

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

CONTENTS

No.		Page No.
	Retirement of Mr. L. C. Hayward	729
340	Mace-Heads made from flint	729
341	William de Thweyt, Esq., Deputy Constable of Corfe Castle in the 1340s	731
342	Wells Almshouse Records and Topographic Reconstructions at Wells	738
343	The Restoration of Lullington Church in 1862 ..	748
344	The King's German Legion in Dorset (1803-05) .	749
345	Comets over Dorset	756
346	Ponter's Ball	758
347	A Briefe Chronologie, 1618	759
	Note	760
	Queries	760
	Reviews	761

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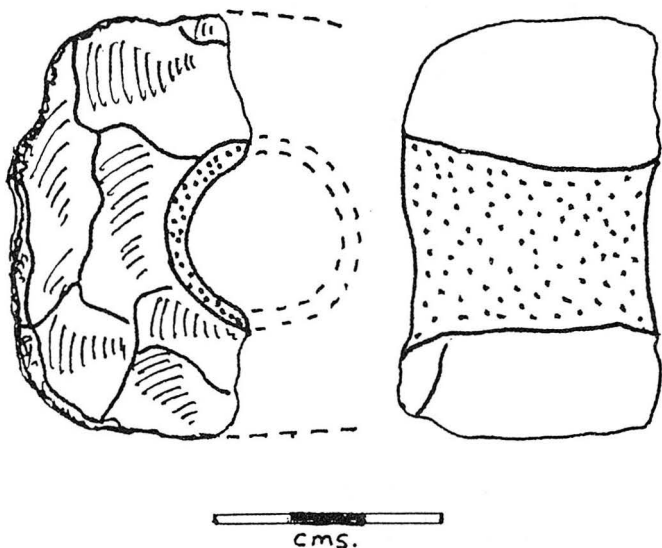
HON. SECRETARY AND TREASURER. RETIREMENT OF MR. L. C. HAYWARD. In our last issue a brief notice recorded, with our deep regret, that owing to ill health Leonard Hayward had felt compelled to resign the office of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer which he had held for 23 years. That was merely a factual statement which in no way expressed the warmth and depth of our gratitude for Leonard's quite outstanding services and the personal regard and affection in which he is held by all who know him. That was well done by our Chairman and our Somerset Editor at a lunch given by the Committee in honour of Leonard and Mrs. Hayward on 10 September, 1988; an occasion on which a presentation was made to Leonard as a small token of the Committee's appreciation of the debt which our magazine owes, and always will owe, to him. Leonard's acknowledgement was typical of his modesty and self-depreciation of his achievement. But that achievement is, of course, something to which in brief space no adequate justice can be done. For, over many years, Leonard has put in countless hours of able and devoted work which has meant far more to *SDNQ* than we are ever likely to understand and far less express. We can, all of us, committee members and subscribers, do no more than offer our sincere and warmest thanks, and our wishes for improvement in his health. Happily, Leonard has agreed to continue to serve on the Committee and we hope we may long have the benefit of his experience and wisdom.

340. MACE-HEADS MADE FROM FLINT. This note records two instances of 'mace-heads' (defined as stone implements with shaftholes that do not have a cutting edge¹) made from flint found on Mendip and discusses the general questions concerning mace-heads made from this material.

Flint implements with shaftholes, perhaps not surprisingly when one considers the difficulties which arise when trying to perforate flint, are extremely rare.² Presumably chipping was employed as the main stage of the operation. Flint nodules with natural perforations, however, are in no way uncommon and advantage was doubtless taken by prehistoric man of this. Both the present examples have natural perforations. Both have been broken and in each case presumably represent about half the original implement. Both have been artificially faceted, are of similar size and proportions and show signs of utilisation battering. One was found at the Tower Hill site, NGR ST 563505,³ the other, here recorded for the first time, at Westbury-sub-Mendip, NGR ST 518501, a site which has

produced a variety of flint and stone artifacts.⁴ The finds have been given to Axbridge Museum.

1. Coles & Simpson, *Studies in Ancient Europe*, Roe, 145 (1968).
2. The writer has witnessed an unsuccessful attempt to achieve the perforation of a neolithic flint scraper by a dentist using a variety of modern dentistry drill bits and speeds. After the wastage of considerable time and effort, only a small shallow depression had been achieved.
3. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, 126 (1982), 'Somerset Archaeology 1981', fig. 5, 26.
4. Three other occurrences of this implement type have been recorded in neighbouring counties, from a barrow excavation at Thorverton in Devon (J. Evans, *Ancient Stone Implements, etc.* (1897) 225, from Avebury in Wilts. (I. F. Smith, *Windmill Hill and Avebury* (1965)), and from an unrecorded site, also in Wilts., an implement broken and of similar size to the Westbury example, having an hour-glass perforation, presumably artificial (Annable & Simpson, *Neolithic and Bronze Age Collections* (1964), WANHS).



Flint 'Mace-Head' from Westbury-sub-Mendip, NGR ST 518501.

BRIAN HACK

341. WILLIAM DE THWEYT, ESQUIRE: DEPUTY CONSTABLE OF CORFE CASTLE IN THE 1340s. In contrast with the corpus of scholarly publications devoted to the building history of Corfe Castle, comparatively little interest has been shown in the people associated with this great royal fortress during the medieval period. Take, for instance, the constables of Corfe. An adequate, though not complete, list of these men has been available since Thomas Bond included an expanded version of Hutchins' list in his *History and Description of Corfe Castle*;¹ but the backgrounds and qualifications of both constables and their lieutenants have never been subjected to systematic investigation.² As a modest step towards such a study, this paper focusses attention on one of the less familiar names in Bond's list.

The constables of Corfe Castle during the late 1330s and early 1340s — William de Montagu, Thomas Cary, Ralph de Ufford and Philip de Weston — present few problems for the historian. They are not obscure figures and their qualifications for the appointment can be ascertained without difficulty. Each was closely associated with the king, either as friend or servant, and each had suitable administrative and military experience; in addition, Montagu, Cary and Ufford had landed interests in Dorset. By contrast, the deputy constables serving at Corfe during this period are much less well known — an obscurity which they share with such officers at other royal castles.³ They appear only irregularly in royal administrative records, not because they or their duties were insignificant, but because they were usually appointed by constables locally, rather than directly by the crown. Thus the patent roll record of Roger de Mortimer's appointment of a deputy at Corfe in 1354 (John de Elmerugg) is exceptional.⁴ Lieutenants *are* occasionally mentioned in connection with transfers of custody, inquisitions and other administrative duties, but the coverage is haphazard and at times it is difficult to distinguish them from other officials on the castle staff. Although often disguised in the records — and despite uncertainties about the scope of their authority — the role of deputy constables should not be overlooked. When pressing commitments took a constable away from the castle in his charge, he would need a deputy to take over his responsibilities. In the case of a man like Montagu, created Earl of Salisbury by Edward III in 1337 — or for that matter, Ufford and Weston, busy royal servants in different capacities,⁵ — one wonders how frequently the duties of constable were exercised in person. The tendency to employ deputies was not always acceptable to the crown, however.

When Philip Walwayn and Morgan Gogh were appointed constable of Corfe in 1380 and 1388 respectively, it was on the condition that they executed the duties of the office themselves.⁶ Despite the anxieties of the crown, it is clear that deputy constables were often in direct day-to-day control of Corfe Castle, and as such deserve as much attention from historians as their often absent superiors. One such deputy is Walter de Wydecombe. Although the evidence is not conclusive, he appears to have been William de Montagu's lieutenant from at least the autumn of 1338 until Thomas Cary took over the castle in May 1340. He was therefore responsible for Corfe throughout the period of insecurity and tension experienced by the south coast of England at the outset of the war with France; a period which witnessed ferocious attacks by French raiders on the ports of Southampton and Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, and the Dorset coast. Some details of Wydecombe's military preparations at Corfe during this time of crisis are known.⁷ More uncertain are the qualifications and experience which he brought to the job.

At first glance, the prospects of reconstructing the career of the next known deputy constable are no more promising, for even by the standards of the fourteenth century lesser gentry, William de Thweyt is a shadowy figure. The conventional printed records tell us very little about this man and although a little more can be gleaned from manuscript materials in the P.R.O., the total haul is decidedly modest. That most relates to his service in the king's armies does, however, allow us to assess his qualifications for the military responsibilities of his office. In fact, the most significant information about William de Thweyt's military experience comes from his own mouth, for he was a deponent in one of the few cases before the Court of Chivalry for which detailed transcripts have survived. Thus in 1385, aged about sixty-nine, Thweyt appeared as a witness for the Morleys in their armorial dispute with the Lovels. He cast his mind back fifty years to recall his involvement in Edward III's Scottish campaigns in the 1330s: the siege of Berwick and the battle of Halidon Hill in 1333; the Roxburgh campaign during the winter of 1334-5; and the large scale campaign of the following summer.⁸ Court of Chivalry depositions often provide valuable glimpses of otherwise undocumented early careers, but in Thweyt's case the usefulness of his testimony extends throughout his career in arms, for his participation in the great battles of Sluys (1340) and Crecy (1346), and at the siege of Calais (1346-7), is not mentioned in any other known source. Thweyt's deposition does not, however, uncover the

whole of his colourful military past. Some of the gaps can be filled by recourse to more conventional military records at the P.R.O. Thus, his first involvement in the French war was as a member of John de Norwich's retinue, serving in Gascony in 1337-9.⁹ A couple of years after Sluys, he campaigned with the king's army in Brittany, serving in return for a royal pardon.¹⁰

After the Breton expedition of 1342-43, Thweyt's next known appearance in the public records finds him at Corfe Castle during Sir Ralph de Ufford's term as constable. Appointed to this office on 28th October 1341, Ufford's qualifications were impeccable.¹¹ A younger brother in a family very close to the king since the Nottingham Castle coup in October 1330, and with varied experience of military and public affairs stretching back to the mid 1320s, Ufford was a capable and trusted royal servant. He also had a direct interest in Dorset, acquired in 1336 when he received the forfeited lands of the condemned associate of Roger de Mortimer and Queen Isabella, John de Matravers.¹² The extent to which Ufford soon forged links with the gentry of Dorset — and immediately neighbouring counties — is revealed by the significant number of local men who served in his retinue in Ireland in the mid 1340s.¹³ Ufford did not, however, call upon a Dorset man to be his lieutenant at Corfe;¹⁴ instead, he chose William de Thweyt, with whom he shared East Anglian roots¹⁵ and whose experience and abilities he probably knew well. According to his Court of Chivalry deposition, Thweyt had served with members of the Ufford family in Edward III's early campaigns in Scotland.¹⁶ Ralph de Ufford is not mentioned, however, and in the absence of any detailed evidence for Ufford's retaining ties prior to the mid 1340s, the precise nature and duration of Thweyt's connection with Ufford must remain uncertain.

Equally difficult to determine is the duration of Thweyt's service at Corfe Castle. The only specific reference to Thweyt as deputy constable occurs in January 1345: as Ufford's lieutenant, he is ordered to deliver the castle to the newly appointed constable, Sir Philip de Weston.¹⁷ It is less clear when Thweyt first arrived at Corfe. If he came to Dorset at the time of Ufford's appointment as constable, then his period of service must have been interrupted, for as we have seen, he was campaigning in Brittany from the autumn of 1342 until early the following year. He was certainly at Corfe in some capacity by the early months of 1344, for on 5th February he was appointed to a commission of oyer and terminer, charged with investigating breaches of the king's chace in the Purbecks.¹⁸ In July, Ralph de Ufford left England to take up a new

appointment as Justiciar of Ireland. Among the men accompanying him were Robert de Baret and William de Burton, two of William de Thweyt's colleagues on the commission of oyer and terminer at Corfe earlier in the year.¹⁹ Thweyt himself remained at Corfe as Ufford's lieutenant; he may, in fact, have been in post long before Ufford left for Ireland. Ufford would have been fully occupied with preparations for his departure from at least the spring of 1344,²⁰ but even before this, he is unlikely to have been permanently resident at Corfe. For an ambitious careerist like Ufford, Corfe was no more than a stepping stone to more prestigious and influential posts in the king's service. He may have made only occasional visits to the castle in his charge, so a permanent lieutenant would have been indispensable.

If the duration of Thweyt's effective control of Corfe Castle remains uncertain, then what of his duties as deputy constable? In Ufford's absence, Thweyt would have been responsible for both the security of the castle — as defensive bulwark and prison — and the administration of the king's lordship in Purbeck.²¹ As we have seen, Thweyt was admirably qualified for his military responsibilities, but the resources at his disposal were not very promising. Maintenance of the fabric of a great castle was a constant headache for its constable. In 1340, Thomas Cary had found Corfe Castle 'greatly in need of repair'; similarly, in February 1342, a commission was appointed to investigate the 'many defects' which Ufford had recently inherited from his predecessors — defects which were still in evidence in the spring of 1345, after Philip de Weston had taken over control of the castle.²² The castle stores were probably equally defective. There is no direct evidence for Thweyt's term of office, but inventories accompanying two transfers of custody in 1346 present a depressing picture of uninviting foodstuffs and useless military equipment.²³ Not, it must be admitted, that there were many men in the castle to be fed or armed. Nothing is known of the garrison from the time Thomas Cary became constable in May 1340, until the summer of 1377, when a serious threat of French invasion prompted the installation of a force of twenty men-at-arms and twenty archers in the castle;²⁴ but it is likely that William de Thweyt had no more than a skeleton staff at his disposal: perhaps a *vigilator* or two to keep watch and a *janitor* at the main gate.²⁵ In an emergency, however, this would be supplemented by the tenants of the town of Corfe providing customary service — as in 1322, when twelve men of the town joined the garrison for forty nights of castle guard.²⁶ As unimpressive as these defence

arrangements appear, it was precisely the insufficiency of the available resources that made it important to have a skilled military man in command; a man likely to keep a cool head in a sudden crisis and able to organise an efficient defence in adverse conditions. That Thweyt had been selected as deputy constable of Corfe Castle on the basis of his *ability*, and not just his experience, is strongly suggested by his subsequent career. Soon after leaving Corfe, Thweyt joined Ufford in Ireland and was appointed marshal of the Justiciar's not inconsiderable army raised for the suppression of the Earl of Desmond's rebellion in the summer of 1345. This demonstration of respect for Thweyt's military knowledge and organisational skills is particularly striking bearing in mind that he was not a knight, and was never to become one.²⁷

For the rest of William de Thweyt's military career, we are wholly reliant upon his testimony before the Court of Chivalry in 1385; testimony which is likely, however, to be far from complete. Just as he fails to mention service in Gascony, Brittany and Ireland in the 1330s and '40s, so we must be suspicious of the long period of apparent quietude between the Crecy-Calais campaign²⁸ and his military swan-song: his participation, under Sir William de Morley, in the Duke of Lancaster's chevauchee in 1369. If he did hang up his sword after the siege of Calais, then it is far from clear how he occupied the following twenty years. There is no sign of him working in shire administration; indeed, it is possible that his steadfast avoidance of knighthood was as much 'connected with a reluctance to assume public office' as with the inadequacy of his personal income.²⁹ Equally, it is difficult to imagine a man of such energy, and in the prime of life, retiring quietly to his family's property in Norfolk, unless necessitated by injury or prompted by inheritance.³⁰ The tournament field, which he had patronised in his youth, is unlikely to have provided a wholly satisfying substitute for the challenges and excitements of real campaigning.³¹ Perhaps, like many of his contemporaries — and Chaucer's knight — he took his military expertise to more exotic theatres of war; this, however, can be no more than speculation.

For the student of late medieval military affairs, William de Thweyt's career in arms provides an intriguing case study. As a younger son from a minor gentry family, his choice of an adventurous military life, away from his East Anglian home, may be considered the normal response of a man faced by unpromising domestic circumstances. The extent to which his martial life can be pieced together is, however, far from typical.

Thweyt's involvement in the king's wars is unusually well documented; by contrast, the military lives of many contemporaries, of similar background but not so favoured by surviving records, are wholly lost to the historian. Thus, although Thweyt's career appears striking for its duration, its diversity and (up until the Crecy-Calais campaign) its near-professional regularity, in the absence of a substantial body of comparative evidence, it is not easy to place it in true context. Despite this, the fact that his eventful career straddles the onset of the Hundred Years War does give it particular interest, for in a single man's experience we see a reflection of the process whereby the formidable English fighting machine was forged. For many men — both men-at-arms and archers — Edward III's Scottish campaigns provided a rigorous preparation for the chevauchees which were to characterise English military operations in France; but rather fewer could claim to have been present at both Halidon Hill and Crecy and so be directly involved in two pivotal landmarks in the development of English battlefield tactics. That Thweyt had, indeed, learned much, both on the march and on the battlefield, is strongly suggested by the responsibilities which Ufford was willing to bestow upon him in Ireland. It was, therefore, a man reaching the climax of an impressive military career who came to Corfe in the early 1340s. The value of having a soldier of Thweyt's experience in control of a major strong-point in the defence structure of southern England need hardly be stressed. The south coast had just weathered a storm of maritime raids and, despite the English victory at Sluys, could not be regarded as wholly safe from further incursions.

Our understanding of national defence during the Hundred Years War has been significantly enhanced by recent research, but the focus has been on institutional structures rather than the personnel involved.³² It therefore remains to be seen whether Thweyt is typical of the men responsible for the defence of the realm during the fourteenth century. There would certainly have been many experienced military men available for such duty during lulls in the continental war; but how far was the security of the kingdom impaired when the needs and attractions of a major overseas expedition (as in 1345-7 and 1359-60) drew men in their thousands to the ports of embarkation? One thing is quite clear. Whatever the crown's traditional anxieties about the appointment of unvetted deputy constables, Edward III can have had no worries about Ralph de Ufford's lieutenant at Corfe in the early 1340s.

Abbreviations:

C.C.R.	<i>Calendar of Close Rolls</i>
C.F.R.	<i>Calendar of Fine Rolls</i>
C.P.R.	<i>Calendar of Patent Rolls</i>
C.I.M.	<i>Calendar of Inquisitions, Miscellaneous</i>
C.I.P.M.	<i>Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem</i>
G.E.C.	<i>The Complete Peerage</i>

1. Thomas Bond, *History and Description of Corfe Castle* (London, 1883), pp. 27-29. The list omits, for instance, Morgan Gogh (constable 1388-91) and misplaces Philip Walwayn (1380-88, not 8 Edward II); it provides only incidental mentions of deputy constables.
2. G. Dru Drury, 'The constables of Corfe Castle and some of their seals', *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*, lxxv (1943), pp. 76-91, provides basic biographical notes for only a selection of 'the more famous holders of the office' of constable; no deputies are included.
3. See, for example, Shelagh Bond, 'The Medieval Constables of Windsor Castle', *English Historical Review*, lxxxii (1967), p. 227. A constable's deputy is often styled his 'lieutenant' in the records; sometimes the term *subconstabularius* is used, as at Dover Castle in 1346-7 (P.R.O., E403/339, *passim*) and the Tower of London in 1348 (P.R.O., E403/340 mm. 29, 37).
4. C.P.R. 1354-58, p.134.
5. For Montagu, see G.E.C. XI, pp. 385-8; for Ufford, see note 11, below;; for Weston, see T. F. Tout, *Chapters in the Administrative History of Medieval England* (6 vols., Manchester, 1920-33), IV, p. 268.
6. C.P.R. 1377-81, p. 436; C.P.R. 1385-89, p. 484; but within little more than a year of his appointment, Walwayn had required the services of a lieutenant, John Moulam (C.P.R. 1377-81, p. 607).
7. An unspecified number of archers had been serving at Corfe before late October 1338 (C.C.R. 1337-39, p. 605); in March of the following year, Wydecombe was ordered to select a dozen archers for the garrison (C.C.R. 1339-41, p. 56), but he seems in fact to have taken on six men-at-arms and six archers (C.C.R. 1339-41, p. 411).
8. P.R.O., C47/6/1, deposition 92 on the roll.
9. P.R.O., C61/49 m. 17; C81/1750 m. 33; Norwich's retinue remained in the king's pay from 19th July 1337 until 8th February 1339 (E101/166/11 m. 19). According to his 1385 deposition, Thweyt also served with John de Norwich in Scotland in 1335 and at the battle of Sluys in 1340; for Norwich, see G.E.C. IX, 763-5.
10. P.R.O., C76/18 m. 9.
11. C.F.R. 1337-47, p. 245; for his career, see R. E. Chester Waters, *The Chesters of Chicheley* (2 vols., London, 1878), I, pp. 324-5; for his service in Ireland, see Robin Frame, *English Lordship in Ireland, 1318-1361* (Oxford, 1982), pp. 263-278.
12. C.Ch.R. 1327-41, p. 352; cf. C.I.P.M., VIII, No. 629.
13. These include Thomas Fychet, Reginald Fitz Herbert, John de Matravers, Edmund Toner and Thomas West; like Ufford and Thweyt, all these men served in Brittany in 1342-3.
14. Local men were often selected; for instance, Thomas de Bridport, lieutenant of Philip de Weston, 1346 (P.R.O., E101/36/6 mm. 1 & 2); John de Moulham, lieutenant of John de Elmerugg, 1363 (P.R.O., C258/13 m. 34) and of Philip Walwayn, 1381 (C.P.R. 1377-81, p. 607).
15. For the holdings of William de Thweyt's family in Hethill, Norfolk: Francis Blomefield, *An Essay Towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk* (11 vols., London, 1805-10), V, p. 106; for the extent of their property in 1360, see C.C.R. 1360-64, p.144.
16. Sir Robert in 1333; Sir John in 1334-5. These men, plus Sir Ralph de Ufford, each led a retinue during the Breton campaign in 1342-3 and it is possible that Thweyt returned to their service at this time.
17. C.F.R. 1337-47, p. 404; (C60/144 m. 7).
18. C.P.R. 1343-45, p. 277.
19. C.P.R. 1343-5, pp. 220, 245.

20. Ufford was appointed on 10th February 1344 (C.P.R. 1343-45, p. 197); his preparations included the securing of letters of protection for some of the men who were to accompany him to Ireland (C.P.R. 1343-5, pp. 244-5).
21. An inquisition in 1381 investigated the rights and duties of the constable of Corfe, as well as those of the local population; see C.I.M. IV (1377-88), No. 147.
22. C.P.R. 1338-40, p. 556-7; C.P.R. 1340-43, p. 447; C.P.R. 1343-45, p. 499.
23. P.R.O., E101/36/6 mm. 1 & 2; partially printed in Bond, pp. 119-21.
24. P.R.O., E101/36/23. The troops were under the command of Sir John de Arundell, who was responsible for Southampton as well as Corfe.
25. Cf. Northampton Castle in 1329-30: apart from the constable (paid 1s. per day), the garrison consisted of one *vigilator* (2d.) and one *janitor* (2d.); P.R.O., E101/18/5.
26. P.R.O., E372/176 m. 67; for the obligations of the townsmen of Corfe, see C.I.M. IV (1377-88), No. 147.
27. P.R.O., C260/57 m. 28, which contains a list of Ufford's men who were in receipt of fees. Thweyt's fee was a modest 100s. for a year's service, but this reflects his status as esquire rather than his real worth: he was marshal of an army which numbered over 2000 paid troops; see Robin Frame, 'The Justiciarship of Ralph Ufford: Warfare and Politics in Fourteenth Century Ireland' *Studia Hibernica*, xiii (1973), pp. 33, 35.
28. Thweyt served at Crecy and the siege of Calais with Sir Thomas de Hereford, who had also been a member of Ufford's retinue in Ireland.
29. Cf. Nigel Saul, *Knights and Esquires: The Gloucestershire gentry in the fourteenth century* (Oxford, 1981), pp. 37-47.
30. He does inherit some property in Hethill from his niece, Christina, but only in 1382: C.C.R. 1381-85, p. 59.
31. P.R.O., C47/6/1 (92); Thweyt reveals that he attended tournaments at Dartford and Dunstable, probably in the early 1330s.
32. Particularly important is J. R. Alban, 'English coastal defence: some fourteenth-century modifications within the system', in R. A. Griffiths, ed., *Patronage, the crown and the provinces in later medieval England*, pp. 57-58, which summarises some of the material in the author's doctoral thesis.

ANDREW AYTON

342. WELLS ALMSHOUSE RECORDS AND TOPOGRAPHIC RECONSTRUCTIONS AT WELLS. As the author has explained on a number of occasions, land ownership in Wells was dominated until the second quarter of the last century by the estates of a number of corporate bodies and church dignitaries.¹ Information on the majority of these has been readily accessible. The medieval deeds have been published and subsequent material is available either in the County Record Office or, in Wells, in the Town Hall and Cathedral Library.²

One significant estate is less known, that of the Old Almshouse. Most of its property had been granted to Bubwith's original endowment, but amongst the later additions Bishop Still's also had an appreciable rent roll. In about 1881 William de Gray Birch of the British Museum examined and calendared the Almshouse's medieval documents and a selection of later material from the 16th to the 18th cents., including substantial numbers of annual accounts. While de Gray Birch's list was consulted from time to time the original documents slipped from view. The whereabouts of the

property leases from the 16th to the 19th cents. was also unknown. The situation has now been transformed. Firstly, as Mr. Colchester and Miss Imray began to bring the archives in the Cathedral Library and the Town Hall respectively to order, each found collections of Almshouse leases and other transactions, mainly of dates after 1600. Subsequently many of the medieval deeds were also discovered in the Cathedral Library. They seem to have been transferred there at about the turn of the century but neither recorded nor listed. Others were discovered in the Chapter Clerk's office in May/June 1986 and were transferred to the Cathedral Library. More were discovered in September 1987. Some 60, however, are still missing and for these we must rely on de Gray Birch's sometimes over terse notes. More recently Mr. Colchester has produced a full catalogue with detailed abstracts and indexes of all the re-discovered de Gray Birch and the Town Hall material. The Almshouse documents found in the Town Hall have also been transferred to the Cathedral Library, thus creating a unified archive.

This piece attempts to give some idea of the scope of the material now available and then to demonstrate one of its uses in some topographical reconstructions around St. Cuthbert's Church. Perhaps the most impressive thing about the collection is the extent of the cover of the medieval period. Generally when properties passed into institutional ownership in Wells they seem to have been acquired with title deeds dating back for about a generation; some came with only the previous transaction. As the Almshouse was endowed in 1424 and built in 1436 it would have been reasonable to expect little before 1400. Actually the collection includes some 6 13th cent. transactions and a mass of 14th cent. material.

The deeds show considerable links with three published sets, those of the Dean and Chapter, Wells Corporation and Winchester College. The links with the first are easily explained. Properties were granted to the Dean and Chapter in trust 'to the use of the Chaplain and poor people of the house ... called le Almeshouse'.³ Some such deeds were transferred to the Almshouse collection others remained in the mass of Chapter documents and were calendared with them. The overlap with the City archives is closer in content. Two examples will be sufficient to illustrate the relationships:-

1. *Land on the south side of Portway.* The Almshouse deeds include a 1322 transaction when 2 acres of arable was leased to Walter de Strete and Agnes, his wife, being situated in a furlong called Les Rygges. In 'Wells City Charters' a 1346 transaction

has Walter and Agnes' son, John de Strete assigning the 2 acres now transcribed as upon La Rugges, to the burgesses John le Ropere and William Wynd.⁴

2. *Land at Keward opposite Parkwall.* In 1392 a 2 acre plot was granted to a group of people — John Knight of “Chutone under Menedip”, John Bokkyng clerk, Nicholas Crystesham and Ralph Barlych, all of Wells (Almshouse archives). John Knight's grant of his interest to Nicholas Christesham in 1393, however, is found in ‘Wells City Charters’, but we revert to the Almshouse records for the next reference. This occurred in 1397 when Alice, the widow of William Churchstyle, granted all her property in Wells to Nicholas Cristiham and Matilda his wife, this latter being William Churchstyle's sister and next heir. Alice was immediately given back a life interest in a tenement and associated properties, but from that grant this property and 2 parcels at “Pouleshamme” were specifically excluded, presumably because Nicholas had already obtained them by a separate transaction. The last mention is in the City archives when in 1401 Edward Boteler granted the land to Thomas Tanner with the statement that he, Boteler, had it from Nicholas Crystesham and John Bockyng, snr.⁵

Why have these related sets become divided? It is not because each body came to have an interest in the land. In fact, neither owned any property corresponding to either plot. They are strays which turn up in most archives and these arrived for what is a fairly typical reason in such cases. The original grantor in each case was a member of the Churchstyle family (*further discussed below*). This once numerous Wells family was extinct in all its male lines sometime before 1397. Their main property had been the house to the west of St. Cuthbert's Vicarage. At various times they also had an interest in the next 2 properties westward. All these came to Bubwith's Almshouse during the 15th cent. and they presumably came with a mass of Churchstyle deeds and wills in which nobody else had any interest. The subsequent transfer of part of this material to the City archive was presumably an accident when the City Council's Guildhall adjoined the Almshouse. A number of other deeds strayed at the same time. The City Archives also have 2 transactions relating to the Churchstyle properties in St. Cuthbert St.; the first is no. 11 of about 1290,⁶ while no. 113 is just a duplicate of AH55.⁷ The movements were not all in one direction: AH23, 24 and 25 concern a part of either modern 39 or 41 High Street, both of which became Corporation properties.

The overlap with Winchester College material is more straightforward. In the period 1363 to 1387 Richard Horsforde built up an estate of properties in New Street together with agricultural land elsewhere. This subsequently passed to John Horne and in turn his heiress was his sister Margaret who married William Chaundeler. The Chaundlers also acquired other Wells properties and the whole passed to their son Thomas who was at various times Warden of Winchester College, Warden of New College, Oxford, Chancellor of Oxford University and Dean of Hereford. Thomas granted most of the Horsforde estate to Henry Hayne, clerk, who in turn passed them to the Dean and Chapter for the Almshouse. Later Thomas Chaundeler left his parents' house, modern 13 Sadler Street, to Winchester College. The records of his parents' various holdings were split between the two institutions in a fairly arbitrary way.⁸ Their subsequent survival tells us something about the level of administration at these two institutions.

In contrast the Cathedral archives have far fewer strays, which must reflect a continuous bureaucracy able to weed out material of no significance.⁹ The City Archives occupy an intermediate position with an appreciable number of medieval strays, but none of later date.

The grant of the Horsford/Horne/Chaundler properties to Bubwith's Almshouse also presents us with a mystery. When records become clearer, the Almshouse only controlled one property in New Street.¹⁰ This was approximately the modern car-park on the west side of the street between no. 19, the Judge's Lodgings, and Mountery Road, and it was not held separately until 1729. Previously it had been attached to, and leased with, a property in East Wells. It is doubtful if it ever formed part of the Horsforde estate. Certainly all the re-discovered deeds relate to properties on the east of the street.¹¹ So what became of Hayne's gift to the Almshouse? If the missing deeds are found they may give more clues. But it seems likely that at least one of the properties lay to the north of the present built up area. In 1337 it was described as a croft on the east of New Street and extending in length towards the east over to the high road from Wells to Chewton.¹² This last must be modern College Road. To run between the two roads the property must have lain to the north of the properties fronting the north arm of the Liberty. This must put it in modern OS plot 9823 lying to the north of 16 New Street, an area formerly occupied by a property at various times the Saracen's Head and Mountroy House.¹³ Now in Henry VIII's time this property

belonged to the College of Montroy. How and why did it change hands and did the Almshouse receive any compensation for the loss? Another property must have been in the area of modern nos. 12 to 16 (even) as it is described as having the wall of the Annuellars of New College as its eastern boundary. New College with various minor boundary adjustments was on the site of the Cedars, 15 The Liberty. Interestingly both the Dean and Chapter and the Corporation subsequently owned property in the area of nos. 12 to 16.¹⁴

Having explained the nature of the collection, its complex relationships with other Wells records and at least one of its problems, it is appropriate to illustrate some of its positive uses to reveal something of the topographic development of the town.

The first and simpler example concerns the property to the west of St. Cuthbert's Vicarage. The owners from before 1290 to 1397 were a family whose surname is earliest given as atte Churchesteghele and shows a tendency to change to forms like de la Churchestyle and then Churchstyle.¹⁵ The family, occupying the property corresponding approximately to modern 3 and 5 St. Cuthbert Street (but extending south to Market Street), lived at the church stile. This raises pictures of some sort of barrier separating the churchyard from the street and hereabouts being crossed by some form of steps. However, a little caution is necessary. The rubric of the 1549 prayerbook required the priest to meet the deceased at the church stile which the 1662 prayer book alters to the entrance of the church yard.¹⁶ Did the term then mean no more than church porch or lychgate? It would be hard to establish a usage current by 1290 from Tudor English, but fortunately the records have further information. Two documents give a Latin version of the family name. The first is the deed of c.1290 which has Robert Scaleria,¹⁷ but the clearer demonstration is in the will of Margery atte Churchesteghele of 1313. Her executors included her chaplain son William who in the Subdean's endorsement is given as William de Scaleria.¹⁸ *Scaleria* means steps so the climb over a barrier is confirmed. The simplest explanation is a stile to keep in the sheep which kept medieval graveyards neat but which excluded other animals. This last was a necessary precaution as cattle were long sold in St. Cuthbert Street and the western end of High Street.

The second example is the block lying to the east of the Almshouse, between it and Priest Row, that is the area of modern Henderson Place. Particular attention is given to the properties facing north on to what was Beggar Street but is now

the western end of Chamberlain Street (*see map*). The numbering is arbitrary as the street numbers were changed several times. Much about it was already known. The basic information was as follows:-

1a, 1b and 1c. This was granted to the Dean and Chapter in 1767 in return for part of modern 5 New Street. It had a garden north of the street, but this was alienated before 1786. From that year until 1842 it is described as two tenements formerly one.¹⁹

2. This belonged first to the Godwyn and then the Prowse family in the 17th and 18th cents. At this time it was an insalubrious drinking place, the Boot Alehouse.²⁰

3. This was another Godwyn, then Prowse, property which from 1637 to 1704 was described as a tenement in Priston Rowe with a garden and stable in Beggar Street.²¹ A slightly earlier transaction (of 1582), however, says nothing of the Beggar Street portion.²²

4. This was a Dean and Chapter property; it is first recorded at its rent of 6s p.a. in the early 17th cent. Communar's Accounts. The 1587/88 accounts have two Beggar Street properties at respectively 3s4d and 2s8d p.a. which are probably two small properties (the whole was only 17ft by 35ft) occupying the site. The 3s4d rent was also recorded in 1548/49.²³

5. This was known only by abuttal descriptions and was held at successive stages by Ashton Ayleworth, Peter Davis and the Sherston family. This is a characteristic descent of properties which had formed the estate of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist in Southover. It was at various times Wells Theatre, a chapel of the Catholic Apostolic (Irvingite) Church and St. Cuthbert's churchrooms.

6. This was a Corporation property until 1858. It is first mentioned in the 1550/51 rental when it is described as the tenement of the churchwardens of St. Cuthberts.²⁴

7. This was another Godwyn/Prowse property.²⁵

8. No records have been traced for this property.

9. This is the sole survivor of the block. It belonged to the Corporation until 1835.²⁶

So the Almshouse only became involved in these properties relatively recently, acquiring nos. 1 and 4 in the period 1892 to 1904. However, they came with such excellent deed sets (in one case going back to late 18th cent.) that they link clearly with the previous histories.²⁷ But they also have detailed 1/500 scale plans, so exact ownerships can be established for the first time.

The major revelation in the new material is that the yard and outbuildings of the Dean and Chapter's property next to the

Almshouse (then 1a, 1b and 1c on the map) was not part of the unit of ownership but was leased separately from the Sherston family.²⁸ It was in fact a piece detached from the curtilage of the former Boot (then Ivy Place). This means that the Dean and Chapter property was only fractionally larger than their other property (no. 4). This also was 35ft long but increased in depth from 17ft in the west to 19ft adjacent to the Almshouse. The coincidence of two such narrow strips suggests encroachment on the highway. Immediate confirmation can be found from the early history of the Almshouse. In 1436 an indenture was made between the Dean and Chapter on one side and the Master and Commonalty on the other for building the Almshouse. The site had 160ft frontage to Beggar Street and stretched back to St. Cuthbert's churchyard 119ft on the east and 94ft on the west. On the 1885 1/500 scale O.S. the dimensions are 159ft frontage, 136ft eastern boundary and 94ft western boundary. So the Almshouse had crept forward at some time. As the Map shows this expansion was linked to the building of the porch and tailed off towards the west.

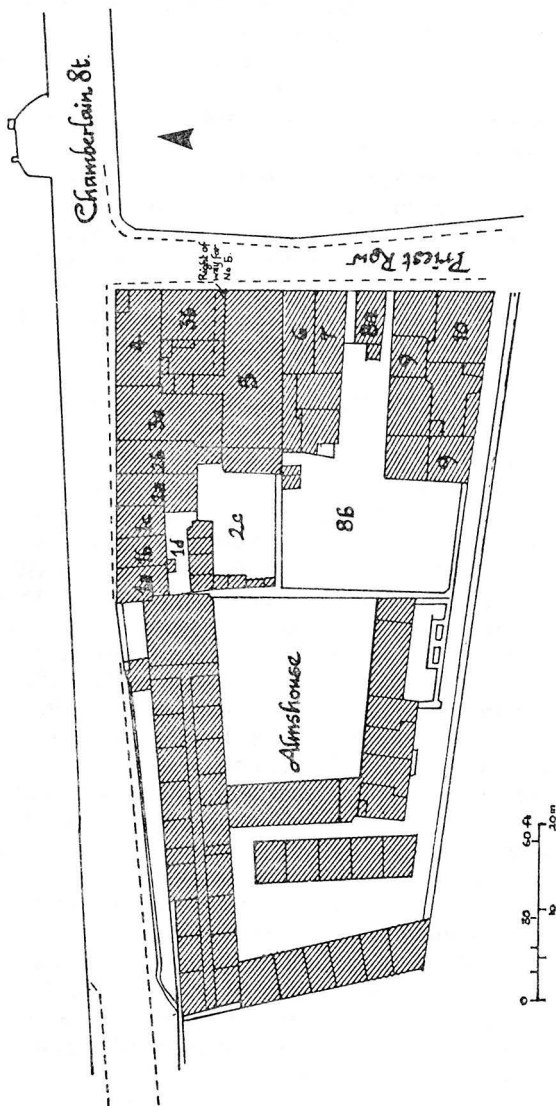
The possibility of encroachment on the frontage offers solutions to other puzzles. The Corporation records include references to a barton (i.e. enclosure) in Beggar Street 17ft by 20ft. This was from at least 1558 leased with a large house in the area of 34 and 36 Chamberlain Street. That house was always leased with a number of other properties: 3 yards of meadow at Polsham Mead; the barton in Beggar Street; 2 acres of meadow or pasture with a limekiln and a cottage; 1.5 acres in Longstrings; A close called Culvers Close on the east of the way to Wookey Hole; and (from 1682 to 1706) a cottage in Priest row (no. 6 on the map).²⁹

Apart from the last all are obscure except the strip in the Longstrings which formed the western part of the modern Blue School site. So obscure that when a new lease was made in 1747 only the main house and 1.5 acres in Longstrings were let and the Corporation's Bargain Book sadly relates that nobody now knew where any of the others were situated.³⁰ There is a further clue as regards the barton, as its control was apparently disputed. The 1642/43 rental has the following note (which was still being repeated in 1662/3 apart from a change of the first name):

Mr. Bartholomew Cox for a piece of ground with a way to a barn of Mr. William Godwyn where Walter Horley hath built this barn to be the dwellinghouse of John Watts in Priest Row and was detained by James Godwyn who claims it for his inheritance.

The pieces now fit together. A parcel 20ft by 17ft across the

The Amshouse and its eastern neighbours 1885-1900.



northern end of plot 3 would have the 17ft depth of plot 4 and would nearly occupy 3a's full frontage. Furthermore plot 3 was owned by the Godwyn family who in 1637 had leased it to James Horley. Obviously the Godwyns were disputing the loss of their flank outlet to Beggar Street and claimed at least a right of way or preferably the whole. Their successors, the Prowse family, gained the whole by default.

The second problem concerned the 6d to the Bishop which Bailey thought was paid from property no. 4.³¹ This could hardly be a burgage rent. Their application was patchy in Wells and the sum would have been excessive for this fragment of land. But it is typical of the sort of rent levied by the Bishop as lord of the manor for plots formed from encroachments on highways or the waste. Thus 12 Market Place and properties extending south to include most of the Post Office originated as encroachments between the Palace wall and the Market Place. The rent was 9d p.a. The rather later encroachments between Southover and the watercourse paid between 1d and 2s6d p.a.³²

To sum up, the potential for encroachment was probably provided by the stream which then flowed along the south side of Chamberlain Street and Beggar Street. It was known as the Lortebourne or Ludbourne and it still exists in a culvert beneath the road.³³ It presumably left an inviting strip between its bank and the property boundary. The Almshouse was probably first to take it in. It was built so that its porch bridged the stream. Some enterprising individual then took a strip adjoining and thus blocked off part of the Almshouse's eastern neighbour from the street. By 1548 a tiny cottage had been squeezed in on the flank of no. 4. It may be no coincidence that the occupier in that year was called Peter Beggar.³⁴ A second cottage and a small garden followed. But the owners of the older properties were now reacting. The owner or occupier of no. 2 took the last 24ft of frontage and, as we have seen, the owners of no. 3 disputed possession of the garden to try to retain some link to Beggar Street.

Finally as regards property no. 2 it should also be remarked that it formerly was deeper than its late 19th cent. extent. Leases of property no. 6 refer to the garden of the Boot Alehouse lying to its west or rear, which was no longer the case by 1885. Probably the plot originally took in all of 8b and ran back to the rear access to the Almshouse.

These examples show something of what can be discovered from the Almshouse records either alone or in combination with the other Wells collections. But they can do more. For example, they illuminate the status of minors and women as

heirs in medieval Wells. Nor are they confined to the town. There are many early field names and interesting cover for properties elsewhere, notably in Glastonbury, Melsbury and Westbury-sub-Mendip. It is to be hoped that full use will be made of this newly available resource.³⁵

1. 'High Street, Wells — a study in continuity and change', *Wells Nat. Hist. and Arch. Soc. Report*, Nos. 95 & 96 (1983/4); 'The Houses of Wells and their Records', *Wells Civic Society Newsletter* (Spring 1985); and '1835, Municipal Reform, Wells Corporation and its Estates' *Southern History* (forthcoming).
2. For printed sources see especially Hist. MSS Comm. 'Calendar of the MSS of the D. and C. of Wells', 2 vols, HMSO (1907 & 1914) and Som. Rec. Soc. (S.R.S.) esp. vol. 46, 'Wells City Charters', (1932). For a more general account of sources published and unpublished see 'The Houses of Wells and their Records'.
3. See for example Wells Cathedral Library (WCL) AH [215 to 218]. For explanation the documents listed by de Gray Birch are catalogued under AH. If the deed is missing the number is in squared brackets. Other Almshouse material is catalogued under Additional Manuscripts. (ADD).
4. W.C.L. AH26 and S.R.S. vol. 46, no. 107.
5. W.C.L. AH94, 100 and 101 and S.R.S. vol. 46, nos. 187, 199.
6. S.R.S. vol. 46 no. 11. For identification see below on *Scaleria* name & compare with details of W.C.L. AH6 and 17.
7. There are some minor variations in the rendering of names, i.e. Roger atte Waler or Walle and Alice or Agnes Curteys.
8. See, for example, the grant of a New Street property at Hist. MSS Comm. 'Calendar of Winchester College MSS', (undated xerox) vol. 9, MSS 19418 and AH39 which is the associated power of attorney. Similarly the later history of the Horsforde/Horne/Chandler estate can only be understood by proceeding in a sequence AH135, AH179, Winchester MSS 19411, 19412, AH[203 & 4], AH[210] duplicated Winchester MSS 19413, AH[215 & 6] and [225].
9. Nevertheless there are some, notably Cal. vol. II, Ch. 295, which should be in the Corporation archives. Again in the archive collections WCL ADD4077 and 4084 relate to properties not controlled by the Dean & Chapter.
10. See especially statement of 1746 at WCL ADD1756 which can be related to earlier rentals at AH528, 540 and 544. For subsequent history see ADD 1755 and 1757 and S.R.O. DD/TD Box 28 Labels 19 and 80.
11. See WCL AH41, 70-73, 79 & 92.
12. WCL AH70 and 117. It should be noted that these do not necessarily refer to the same property.
13. For the Saracen's Head see Scrase A. J. 'Wells Inns', *SDNQ*, XXXI, pp.380, 393. For a map showing the 18th cent. form of Montroy House see fig. 3, 'The Houses of Wells and their Records'.
14. See AH118. The most likely location for this [and AH92] is modern no. 12 which was a Corporation property by 1550. However, the properties in this area had been re-grouped between 1410 and 1550 which complicates matters.
15. Compare WCL AH17, 62 and 100 of respectively 1313, 1352 & 1397.
16. See Child M. 'Looking at Lychgates', *Still Trowelling*, No. 13, (1987).
17. S.R.S. Vol. 46, no. 11.
18. WCL AH17.
19. Bailey D. S. 'Wells Manor of Canon Grange' (1985), pp.132-3.
20. See John Prowse's estate book. S.R.O. DD/CB 36 p.12. Note his widow Abigail's sad comment on the rent.
21. *Ibid* p.16.
22. S.R.S. Vol 51 'Somerset Enrolled Deeds', (1936), p.133.
23. Bailey *op. cit.* pp.130-1, but note that he assumes the 3s4d rent of 1548/49 relates to the whole.

24. Wells Town Hall (WTH) leases 1012/4, 1042/10, 1013/16-20 and lease of 1845 at S.R.O. DD/WM 56. For earlier history see WTH rentals of 1550/51, 1589/90, Corporation Survey of 1604 and rental of 1642/43.
25. Prowse Estate Book p.27.
26. WTH 1022/12 and rentals, etc. as in 23 above.
27. They are as follows: (No. 1) WCL ADD1718, 1719, 1723, 1728, 1720 a, b & c, 1721, 1722, 1724 & 1726 (1842-1899). (No. 2) WCL ADD1727 a & b, 1728, 1720 a, b & c, 1721, 1729, 1732, 1734, 1715 and 1736 (1851-post 1892). (No. 3a) WCL ADD1711, 1712 a, b & c, 1713 & 1715 (1810-1893). (No. 3b) WCL ADD1711 & 1715 (1810 & 1893). (No. 4) WCL ADD1738a, 1737 a & b, 1738b, 1739, 1738c, 1743, 1744 & 1746 (1798-1904). The series also contains an unexplained stray at ADD1714 which is an 1884 conveyance of the Churchrooms (no. 5 on the map).
28. See especially WCL ADD1723.
29. See rentals and surveys as *n.* 23 and leases WTH 1012/4 & 1042/10.
30. WTH 1042/22 and Bargain Book for 1747.
31. Bailey *op. cit.* p.130.
32. See Bishop's 'Old Survey', S.R.O. DD/CC 12137 nos. 62, 118 & 202 and 'New Survey', DD/CC 13202 nos. 73 & 191.
33. See for example Calendar of the MSS. of the D. and C. I, p.139 and II ch.472 (p.647) and ch.479 (p.649); and S.R.S., Vol. 46, p.69.
34. Alternatively he could have been named from the street but not the reverse as the street is recorded from the 15th cent.; see, for example, transaction of 1349 at S.R.S., Vol. 46, no. 126.
35. With general acknowledgements to Linzee Colchester, Jean Imray and Frances Neale for both their help with original sources and their comments on the initial draft of this article.

A. J. SCRASE

343. THE RESTORATION OF LULLINGTON CHURCH IN 1862. William Duckworth bought the Orchardleigh estate in 1855 and employed Thomas Henry Wyatt to design a new mansion, completed in 1858. In 1862 Wyatt was recalled by Duckworth to restore the neighbouring church of Lullington of which he was patron. An indication of what was done is provided by the diary of the Rev. W. A. Duckworth, son of the squire. The younger Duckworth was rector of Puttenham in Surrey, but a frequent visitor to Orchardleigh. In March 1855 he described Lullington as being in 'a poor state' and in September 1856 referred to the 'dirty old pew' and 'thin congregation'. On 8 January 1862 he recorded: 'Met Mr. Wyatt at the station Mr. Horner of Mells to luncheon — then with my father, Mr. Wyatt, & Horner to Lullington Church to consider what restoration is necessary — Mr. Jones, builder, from Bradford, there'. The next day young Duckworth went in an omnibus to fetch the Rev. W. M. H. Williams, the rector: 'then with Mr. Wyatt to Lullington Church — we measured walls, & heard his plans for its restoration discussed — Jones, the builder from Bradford present.' We hear nothing more until 15 April 1862 when Wyatt sent his plans to Duckworth at Puttenham: 'West window nave ugly' was his comment. On 30 July he was again

at Orchardleigh; 'With my father & Ena (his wife) to see the restoration of Lullington Church — the North wall rebuilt & lengthened — old Norman door preserved, stone for stone' Wyatt arrived again on 2 August and had a conference with William Duckworth and his two sons: 'Discovered an old doorway leading from the porch into transept, just what we wanted — the East window to be lowered.'

After afternoon service at Orchardleigh the next day when the rector was 'very wild on Melchizedek' which upset Ena and disgusted Mr. Wyatt, Duckworth walked 'to Lullington Church restoring — saw an ancient tombstone lately dug out of the foundation for a vestry. a hand blessing a crosier'. It was not until 28 January 1863 that Duckworth again inspected the work: 'After brkfast with my father & Ena to Lullington Church — the restoration completing rapidly — lengthening of the nave a great improvement — of painted windows the east the best — the south (transept) the most pleasing subject — the west much too dark & funereal'. The next day the walks in the churchyard were being laid out and 'Hill's man' came to put up the organ the day after. Duckworth commented that it was much too big for the church and hid a stained glass window. The church was re-opened on 2 February 1863 by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Lord Auckland, although the entrance to the churchyard was still unfinished.

This fragmentary account contains several points of interest, particularly the information that the well-known Norman north door was rebuilt and the record of the discovery of the tombstone. This is now in the vestry and has been fondly claimed by some as that of Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances, the Domesday owner of Lullington (buried in fact in his own cathedral). The doorway into the transept was opened to give the Duckworths their own entrance to the manorial chapel.

MICHAEL MCGARVIE

344. THE KING'S GERMAN LEGION IN DORSET (1803-05). The King's German Legion, which had for a time been stationed in Dorset, evolved from the King's German Regiment which was recruited in Northern Germany following the surrender of Hanover to the French on 5th July 1803.¹ King George III decided to offer service, under the colours of their hereditary ruler, to the troops of the disbanded Hanoverian army. On 10th August he issued a Royal Proclamation appealing to 'All foreigners, and especially gallant Germans' to enlist in the regiment. By November so many had volunteered that it was

decided to expand the regiment into a corps of all arms, containing a maximum of 5,000 men. On 17th November the officers and men of the King's German Regiment were transferred to the new corps and His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge was made its Colonel-in-Chief. On 19th December the corps was officially established as the *King's German Legion*.

The infantry and foot artillery of the new corps were to be based in Hampshire, the cavalry and the horse artillery in Dorset. By 18th December, 2397 men had already joined the Legion, 400 of whom were cavalrymen quartered in Weymouth.² By the end of the year the cavalry consisted of a brigade of two regiments. One of these was a heavy cavalry regiment, the 1st Dragoons, which contained many former Hanoverian Life Guards and was quartered in the Marabout barracks in Dorchester. The other was a light cavalry regiment, known initially as the 1st Light Dragoons though later as the 1st Hussars³, which was quartered in the Radipole barracks in Weymouth. Both regiments consisted originally of four troops, each with the establishment of three officers, nine non-commissioned officers, one trumpeter and 76 privates. However, with a continuing flow of recruits,⁴ each regiment was strengthened in February 1804 by two further troops, bringing the number of officers and men in the brigade to approximately 1,000. Recruitment for the artillery was slower than for the cavalry. Nevertheless, by the end of 1803 one foot battery had been formed at Hulsea barracks, Portsmouth, and one horse battery, not yet completely mounted, at Weymouth.⁵ On 24th August 1804 the effective number of rank and file in the horse artillery was 117.⁶ At about this time the formation of a second horse battery was begun.

By the beginning of 1805 the organisation of the King's German Legion, as it applied to the troops in Dorset, was⁷:-

CAVALRY BRIGADE

Major General von Linsingen

1st Dragoons	Colonel von Bock
1st Light Dragoons	Colonel von Alten

ARTILLERY

Colonel von der Decken

1st Horse Battery	Captain Hartmann
2nd Horse Battery	Captain Röttiger

By the end of June 1805, numbers were sufficient for the formation of the 2nd Light Dragoons to be commenced and towards the end of that year the 2nd Dragoons and the 3rd Light Dragoons began to be formed.

Although there were men of various nationalities within the

Legion as a whole⁸, the troops of the cavalry and the horse artillery were almost exclusively Hanoverian. In their routine training they used the same form of drill and the same words of command as they had used in Hanover. Furthermore, the 1st Light Dragoons wore the same uniform — a blue kollett with red facings and yellow lace and buttons — as the former 9th Hanoverian Cavalry Regiment. The 1st Dragoons, on the other hand, wore a scarlet coat with dark blue facings, in keeping with the fashion of the British heavy cavalry regiments. The Horse Artillery also adopted the British uniform of a short skirted, dark blue coat with red facings.

The reason that some troops of the King's German Legion were stationed in Dorset was that, with invasion fever at its height, the King was convinced that this county was one of the most likely areas of invasion. In fact, if he had had his way, the whole Legion would have been posted to Dorset. On 15th June 1804, in a letter to the Duke of York, the Commander-in-Chief, he called for 'the Battalions and the Artillery of the German Legion, in addition to its Cavalry now at Dorsetshire, to be encamped at Radipole.'⁹ Later, on 10th September, in a letter approving the plan for the enlargement of Radipole Barracks, he wrote, 'a Regiment at least must ever be placed here, as also a Battalion in the Foot Barracks, for Dorsetshire is one of the most vulnerable parts of the Kingdom.'¹⁰

With the threat of invasion so acute, the troops of the Legion found that in addition to carrying out their normal training, they had to be constantly on the alert for a French landing. For the horse artillery normal training consisted of foot-drill, learning to use the 3lb, 6lb and 12lb cannons and 5½ inch howitzers with which they were equipped, and target practice, which usually took place on the sands at low tide. For the cavalry there were squadron and troop manoeuvres and individual riding exercises, foot drill, sword drill, both on foot and on horseback, and target practice with carbines. On 1st May 1804 training was abandoned for the day when the 1st Light Dragoons were suddenly called to arms, alongside the 3rd Battalion of the Dorset Volunteer Infantry, when news was received in Weymouth — falsely as it proved — that French troops had landed in Portland.¹¹ The Light Dragoons and the Volunteers liaised closely. On 17th May 1804, for instance, the officers of the two regiments dined together following the parade at which the 3rd Battalion had received its colours.¹² Towards the end of July the Light Dragoons were posted to Southampton, eliciting the following press

commendation:-

During their long stay here their conduct has been exemplary and reflects great credit on the officers and men; consequently their departure is to be regretted by the inhabitants at large.¹³

The 1st Dragoons then moved into Weymouth, ready, with the Somerset Militia, to provide protection for the King during his stay at that resort. Throughout the summer, routine military duties gave way to ceremonials — royal inspections, march pasts, mock battles and reviews. The 1st Light Dragoons returned to Dorset, to Dorchester, in time to be reviewed by the King on Monckton Down on 23rd September.¹⁴ Every evening during the summer the band of the 1st Dragoons played on the esplanade for 'the amusement of the royal family and the public.'¹⁵ The music played by this band was of a particularly high standard because the trumpeters of the Hanoverian Life Guards had transferred to it en masse. Every regiment and battalion in the Legion had its band. These bands were very popular with the local civilians because they played not only at parades and on marches but also at dances, at open air concerts and at the request of the civic authorities. On one occasion, for instance, when the governor of Weymouth was returning from a successful court action in London he was met at the turnpike by his supporters and conducted back to the town in a huge procession, headed by the band of the 1st Light Dragoons.¹⁶

During his visits to Weymouth the King went out of his way to make his German troops feel at home. He rode out most mornings to visit them before breakfast. He lingered among their ranks during inspections, speaking to the troops in their low German dialect and addressing them as *Miene Kinners* (my children).¹⁷ He enquired after their families and discussed the latest news from Hanover. He attended their religious services and often wore the uniform of the 1st Dragoons. Furthermore, the whole royal family befriended the officers, most of whom came from the nobility, the landed gentry or the middle classes of Hanover. Nevertheless, in spite of their social standing and the fact, that like the British officers, they received their commissions from King George, the officers of the King's German Legion were considered by the British, at least until the year 1812,¹⁸ to be inferior in that they belonged to 'a *foreign corps*'.

In many ways the position of the King's German Legion was similar to that of the Free French Forces in Britain following the capitulation of France to the Germans during the Second World War — with the important exception that, unlike the Free French, the troops of the King's German Legion owed

allegiance to the same sovereign as the British. Nevertheless, they were never likely to serve as a formation under their own commander but would eventually serve alongside British troops under a British commander.

They were given practice in such a situation in July 1805 when they took part in a very large exercise on Lodmoor, near Weymouth. All the troops encamped around Weymouth for the King's visit that year, totalling over 7,500 and including the 1st and 2nd Somerset Militia, were engaged in the exercise under the command of the Duke of Cumberland. The senior German officer, Major General von Linsingen, was given command of a cavalry brigade which consisted of the British 15th Light Dragoons and the two cavalry regiments of the King's German Legion.¹⁹ Although this was the first time that the German troops had been called upon to manoeuvre with British troops, using English words of command, they were considered to have performed at least as well as the British. The Horse Artillerymen were commended for their correct and steady firing and the 1st Light Dragoons received special praise for their performance. The latter became the élite regiment of the Legion. During the Peninsula War it was considered to be the best cavalry regiment on either side.²⁰

On 6th September 1805 the King's German Legion was warned for service overseas. It was to form part of an expedition, under Lord Cathcart, which was being sent to support the newly formed Anglo-Austro-Russian Alliance. This was the news the German troops had been waiting to hear. At last they were about to return to the continent to fight the French, who had been inflicting so many indignities upon their homeland. It was in preparation for such an eventuality that they had spent nearly two years soldiering in Dorset. Towards the end of October they left Dorset for Dover and Ramsgate from which ports they embarked for Hanover!²¹

The English love of sport had soon rubbed off onto the Germans. The soldiers took up rowing, wrestling, boxing, fencing, cudgel-fighting, football and even cricket, whilst the officers were introduced to fox-hunting. The officers were also introduced to an institution which was unknown in the Hanoverian army — the regimental mess. One of the first senior officers to arrive in England wrote home to his wife, telling her that, 'We eat together, which is called mess, and the English officers consider this more important than any duty.'²² The German officers quickly adapted to mess life. The British officers did their best to make them feel at home and this helped to make up for their loss of family life. Furthermore living in

mess was comparatively cheap. This was appreciated by the Germans who had made financial sacrifices to reach England and who were now, unlike the British officers, having to live solely on their pay. There was plenty of social life. The Germans had expected to be met with traditional English aloofness but they discovered that, as soon as the English realised that the Germans had the manners of gentlemen, they were invited to 'breakfasts, luncheons, dinners, suppers, balls, garden parties, walks, driving and riding, shooting, hunting and fishing'.²³ The local people not only appreciated their social graces but also took pity on them as 'homeless foreigners'. Furthermore, they were only too keen to be friendly with those who, after all, were friends of the royal family. Socially the German officers had a great advantage over most of their British counterparts in that they were good at music and dancing. This made them much in demand at parties. Additionally, they even knew how to do the waltz, a dance which had only lately been introduced into England — and this made them popular with the young ladies.

Our knowledge of the social life of the King's German Legion is derived mainly from the letters of the officers who were stationed in England at that time. Unfortunately, of the letters which have since been published or used as source material by German historians, none was sent from Dorset. Consequently, these generalisations of the social life of the legion as a whole have to be treated carefully when considering the lives of those based in Dorset. In fact, of course, especially during the summer months when the Royal Family was resident in Weymouth, the social life of the officers stationed in Dorset was extremely full. Life in Weymouth during the season was a long succession of theatre-going, parties and balls, to all of which the German officers were invited. One young lady, spending a holiday at Dorchester during October 1804, found German officers wherever she went. One Sunday, she and her sister were taken to the Weymouth Rooms where, 'we were much disappointed in not seeing the Royal Family, but we saw a great many ladies and gentlemen and German officers.' On 20th October she attended a ball in Dorchester and for partners, 'I began with Mr. Haines, then a German officer, then Mr. James Weld, then his elder brother, and I ended with Captain Bock, another German.' A week later she went to the King's ball in Weymouth where, 'Captain Ingram got me a very famous German with whom I danced two dances.'²⁴

Even during the winter there was entertainment to be had in Weymouth. Every fortnight there were Town Balls, organised

by the leading citizens and attended by the officers of whichever regiment happened to be stationed nearby.²⁵ Elizabeth Ham used to attend the balls in Weymouth and she described how:-

The officers of the German Legion used to amuse us greatly with their broken English and their vain efforts to try and induce us to try a waltz. This was the first we had ever seen of this kind of dance. Nothing but country dances were then in vogue.²⁶

Undoubtedly the personnel — or, at least, the officers — of the King's German Legion were as busy off-duty as they were on-duty during their stay in Dorset during the years 1803 to 1805.

1. N. L. Beamish, *History of the King's German Legion* (London, 1832) and M. Ballanf, *The King's German Legion until 1809* (Hanover, 1909). The former is the result of a year's research in Hanover, including conversations with some of the original officers of the Legion. The latter is based on the letters and diaries of Colonel Langwerth, one of the first officers to arrive in England in 1803.
2. N. L. Beamish, *ibid*, Vol. 2, p. 673 ('A Return of Strength of the King's German Legion at Different Periods').
3. Hussars and Light Dragoons performed similar duties, mainly reconnaissance. Hussars, however, wore more attractive uniforms and were considered to be altogether more dashing. The light cavalry of the KGL adopted the style of Hussars and always referred to themselves as such. Officially, however, the change in their title was not made until 1813 (*London Gazette*, 28 Dec. 1813).
4. *Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury* (9 Jan. 1804) — 'A transport with more of the King's German Legion, under the convoy of the *Minerva* cutter, Lieutenant Talbot, is just arrived.'
5. *Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury*, 19 Dec. 1803.
6. D.C.R.O. D52/4/145.
7. N. L. Beamish, *ibid*, Vol. 1, p. 84.
8. Over 15,000 men joined the KGL between 1803 and 1816. Of these, 75.5% were Hanoverians (42% former members of the Electoral Army), 17% were other Germans and 7.5% were 'foreigners' (A. Pfannkuche, *The King's German Legion 1803-1816* (Hanover, 1926) pp. 7-8).
9. H. F. B. Wheeler and A. M. Broadley, *Napoleon and the Invasion of England* (London, 1907) Vol. 2, p. 145.
10. H. F. B. Wheeler and A. M. Broadley, *ibid*, Vol. 2, p. 147.
11. *SDNQ*, Vol. XXXII, pt. 325, p. 569.
12. *Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury*, 21 May 1804.
13. *Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury*, 30 July 1804.
14. *Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury*, 24 Sept. 1804.
15. *Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury*, 3 Sept. 1804.
16. *Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury*, 6 Feb. 1804.
17. M. Ballanf, *ibid*, p. 64.
18. On 23 July 1812, the Dragoons of the KGL performed the most notable feat of cavalry action during the Peninsula War when they broke two French infantry squares at Garcia Hernandez, near Salamanca. On 10 Aug. 1812 the War Office decreed that, 'In consideration of the King's German Legion having so frequently distinguished themselves against the enemy, and particularly upon the occasion of the late victory obtained near Salamanca the officers who are now serving with temporary rank in the several regiments of that corps, shall have permanent rank in the British army from the date of their respective commissions.'
19. D.C.R.O. D29/X23. A *Field Return of the Brigade* gives the total strengths of the German regiments as: 1st Dragoons: 23 Officers, 39 n.c.o.'s and 518 rank and file, 1st Light Dragoons: 20 Officers, 45 n.c.o.'s and 568 rank and file.
20. M. Glover, *Wellington's Army* (London, 1977), p. 118.
21. The expedition was short-lived. It lasted long enough, however, to complete the recruitment of the 2nd Dragoons and the 3rd Light Dragoons.

22. M. Ballanf, *ibid*, p. 44.
23. B. v. Poten, 'The King's German Legion 1803-1816' in *Militär Wochenblatt* (1905) p. 446.
24. H. G. Mundy, (ed.) *The Journal of Mary Frampton* (London, 1886) pp. 118-123.
25. E. Gillett, *Elizabeth Ham by Herself* (London, 1945) p. 59.
26. E. Gillett, *ibid*, p. 55.

G. E. LANNING

345. COMETS OVER DORSET. Man has always been fascinated by comets. Until the age of modern science they were believed to be harbingers of disasters: omens of such earth-shaking events as famine, plague, war, or the death of an important personage. Halley's comet is depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry, for the return of the comet in 1066 may have helped to precipitate the invasion of England by William the Conqueror in that year. Since the comet foretold the fall of a great kingdom or the death of a royal, William reasoned that it probably meant the defeat of King Harold.

In *Julius Caesar* Shakespeare wrote:

When beggars die there are no comets seen

The heavens themselves blaze for the death of princes.

Today we view comets with more equanimity, secure in the knowledge that they are mostly ice with some methane and ammonia, but in his book *Cosmos*, Carl Sagan describes how as late as 1910 when it was discovered that the earth would pass through the tail of Halley's comet, people all over the world panicked believing that they would be poisoned by the cyanogen gas. Anti-comet pills and gas masks were sold, and people prayed or partied as they waited for what they thought might be their end.

In the Dorset County Record Office there is a typescript dated 1930 of the reminiscences of eighty-two year old William Mabey. Born in Beaminster, he later moved to Bournemouth where he became a builder and a maker of carts for Covent Garden Market. He also did some of the beautifully carved woodwork in the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum. The recollections of elder citizens may not always be accurate in facts, but they are invaluable in showing the spirit and beliefs of the time. Thus we may be entertained by William Mabey's account of a tunnel running from Maiden Castle to the centre of Dorchester, but when he describes how some ducks were put into it at Maiden Castle and came out near South Street in Dorchester, he was reiterating a rumour that has become local folklore. Similarly when he writes about a comet affecting the climate, he speaks of the belief of many local people. He tells that in 1863 he went to see the last two men publicly hanged in

Dorchester. 'At about this time the large comet was appearing and it was so big that its tail spread over nearly the whole of the sky. All vegetation was burnt up, and the ground opened in great cracks as the heat was so intense. During the whole of my life I have never experienced such heat — and there was great joy when the comet vanished.'

The idea that great heat accompanies comets had been expressed by Ptolemy in the 2nd century A.D.; so the country people of Dorset were perpetuating a belief seventeen centuries old. It is likely that the comet described by Mr. Mabey was Tebbutts Comet for in the latter part of June 1861, scientists recorded that the earth passed through its tail. The 4 July 1861 *Dorset County Chronicle* described the brilliant comet surrounded by a nebulous haze, the tail nearly perpendicular to the earth. In August of the same year, the paper reviewed an article by Mrs. Ward entitled 'The Great Comet of June and July 1861' published in *Recreative Science*. Although there had been an even brighter comet three years earlier, the great heat seems more in keeping with the summer date than the autumn appearance of the comet of 1858.

The *Dorset County Chronicle* for 7 September 1858 suggested that Dorchester people go to the Bridport Road to observe the comet, its tail clearly visible through the flashing Northern lights. It may have been the comet that inspired Thomas Hardy to write 'The Comet at Yell ham'.

I

It bends far over Yell'ham Plain
And we from Yell'ham Height
Stand and regard its fiery train
So soon to swim from sight.

II

It will return long years hence, when
As now its strange swift shine
Will fall on Yell'ham, but not then
On that sweet form of thine.

For *Wessex Poems*, Hardy drew a flashing comet to illustrate his poem 'A Sign Seeker'. On 25 June 1881 Thomas Hardy saw another comet. He and Emma had just moved into their new home in Wimborne when a comet appeared which remained clearly visible in the sky until February 1882. At about that time Hardy was asked to write a serialized novel for the *Atlantic Monthly*. Hardy already had some interest in astronomy and now he went to Greenwich Observatory and read books on the subject. The result was his novel *Two on a Tower* in which he may have combined facts from the several comets he had seen. He was interested in the superstitious fears of the countryfolk.

In *Two on a Tower* old Hannah tells Swithin St. Cleeve, the amateur astronomer, that they say of the comet 'he's getting bigger every night and that he'll be the biggest one known for fifty years when he's full growed.' The desire to see this phenomenon helped to restore the ill Swithin to health, but the villagers were apprehensive.

"And what do this comet mean?" asked Haymoss.

"That some great tumult is going to happen, or that we shall die of a famine?"

"Famine — no!" said Nat Chapman. "That only touches such as we, and the Lord only consarns himself with gentlemen. It isn't to be supposed that a strange and fiery lantern like that would be lighted up for folks with ten or a dozen shillings a week and their gristing, and a load o' thorn faggots when we can get 'em. If 'tis a token that he's getting hot about the ways of anybody in this parish, 'tis about my Lady Constantine's, since she is the only one of a figure worth a hint."

In the *Dorset County Chronicles* of 1858 and 1861, comets are not major news items, though it is inferred that readers will wish to observe the display in the sky. There are no suggestions of panic or foreboding or even that the weather has been unusual. It is the words of Thomas Hardy and the reminiscences of an ordinary working man like William Mabey that reveal how even in the enlightened latter half of the nineteenth century, the superstitious awe of comets lingered in the minds of the countryfolk of Wessex.

CHARLOTTE LINDGREN

346. PONTER'S BALL. This well-known earthwork defends the long narrow causeway which links Glastonbury with Pilton and the ridgeway to the east. Mediaeval pottery shards found under the Ball during excavations in 1970 point to Abbot Henry of Blois, who ruled Glastonbury from 1126 until 1171, as its creator but a certain mystery remains. It has been suggested that the excavation dug through an entrance blocked in the Middle Ages, so the old explanations — that it was the boundary of the territory of the Lake Dwellers, part of a sacred enclosure or connected with the defence of Glastonbury in the Dark Ages — cannot be entirely discarded. Abbot Henry may have strengthened an existing earthwork.

While further excavation is required to establish the precise age of Ponter's Ball, it seems certain that the correct name should be *Porter's* Ball, for as early as 1244 the land around it belonged to Walter, the Abbey's hereditary porter (*Walterus Portarius*), including a croft to the east of the house 'de la Balle'. In 1263, the land formerly Walter's 'atte Balle' was granted to

Roger de Mere.¹ It used to be thought that 'ball' was a corruption of latin *vallum*, but the name probably derives from Middle English *balgh*, rounded or smooth, which fits the appearance of the earthwork.

1. *Glastonbury Chartulary*, II, pp. 256-57.

MICHAEL McGARVIE

347. A BRIEFE CHRONOLOGIE, 1618. The manor of Netherbury in Terra, or Yondover, is one of three manors in the parishes of Beaminster and Netherbury for which records survive. One of the earliest records is a book of manorial presentments 1456-1622 (ref. D.1/7623). It is a thin paper volume measuring approximately eight inches by twelve inches and is very curled and crinkled at the edges, as if it has been subjected to prolonged use. Amongst the strictly manorial business is found apparently unrelated material. The churchwardens' accounts for Netherbury 1546-1584 have been abstracted on two pages, and another page contains the 'briefe chronologie' which appears below.

A briefe chronologie of some memorable things [] yeare 1618.

In the yeare of our Lord 1619 there appered a blazing starr.

In the yeare 1620 was sould for 16 shillings the quarter and such plenty of fruit as was not in many yeare before.

In the yeare 1621 the sumer was cold moist so that haruest was very Late.

In the yeare 1623 at the begining of August there were great windes which did great hurt and blew the corne out of the eares before it was cut.

In the yeare of our Lord 1624 King Charles returned from Spain october 5. his majesties reigne began the 27 day of March In the yeare of our Lord 1626.

In the yeare 1631 prince Charles was borne may the 29 and wheat was sould this yeare in som places of this Kingdom for forty shillings the ["quarter" crossed out] Sacke.

In the yeare 1634 from the 10 day of march unto the 8 day of Aprill there fell littell or no raine and then was it wett from the 8 of Aprill unto the 16 of may and ["then" crossed out] after was ["it" crossed out] inclined to drouth for the most part untill the begining of October.

In the yeare 1635 it was dry for the most part from the second day of may unto the 21 of June except somtimes som smale raine.

In the yeare 1636 there fell no raine to be accounted of from the 10 day of Aprill unto the midst of June. In the yeare 1639 King Charles went to Barwick with agreat army against the Scots but returned without any fight.

In the yeare 1640 the Scots came in to England and enterd new castell and in the same yeare at the third day of nowember began a parliment which continued many yeares.

ANN SMITH

NOTE

WIFE FOR SALE (*SDNQ*, XXXII, 715). On 16 Oct. 1983 we noted an oral account of a wife sale near Bath in the (?)late 19th cent. The auction took place at the Bell Inn, Farmborough, the wife was presented with a halter around her neck and the highest bid was a gallon of beer, which was accepted.

A most interesting aspect of the auction was that the sale was not complete until the buyer had taken the wife over the threshold of her new home — hints of a formal wedding. If the wife refused to cross the threshold, then the sale fell through, which suggests a high level of collusion between the parties involved and that the function of the auction was not to make a 'sale' but to transfer allegiance publicly.

BOB & JACQUELINE PATTEN

QUERIES

JOHN GODFREY McMAHON. The village schoolmaster at Litton Cheney, 1882-5. Mr. P. O'Leary, 4 Fairlawns, Brownlow Rd., London. N11 2DH, is anxious to trace any photographs, or recollections.

GAMBLING AND BOOKMAKING. Dr. Carl Chinn, Faculty of Arts, Institute for Advanced Research in the Humanities, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, would like to know to what extent there has been gambling in rural areas. Were there bookies or their runners in agricultural communities? Were games such as pitch and toss, quoits, shove ha'penny, crown and anchor played? Were agricultural labourers and artisans gamblers? What was the attitude towards gambling? Information supplied will be properly acknowledged in his forthcoming book.

REV. THOMAS BUTLER, Rector of Okeford Fitzpaine, 1779-1811. The *Gentleman's Magazine* of Dec. 1812 records that: '.... he could make / an instrument / in the nicest and most accurate manner a small clock which he invented may be called a Rythometer. It is finished in the most perfect manner.' His obituary in the issue for June 1811 says: 'His known skill in mechanics occasioned professional artists of eminence, especially opticians, to consult him.' Does anyone know the whereabouts of any of his inventions or mechanical instruments? Mr. G. A. Beale, 19 Wellington Road, London W5 4UJ.

REVIEWS

G. and A. Forty, *Bovington Tanks*, (Dorset Publishing Company, 1988. Pp. 160, illus. £9.95). This is not a technical book; indeed, it might well be entitled, 'An Illustrated History of Bovington Camp'. It contains over 100 photographs, many of them previously unpublished, which have been extracted from the archives of the Tank Museum where George Forty is the curator and his wife, Anne, his assistant. Many of these photographs are not of tanks but of the camp buildings and of the men and women who lived and worked in them. The text places as much emphasis on individuals as on the machines. It is based on contemporary descriptions, personal reminiscences and official papers such as war diaries and it covers the period from 1916 to the present day. This is a book which will especially interest those who are keen on both local and military history.

G.E.L.

Robin Bush, *A Taunton Diary 1787-1987* (Barracuda Books, 1988. Pp. 144, extensively illus. £15.95). This book, the author's third on the history of Taunton, is based on a study of local newspaper files over the last 200 years. From these he has produced a year by year medley of extracts portraying high (and low) life in the town — its development, personalities, both local and visiting, its celebrations and its scandals. Most years have 3 or 4 happenings, which are sometimes uneasily juxtaposed, and only two years (1938 and 1954) are left unnoticed.

The material has been used previously by the author as a basis for two popular theatrical entertainments, and this shows in the style and language: so, we live in 'darkest Somerset', we 'traipse' and 'gawk' and elephants 'tear down' East Reach. By its nature, this is a book to be dipped into or used to settle arguments, but in time it will grow in value as a source book and even the most knowledgeable will learn something. Illustrations, as in all Barracuda Books, are a particular feature and such unusual photographs as the 1950 view across Tone Bridge and Mary Street before the road widening of the 1960s will be treasured. Slips are few — the description of W. H. Smith's shop which fell down in 1959 is perhaps misleading — and proof-reading and indexing, essential in a book predominantly of facts, are of high standard. The index, especially, is to be commended for including persons named in illustrations as well as those in the text.

D.M.M.S.

Douglas Stevens, *War and Peace in West Somerset 1620-1670* (Status, Ponsford Road, Minehead. 1988. Pp. 128. £3.95). The main centre section of this book is taken up by a lively account of the course of the Civil War in that part of the county to the West and North of Bridgwater, Taunton and Wellington, its impact on the community generally and the varying fortunes of the protagonists on either side living in the area. The author prefaces this with a brief look at the county before 1642 and follows it similarly with chapters on 'Politics and People in Republican West Somerset' and 'Nonconformity after the Restoration'.

He makes good use of existing published works, but has added the fruits of his own researches, not always into the most obvious sources. Thus, he makes a particular study of the civil marriage legislation introduced in 1653 and draws shrewd conclusions from the dozen ceremonies recorded in the month before the Act came into force in the tiny parish of Runnington, where years could pass without a single wedding. Mr. Stevens' well-written book will serve to introduce the new reader to this popular period, but at the same time its copious references will satisfy the more experienced reader.

D.M.M.S.

Rodney Legg, *Purbeck Island* (Dorset Publishing Co., first published in 1972, revised ed., 1989. Pp. 230, illus. and photographs. £7.95). This was Rodney Legg's first book on Dorset, and it is fitting that with so many changes taking place in Purbeck he should now wish to republish a revised form. He has taken the text of his first edition, and added certain extended notes which he has singled out and called 'hindsight'. This could easily have led to a certain imbalance in the text, but the wholly original — eccentric? — way in which he approached his 1972 material has been preserved, while the hindsight text appears as a kind of after-thought, or footnote, to what he had said earlier. The line illustrations are delightful, taken as they are from earlier published works where exactitude and faithful reproduction were the aims. The photographs celebrate earlier buildings and sights which now can no longer be seen. The overall effect is like turning over the pages of an old guide to the Purbecks, while enjoying the racy text of a modern observer. Like all Rodney Legg's works, this book is unconventional, quirky, lively, amusing, endlessly attractive, and never, never boring. If Dorset is to have a popular champion, then this author is the best choice.

G.J.D.

Desmond Hawkins (ed.), *Thomas Hardy – Collected Short Stories* (MacMillan, 1988. Pp. xxiii + 936., £16.95). For the first time in more than fifty years all the short stories of Thomas Hardy, whether published during his lifetime or after his death, have been collected together in one volume. Between the covers of this splendid publication one can find the stories which were first published in *Wessex Tales*, *A Group of Noble Dames*, *Life's Little Ironies*, *A Changed Man*, and three which are listed as *Old Mrs. Chundle and Other Stories*. Desmond Hawkins has provided a first-class introduction of impeccable yet unobtrusive scholarship. He has provided the reader with a map of Hardy's Wessex, a short chronological account of Hardy's life and publications, bibliographical notes, and glossaries of place-names and dialect words.

Hardy seemed to have had a rather low regard for many of his tales which had first been published in newspapers and journals. Clearly, from what he said and wrote in later years, he would have liked to have forgotten many of his earlier published works. On reading through the stories, the discerning reader can, perhaps, sympathise with some of

Hardy's misgivings. As an established writer with impressive prose and poetry to one's credit, it must be a painful reminder of early apprenticeship in the art to see in print some earlier material which was written for a popular newspaper. We, the readers who are familiar with the whole range of Hardy's work, can afford, however, to ignore the sometimes too demanding self-criticism of the author, and enjoy the rattling good yarns, the Wessex flavour, and the succinct and sometimes powerful writing. Hardy was a compelling short story writer, and his accomplishments in poetry, of which he was rightly proud, should not overshadow his achievements in the art of the short story. Even devotees of Thomas Hardy are likely to find some new material to read, and those of us who simply enjoy, without minutely studying, Hardy's works, will find hours of pleasure in stories which we had not previously had the opportunity to read.

G.J.D.

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(If calling, please 'phone for instructions to workshop)

DORSET RESEARCH

All types of research may be carried out in the Archives at the Dorset Record Office by professional staff.

Hourly rate: £7.00 (£3.50 minimum charge; £6.00 surcharge for non-sterling payment).

Write for details to the Dorset Record Office, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1XJ

WHO'S AFFEAR'D

The Dorset County Record Office will be presenting an exhibition of Dorset's Archives from medieval times to the present to mark the Centenary of Dorset County Council. Come and see a colourful and eye-catching display illuminating many aspects of life in Dorset's past.

The Dorset County Museum, Dorchester 6 May — 1 July 1989
The Guildhall Museum, Poole 31 July — 30 September 1989

FRIENDS OF DORSET'S ARCHIVES

A new body is being proposed to help preserve Dorset's priceless written heritage and to support the work of the Dorset Record Office. It is hoped that owners of archives, users of the Record Office and all interested in Dorset's History will support the formation of the Friends.

A public meeting will be held on Thursday, 11 May 1989 at 7.00 p.m. to consider the formation of a Friends of Dorset's Archives and, if the organisation is formed, an Inaugural Meeting will be held on Friday, 23 June, 1989. Both meetings will be held in the Dorset County Museum where the Record Office's exhibition WHO'S AFFEAR'D will be on display.

Those wishing to record their interest should contact the County Archivist, Dorset Record Office, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1XJ
