). Over this arrangement is a veil, worn well back on her head and held in place by a fillet ornamented with frets and lozenges. There is, moreover, an additional feature of which it has proved difficult to find another example. Following the edge of her veil, but separated from it, is a continuous strip, no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, carved with miniature motifs similar to those on her fillet. The carving is so fine that it is limited only by the coarse texture of the stone. Such vulnerable detail has inevitably suffered local damage but what remains of these ribbons can be traced down to at least cheek level. The feet of both effigies rest on lions, the heads of which turn outwards from the slab indicating that the monument was not intended to be set against a wall and may indeed originally have occupied its current position. The rough dressing of the left side of the lady's surcoat may be due to a later attempt to fit the monument against a wall. Finally, it is

notable that these two figures are carved from a single block of Ham stone. It may be seen from *pl. 2* that each has an individual cushion, but these in turn rest on a single bolster. Such double effigies are rare, with probably the largest group located in south east Somerset.¹⁴ In this grouping the pair at Limington are undoubtedly the best preserved. In summary, the single lady dates from c. 1300, the knight is perhaps of the 1320s, while the costume of the pair points to a date in the 1340s.

Having examined the monuments and assigned them dates based on comparative and stylistic evidence, it is now appropriate to investigate the contentious matter of their attribution. In this respect, Limington is very fortunate in the amount of documentary evidence surviving. Sir Richard de Gyvernay held the manor of Limington in the early 14th cent. and is believed to have been resident.¹⁵ In 1329 he set up a chantry for the benefit of several members of his family.¹⁶ It seems probable that the north chapel was built for the purpose and that the tomb of the founder, an integral part of the structure, would have been erected at that time. A date of 1329 fits the evidence well and it seems very likely that the military effigy commemorates Sir Richard de Gyvernay. Richard's second wife was Gunnora, the niece and heiress of Gregory de Wylington. She inherited the manor of Limington, later held by Richard.¹⁷ As heiress of the land, it is reasonable to expect a monument to be erected for her. Although no date of death is known, she seems to be last mentioned in 1313.¹⁸ A date in the second decade of the 14th cent. would be acceptable for the lady, so this effigy may well have been set up to commemorate Gunnora at her death. Sir Richard died without a direct heir and the land passed to Mathilda, the wife of Henry Power, who is thought to have been Sir Richard's sister.¹⁹ However, Henry Power may not have died until 1362,²⁰ a date rather too late for the double monument. Mathilda, on the other hand, is last heard of living in 1344.²¹ In 1345 and subsequently Henry's name appears alone. It may be concluded that Mathilda probably died in 1344 or 1345 and that the double monument was set up at her death for both herself and her husband.²² A mid 1340s date is exactly right for the costume portrayed on the figures at a time when fashion was changing rapidly.²³

1. J. Leland, *Itinerary*, ed. L. Toulmin Smith (1964), I, p. 157.

2. A brass plate on the south wall of the chapel records:

'Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam / Edgar Glanfield, M.A. / of Wadham College, Oxford / Rector of this parish 1923-1935 / and / Katherine Dowling, his wife / restored this Chantry Chapel / to its proper use.

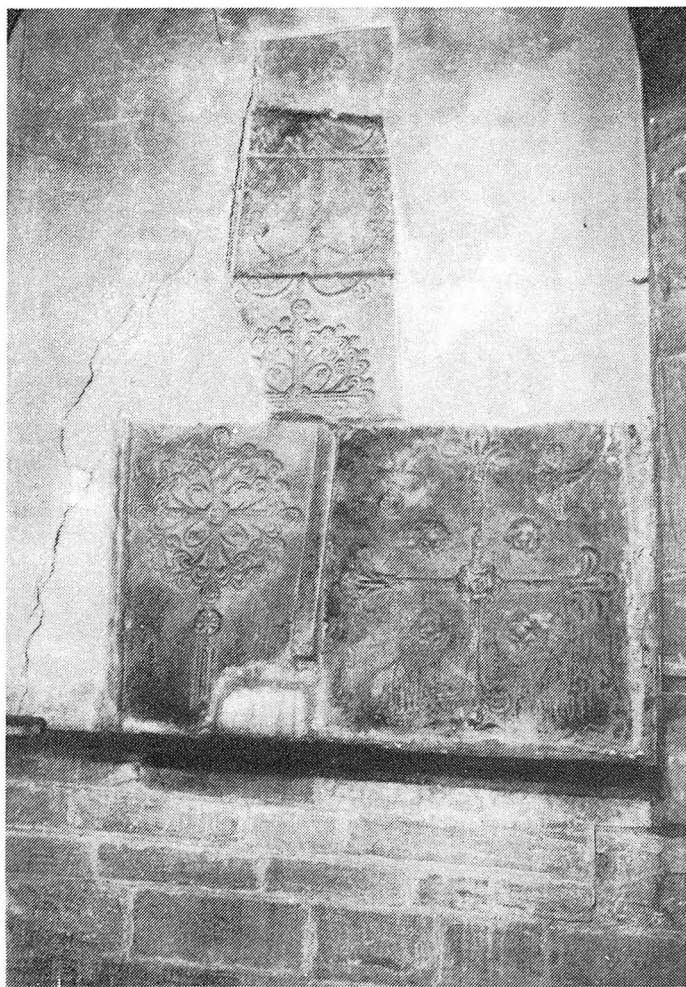


Plate 1. 13c. grave covers in Limington Church



Plate 2. 14c. effigies of a civilian and wife, carved from a single block of Ham stone, Limington Church.

3. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.* vols. LXII and LXIII, 'Monumental Effigies in Somerset, Part II, Chain-Mail Knights' (pl.VII fig. 1 and pl.IX fig. 3 for the two male figures) and 'Part III, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Century Civilians' (pl.III fig.4 and pl.VI figs. 1 & 2 for the ladies). The Wheatley drawings, 1847 (Braikenridge Collection in Taunton Castle), record the effigies in the position they now occupy. A second plaque in the church mentions a restoration around the turn of the century. Presumably the monuments remained undisturbed until the first restoration and were returned to their original positions some 30 years later. An earlier description in *Gent. Mag.*, XCIV (1825), adds little evidence concerning their position.
4. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.* Vol. LVI, I, 79.
5. The principal building stone of the church and village. There seems no evidence of a source nearer than these places.
6. These are at Ashill, Brympton D'Evercy, Combe Florey, Dunster, Martock, Milborne Port, Petherton Bridge, Somerton, Stocklinch Ottersey, Withycombe in Somerset and Horton in Dorset.
7. Illustrated and described in Fryer, *op. cit.*, LXIII, pl. III & IV fig. 5.
8. W. H. H. Rogers, *The Antient (sic) Sepulchral Effigies ... of Devon*, for Landkey and Bere Ferrers, and F. H. Crossley, *English Church Monuments* (1921), for the Stapledon effigy.
9. Fryer, *op. cit.*, LXII, pl. VII fig. 2 and pl. VIII.
10. Crossley, *op. cit.*, p. 240.
11. Fryer, *op. cit.*, pl. IV fig. 3.
12. *Ibid.*, p.77.
13. B. L. Add. MS 42130. Costume of this period is best described in S. Newton, *Fashion in the Age of the Black Prince* (1980).
14. Babcary (head slab), Limington, Long Sutton (fragmentary) and Petherton Bridge, all Ham stone, and Charlton Mackrell, Purbeck marble. To these might be added the lias double cross slab at Kingweston and the triple cross slab at Greinton. To illustrate the remarkable concentration of these monuments in S. E. Somerset, the authors have only recorded one double monument of the 13th or early 14th cents. in Dorset. There may have been another such monument in the demolished chapel of the manor of West Stoke (Stoke sub Hamdon), as Leland, *op. cit.*, I, p.159, says:
'On the south west side of the chapelle be 5. images on tumbes, on hard joynid to another, 3. of menne harneshid and shildid, and 2. of women.'
The phrase, 'hard joynid', would be particularly appropriate in describing such a double monument.
15. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, III, p.213.
16. *Do.*, I, p.301.
17. *Do.*, XII, 'Feet of Fines Edw. II & Edw. III'.
18. *Ibid.*, p.115.
19. J. Collinson, *History of Somerset* (1791), III, p.218, source not cited.
20. *Ibid.*, III, p.219. There is some doubt as to the exact date of his death, which may have been as early as 1357 (see *Som. Rec. Soc.*, XVII, p.31).
21. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, XII, p.221.
22. There are many precedents for monuments being set up in the life-time of the person commemorated: e.g., the two monuments to William Caninge in St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol; and the 14thc. stone figure of a knight and lady at Laxton, Notts, with an added second figure of a lady carved out of wood. There is also documentary evidence in the form of wills and contracts for monuments.
23. The kind co-operation of the incumbent, the Revd Dan Richards, is gratefully acknowledged. The photographs (Plates I & II) were taken by the authors with his permission.

BRIAN AND MOIRA GITTOS

The first part of this article, RUSSELL OF WEYMOUTH & BEAMINSTER, appeared in *SDNQ*, XXXII, Part 327, March 1988.

336. SYMES OF EAST MELPLASH, BEAMINSTER AND HORSEHILL. This family is descended from Nicholas Symes, who bought a property (which long remained in his family) at East Melplash, a tithing in the parish of Netherbury, *c.* 1629. It would be natural to assume that he was that Nicholas Symes, son of Nicholas, who was baptised at Netherbury in March 1593, and thus related to those other Symeses of whom hundreds are recorded in the parish from Tudor times (William Symes of Melplash Tithing is on the 1569 Muster Roll) to the present day. However, the family itself presents a different account of Nicholas's origins. A pedigree in Edward Earle Trotman's MS *Family Collections*, which is itself based on a Symes pedigree — typescript by A.M.T. (Angela Mary Trotman, *c.* 1900) has him as son of William Symes of Chard, whose name is entered in the Visitation Book of 1623 as youngest son of the merchant William Symes of Chard and Poundisford, grantee in 1591 of the arms azure three escallops in pale gold. These arms were displayed by Richard Symes of Beaminster (d. 1783) on his silver and appear also on his family monument in Beaminster church.

Earle Trotman's pedigree has been proved to be substantially correct as far as Nicholas but it has not been possible to establish his parentage, for neither William's will nor the Chard parish registers before 1609 have survived. (The Pitminster registers, for Poundisford, have also been checked.) Though rightly treated with circumspection, this traditional descent does not seem implausible; and it is difficult to see why this part alone of the Trotman pedigree should be rejected when it has been found so generally accurate. Though the son and grandson of Nicholas were sometimes described as yeomen, this was not unknown among the scions of gentry families, especially as the style depended much on a man's way of life and the opinion of his neighbours.

The 1623 Visitation pedigree commences with the grantee William but a version in a College of Arms MS dated 1591¹ begins with:

I. WILLIAM SYMES of Chard: perhaps the "William Symmys, constable", who in 1517 witnessed the will of a well-to-do citizen of Chard.² He married Agnes Colendon and was father of:

II. THOMAS SYMES of Chard, whose son was:

III. WILLIAM SYMES of Chard and Poundisford Lodge, Merchant, who was granted arms by Cooke, Clarenceux, on 6 August 1591, *viz.* azure three escallops in pale gold, with the crest a demi-hind rampant and erased gold: married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Robert Hill, Esquire, of Yarde and Poundisford Lodge, Merchant of Taunton, M.P. for the town in 1571, J.P. Somerset (d. 28 May 1581), who bore for arms a shield gules a chevron engrailed ermine between three garbs gold, within a bordure silver, by his 1st wife Alice, daughter of one Clark; and died 8 June 1597,³ having had issue (with five daughters, one of whom married the Devonshire antiquary Sir William Pole), *viz.*

1. John Symes of Poundisford Lodge, born 1572: student of Lincoln's Inn 1589, B.A. Exeter Coll. Oxford 1531, M.P. Somerset 1624/5 and Sheriff; took Royalist side during Civil War and was deprived of his lands by Parliament and retired to Frampton Cotterell, Glos., where he died 21 Oct 1661, aged 88, having seen 'upwards of 100 of his descendants'. He married Amy, daughter of Thomas Horner of Mells Park, Somerset, whose wife was Amy Popham, daughter of Sir John Popham of Littlecote, Wilts, Lord Chief Justice of England. John Symes is ancestor of the Dukes of Beaufort and of the Sims of Georgia and Alabama.
2. & 3. Henry and James Symes, mentioned in their father's will but not in the Visitation pedigree.
4. Robert Symes, left £500 and various lands by his father.
5. WILLIAM SYMES, who follows.

IV. The youngest son, WILLIAM SYMES, was a minor in 1597, when his father left £500 in trust for his 'well bringinge up at the schoole and otherwyse'. E.E.T. calls him 'of Chard' and states that he bought land at Melplash. He was father, according to E.E.T., of:

1. NICHOLAS SYMES, who follows.
2. Joan Symes, married — Logan.
3. Thomas Symes, who had issue.

V. The supposed elder son of William, NICHOLAS SYMES, purchased a copyhold tenement in the manor of East Melplash, containing a messuage and 47 acres, from John and Philip Symes of East Melplash, Yeomen, its owners in 1629.⁵ He is said (E.E.T.) to have married Mary Game, and it is perhaps he who was buried at Netherbury 23 March 1639/40, having had issue, *viz.*

VI. RICHARD SYMES of East Melplash, styled "the elder, Yeoman," in his will of 31 May 1682.⁶ With John Edgar, Gent., conveyed by recovery a messuage and 25 acres in Symondsburry to Richard Waddon and William Crabb in 1638.⁷ Granted 40 acres of land, parcel of Mangerton Manor II, by Maximilian Mohun, Esq., and Francis his son and heir, in 1656.⁸ Held an estate in 1682 called 'Burllands' in the parish of Symondsburry.

Had four hearths at the Hearth Tax Assessment of 1662-4. He married at Netherbury, 23 Sept 1639, Martha Game, and died in 1682, having had issue, *viz*:

1. FRANCIS SYMES, who follows.
2. Richard Symes, buried at Netherbury 8 March 1644/5. Richard Symes, junior, who married Mary Larcom of Poorton at Netherbury, 18 Feb 1669, was presumably also his son, but is not mentioned in the will.
3. Giles Symes, bapt. at Netherbury 23 March 1646/7; left £200 by his father; died unm. and was buried at Netherbury 16 Jan 1690/1: admon. 2 May 1691 to Francis Symes, yeoman.⁹
4. Joseph Symes, born and bapt. at Netherbury 10 March 1653/4.
5. Philip Symes, of whom presently.
6. Benjamin Symes, bapt. at Netherbury 4 April 1656; left an annuity of £26 p.a. by his father, with reversion to his brother Francis.
7. Susanna Symes, living at Atram (?) in 1718: married John Crabb, Yeoman, and had issue, *viz*:
 - 1) John Crabb, a minor in 1682.
 - 2) Mary Crabb.
 - 3) Richard Crabb.
8. Mary Symes, left £400 by her father.

VII. The eldest son, FRANCIS SYMES of East Melplash, styled Yeoman in 1691, Gentleman in 1684 and 1699; baptised at Netherbury 10 Nov 1643. Bought Chartknolle Farm, Stoke Abbott, 260 acres, from Peter Gollop of Little Windsor in 1699;¹⁰ also bought land at Whitchurch Canonicorum;¹¹ and, with Stephen Hallett, Gent., two messuages and 43 acres in Melplash, East Melplash, and Netherbury, from Richard Kettilby and Christopher Bettesworth, Gentlemen, by recovery in 1684 (Arthur and Elizabeth Symes the vouchees).¹² It was possibly he who married Mary Hellier at Netherbury, April 1688, but he died sans issue in 1722,¹³ being succeeded in his estates by his nephew Richard Symes.

The fifth son, PHILIP SYMES, left £400 by his father, married (according to E.E.T.) Edith, daughter of Hugh Bowring (perhaps that Hugh who married Katherine Samwayes at Winterborne St Martin, 30 May 1657),¹⁴ and was buried at Beaminster 6 April 1726, having had issue, *viz*:

1. RICHARD SYMES, who follows.
2. Joseph Symes, ancestor of the Horsehill branch, of whom directly.

VIII. RICHARD SYMES of East Melplash, Esquire: as "my nephew Richard Symes, son of my brother Philip Symes", named as heir of his uncle Francis. He married at Cattistock, 9 Sept 1724, Anne Bishop (who was buried at Cattistock 1 Feb 1734/5), 2nd surviving daughter and ultimately sole heiress of George Bishop, Esq., of North Chalmington, Cattistock (1652-1722), by Mary his wife. This family descended from John Byssshop, Esq., of Taunton (d. 1470), and the arms silver a bend

cotise gules and three bezants on the bend were granted to William Bishop of Holway in Cattistock in 1627.¹⁵ Richard Symes was buried at Cattistock 17 March 1737/8, having had issue, two children, viz:

1. Grace Symes (E.E.T.).
2. RICHARD SYMES, who follows.

IX. The only son and heir, RICHARD SYMES, Esquire, of Beaminster, and of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, was born c.1727: matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, 11 March 1746/7; called to the bar 1752;¹⁶ one of the three trustees of Tucker's Charity 1781.¹⁷ An account book of his survived and was in the possession of Miss F. O. Cox when Richard Hine (*History of Beaminster*, Taunton 1914) quoted from it extensively. In 1760 Richard Symes purchased the 17th cent. house in Whitcombe Road, Beaminster, subsequently called *Farrs* after its former owners. He married at Beaminster, 13 March 1767, his cousin german, Elizabeth Symes (born c. 1730, d. 10 May 1792), only daughter of Joseph Symes of Beaminster, Mercer (*q.v.*), d. 19 Nov. 1783, aged 57,¹⁸ leaving issue, an only child, viz:

X. ANN SYMES, born c. 1770, sole heiress to the family estates at East Melplash, Chartknolle, Mangerton, etc.,¹⁹ and to Farrs. Her mother having desired to marry her to one of Sir William Oglander's sons at Parnham (to whom she was betrothed), she eloped, when underage, with Samuel Cox of the Manor House, Beaminster, to Gretna Green where they were married in 1790; afterwards solemnising the nuptials at Beaminster, 23 March 1790. They subsequently resided at the Manor House which Samuel Cox furnished with treasures from the sale at Fonthill, William Beckford's home. He was born in 1758, the 2nd surviving son of Daniel Cox, merchant, of the Manor House (which he purchased). He was Captain of the Beaminster Loyal Town Volunteers at the time of the Great Terror. He died 10 April 1822, aged 63, and his wife died on 4 Sept in the same year, aged 52, having had issue, 15 children,²⁰ of whom five married and had issue, viz:

1. SAMUEL COX, D.L., J.P., of the Manor House, Beaminster, born 1791: educated at Eton²¹ and University College, Oxford (matric 28 May 1808; B.A. 1812); married his next cousin, Virtue, daughter and coheiress of John Banger Russell, Attorney of Beaminster and antiquary,²² and was father of, *inter al.*, SAMUEL SYMES COX (1817-1884), Lt-Col 56th Regiment, Chief Constable of Dorset 1855-67, whose widow sold the Manor House in 1911. Colonel Cox had issue but it is believed the male line is now extinct.
2. (4th son) Peter Cox of Farrs, Solicitor (1800-1892); educated at Blundell's School, Tiverton (1809-16);²³ articled to William Leigh at Bardon; joined

John Banger Russell's practice in 1822; in 1830 his office was in East Street adjoining Farris.²⁴ He married in 1826 Ann, daughter of William Leigh of Bardon, Somerset. Their two sons having died young unmarried, Farris was left to the younger daughter and coheirress, Frances Oliver Cox (1839-1929), and was let for a considerable time. Miss F. O. Cox left the house to her nephew Fiennes Trotman (1862-1935), the eldest son of the Rev. Canon Edward Fiennes Trotman by Ann Symes Cox, whose son took up residence there c.1952. The present Fiennes Trotman is the seventh generation at Farris since Richard Symes, 1760.

3. (5th son) George Cox, Solicitor, of Beaminster, whose elder daughter married John Lane Kitson, Solicitor, of Beaminster.
4. Charlotte Cox, married Robert Leigh of Bardon, Somerset, brother of Ann, wife of Peter Cox.
5. Fanny Cox (d. 1883), married the Rev. James Woodward Scott, M.A. Exeter College, Oxford (1809-51), Curate-in-Charge of Beaminster, then Rector of Bettiscombe from 1843, 2nd son of Rear-Admiral William Isaac Scott of Lostwithiel, and had issue.

The Horsehill branch of the Symes family:

VIII. The younger son of Philip Symes of Beaminster, JOSEPH SYMES, Gentleman, of Beaminster, Mercer, was born c.1701. He is named in the Will of Henry Samwayes of Beaminster, dated 13 Jan 1746/7, as one of two trustees of his estate during the minority of his daughter Sarah.²⁵ He espoused Frances Woolridge of Milton Abbas (born c.1690, d. 9 Sept. 1737, aged 47), perhaps daughter of Philip Woolridge who married Lucy Barnes at Milton Abbas, 7 Feb 1686/7; and died 27 March 1776, aged 75,²⁶ having had issue, three children, viz:

- 1-3. Sarah Symes, bur. 11 Dec 1721, Joseph Symes, bur. 23 Aug 1725, Mary Symes, bur. 6 June 1729, all at Beaminster.
4. Richard Symes of Bristol, bapt. at Beaminster 15 Jan 1724/5; left £200 by his father: he married a daughter of Gabriel Holt of Bristol, and had issue. His descendants may be the two Symeses, son of Richard of Bristol, Esq., who entered Oxford and Cambridge respectively in 1802 and 1808.
5. FRANCIS SYMES, who follows.
6. Elizabeth Symes, bapt. at Beaminster 10 March 1730/1: left one moiety of her father's estate: married, in 1767, her next cousin Richard Symes of Farris.

IX. The younger son, FRANCIS SYMES, Gentleman, of Horsehill, Stoke Abbott, was baptised at Beaminster 29 July 1726, and married at Netherbury, 6 Nov 1752, Sarah Samwayes (bapt. Beaminster 4 March 1729/30, buried at Stoke Abbott 12 May 1761), sole surviving child and heiress of Henry Samwayes, Gent., of Beaminster and Horsehill (1695-1751): who brought him the Samwayes estates at Dibberford and Horsehill, etc.²⁷ She was great-grand-daughter of Henry Samwayes (1610-90), who migrated from Portesham to Beaminster before 1648. Francis Symes died v.p. and was

buried at Stoke Abbott, 28 June 1775, having had issue, two children, viz:

1. RICHARD SYMES, who follows.
2. Mary Symes, privately baptised at Stoke Abbott 2 April 1758: was left equally with her brother a moiety of their grandfather's estate: she wedded at Stoke Abbott, 8 Oct 1781, the Rev. William Trevelyan Cox, B.C.L. Wadham College, Oxford (d. 1812), of Chedington Court, Vicar of Stockland and Rector of Chedington; he was son of the Rev William Cox, Rector of Mawgan, Cornwall, who inherited the Chedington estate from his kinsman William Hody.²⁸ Their descendants, who took the name and arms of Hody in 1886, were still at Chedington in 1894,²⁹ but did not long remain there.

X. The only son, RICHARD SYMES, Gentleman, of Horsehill, Stoke Abbott, was privately baptised at Stoke Abbott 3 March 1756, and received into the church on the 7 April following: he was an executor, with his aunt Elizabeth Symes, of his grandfather's will, and shared equally with his sister one moiety of the estate. By his will of 12 Sept 1809 he left his estate in trust to "my good friends" the Rev William Trevelyan Cox, Samuel Cox and John Banger Russell.³⁰ He married Susan —, living at Misterton on 2 May 1842 when she made her testament (and died there before 5 April 1851);³¹ and was buried at Stoke Abbott 12 Aug 1812, having had issue, viz:

1. Sarah Symes, born 12 April 1792, and bapt. at Stoke Abbott 3 Dec following; d. 16 June 1867 aged 75, unmarried, and is buried at Knowle.
2. Richard Symes the younger, born 26 Dec 1793; bapt. at Stoke Abbott 15 Sept 1794. He is named in 1809 as principal heir to his father, but probably died young.
3. Mary (Maria) Symes, born 26 June 1796; bapt. at Stoke Abbott 22 Aug 1799; living in 1851: married at South Perrott, in 1818, Thomas Warry of Ilminster, Gent. (bapt. at Haselbury Plucknett 17 Nov 1791), eldest son of Onesiphorus Warry of Haselbury Plucknett, Sailmaker, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Thomas Ham of Haselbury Plucknett; and grandson of William Warry, Gent., of West Coker House, Somerset, by his second wife Sarah Bondfield: of the yeoman family, some of them "decidedly handsome" (according to a relative) which had been one of the most prominent at West Coker since the 17th cent. and which Sir Matthew Nathan found to have been previously long established at Chard, where a William atte Warye contributed 15d to the Lay Subsidy of 1327. Thomas and Maria Warry had issue, 8 children, the first 4 of whom were bapt. at Haselbury Plucknett. In 1856 Thomas followed his elder sons to Brisbane, Australia, where Thomas Symes Warry (who had been a Scholar at Crewkerne School) was to become a member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, whilst Richard Symes Warry (also a Crewkerne Scholar) was several times Mayor of Brisbane after 1866, and left issue which continues. Thomas, the father, was drowned in 1868, when landing at Brisbane after a cruise in one of his son's ships.³²
4. Susan (Susannah) Symes, born 29 Aug 1798; bapt. at Stoke Abbott, with her sister Mary, 22 Aug 1799: married James William Daniel of Beaminstor, Surgeon (born 21 June 1799, d. 16 July 1859, and is buried at Knowle),

elder son of John Daniel, Surgeon of Beaminster, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of William Reader of Broadwindsor. Their last descendant Marion Daniel died unmarried in Canada, having sold in 1956 Knowle Farm and other property which had belonged to the Daniels for hundreds of years. The burial-ground at Knowle was founded in 1685 by James Daniel, a participant in the Monmouth Rebellion, to commemorate his escape from the Bloody Assizes.³³ Susan Daniel died 9 Feb 1853 and is buried at Knowle.

5. JOSEPH SYMES, who follows.
6. Frances (Fanny) Symes, born 1803, bapt. with her brother Joseph at Stoke Abbott, 11 Jan 1804: married Thomas Palmer Daniel of Beaminster, Surgeon (born 1800, d. 6 April 1853, and is buried at Knowle), youngest son of John Daniel, Surgeon of Beaminster, by Elizabeth Reader. They had a son and three daughters, of whom Susan Fanny married Captain Thomas Russell, J.P., of Beridth, Beaminster: their daughter Hilda Fanny Banger Russell married her fourth cousin, Fiennes Trotman of Beaminster, and their grandson is the present Fiennes Trotman of Farris (*q.v. supra*);³⁴ Ann, the third daughter of Thomas and Fanny Daniel, married, at Charmouth in 1866, her third cousin Robert Leigh, Solicitor of Beaminster, the son of Robert Leigh by Charlotte Cox, and had issue which continues. The only son, Thomas Palmer Daniel the younger Surgeon of Beaminster (1836-1925) left two daughters and coheirresses, and his present representative is Mr. Simon Willoughby of London. Fanny Daniel died 4 Dec 1858, aged 55, and is buried at Knowle.

XI. The younger son and heir, JOSEPH SYMES of Charmouth, Esquire, was privately baptised at Stoke Abbott, 4 Oct 1801, and then formally in the parish church 11 Jan 1804. He owned Horsehill Farm and other lands at Stoke Abbott, Broadwindsor and Mosterton (Dibberford), and lands at Weymouth in right of his wife;³⁵ resided first at Weymouth, and then at Charmouth. He married Emily, daughter and coheirress of William Deaching of Weymouth, who was his sole heir and executrix. Joseph Symes died at Charmouth 11 April 1878, and is buried at Knowle. His widow probably bequeathed Horsehill to her nephew Thomas Palmer Daniel the younger, who sold the estate sometime early this century.

PSANHS *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society*

E.E.T. Edward Earle Trotman, *Family Collections* (unpublished, no date)

SDNQ *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*

Hutchins J. Hutchins, *History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd Edn. (1861-74)

Hine Richard Hine, *History of Beaminster* (1914)

1. Records of Robert Cooke, Clarenceux King of Arms, quoted by Conrad Swan, York Herald, in a letter of 25 May 1979 to Mrs. Margaret Wilson.
2. *Somerset Medieval Wills 1501-1530* (Somerset Record Society Vol. XIX, 1903), 194; Sir Matthew Nathan, *The Annals of West Coker* (1957), 239.
3. Will dated 4 June 1597, proved 1597 PCC Cobham 66. On William Symes see also Nathan, *op.cit.*, *passim*; A. W. Vivian-Neal, 'The Visitations of Somerset 1573 and 1591', *PSANHS*, LXXXIV, 68-69; *PSANHS*, XCVI, 146. The will of Thomas Symes, merchant of Chard, probably his nephew, proved 1613 PCC Capell 52, is informative. On the Hill family see *The Visitation of Somerset 1623*; P. W. Hasler, *The House of Commons 1558-1603*, II (1981), 315.

4. See T. G. Barnes, *Somerset 1625-1640, A County's Government During the 'Personal Rule'* (1961), *passim*; E.E.T., 67; *Burke's Distinguished Families of America* (1947), 2913; *Virginia Genealogies*; 'Chard School', *PSANHS*, XCV, 10-12; *Alumni Oxon.*; *Lincoln's Inn Admission Register 1420-1893* (1896), 109, 113, 279; *SDNQ*, XIV, 33-36; *PSANHS*, CXII, 63.
5. Hutchins, II, 115. Their wills were proved in 1657 (PCC Ruthen 486) and 1654 (PCC 48, 111). The Nicholas Symes of Melplash whose will was proved in 1640 (PCC Coventry 74) cannot, however, have been a son of William of Chard, for this Nicholas was by then a grandfather; but he has yet to be positively identified with the Nicholas of the pedigree, whilst namesakes abound at Netherbury.
6. Proved 8 Nov. 1682, PCC Cottle 140.
7. 'Dorset Recoveries', *SDNQ*, VIII, 10.
8. Hutchins, II, 115.
9. Granted in Prebendal Court of Netherbury (Wilts. R.O.).
10. Hutchins, II, 148.
11. E.E.T., 66.
12. 'Dorset Recoveries', *SDNQ*, X, 260.
13. E.E.T., *loc.cit.*; will proved 1722 PCC Marlborough 105.
14. Hutchins, II, 578. Edith was living on 20 March 1737/8, when Richard Symes left "to my dear and loving mother £30 sterling" (will proved 21 July 1738, PCC Rockingham 240).
15. Bishop pedigree is in Hutchins, IV, 8; E.E.T., Appendix III, 165, reproduces a version from John Banger Russell's *Commonplace Book*, which gives Henry Bishop of Sydling as the father of Anne. But Richard Symes in his will, *op.cit.*, nominates "my good friends and kinsmen Henry Bishop of Sydling St. Nicholas in the said county Gentleman and Daniel Symes of Whitehouse in the said parish of Netherbury Gentleman" as his executors in trust. The genealogical position of Daniel cannot be determined in the parish registers.
16. *Alumni Oxon.*
17. Hine, 172.
18. Symes/Cox family monument in Beaminster Church; Hutchins, II, 137.
19. Hutchins, II, 148, 115.
20. See Edmund Nevill, 'Dorset Freeholders: Cox of Beaminster', *SDNQ*, X, 76-79; E.E.T.: Hutchins, II, *passim*; Hine, 351 etc.
21. According to *Alumni Oxon.*: but the editor of the *Eton School Lists* does not concur.
22. See Edmund Nevill, 'Dorsetshire Freeholders: Banger-Russell', *SDNQ*, IX, 222-226.
23. *The Register of Blundell's School 1770-1882* (1904), 75.
24. E.E.T., 71 ff.; Marie de G. Eedle, *A History of Beaminster* (1984), 131 and *passim*.
25. Will of Henry Samwayes, proved 1751 in Prebendal Court of Netherbury (Wilts. R.O.).
26. Brass plate commemorating Joseph and Frances Symes in Beaminster Church; Hutchins, II, 137. Joseph's will dated 7 Feb 1776, proved 25 May 1776, PCC Bellas 246.
27. Will of Henry Samwayes, *op.cit.*; Hutchins, II, 148, 327. See also the Samwayes pedigree by this writer.
28. Hutchins, II, 88, 89, 251 etc. Hody-Cox pedigree by this writer.
29. *Burke's Landed Gentry* (1894), article Hody of Chedington.
30. Proved 13 March 1813, PCC Heathfield 162.
31. When it was proved, PCC Apr 324.
32. Information kindly supplied by Miss Jean Edwards of Ashstead, Surrey (cf. *SDNQ*, XXXII, 635). See also R. G. Bartelot, *The History of Crewkerne School A.D. 1499-1899* (Crewkerne, 1899), 119 ff.; Warry pedigrees in Som. R.O.; and for a very full account of the family, Sir Matthew Nathan, *op.cit.*, *passim*. Maria Symes's putative ancestors, as well as coming from Chard like the Warrys, also held the manor of West Coker, and both these families had intermarried with the Poles of Shute.
33. See the Daniel pedigree by this writer, and Hutchins, II, 127-8; Hine, *passim*; Eedle, *op.cit.*, *passim*, etc.
34. See Edmund Nevill, 'Dorsetshire Freeholders: Banger-Russell', *SDNQ*, *loc.cit.*, and Russell pedigree by this writer.

35. Will dated 1 Feb 1833, proved 5 June 1878 (Somerset House).

For help and advice in researching this paper I am most obliged to Miss Elizabeth Trotman and to the Somerset and Dorset Archivists and their staffs.

R. WILLOUGHBY

337. THE PROFITABILITY OF DUCK DECOYS. Duck decoys were common in the Somerset levels and along the Dorset coast from the 17th to the 19th cents., and each year many thousands of ducks were caught in them. A recent survey of the surviving sites in Somerset lists 45 decoys in the county, and there were also several in Dorset, especially around Poole harbour, on the heathland, at Lulworth, and most notably at Abbotsbury where the decoy survives as the well-known swannery.¹ The 17th cent. probate inventories of farmers in the coastal parishes of Dorset often include flight nets, and a survey of the Duchy of Cornwall manor of Long Bredy in 1615 shows that the tenants paid part of their rent in widgeons; at Sturminster Marshall in 1627 and on the Isle of Purbeck in 1635 the tenants claimed that the taking of swans and wildfowl with nets was an important part of their livelihood.² During his journey through Dorset in c. 1720, Defoe commented on a large decoy, which had recently been constructed on the heath near Wareham, and on the decoy at Abbotsbury, where he saw a large number of ducks and a great assembly of swans.³

Details of the construction, operation and profits of these decoys do not often survive, for decoymen were secretive characters who seldom kept accounts and were not anxious to advertise the scale of their activities either to competitors or to their landlords. Some information on catches, costs and returns may be found in a few estate records, however, and these demonstrate clearly the scale of the profits which could be made from a well-conducted decoy. The estate accounts of the Strangways family of Melbury in Dorset provide evidence for their decoys at Abbotsbury and Compton Dundon. For example, in 1662 the steward's accounts record £5 7s 0d spent on the Abbotsbury decoy in wages for the decoyman, food for his dogs, corn and hempseed for the decoy ducks and the occasional expense of employing men to break the ice on the pool during winter nights. Income from the decoy included 235 couple of ducks sold for £21 1s 11d, 53 couple taken to Melbury House, and an unspecified number given away to local gentlemen or sent to friends and relatives.⁴ The Abbotsbury decoy continued throughout the 17th and 18th cents. to be a useful and profitable feature of the Strangways' estate.⁵

The remains of the decoy on the Strangways' manor of Compton Dundon can still be recognised on aerial

photographs beside Decoy Farm. This decoy was constructed in 1695 at a cost of £139 9s 2½d, which included £28 paid in compensation to two copyholders for the loss of the two meadows on which the decoy was laid out. The decoy itself measured 196ft by 191ft and, as originally designed, contained five pipes or net tunnels down which the wildfowl were encouraged to swim following the antics of the decoyman's well-trained dog.⁶ By the 1720s the decoy at Compton Dundon was making an annual profit of more than £35 for the Strangways' estate, and more than 2,000 ducks were being sold each year.⁷ Many ducks were sold to itinerant traders known as 'higlers', while others were sent to various markets and as far away as Salisbury. The annual costs included wages of £10 for the decoyman, cheese and barley for his dogs, maintenance of the pool, nets and tunnels, and food for the tame ducks, which were kept to entice wildfowl to the pool.⁸ The price obtained for ducks varied from 1s 6d per couple for large birds to 1s 0d per couple for teal, widgeon, and small ducks. By the end of the 18th cent. prices had risen to 2s 0d per couple for large fowl and 1s 6d for teal and widgeon. In 1741 it was agreed that the decoyman, Henry Goodden of Compton Dundon, should sell the ducks he caught only to three 'higlers':

'Thomas Burnard of North Petherton, husbandman, Thomas Dymont otherwise Dymond of Ilchester, husbandman, John Cooper of Cheddar, husbandman . . . except such wild fowl as Henry Goodden shall sell at the Decoyhouse to the neighbouring gentlemen that shall send for the same, and except such as he shall supply to Lord Ilchester.'⁹

When the water supply for the Compton Dundon decoy was threatened by a late-18th cent. drainage proposal, it was claimed, no doubt with some exaggeration, that:

'for 100 years past the decoy pond has attracted large numbers of wildfowl, so that for several years no less than £150 has been made by the owner, clear of all costs of managing the same.'¹⁰

Another decoy for which 18th cent. accounts survive is the Nyland decoy near Cheddar which belonged to the Popham estate. This decoy remains easily recognisable on the ground and its outlines can be clearly seen in aerial photographs or from the top of Nyland Hill. It is situated close to Decoy Pool Farm.¹¹ During the early decades of the 18th cent. the Nyland decoy was let for about £50 *per annum*, but by the 1750s a decoyman, Philip Crees, was employed by the Popham estate to manage the decoy, and the accounts survive among the estate records. In 1759, for example, £84 10s 0d was received for wildfowl, in addition to those sent to the Popham's mansion Houndstreet (now Hunstrete) House in Marksbury, or sent as gifts to relatives, friends and neighbours.¹² The costs amounted to about £25 *per annum* and included the decoyman's wages of

£9 12s 0d, small payments to his son, also Philip, for 'riseing the Wild Fowle in Cheddar More' and other items of expenditure identical with that incurred at Abbotsbury decoy noted above.¹³ In 1767 the Nyland decoy was let to George Batt for an annual rent of £60, but by the 1790s it was again being operated by the estate and Sam Evans was employed as decoyman for £10 10s 0d *per annum*. By this time, however, the number of ducks taken at the decoy seems to have declined, and the detailed accounts for the period seldom record more than 250 couple each year.¹⁴

The draining of so much of the Somerset levels and the growth in popularity of duck shooting as a sport, with the availability of cheaper, more accurate and reliable sporting guns, all tended to reduce the number and profitability of duck decoys. But during the 17th and 18th cents. they were a lucrative part of the economy of many estates, and a common feature of the landscape in parts of Somerset and Dorset.

1. R. R. J. McDonnell, *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, 128, pp. 25-30, 'Duck Decoys in Somerset, A Gazetteer'; I. Ley, *Somerset Duck Decoys* (1977); and H. Savory's papers and photographs, etc., in Som. Arch. Soc. Library, Taunton Castle.
2. Dorset R.O., D124/Box 151; printed transcripts from Ilchester MSS concerning lands at Abbotsbury used in Chancery proceedings, 1888; probate inventories of Corfe Castle Peculiar; photocopy 362, survey of manor of Ryme Extrinsecus (Long Bredy), 1615; Mus 1405, manorial court of Sturminster Marshall, 1627. P.R.O. State Papers (Domestic), 1635-36, 316/33, depositions of tenants on Isle of Purbeck.
3. D. Defoe, *Tour through England and Wales* (Everyman), I, 208-10, 214.
4. Dorset R.O., D124/Box 151.
5. Do., D124/Box 7, 151, 152.
6. Do., D124/Box 7; and see a similar agreement for making a decoy at Aller in 1675, Som. R.O., DD/MI Box 5.
7. Dorset R.O., D124/Box 164.
8. *Ibid.*
9. *Ibid.*
10. *Ibid.*
11. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, 128, 28.
12. Som. R.O., DD/PO 32, Popham estate accounts, Houndstreet and Nyland, 1649-1817.
13. *Ibid.*
14. Som. R.O., DD/PO 44-46, Popham estate accounts, Nyland, 1787-1816.

J. H. BETTEY

338. TRIBUTE TO A MELLs CARTER. The following copy letter is amongst the papers of Thomas Horner (1737-1804) at Mells Manor and is a remarkable testimony to an 18c. Somerset labourer.¹ It is dated 6 April 1794 and was sent to William Matthews, secretary of the 'Bath and West of England Agriculture &c. Society'.

Sir,

In the Early Establishment of the Bath Agricultural Society Premiums were held out for the Encouragement of servants in Husbandry. Ever since their first

appearance I have intended to send the Bearer, but some circumstance has constantly prevented. Whether these Premiums are continued or dropt, I have it not at present in my power to ascertain, he therefore at a venture waits on ye Society as a candidate.

His name is Thomas Walters, a native of Mells. He has lived *uninterruptedly* in my service as a carter at one shilling a day 37 years, commencing at Lady Day 1757, during which space he has uniformly conducted himself with the strictest honesty, sobriety & Diligence. in his immediate professional Line I beleive he has not his equal I am sure not his superior either in equipoizing his Loads or discovering & making proper use of the different abilities of his Cattle in driving his humanity is as conspicuous as his judgment. As a ploughman & sower &c he is equal to most Inferior to very few. By his Industry & Oeconomy he has maintained himself, Wife & Family in the most creditable manner. He has two children grown up a son a Daughter. The one carries on, in a reputable manner, the Trade of a Baker, the other has supported herself by keeping a Days school.

If my usual complaint (gout) did not prevent my attendance I would personally assure the Gentlemen the above is not exaggerated, but a True & just Character of my Old & Faithful servant.

My Bailiff will introduce him in case any member of the Society should wish for any particular information.

I am sir yr most obt. st.

T. Horner

Matthews replied on 8 April that Walters was 'not eligible . . . on acct, however, of his extraordinary merit' he agreed to introduce Horner's letter in order to give Walters 'a Chance of some Gratuity by Way of extra Bounty. This may gain some Token of Esteem, where the claim to it is so fair: and the only objection likely to be urged, may be on the score of Precedent'.

1. I am grateful to the Earl of Oxford and Asquith for permission to publish this letter.

MICHAEL McGARVIE

339. SOLD FOR TWO SOVEREIGNS. A note in the June 1937 issue (*SDNQ*, XXII, 141) refers to the custom of wife selling and cites an obituary in the *Somerset County Gazette* of 30 Jan. 1937 of a 98 year old lady who claimed to recall such an incident in the Kingsdon area of Somerset from her childhood; if her recollection was sound, this must have taken place in the late 1840s. Hardy, too, must have read or known something of the custom to have Michael Henchard as a young man sell his wife, an episode which he sets in the late 1820s.

Actual evidence of such dubious transactions is, understandably, not easily found, but the writer has recently discovered an example in Somerset from the period of the Henchard sale. The information is contained in a group of five settlement papers produced some 20 years later in 1849 and

now among the records of the Ilminster Petty Sessions Division in the Somerset Record Office.¹ As always with this class of record fullest details are to be found in the examinations and there follow those for the husband, Simon Mitchell, and his wife, Sarah:

County of Somerset.

The several examinations of Simon Mitchell of the parish of Taunton Saint James in the county of Somerset lathmaker and of Sarah Mitchell the wife of the said Simon Mitchell taken upon the complaint of the overseers of the poor of the parish of Curry Rivell in the said county by and before us two of Her Majesty's justices of the peace in and for the said county the 25th day of July 1849 who severally say, and first the said Simon Mitchell for himself said.

I am, as I have heard and believe, about fifty three years old and was born in the parish of Thurloxton in this county. When I was about fourteen years old I was bound apprentice by indenture for seven years to John Mitchell of the said parish of Taunton Saint James, lathmaker. I served out such apprenticeship with the said John Mitchell in the said parish of Taunton Saint James, and have not since done any act to gain a settlement.

The said John Mitchell, who is now dead, had the indentures, and I have heard that they were lost or destroyed. I have often asked for them but was told by the said John Mitchell that they were of no use and he could not find them. When I was about twenty two years old I was married at the parish of Taunton Saint Mary Magdalen in this county to the said Sarah Mitchell but I separated from her after living with her about seven years and have not had any communication with her since and the children which have since been born of her body are not mine.

Simon Mitchell [*signature*]

Sworn before us, Thos: B. Uttermare, William Speke.

The said Sarah Mitchell on her oath saith,

I am the wife of the above named Simon Mitchell, about nineteen years ago he sold me for two sovereigns to James Larcombe of Curry Rivell in this county where I have lived with him ever since and have had ten children by him eight of whom are now living with me of the following names and ages James aged about fourteen years, Rosina thirteen, Charlotte eleven, Mary nine, Frederick seven, Edwin six, Herbert four, and Reuben aged about a year and a half.

I and the said children are now chargeable to the said parish of Curry Rivell and are the same persons as are named in the certificate of chargeability of the Langport Union now produced and bearing date the twenty fourth day of July 1849.

The mark of the said Sarah Mitchell.

Sworn before us William Speke & Thos: B Uttermare.

The remaining papers consist of a certificate of chargeability from the Board of Guardians of the Langport Union, a notice from the parish officers of Curry Rivel to those of Taunton St James setting out the grounds for the removal of Sarah and her family to the latter parish and the removal order itself. The Curry Rivel parish records contain a notice of intention to appeal by the parish officers of Taunton St James, dated 20

Aug. 1849.² Attached to this is a removal order endorsed to the effect that the family had been delivered to the overseers of Taunton St James, except James Larcombe [*struck through*] who died before this order was carried out, dated 13 Oct. 1849.³

Further research shows that Simon Mitchell was baptized at Thurloxtton on 28 June 1796 as Simon Stone Mitchell, a base child, son of Tamasin Mitchel.⁴ He married Sarah White at Taunton St. Mary on 14 Dec. 1823.⁵ In the 1851 census of Taunton St. Mary Simon is a lodger at 51 East Reach; he gives his age as 47 and status as widower.

Back at Curry Rivel in 1841 the census shows James Larcombe, aged 50, shoemaker, living Langport Westover with Sarah Mitchell, age given as 35, together with the following children, all named as Mitchell: Edith 10, Harriott 7, James 6, Rosina 5, Charlotte 3, Mary 18 months, Frederick 4 months. Also living with this family is Henry Mitchell 14, shoemaker. Some of the children were baptized at Curry Rivel, all as Mitchell, children of Sarah Mitchell, 'separated wife', Langport Westover [in the last two entries the wording 'separated wife' has been omitted]: James William, baptized 8 Feb. 1832, Harriette Eliza 27 May 1833, James William 8 June 1835, Rosina 8 May 1836, Charlotte Elizabeth 22 April 1838, Mary 7 June 1840, and Frederic Francis 12 Sept. 1841.⁶

By 1851 James Larcombe is found still living at Langport Westover, but now he gives his age as 67, and is described as a pauper, formerly shoemaker; he also states that he is a widower. At the same time Sarah Mitchell is recorded as living at 50 High Street, Taunton, aged 46, a washerwoman. The children remaining with her are Charlotte 11, Mary Jane 9, Frederick 8, and Reuben 2, the last three being given as scholars.

As for the children, only one marriage has been traced: Edith Caroline Mitchell, spinster, aged 21, was married to William Grant, widower, aged 40, occupation hairdresser at Taunton St. Mary on 2 Sept. 1852.⁷ Edith, incidentally, gave her father as James Mitchell, occupation cordwainer!

Although Sarah Mitchell had lived with James Larcombe for some nineteen years, and had eleven children by him, neither she nor the children were able to claim a settlement, by birth or residence, in Curry Rivel. Her husband Simon Mitchell's original settlement would have been by birth in Thurloxtton, but he had gained a derivative settlement by completing his apprenticeship in Taunton St. James. So as Sarah was still, legally, his wife she took her settlement from Simon, and her base born children took their settlement from her.

Thus, real life provided a harsher twist in the tail than that which the novelist could ever have contemplated.

1. SRO ref. D/PS/ilm. 6/33 no. 19.
2. Do. D/P/cur. r. 13/3/2 no. 81.
3. Do. Do. 2/1/9; bur. 9 Oct. 1849, aged 14.
4. Do. D/P/thu. 2/1/3.
5. Do. D/P/tau. m. 2/1/20.
6. Do. D/P/cur. r. 2/1/8, 9.
7. Do. D/P/tau. m. 2/1/23.

THELMA MUNCKTON

Since completing the above, I have discovered a further example of wife-selling, although the story is not as clear cut and the motives somewhat obscure. Like the previous example the evidence was found in a settlement examination in the Ilminster Petty Sessions records (ref. D/PS/ilm. 6/50 no. 34).

Basic details are that one Joseph Phelps otherwise Phillips married Elizabeth Christopher at Chaffcombe in January 1803, where a son, James, was born to them a year later. By the middle of 1804 Joseph had stripped the house of all its goods, abandoned her and moved to Tatworth in Chard, as she claimed in her examination. Six months later she went to live with Henry Morris in Furnham, another part of Chard, and a few months afterwards 'her husband with her own consent (having frequently been in her company in the mean while) sold her by publick auction with a rope round her waist in Chard market for half a crown' to the same Henry.

Subsequently she had two more children, one at Chard in 1806 and another at Chaffcombe in 1809, both registered as Joseph's children. It seems likely, however, that Henry was the father, although the mother could not give an unqualified answer. In fact she and others gave evidence that she continued to associate on a regular basis with her husband in Chard, generally on market days or at the Dolphin Inn 'on a club day', and also at Chaffcombe. She continued to receive a weekly allowance from him until 1808 and just prior to her examination had received 2s. by way of relief for herself and her eldest child from the parish of Thorncombe to which her husband had recently been removed. It is only by chance that her story came to light, for authority did not concern itself with her situation until she and her younger children became a burden on the parish of Chaffcombe as a consequence of Henry having been drawn to serve in the militia. Elizabeth would not have been entitled to the usual maintenance payable to a militiaman's family, but in the absence of the parallel series of removal orders at the crucial date it is not known if she and all or any of her children were also sent to Thorncombe.

T.M.

NOTES

BEATING THE BOUNDS: DRAYTON PARISH (*SDNQ*, XXXI, 54). A perambulation of Drayton was made on Rogation Monday May 25 1987 after a lapse of nine years. After the assembly at St. Catherine's Church, where the Rev. Trevor Cook read prayers, the procession headed along North Street en route to follow the boundary separating the parish from its neighbours, Huish Episcopi, Muchelney, Kingsbury Episcopi and Curry Rivel. Many of the parishioners who completed the walk on this occasion had participated previously in 1978 when the custom was revived.

G. R. WILLEY

THE MANNING OF COASTAL SIGNAL STATIONS. I was surprised to read in the article on Visual Telegraphs¹ that the Telegraph Stations were manned by butchers, bakers, etc. I had taken it for granted that as these stations were run by the Admiralty they would be manned by naval personnel. Presumably, though, an officer was appointed to each station and it was his task to recruit his own crew. Certainly that is what happened at the Coastal Signal Stations. Indeed, from 1798 onwards, the crews of these stations were part of the Sea Fencibles, a voluntary force set up to assist in the defence of the coast. The members of the force were mainly boatmen and fishermen who were not subject to impressment. At each station there was an officer, a midshipman and two men. The officers had been recalled from half-pay. The midshipmen and men were locals. Their ages varied considerably. At the Verne in 1806, for instance, the crew, under the command of Lt. Thompson, consisted of Midshipman Sam Mitchell aged 46, Henry Mitchell aged 70, and Thomas Flamm aged 15. In the same year, an inspecting officer discovered that at 'the Bill Station in Portland, Lt. M. Key has been so very imprudent as to enter his daughter, who lives with him, as a Midshipman and she has received the pay.'

This quotation is included in A. J. A. Cooksey's booklet, *Admiralty Signal and Telegraph Stations*, which was issued by the Dorset County Council Education Committee in April, 1974. Another quotation, taken from an Admiralty Accounts Book for August 1798, reads '2 small deal tables for signal house of the Verne and for building of signal house Portland'.

Skelly lists Portland as one of the six original coastal signal stations and gives the impression that the Verne came into operation some time later. This quotation suggests that the two signal stations on Portland were built at about the same time. The *V.C.H.* dates them both from 1794.

1. J. and B. Skelly, *SDNQ*, XXXII, Pt. 327, March 1988.

GEORGE LANNING

QUERIES

KING INA'S PALACE. In South Petherton there is a house with this name, formerly the home of a Hoskins family, but now converted into flats.¹ Ine (Lat. Ina) was the King of Wessex who created the diocese of Sherborne, persuading the inestimable Aldhelm, then Abbot of Malmesbury, to become its first bishop. According to the *DNB* his laws, promulgated 703-6, are the earliest extant example of West Saxon legislation. In the recently published *The Earliest English Brasses*,² a splendidly produced work, there is a drawing of a brass attributed to the king, this being formerly in the nave of Wells Cathedral, but now unhappily lost; it had a conjectural date of c. 1310.

The house is called by this name in Kelly's *Directory* of 1875, and my query is how and when did it get it?

1. The name of Col. A. R. Hoskins, R.A., appears as a subscriber to *SDNQ* at this address in the June 1888 issue.
2. Ed. John Coles, Monumental Brass Society, London, 1987.

P. N. DAWE

V.C.H. Som., IV, 176-7, suggests a 19th cent. origin on the evidence of the 1866 *Directory* (King Ina's Palace) and the 1839 tithe apportionment (Old Palace). But if this was so, it is unlikely that it would not have been known to Hugh Norris, the local historian, who had been born in the parish in 1821 and he would not have devoted an *Appendix* (pp. 127-9) in his *South Petherton in the Olden Time* (1882) to surveying the evidence relating to the Palace and pondering when the Manor House of the Daubeneys first acquired this 'fictitious title'. His work, too, was developed from a lecture he had given, and, even if he had been unaware of this fact, someone in his audience must

surely have supplied the information. There must be a strong presumption, therefore, that their collective memory would have gone back to c.1800, and Norris himself speculates that it followed the visit of the antiquary, William Stukeley, in 1720, when he described South Petherton as 'once the Palace of King Ina'. *Som. Ed.*

HENRY CALLEN, WATER COLOUR ARTIST. Mr. G. M. Smith of 6 Copse Avenue, New Milton, Hampshire, is seeking for any information, however small, about the dates and life of this Bristol artist. He lived from the 1890s to around 1960, but died childless. Mr. Smith will share any information with the Bristol Art Gallery.

MEGGS FAMILY. Mrs. S. Browning of Woodpeckers, 7 Belgrave Court, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey, wishes to contact anyone researching this family, her mother's maiden name. She has copies of correspondence between her great grandfather and great great uncle of 1898/99, which seems to indicate a connection with the family of Bradford Peverell, but cannot make the link.

SOMERSET CIDER MILLS. In her *So merry let us be: the living tradition of Somerset cider* (S.C.C., 1986), Philippa Legg writes 'Somerset is unusual among the cider making counties in possessing few circular stone mills', implying that makers relied instead on wooden cider mills. Walter Minchinton, formerly Professor of Economic History in the University of Exeter, now of 4 Alexandra Terrace, Exeter, wonders if this statement is correct and whether it applies to the whole county or only to a part. Were there local variations or possibly variations over time? He would welcome comments.

EDWARD HENRY BEARNE. Mr. John Ramm of 39 St. Saviour's Crescent, Luton, LU1 5HG, is researching this Devon water colour artist and would welcome biographical details or knowledge of the whereabouts of any paintings. Bearne, who exhibited 32 pictures at the Royal Academy and was awarded the prestigious Turner Medal in 1875, died at Dunster in April 1913, aged 70.

REVIEWS

Michael McGarvie (ed.), *Frome Society Year Book*, vol. 1 (1987. Pp. 56, illus. £3); Michael McGarvie, *Gardening at Marston House 1660-1905* (1987. Pp. 36, illus. £2); both published by and available from Frome Society for Local Study, 8 Bath St., Frome. For the last 16 years this busy society has produced a stream of monographs of high quality, both in content and presentation, on Frome and its neighbourhood. *Gardening at Marston* follows this tradition and complements the writer's earlier history of Marston House. He has unearthed a deal of interest for the first 100 years in dispersed sources in Sussex, Ireland and the U.S.A., but is hampered somewhat thereafter by the loss of the Marston muniments, apparently after the 1905 sale. A particular feature is his inclusion of Dr. A. W. Brogden's interpretation of the gardens from a close scrutiny of Parr's engraving of 1739, which he supplements by his own local knowledge.

The *Year Book*, promised as the first in a series of annual proceedings, breaks new ground. Its varied contributions nicely represent all aspects of the society's objectives: poems, portraits, studies of the geology and flora of the area, plus traditional local history topics, provide a balanced and interesting content. Inevitably, the editor's pen figures prominently and he is responsible for the major contribution, an edited *Memoir* of the Horner family from their archives at Mells, which is probably to be dated a little later than the 1762 here assigned to it.

D.M.M.S.

Peter Dietz (ed), *Garrison: Ten British Military Towns* (Brassey's Defence Publishers, 1986. Pp. 209, illus. £15.95) This book attempts to trace the development of the inter-relationships between ten military camps and their host towns. One of these camps is Bovington, the chapter on which is written by Reginald Francis who was once an education officer there. Basing his material largely on George Lanning's thesis, *From Rifle Range to Garrison*, he traces the history of the camp from its original collection of tents to the wooden huts of the First World War, later expanded by the workshops necessary for tank maintenance, to the smart, brick and glass buildings of today. The author concludes that Bovington is now 'a bustling, thriving modern military camp which could—

very easily— pass as a military town.’ But, of course, Bovington is *not* a town. Indeed, Bovington should really have no place in this particular book.

G.E.L.

Barry J. Biggs, *The Wesleys and the early Dorset Methodists* (Woodsorrel Publications, 1987. Pp. 68, illus. £2 or £2.25 by post from the publishers, Wavering Lane, Gillingham, SP8 4NX.) This is a well documented and detailed account of the growth of Methodism in Dorset during the eighteenth century. The social setting of the county and the condition of the Church of England at the time are well covered, and against this background the generous quotations from the Wesleys’ journals provide some interesting insights. An appendix contains a list of registered Methodist buildings in 18th century Dorset.

G.J.D.

Major E. H. R. Schmidt, *The Defences of Blandford Forum* (1987. Pp. 19, maps & illus., £1 or £1.25 by post from Blandford Forum Museum Trust, The Old Coach Hs, Bere’s Yard, Market Place, Blandford Forum, DT11 7HU.) Very little work has been done at the local level to record anti-invasion defences during the war of 1939-45. The area around Blandford was intended to play a key role in anti-invasion defences in southern England, and this well documented little study makes a significant contribution towards the military history of the period by detailing so admirably the defences which were planned. It is pleasing to see that this pamphlet is the result of close co-operation between the Trust and the Army stationed at Blandford. Eighteen illustrations remind us how much archaeological evidence still remains, and how urgent is the need for an adequate record before it finally disappears.

G.J.D.

Benjamin G. Cox, *Blandford Forum* (Blandford Forum Museum Trust, 1987. Pp. 15, maps, line illus. 75p) This ‘Guide and Potted History for Visitors’ provides a suggested tour of the town, with some interesting details about buildings and the history associated with them, together with a brief general history. The pamphlet is not over-loaded with detail, and will

serve as a very useful companion to those unacquainted with the long and varied history of this part of Dorset. Reasonably priced, and attractively presented, this should prove good value for visitors.

G.J.D.

Rodney Legg & Colin Graham, *National Trust Dorset* (Dorset Publishing Co., 1987. Pp. 208, illus. £9.95) The National Trust owns over 20,000 acres in Dorset, and this book provides a guide to the Trust land. Dividing landholdings into five geographical areas, the book, profusely illustrated in black and white, gives map references and textual commentary. This is not, unfortunately, an official publication of the National Trust. Had it been, then it would have benefited from a grant towards publication, and colour plates and OS maps in the text would have been possible. I would implore the authors to consider more map reproductions, especially OS one inch maps, and some colour plates, if they eventually produced a second edition. Certainly, the user would need to be armed with OS maps of the county to accompany this guide.

This book was produced by a photographer with an interest in the unusual as well as the familiar, and an author who has accumulated an enviable store of tit-bits and anecdotes about Dorset's past. The combination is lively, interesting, and varied, but results in a somewhat idiosyncratic production. The text would need extensive revision towards greater objectivity if it were to become the basis of an official guide to the Trust land.

G.J.D.

Luke Over, *Bridport. The Evolution of a Town* (Bridport Museum Publication No. 1, 1988. Pp. 48, illus., £2.50). This "modest booklet", as the author correctly describes it, is a sketch of the development of Bridport from Saxon to Elizabethan times with even scantier outlines of the town's subsequent history. Although not, apparently, the fruit of original research, it is accurate since it relies largely on the reliable work of John Sales, Basil Short, Arthur Sanctuary and others, including Hutchins. And it is a pleasant, well written and illustrated survey. Produced by a process of photo-copying of typescripts and prints, the text, although small, comes out well and so do most of the illustrations.

J.P.

Janet H. Stevenson (*ed.*), *The Edington Cartulary* (Wilts. Rec. Soc., vol. XLII, 1987. Pp. xxxiv + 236) and Jane Freeman (*ed.*), *The Commonplace Book of Sir Edward Bayntun of Bromham* (Wilts. Rec. Soc., vol. XLIII, 1988. Pp. xxii + 80. Both £15, postage extra, from Hon. Treasurer, 53 Clarendon Road, Trowbridge). This Society has now reached its 50th year, and after the wartime hiatus, has pursued an energetic publishing programme, averaging one volume per year since 1947; the number of volumes in preparation suggests that this rate will be maintained. From the outset it has enjoyed a high reputation in the field of deed editing and at an early date it also proved itself ready to publish texts from less fashionable periods. The two present volumes continue both traditions.

The House of Bonhommes at Edington was a late foundation, being established in the 1350s in two stages out of the prebendal church by way of a chantry by the locally born Bishop of Winchester, William de Edington. Between 1351 and his death in 1366 he and others on his behalf were engaged in the acquisition of estates, largely in Wiltshire, but also in Berkshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire, for its support. The cartulary, a product of the end of the same century, records over 650 individual deeds, licences, inquisitions and extracts from public and ecclesiastical sources bearing on or inherited with these acquisitions; not surprisingly, over 80% are dated after 1300.

All are calendared in full or, in limited cases — the House's statutes, for example — given in translation to an impeccably consistent standard by Miss Stevenson. Her introduction not only deals with the history of the House and its estates, the composition of the cartulary and its subsequent migrations, but also makes clear to the reader that what they see is as near to the original text as possible. In this, however, she has perhaps been over-scrupulous: with so many late documents it seems unnecessarily elaborate to give all dates twice and to give all place names as they occur in the original. The eight variations for Edington, for example, could safely have been left (as, indeed, they are) to the index.

The record compiled by Sir Edward Bayntun was perhaps only briefly and initially used as a commonplace book. The bulk of the entries follow his inheritance of the family's estate in 1657 and are a register of documents he thought relevant to his interests and activities. Dr. Freeman assigns its 106 entries, which she generally presents in summary form, to four broad categories, of which local government and estate management account for 80%, with family affairs and national politics

taking most of that which is left, all of which she assesses in her introduction. Unfortunately, Sir Edward, whatever his purpose in keeping this book, allows little of his own personality and character to come through, and in the absence of family papers and records of his service in public local affairs the Editor is prevented from presenting a rounded portrait.

Both volumes have been indexed with great care and allow the non-Wiltshire users to locate with ease all references to places in their own county.

D.M.M.S.

Michael McGarvie, *The Book of Marston Bigot* (Barracuda Books Ltd. in association with Foster Yeoman Ltd., 1987. Pp. 184, many illus. £15.95). Thanks to the generosity of Foster Yeoman, which bought and is in the lengthy process still of restoring Marston House, Mr. McGarvie has been able to produce another *Book* in the Barracuda series. Inevitably, the House and the Boyle family, Earls of Cork and Orrery, which owned Marston and generally lived there for over 260 years, figure more largely than the rest of the parish and its inhabitants, for theirs are the archives which have survived. Fortunately, records of two stewards, one of the late 17th and one of the 19th cent., exist in sufficient detail to allow the author to redress the balance, but only to the extent that the parishioners are seen through the eyes and in the interest of the estate manager.

The book follows the pattern of the writer's earlier *Book of Frome*, which means that it is a more solid piece of work, befitting the years of research undertaken, than some in the Barracuda formula. Readers, thus, will know that it will have been well produced and profusely illustrated and that the questions 'what' and 'when' are more likely to be answered than 'how' and 'why'.

D.M.M.S.

Hugh Malet, *Octavius Warre Malet & The Conservation of Taunton Castle* (Enmore, 1987. Pp. 54, incl. 7pp. of illus. £2 or (signed copies) £5 from Status, Ponsford Road, Minehead). The Malet family is a proud and ancient one in the county of Somerset, and in this booklet Hugh celebrates the part played by his 19c. kinsman in prompting the purchase of Taunton Castle by the Somerset Archaeological Society in 1874 and equally importantly in maintaining the fund raising impetus

over the next 10 years to provide for its restoration. He prefaces this episode with biographical details drawn from Octavius' diary, in particular his long service in India, in which he comes over as an enlightened benefactor and an ideal companion when tackling a giant bear.

D.M.M.S.

K. Barker (ed), *The Cerne Abbey Millenium Lectures*. (Cerne Abbey Millenium Committee, 1988. Pp. 66, 9 maps, 7 line drawings, 1 genealogical table. £3. Also available from Cerne Hist. Soc., Middle Hs., Long St., Cerne Abbas., price £3.35.) Six lectures and an introduction have been printed in this booklet as part of the millenary celebration to mark the foundation of Cerne Abbey. D. H. Farmer provides an outline of the Anglo-Saxon monastic reform movement against which the foundation of Cerne is to be seen. Mr. Squibb and Dr. Yorke provide interesting insights and commentary on the evidence surrounding the foundation of the Abbey. The extensive estate holding of the monastery is skilfully dealt with by the editor, Kathleen Barker. The dissolution of the Abbey — prefaced at Cerne by a lengthy but suspect complaint of scandalous practice — is the subject of Dr. Betty's lecture. At that time the lands were leased, the buildings demolished, and the monks dispersed and pensioned. Cerne fell into a period of poverty and distress which lasted well into the seventeenth century. The lectures end with a timely reminder by Dom. Bellenger of Downside Abbey, Bath, that the inspiration and leadership of St. Benedict, which led to the foundation of the Abbey at Cerne, continues in this century.

The editor and contributors deserve the widest possible readership for this attractive little booklet. It is not often that one can find scholarship and lucidity in such good measure.

G.J.D.

Olive A. Hall, *Where Elm Trees Grew: Fiddleford in Dorset* (Published by the authoress, May Cottage, Fiddleford, Sturminster Newton, DT10 2BX, 1988. Pp. 299, 114 photographs, 12 maps and line drawings, £4.95 to callers; £6 by post.). This private publication is a labour of love by an amateur who has made strenuous efforts to include all material relevant to the history of the village of Fiddleford. Much material used by local historians is produced *verbatim*. Letters and documents are quoted in full; Census returns from 1841 are

listed; wills, conveyances, tithes, and Directory entries are reproduced. There is a list of Innkeepers from 1714, and even a list of school admissions from 1873 to 1880, together with Inspectors' reports. Almost all the basic material used as evidence by historians is published. The main chapters are devoted to private addresses, and the majority of information clearly comes from present occupants and aged villagers who recall those who lived there in past years.

G.J.D.

A. Caverhill, *Rushmore – Then and Now* (Published by the School Governors, and available from the Bursar, Sandroyd School, Tollard Royal, Nr. Salisbury, Wilts., 1988. Pp. 43, 15 photos, 1 line drawing, 1 genealogical table. £2.75 + 32p postage.)

This is a very well produced and attractive booklet which presents a delightful picture of the long history of Rushmore House, now a school, and once the home of General Pitt-Rivers. The school, fearful of the consequences of war, migrated from Surrey to Rushmore in 1939 and leased the mansion until 1967, when the school Governors bought it for £25,000. Set in the Chase, long protected by Forest laws, the school could not have found a more beautiful setting.

The author gives some tantalising glimpses of a now past life: the curtsey demanded of a five-year old from the imperious wife of Pitt-Rivers; the maids' working day, 6.30 a.m. to 10 p.m. for 2/- per day; and the convalescing soldiers who occupied the house during the first World War, but who could not be spoken to by the busy maids. The text is livened with early photographs of the house interior. For such a small booklet it hauntingly captures the past in word and picture. I have only one small regret: the author, being the assistant Headmaster of the School, is intimately involved with the life of the school, and more in the way of anecdotes and memories about the school would have been a useful and interesting balance to the early material about deer stalking on the Chase.

G.J.D.

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