

NOTES & QUERIES

FOR

SOMERSET AND DORSET

EDITED BY

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

HERRICK

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52. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW AND THE FUTURE OF ARCHIVES. In December the Local Government Review began in Dorset. The process will seek to decide the future structure of local government in the county. A number of options are being considered against the status quo, which would divide Dorset into two, three, four or five unitary, or all-purpose, authorities. The County Council favours a division into two, urban Dorset (Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch) and rural Dorset (the ancient county, less Poole) and is evaluating, as a benchmark, a single unitary county.

The maintenance of present arrangements for local government in Dorset, and indeed the creation of a unitary county authority, would not disturb the provision of an archive service. All other options will have an immediate and direct effect on the future of the Dorset Record Office.

In joint discussions between the boroughs, districts and county of Dorset, it has been agreed that if Dorset is divided into two or more authorities and the County Council abolished, there will need to be formal joint arrangements between the new authorities to maintain the Dorset Record Office, its new purpose-built archive building and specialist services. Joint arrangements would be needed to keep collections of county-wide archives and those which spread over more than one authority's area together. The diverse nature and ownership of the archives deposited in the Record Office among so many organisations and individuals does not lend itself to any practical breaking-up of the collections gathered in to one of the most up-to-date Record Offices in Britain today. There is also a recognised need to keep together the specialist staff and facilities, in respect of cataloguing, preservation, conservation and microform, as well as to prevent the futile and disruptive division of the catalogues and indexes to the archives which have been built up and disseminated all over Britain over so many years. The confusion to students of the archives at all levels (especially those referring to the many citations of documents in the Record Office) is another major argument against seeking to divide the Record Office. The costs of trying to replicate the quality of the new Record Office, built to provide for the next thirty years of Dorset archives, in other parts of the county would be measured in millions of pounds and, unless many more staff were employed than at present, the standard and quality of service would be severely reduced.

The Government and the Local Government Commission

acknowledge the importance of retaining county-wide archive services and have stated that special consideration should be given to their continuation. But both dislike the use of joint arrangements. Experience has shown that joint arrangements are more difficult to operate successfully than the present arrangement. The key difficulties lie in ensuring that any joint arrangements are formal, binding, and long-term, and that they guarantee reasonable access to funding, not only to make sure that the present levels of service can be maintained in the future, but that the services can continue to be developed to meet the needs of the archives and those who use them in the future.

If the Dorset Record Office and the archives in its care are to survive and to prosper (if Dorset County Council is abolished) it is essential that it, its archives, staff and facilities are kept together, that it has secure funding with access to development funding and that formal, long-term, binding agreements are made between all new constituent authorities of Dorset to provide the essential permanence and stability which is vital to the preservation of and access to the archives of Dorset for future generations.

The Local Government Commission is seeking the views of all interested individuals and organisations as part of its Review. The closing date for initial submissions in Dorset is 27 March 1994. After six weeks, the Commission will publish its draft proposals and seek comment. It hopes to make its final recommendations to the Government towards the end of September, with a view to implementation from 1 April 1996. At the final stage representations may be made to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

All organisations and individuals who wish to make their views known to the Local Government Commission concerning the future of the Dorset Record Office should write to the Local Government Commission for England, Dolphyn Court, 10/11 Great Turnstile Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC1V 7JU, and their local MP. The County Archivist, Hugh Jaques, Dorset County Record Office, Bridport Road, Dorchester (tel. 0305 250550) can supply further information.

In Somerset the Local Government Commission has made its final recommendations to the Government and has recommended the division of the present county into three unitary authorities (having initially recommended that Somerset become one unitary authority). This proposal would

create great problems for the successful continuation of the present Somerset Record Office. It would be enormously expensive to duplicate the buildings and staff of the Somerset Record Office, and it would seem likely that it would need to continue under some sort of joint arrangement. The Secretary of State for the Environment will make his decision for Somerset at the end of January. For those who have views on the future of archives in Somerset, the people to write to are the Secretary of State for the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB, and their local MP. The County Archivist, Adam Green, Somerset Record Office, Obridge Road, Taunton TA2 7PU (tel. 0823 278805) will be able to supply information on the current position.

53. THE SOMERSET ELECTION OF 1766. Jeremy Black's article on 'Campaigning in Dorset in 1761' (*SDNQ*, XXXII, pp. 850-1) begins with the statement that 'when the [1761] general election came to be held there had not been a contest for the Dorset county seat since 1727'. He did not elaborate, as this was not relevant to the point at issue, but Dorset was not alone in this respect, for Somerset followed the same pattern, and, indeed, 12 counties (including Somerset and Dorset) never went to the poll in the whole period 1754-90.¹ The present note looks at the reasons for this with the help of surviving papers of one of the candidates in the 1768 Somerset election, which, by a touch of serendipity, also solves an archival puzzle.² Aside from the inevitable and associated expense, three major factors influenced this reluctance to contest parliamentary elections: the size of the electorate — Somerset had at this time an estimated 8,000 eligible voters (only Yorkshire, Lancashire and Kent having more)¹ — and the fact that up to 1832 there was only a single place of polling: Dorchester for Dorset and for Somerset, even more out of the way, Ilchester; there were also two Members of Parliament ('Knights of the Shires') to be elected to each of the counties. Small wonder, therefore, that the practice developed of holding a meeting of the larger landowners in the county when a general election was due so as to adopt the two prospective candidates as Members, without any need of a contest.

For once, however, the orderly system was challenged, for, when the 1768 general election was called, a third candidate put himself forward after the accustomed county meeting and a contested election was necessary. There were, perhaps, special circumstances which affected matters. One of the Members,

Thomas Prowse, had died in 1767 and Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, who had been elected in the usual way, declined to stand when Parliament was dissolved later in 1767. The 'official' candidates selected were Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte of Halswell in Goathurst, county Member from 1747 to 1774, and Richard Hippisley Coxe of Ston Easton, Member from 1768 to 1784. The third candidate was (Sir) John Trevelyan of Nettlecombe.

Not surprisingly, there is little record of how a pre-election meeting was conducted or how many of the eligible freeholders — those qualified to vote by possessing freehold property valued for land tax purposes at 40s. per annum — were present and such evidence is suspect, because partial, but, judging by a description of the October 1767 meeting, it does not seem to have been run as a cabal. In an anonymous and undated memorial reference was made of a 'very extra-ordinary letter by Trevelyan in which he claimed that 'few gentlemen take upon them to appoint Knights of the Shires'.³ In rebuttal, the writer of the memorial stated that 'the meeting was open to all ranks of freeholders and all ranks resorted there unrestrained in great numbers'. Initially it had been decided that 'the sense of the meeting should be taken by entering the name of each person there present in writing, but this method was agreed on all hands to be impracticable on account of the multitude there assembled', and the votes had been settled by the holding up of hands. The sheriff was present and declared the majority in favour of Tynte and Coxe and allegedly neither Trevelyan nor his friends had questioned this at the time. On balance, the memorialist's version seems to have the ring of truth.

In the event, the election was not contested, for Trevelyan withdrew his candidature only five days before polling, when there was a clear majority in favour of Tynte and Coxe, who had, at the outset, combined their forces and shared the cost. This, incidentally, is the likely explanation for the presence of the election material referred to above, as there would be a need to agree that their respective claims were justified, that there was no duplication and the final balance shared. Happily, from our point of view, Trevelyan's resignation came too late to affect the final arrangements for the business of polling by the two other candidates and we can, thus, appreciate how complex — and expensive — a contested county election could be and why this was to be avoided. It was less happy for the two Members who were elected, as together they had had to spend £5,200.

By comparison with county and borough Parliamentary elections there were differences of scale and intensity. In both cases, the obvious priority was to canvass the whole area involved to establish how many votes (all) candidates were likely to receive, but, whereas a borough canvass could be cleared in a matter of days, a county canvass had to be reckoned in weeks. On the other hand, bribery in a county election seems to have been restrained and the ubiquitous 'entertainment' — of beer and punch — seems to have been limited to the immediate canvass and the final days of polling to encourage their supporters to be present.

Canvass books were more than simple lists of promises, naming eligible freeholders by parishes. With so much at stake it was in the candidate's own best interest to be exact. The need to assess the strength of support — 'a good vote', 'says he won't go' — or to mark those requiring transport — 'good but cannot ride', 'very infirm, must be carried up' — were obvious. But, in addition, potential voters with a doubtful qualification — 'query not of age before 1 April' — or not having a clear-cut or outright freehold commendably were discounted and excluded from the final total. As a result, the canvass books seem to have had a quasi-official status, possibly to speed the flow of voting. Copies of the appropriate sections of the canvass lists in alphabetical order were provided for the check clerks for every polling booth and, in addition, 'sidesmen' (candidates' officials) with particular local knowledge of the divisions involved were on hand so as to inform the check clerks of objections to persons offering to poll, but not in their lists.

At the completion of the canvass there was a sufficient margin of error to settle the election there and then without further expense, Tynte and Coxe having roughly 4,800 promises and Trevelyan 1,600. The only surprise was that Trevelyan continued to prolong the election to the bitter end, too late to halt the actual process of polling: perhaps, he intended this to be a marker for a subsequent election for the county. Even so, Tynte and Coxe left nothing to chance and their 'joint interest' was planned with military precision. Divisions, consisting of groups of several hundreds, were allocated to be present at particular days and times for the two days of polling and local persons of substance were nominated to be in charge from the point of departure through to the final arrangements in Ilchester, as can be seen by the instructions for three of the division following:

'Bempstone, Brent with Wrington and Winterstoke. The largest division in the county and they are requested to divide into two parties, the first to be there as

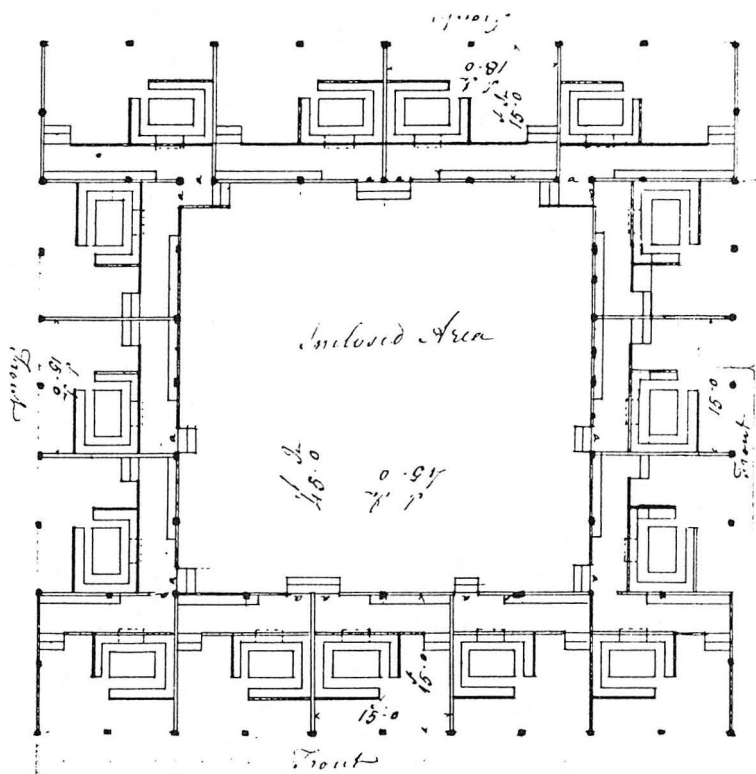
they can on the 23rd [March] and the other early in the 24th, great care to be taken to bring them in time. Mr. Battiscombe and Mr. Fry are instructed to put this in method.

Bruton, Catsash, Horethorne and Norton Ferris. Being near the spot, if they are upon the polling place early on the 23rd, may be dispatched the same day. Mr. Messiter and Mr. Martin are desired to direct here and give such directions as they think proper to prevent confusion.

Whitestone. This being the smallest division in the county and not far from the place of action, they may certainly poll the first day and in a few hours. Mr. Provis, Mr. Cooch and Mr. Knight are prayed to set these in position with the agents the candidates will send there.'

All the groups within the Eastern Division travelled on the two days of polling, except for the city of Bath and its immediate area, which for some reason, not obvious, started on the 22nd. Presumably, the remoter regions in the Western Division must have had a similar early start, but the comparable 'plan' for this, unfortunately, has not survived. There were sound reasons for these careful preparations: to ensure maximum turn-out at the point of departure; to offer, on the convoy principle, safety in numbers; to provide refreshments at designated inns going to and from Ilchester; to reduce expense in avoiding any unnecessary overnight stay; and, not least, in the confusion of the actual polling place, to keep the various sections under control and ready to 'tally' at the appropriate booth and in the proper time.

When Tynte and Coxe turned to the actual business of polling, they were hampered by the infrequent use and the consequent lack of first hand knowledge for a county election. This, however, has worked to our advantage, for they needed to seek counsel's opinion, not only on vital questions of qualification, but also on seeming trifles. Thus, they considered options for polling of town versus the meadow and the possibilities of hiring shops or covered waggons for the poll. In the end, they chose a series of booths, which, at a cost of one hundred guineas, for which the cost of the construction and erection was to be shared by candidates, was clearly no make-shift affair. Happily, this can be confirmed as a drawing of the booths has survived in the Tynte papers (see *illus.*). This shows that the booth was built in the form of a hollow square, having 15 separate self-contained booths spread round the four sides, representing the 15 divisions into which the hundreds for the whole of the county had been allocated. Each booth had a painted board with the names of the hundreds to be polled there, with a warning of the penalty of polling twice. Between the booths and the hollow square an elevated platform was built to accommodate the candidates and principal gentlemen



Plan for erecting a 15-booth polling station for the Somerset Election, 1768

(Reproduced by kind permission of the Somerset Record Office, Taunton)

as well as the sheriff and his deputy, allowing them access to individual booths 'without being thronged or pressed by the crowd', and the outside doors were so situated that the 'common freeholders may not easily get into the area'. Sad to say, because of Trevelyan's last-minute withdrawal this would not have been tested, although judging by references to

payments for ribbons during the assembly at Ilchester and stops for refreshments at appointed inns, set at convenient junctions going to and returning from Ilchester (for example, Cannards Grove New Inn, Old Down Inn and Pipers Inn), the only part *not* completed was the final business of conducting the vote.

Finally, as a tail piece, the solution of the archival puzzle referred to at the beginning: those using the land tax assessments (or, strictly speaking, *duplicates*) in the Somerset Record Office have long been aware — and have blessed — that ‘stray’ assessments for the years 1766 and 1767 for the whole county have survived over and above the standard series dating from 1780 to 1832. Ironically, the original assessments, which were kept by the clerks to the Commissioners for Assessed Taxes in their separate divisions, have a high mortality rate, and the 1780-1832 duplicates owe their survival to an Act of Parliament of 1780, which required them to be handed to the clerk of the peace for the county as a check of eligibility for county elections.⁴

A note with the 1766-67 returns indicates that they had been placed in 1823 by Mr. Bovett, the representative of James Kirkpatrick of Taunton, who had been clerk of the peace from 1768 to 1770. Thus, the simple questions of how and when these documents reached the county archives are answered, but the puzzle remains why the *whole* county was covered, when assessments were kept in separate divisions.

I had wondered why this was so on and off since 1957, without coming up with an answer, but had made the mistake of looking at the land tax assessments *qua* land tax assessments in isolation. It was only when I completed this present article that I saw the (then) obvious linkage, that the clerk of the peace, with a contested election on his hands, needed (and, indeed, was empowered by Act) to have these documents available.⁵ The additional set of returns for 1766, over and above the immediate returns for 1767, would have been necessary, as ownership had to be held for a year past to qualify. The clerk of the peace at the time of the election, James Donne of Crewkerne, died soon after, in 1768, and the 1766-67 assessments must have been transferred untouched to his successor, Kirkpatrick, who in turn died after only two years in office. The assessments had no place in the official records of the court of Quarter Sessions and, thus, were not handed over to Kirkpatrick’s successor. Happily, however, inertia reigned until Mr. Bovett’s decision in 1823. Possibly, he was aware of the existence since 1780 of the duplicate assessments, but

ignorant of the original reason for the presence of the 1766-67 returns.

Of course, all this does not affect the users of the records, but to an archivist it is a source of quiet satisfaction that after 170 years the puzzle has been resolved.

1. History of Parliament, *House of Commons 1754-90*, vol. I (1964).
2. SRO, DD/S/WH 346 - 348.
3. Do 348.
4. 20 Geo. III, c. 17.
5. 18 Geo. II, c. 18.

DEREK SHORROCKS

54. SOME GERMAN REFLECTIONS ON DORSET, 1804-9: From 1804 to 1816 a Medical Officer serving in the King's German Legion sent home a number of letters which were subsequently published as the *Journal of an Officer*. He arrived at Greenwich by boat on 28th August 1804. After spending a few days in London he travelled to Dorchester via Southampton, where he spent a night in an inn, and Salisbury where he stayed at the *White Hart*.

The larger English taverns are as decidedly inferior to those of Germany as the lesser ones are superior. Cleanliness, indeed, is quite a universal care, and seems as natural to an Englishman as the want of it does to a German, by whom it is regarded, when practised, rather as a painful duty than a pleasant refreshment. In the Southampton inn, I was a good deal surprised to find not only the rooms, but the stairs also, well carpeted — a luxury scarce ever to be met with amongst us.

At the *White Hart* he found to his consternation that a 'No Smoking' rule applied.

I made the necessary preparations to regale myself with my Meerschaum; but alas! hereupon arose almost as great a storm as any I had experienced at sea! My good landlady herself pounced upon me in the utmost consternation, and actually forbid the execution of my design. In this she was undoubtedly justified, smoking being generally prohibited, except in the tap-rooms of English inns.

At Dorchester he was much taken with the large stone-built barracks which, with their Officers' mess, soldiers' quarters, two hospitals (one for men and one for horses), a riding school and houses for the barrack-master, etc., he decided, 'had all the appearance of a little military town'. In spite of their size, however, the barracks were not large enough to accommodate all the troops stationed in Dorchester at that time. Some of the German officers had to take lodgings in the town whilst many of the privates were billeted in various public houses.

On 18th Sept., four days after his arrival, the author saw King George III for the first time when the monarch inspected his regiment, 1st (German) Light Dragoons, on Monckton Down. He was obviously surprised to find so few civilians attended this ceremony. He explains that,

I expected that, on this occasion, there would be an immense number of spectators assembled; but, on the contrary, I could scarcely count fifty; for, since the King made a point of visiting Weymouth every summer, to enjoy the benefit of sea-bathing, his presence was by no means novel, or calculated to produce any particular excitement.

During his first visit to Weymouth, he was surprised at the ordinariness of the King's residence which, he found, 'was not distinguished in any way from those in the possession of the nobility and other wealthy persons'.

When he was off duty, the author obviously travelled around the countryside a great deal, during which time he met a number of farmers.

The life and manners of the English farmers, of whom I had an opportunity of seeing a good deal whilst I resided in the country, exhibit great marks of cheerfulness and contentment: their sons and daughters spend their time in studying music and cultivating flower-gardens, quite heedless of the future, and desirous to emulate the ladies and gentlement of the cities. Their mode of existence is, however, monotonous enough, being seldom varied, except by the occasional receipt of a newspaper.

In the middle of Jan 1805 the author's regiment moved to the barracks at Radipool (*sic*) where he found that 'the surge of the sea produced a most appalling noise in the stillness of evening'. The regiment did not move back to Dorchester until the end of June. Consequently they spent Easter in Weymouth.

The festival of Easter is observed in England, as, indeed, are all other religious festivals, as a time more particularly set apart for rioting and drinking. The higher orders of society, in fact, do not observe them at all; and this difference appears, at first, exceedingly strange to the continental visitor. On the Easter Monday of this year an event occurred in our neighbourhood which dashed the mirth of the populace; for, in one of these drunken revels, a dragoon met his death in an affray with a sailor.

The author was happier in Dorchester where he found the sight of 'the rich cornfields' much more to his taste than 'the dull eternal monotony of the ocean'. In July, however, his regiment moved to an encampment near Weymouth in order to take part in a grand Royal Review. The day of the review must have been a very busy one for the King and a very noisy one for the people of Weymouth. The King arrived in Weymouth at 6 o'clock in the morning. By 11 o'clock he was inspecting the troops who were quartered in the Radipole Barracks. He then spent the afternoon reviewing the remainder of the troops who

were drawn up on the hills behind Weymouth. There were so many of them that it was five o'clock before the King reached the German light cavalry regiment. Meanwhile, wherever he went, he was greeted with a multiplicity of military sounds:

No sooner had the sovereign's approach from Weymouth been perceived, than he was greeted with a salute of artillery, which description of force having also been reviewed, the King rode to the body of infantry, by whom he was received with a *jeu-de-joie*, three times repeated; and, no sooner was the air cleared from smoke, whilst still the music of the different regiments filled it with harmony, than the grand cannonading from the harbour began to roll its thunders through the atmosphere; the riflemen then proceeded to give their salute, which was echoed by the vessels lying off the port.

The 1st (German) Light Dragoons left Dorset in Sept 1805 and spent the next two years in North Germany, Ireland and Denmark. In Dec 1807 they returned to Weymouth where they 'were received by the good citizens, as well as by the people of the surrounding neighbourhood, with great kindness and cordiality'. In May 1808 they moved to Wareham where they remained until 9th Feb 1809, when they left Dorset to take part in the Peninsular War.

Although the good people of Wareham appeared to regret our leaving them, their regret was by no means strongly expressed; indeed, it is not etiquette in England to express any emotion powerfully; their feelings seem all to be kept in abeyance. A shake of the hand, accompanied by 'I am glad to see you', or, 'I am sorry to part from you', is the utmost one Englishman concedes to another.

Anonymous, *Journal of an Officer in the King's German Legion: comprising an Account of his Campaigns and Adventures in England, Ireland, Denmark, Portugal, Spain, Malta, Sicily and Italy* (London, 1827)

G. LANNING

55. VICTORIAN CHURCH TILES IN SOMERSET. I. FLOOR TILES. Kenneth Wickham, writing of Victorian restorers in his *Churches of Somerset*, hoped that much of their work would not be condoned by subsequent generations, "above all their encaustic tiles". In recent years, when visiting Anglican churches in Somerset (as defined when Wickham wrote), we have looked critically at these encaustic tiles.¹

Tiles of the Gothic Revival were inspired by medieval examples, some plain and some with decorative motifs. Most commonly the latter carried the design in light clay inlaid in darker clay, under a clear yellow glaze. Herbert Minton expended much effort in imitating these inlaid tiles which were

called 'encaustic', though the term was used loosely.² In some Victorian restorations, tiles were copied from medieval ones found in the church, but the new shiny tiles could produce obtrusively glossy pavements. At Dunster, G. E. Street relaid the worn medieval examples in a small chapel, and paved the eastern section of the church largely with bright new replicas made by Godwin of Lugwardine, Hereford.³ Extensive pavements of glossy Victorian inlaid tiles are relieved only by strips and serrated borders of green glazed tile.

In other Somerset churches where medieval tiles are preserved, the Victorians did not obviously copy the ancient designs.⁴ At Limington, the 19th cent. tiles bear no resemblance to the heraldic medieval tiles preserved in the church: but one of the latter is reproduced in the 19th cent. tiles at Montacute church.⁵ At Old Cleeve, there is a profusion of Victorian inlaid tiles but, apart from one pattern which bears some generic resemblance, their designs are not obviously derived from the medieval tiles preserved at that particular site. New tiles were most commonly chosen from the general stock advertised in the tilemakers' catalogues. They might be close copies of medieval examples made for other churches or improvisations on a Gothic theme by designers such as A. W. N. Pugin. In John Medland's church at Leigh Woods, for example, a delightful 16-tile setting shows lions with flowers and foliage springing from their mouths. The design, which is used in several other Victorian pavements, is closely based on medieval tiles found in the Canynges' pavement from Bristol and at other West Country sites.⁶

In 1842, Herbert Minton published his first catalogue.⁷ It contained many designs which were taken from medieval tiles discovered in Westminster Abbey Chapter House and which Minton had used in supplying tiles for the restoration of Temple Church, London.⁸ Some of these designs can still be seen, on 6-inch tiles in the original medieval colours, at several Somerset churches restored in the 1840s or early 1850s, e.g., at Elworthy, restored in 1846 according to the church guide; in the sanctuary at Timsbury, probably from Gilbert Scott's restoration; and at West Pennard.⁹

Minton's early designs remained popular, and one from the Temple Church group still appears among the tiles paving the lychgate at Bathampton. The tiles are very broken and cannot have been there long. But, even before 1850, Pugin began to introduce colours not seen in medieval tiles, particularly blue. Examples of Minton's early designs on the resulting

polychrome tiles appear at Charlton Mackrell and Othery, both probably from Benjamin Ferrey's restorations¹⁰; in the sanctuary pavement at Norton St. Philip; and in what are probably John Norton's pavements at West Quantoxhead and Stogursey.¹¹ Minton's products were highly influential and he frequently donated tiles to pave the sanctuary. He probably did so for the restoration at Kewstoke in April 1855: but if still present, the tiles are hidden under carpet.¹²

His main competitor in the 1840s was Chamberlain & Co., of Worcester, who also made inlaid tiles in medieval colours.¹³ Tiles which match specimens of Chamberlain's tiles or designs in their catalogue are found in several Somerset churches. The very worn tiles in the sanctuary at Churchstanton appear to be Chamberlain's: so do the well preserved ones around the font at Redhill¹⁴; and those in the sanctuary, but not the choir, at East Brent.¹⁵ The tiles in the choir pavement at Evercreech are also probably Chamberlain's. Those in the chancel pavement at Stogumber survived the church's restoration and repaving by John D. Sedding because he specified that the existing tiles should be re-laid in the same patterns.¹⁶ There are also tiles possibly of Chamberlain's designs at Penselwood where the church guide dates restoration to 1848. In that year, Chamberlain & Co. ceased making tiles, but their stock in trade was taken over by Maw & Co., whose early tiles can be confused with Chamberlain's.

The patterns depicted on Victorian inlaid tiles were commonly curvilinear, a curling design confined to a single tile or a circular decoration requiring four or more tiles for its completion. But the tiles themselves were, for practical reasons, almost always straight-edged squares, rectangles or triangles. Otherwise, diamond shaped tiles with a simple inlay, probably made by Maws, occur in borders at Lufton, and hexagonal tiles at Doultong and Northmoor Green. Those in the sanctuary pavement at the last-named site appear to be based on designs made by the architect, J. P. Seddon, for Maw & Co.¹⁷

The circular medieval pavements at Muchelney do not seem to have inspired the use of correspondingly shaped tiles in local Victorian restorations. The only circular tiles commonly found are Minton's polychrome roundels, inlaid with sacred symbols such as the attributes of the Evangelists.¹⁸ Each roundel is usually framed in decorated inlaid tiles to form a square setting, the idea derived presumably from the medieval tiles of Chertsey Abbey. They are usually found on chancel walls but appear in pavements at St. John's, Yeovil, and at Burrington.

Different Minton designs of sacred symbols appear on square polychrome tiles at West Chinnock; and yet another series among Minton tiles at Othery and West Quantoxhead. Though the latter are on square tiles, they are set among other square tiles carrying a circular element in their composite design. The resulting settings resemble those containing roundels, but without the practical disadvantage of involving circular tiles.

Heraldic decoration was frequently used by Victorian tile-designers who were not limited, as their medieval predecessors had been, to the use of two colours. Multicoloured heraldic tiles can be seen, for example, in the 19th cent. pavements in the nave at St. John's, Yeovil (under carpet), at Charlton Mackrell and at West Quantoxhead. At St. John's, Frome, are 12-inch polychrome tiles bearing Bishop Ken's monogram, both in the pavement and outside on the bishop's grave.¹⁹ Memorials to less famous individuals were also made, particularly by Mintons, as 12-inch inlaid tiles in sombre colours. Though usually on church walls, they appear in pavements at Yatton and Winford.

Early Gothic Revival tiles were approximately six inches square but, increasingly in the second half of the century, four and a quarter inch tiles became popular. The high glaze of the early tiles and the density at which they were often laid attracted unfavourable comparison with 'floorcloth'.²⁰ To avoid this, unglazed tiles were often used or the style of glaze was modified. Sometimes a green glaze was substituted for the light yellow one, exaggerating the green tinge found in some medieval glazes. Examples can be seen among tiles of Godwin's designs at Hatch Beauchamp and, characteristically with the green wearing to show yellow beneath, at Rockwell Green.

Some Minton tiles had an unglazed background while the inlay received a bright yellow glaze. These can be seen in pavements at Whatley and in the recently uncarpetted chancel at St. John's, Clevedon. Tiles at Beckington are probably of this type but wear has made it uncertain. Godwin & Co. commonly used a very successful glaze which yielded a *peau d'orange* surface. Examples can be seen at Tickenham where Godwin tiles were laid when Ewan Christian restored the chancel²¹, and in the lavish display of tiles at Leigh Woods church.

Craven, Dunnill & Co. of Jackfield, Shropshire, produced some inlaid tiles with a thick treacly glaze and a slightly uneven surface. Good examples can be seen at Coxley. Several of the

designs used there are labelled "St. Patrick's Cathedral" in the maker's catalogue, and are found in the Dublin cathedral of that dedication.

The Architectural Pottery Company of Poole manufactured tiles which were not strictly inlaid, but were made by laying clays of different colours in geometric patterns on individual tiles. The resulting design was similar to that commonly achieved by a mosaic of separate small tiles of various colours. Examples that can be matched against tiles with the company's mark are seen in pavements probably dating from the 1860s at, for example, Ile Brewers and Leighland, restored by C. E. Giles; Dowlish Wake, restored by B. Ferrey²²; Milton Clevedon, restored by E. B. Lamb²³; and Langford Budville.²⁴ At Clatworthy they make a highly distinctive pavement.

Not all medieval tiles were inlaid: some were simply decorated with an impressed linear design. Square tiles of this type are found particularly from the English Midlands to the North West, and in Wales and Ireland. Victorian copies of the line-impressed tiles were used by Gilbert Scott in restorations of churches and cathedrals from Derbyshire to North Wales; by G. E. Street in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin; and by the Lancaster architects, Paley & Austin.²⁵

Medieval line-impressed tiles did not occur in Somerset, so it is surprising to find 19th-century copies in the choir pavement at St. Mary's, Bridgwater, used in conjunction with Maw's inlaid tiles. Now drab from wear, they would have been striking when freshly glazed. Their clay body is extremely coarse-textured: in this and their simple design they appear to be identical to tiles made by Maws for Scott's restoration of St. Asaph's Cathedral.²⁶ The tiles at St. Mary's were presumably laid in 1878 when restoration was supervised by a committee, presided over by the vicar, which dispensed with the services of a paid architect.²⁷

Quite different line-impressed tiles edge the footpace at Rodney Stoke, presumably dating from E. B. Ferrey's restoration of 1878-79, when the chancel was paved with Godwin tiles.²⁸ They have a smooth, plummy red body and the impressed lines have a whitish bloom from retained glaze. Godwin tiles of a similar body and with line-impressed designs were used by Paley & Austin in the north of England.²⁹

Yet another group of tiles depend for their decoration on coloured glazes applied to a flat surface. They are less suitable for pavements than inlaid tiles, and are rarely so used in Britain. At Ashbrittle, however, tiles of this type form the

pavement around the pulpit: their greyish buff body is decorated with white, black, yellow, brown and pale blue. We would be very interested to learn the history of these tiles.

So far we have considered only tiles carrying some form of decoration, usually inlaid or impressed. But equally important in church pavements were plain tiles of a single colour without added decoration. Many districts had traditionally produced common floor tiles from plastic clay but, with the new enthusiasms of the Gothic Revival, few churches remained content with these local quarry tiles. They still provide very satisfactory pavements for some country churches and can be seen, for example, in parts of the nave at Timberscombe where John D. Sedding specified the re-laying of Bridgwater tiles.³⁰ But the plain tiles commonly found on church floors are dust-pressed and hard-wearing, and often supplied by the same specialised manufacturers as the decorated tiles.

Plain tiles are usually unglazed dull red or near black, and occasionally yellow, sometimes with a green glaze. These colours bear at least a distant resemblance to those of plain medieval tiles. But, as with inlaid tiles, new exciting colours soon appeared.

Strong blue, for example, occurs in the plain church tiles at Lullington³¹; at Ash Priors, probably dating from J. Houghton Spencer's restoration³²; at Cloford, perhaps from restoration in 1869 by Henry Woodyer³³; in the colourful sanctuary pavement of Blomfield's rebuilding at Chilton Cantelo; and at North Cadbury where they are associated with unusual lime green tiles. Subtler variations and more subdued colours often appeared later in the century. At Failand church, built 1883-87, a major element in the plain tile pavement is an octagonal tile of a fawn colour which echoes that of the stonework.³⁴ Plain tiles of light orange and maroon which make an interesting combination with others of bluish green and white in the sanctuary at Charlton Adam were probably laid in 1896, after Henry Wilson's main restoration.³⁵ The rich orange and thickly glazed plain tiles in the chancel at Coxley probably date from the previous decade.³⁶

Plain tiles were also made more interesting by giving their surface an irregular 'textured' glaze. These appeared in Somerset churches during the 1880s, and had been used by G. E. Street some years earlier at Kingston, Dorset. At Chedzoy church, restored in 1884 by the Reading architect, S. Slingsby Stallwood³⁷, the inlaid tiles apparently from Carter, Johnson & Co. of Worcester, are lively enough: but it is the yellow 'plain'

tiles with a glistening granular glaze that jump to the eye. The similarly textured green tiles are less dazzling.

Around the font at Cannington, an elaborate pavement contains inlaid tiles, apparently Minton's, and another variety of textured plain tile. A purplish brown glaze has been feathered over a light coloured body to cause mottling and streaking.³⁸ In the chancel at Queen Camel, restored in 1886-87 by J. L. Pearson³⁹, are inlaid tiles which appear to be Godwin's, and another mottled tile of green and brown. This effect is produced by a green glaze over a body containing red-firing and light-firing inclusions.

Finally, as with decorated tiles, plain tiles were usually limited to straight-edged shapes: curvilinear tiles appear only rarely. But ones with gently curving sides occur in the choir pavement at Cothelstone, and the manuscript records of Maw & Co., held at the Shropshire Record and Research Unit, contain a coloured sketch of an almost identical arrangement, marked "C. Giles, Esq."⁴⁰ Similar curvilinear tiles in the sanctuary pavement at Chelwood are differently arranged. When restoring this church in 1861, John Norton specified Peake's 6-inch tiles for all floors, so these sanctuary tiles are presumably later.⁴¹

From the limited descriptions which have been possible in this note, it is clear that Victorian church-builders could call on a wide range of plain and decorated tiles when designing a pavement. How they used them will be discussed in a further note.

1. We have looked for tilework in over 500 Anglican churches in the Bath & Wells diocese as covered by the Somerset volumes of N. Pevsner's *Buildings of England* (1958). The *Victoria County History of Somerset* has also been used extensively. Dates and attributions in these two sources have been quoted without explanatory footnotes. Where churches are referred to only by locality, the parish church is implied. We are grateful to all the clergy and church workers who have been willing to leave churches unlocked or trust us with their keys.
2. For general introduction see Kenneth Beaulah, *Church Tiles of the Nineteenth Century* (n.d.). This source contains illustrations to help in the attribution to various manufacturers of tiles found *in situ*. Further help may be had from comparison with specimen tiles or with illustrations in tile-makers' catalogues. The location of such catalogues is discussed in Terence A. Lockett, *Collecting Victorian Tiles* (1979), chap. 3.
3. *Building News*, 1876, 31: 299. *Builder*, 1876: 959. S.R.O., D/D/Cf 1875/3. The pavements were inspired by contemporary finds at Cleve Abbey and laid by Godwin's own workers.
4. Possibly some were copied but this is no longer apparent because the exemplars have since disappeared. More of the medieval tiles were probably preserved in the 19th century, but the claim in the *Bath & Wells Diocesan and Parochial Magazine*, 1855, 3: 36-37, that they were to be seen "in almost every old church" may have been optimistic.
5. Presumably laid during Henry Hall's restoration, see *Builder*, 1870: 291.
6. Bruce Williams, "Late medieval floor tiles from Acton Court, Iron Acton, Avon", in *Rescue archaeology in the Bristol area*, 1979, 1: 61-76.

7. *Examples of Old English Tiles, manufactured by Minton & Co*, (1842) (copy in National Art Library).
8. Hans van Lemmen, "Encaustic tiles", in *Minton Tiles, 1835-1935* (1984).
9. *Builder*, 1853: 233.
10. *Builder*, 1880, **38**: 282. *Ecclesiologist*, 1848, **8** (new series 5): 196.
11. *Builder*, 1856: 608. S.R.O., D/D/Cf 1863/6.
12. *Lichfield Diocesan Church Calendar*, 1859: supplement 83-88, contains a list of churches to which Minton donated tiles. Among them is one described as Kenstoke (not Kewstoke as was presumably intended) church. The gift may have been for restoration by G. E. Street, see A. E. Street, *Memoir of George Edmund Street* (1888), p. 303.
13. For their catalogue see, *The Worcester Encaustic Tiles manufactured by F. St. John* (1844), (copy in National Art Library).
14. The laying of Chamberlain tiles in the sanctuary is recorded in *Ecclesiologist*, 1844, **3**: 23. These may have been moved to the present position during re-decoration by Foster & Wood (see *Builder*, 1870: 331) or the "improvement" of 1882 listed in H. Goodhart-Rendel's index of Victorian churches (in R.I.B.A. Library).
15. The chancel floor (presumably choir) is surprisingly recorded as being "laid with encaustic tiles" as late as 1902, see *Bath & Wells Diocesan Calendar*, 1902: 177.
16. S.R.O., D/P/stogm 6/1/2.
17. Illustrated in *Building News*, 1873, **25**: 194, 205. J. Houghton Spencer may have been responsible for this pavement: he subsequently used Maw's tiles in other parts of the church, see *Builder*, 1885, **49**: 480.
18. Illustrated in Victoria Cecil, *Minton "Majolica"*, Jeremy Cooper, London, 1982, p. 79.
19. Sometimes inlaid designs reflect the dedication of the church, e.g., at St. Giles, Leigh on Mendip. At Kingsweston, the porch pavement includes a Minton tile showing the church's date, while an advertising tile of Maw & Co is strategically placed in the porch at Combwich.
20. *Ecclesiologist*, 1848, **9** (new series 6): 81-85.
21. *Builder*, 1890, **59**: 467.
22. *Church Builder*, 1863: 75.
23. *Ibid.*, 1867: 48.
24. Where a new aisle was built in 1866, see S.R.O., D/D/Cf 1866/2.
25. See *Glazed Expressions* (Tiles & Architectural Ceramics Society), 1988, **16**: 11-12; 1989, **18**: 1-2; 1990, **21**: 8-10.
26. *Builder*, 1869: 823.
27. *Western Gazette*, 2 Aug. 1878, p. 6.
28. *Building News*, 1879, **37**: 236. S.R.O., D/D/Cf 1878/9.
29. Different again are the small triangular green-glazed tiles, impressed with a floral motif, in the elaborate tilework before the altar at Biddisham.
30. S.R.O., D/D/Cf 1881/3.
31. Possibly from William Duckworth's restoration of 1862: see church guide.
32. See *Kelly's Directory of Somerset*, 1889.
34. The church was designed in 1883-87 by Edward Barnes, see Goodhart-Rendel index.
35. *Bath & Wells Diocesan Calendar*, 1897: 166. Wilson's restoration had included paving other parts of the church, see S.R.O., D/D/Cf 1892/3.
36. *Bath & Wells Diocesan & Parochial Magazine*, 1884: 75. Craven, Dunnill's catalogue suggests that the inlaid tiles used here were designed for St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, where they were laid in 1882.
37. *Building News*, 1884, **46**: 573. S.R.O., D/P/chedz 6/1/1.
38. This tilework probably dates from Edwin Down's work of 1885 when the font was moved; see S.R.O., D/P/can 6/1/2.
39. S.R.O., D/P/q ca 6/1/1.
40. Shropshire Records and Research Unit, Ms 5232. We are grateful to the Unit for access to Maw's archives. The tile arrangement was presumably designed for the Taunton architect, Charles E. Giles, but for what church is not recorded.
41. S.R.O., D/D/Cf 1861/5.

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56. A SIXTEENTH-CENTURY GLASTONBURY ELIXIR. Thomas Hearne's edition of the Chronicle of John of Glastonbury, published in 1726, contains in its appendices a quantity of material of no obvious relevance to that place, which he appears to have included simply because he found it interesting. Amongst these are a number of pieces by the mathematician and astrologer John Dee, (1527-1608), one of which is an appeal to Elizabeth I for the conservation of ancient sites and writings. John Dee had a connection with Glastonbury, beyond that appeal, which does not name the place, and presumably Hearne was aware of this, though he does not say so.

In 1581 Dee met Edward Kelly *alias* Talbot, a Worcestershire man, 28 years his junior. He had been convicted of forgery and had had his ears lopped off in the pillory at Worcester, but since from that time onwards he wore a black skull-cap sufficiently commodious to cover the places where they had been Dee is reputed never to have found this out. On 10 March 1581 Kelly called at Dee's house at Mortlake, and during the consultation which followed the spirit Uriel was called up and demanded that the two men should collaborate in their researches. It appears that Dee was never able to hear or see this spirit, or any others that were called up in the course of time, but depended on Kelly for an interpretation of their requirements. Kelly received an annual salary of £50 for holding the office of scryer to the Dee household, and what the spirits said through him appears to have been as law, for in years to come they were to inform the startled Dee that he and Kelly should henceforth hold their wives in common.

One of Dee and Kelly's many interests was the discovery of the Philosophers' Stone, and some time in 1581/3 they visited Glastonbury, where they claimed to have obtained from amongst the ruins of the abbey a very large quantity of an elixir, apparently in powder form, which they said would transmute base metals into gold. Dee's account of Glastonbury survives, and since he visited the abbey some forty years after its dissolution, the ruins must have been very much more impressive than they are now, though doubtless not so tidy. Perhaps covered with ivy and concealed by rampant vegetation, they might have seemed more mysterious, and being the burial-place of ancient princes, were perhaps the ideal place in which to pretend to discover that elixir most desired by their modern counterparts. Dee wrote:

O Glastonbury, Glastonbury: the Threasury of Carcasses of so famous, and so many rare Persons . . . How Lamentable, is thy case, now? How hath

Hypocrisie and Pride wrought thy desolation? Though I omit (here) the names of very many other, both excellent holy Men and Mighty Princes (whose Carcasses are committed to thy custody,) yet, that Apostle-like Joseph, that Triumphant Brytish Arthur, And now, this Peaceable, and Provident Saxon, King Edgar, do force me, with a certayn sorrowfull Reverence, here, to Celebrate thy Memory.

In 1583 Albert Laski came to England from Cracow in the hope of restoring his shattered fortunes with the help of the Philosopher's Stone, and Dee entertained both him and the Earl of Leicester on 31 July. Laski was extremely interested in Dee's work, and after a show of reluctance, Dee and Kelly allowed him to join their venture. Money was always a problem, and large amounts would be required to purchase the substances necessary for the manufacture of the Philosopher's Stone, for presumably the Glastonbury elixir would not last for ever, and Laski must have wanted to know how to make or obtain such a substance in his native Cracow. At times Dee seems to have been conveniently penniless, for he had begged forty angels (£20) from the queen to enable him to give Laski and the Duke of Leicester that dinner. Laski, probably with the intention of gaining some control over the costs, as well as the means of production, arranged that Dee and Kelly should return with him to Cracow, where he could provide for them at his principal castle, at nearby Laskoe. They left on 21 September, and arrived at Laskoe on 3 February 1584. On Dee's departure a mob broke into his house and destroyed his books and apparatus, and Hearne gives a letter which he wrote to the queen, asking for financial help to replace his belongings.

Laski soon came to realise that Dee and Kelly were not going to restore his fortunes, and made his escape by recommending them to the Emperor, Rudolf II, knowing that they would be unlikely to refuse the chance of such patronage. Dee and Kelly arrived at Prague on 9 August 1584, and obtained an interview with Rudolf, whom they signally failed to impress, and who would not grant them a second interview. On 17 April following they failed to impress the King of Poland. A return to Prague was met with a decree ordering them to leave the country within six days, and the pair hastened to Erfurt, where the civic authorities would not allow them to stay, even though they had letters of recommendation from Count Rosenberg, whom they had influenced by predicting that he would become the next King of Bohemia. They then sought refuge with him at Tribau, he having obtained a stay of the decree of banishment. Once there they made nearly an ounce of gold by "projecting one small grain" of the powder obtained at Glastonbury onto

an ounce and a quarter of mercury. They also transmuted into gold a section cut from a copper warming-pan, which they sent to Queen Elizabeth, with the mutilated warming-pan and the piece of gold that fitted the hole they had made in it. On 15 September 1586 they learned that the Emperor of Russia wished to employ them at an annual salary of £2000, but they refused this offer, apparently being content at Tribau, where we are told that Dee's eight year old son Arthur and the Rosenberg infant played quoits with the pieces of gold and silver which their respective fathers obtained by transmutation.

Throughout their stay at Tribau the church authorities made repeated attempts to rid the Empire of these sorcerers, and when the pair were summoned to appear before the Papal Nuncio at Prague Kelly so much infuriated the man that he later told the Emperor's secretary that he would very much like to have had him thrown out of the window, there and then, but had restrained himself for the sake of appearances, thereby nearly anticipating the events of 21 May 1616, when two Imperial Commissioners and their secretary were thrown out of a Prague window, precipitating the Thirty Years War. That the occasional defenestration of the unpopular may not have been a solely Bohemian trait at this time is suggested by the civic records of Wells, where one William Goodman was chosen as mayor in 1573, and "contemptuously refused the same office", upon which he was "drevn to leape out of A little dore in the one syde of the Haule, which may be an ensample for ever".

After a series of progressively more acrimonious quarrels, Dee and Kelly decided to separate, and Kelly left Tribau for Prague on 16 January 1589. The Queen, perhaps as fascinated by her useless warming-pan as by Dee's insistence that he was related to her by descent from the same ancient Welsh kings, had meanwhile invited him to return to England, and she received him at Richmond on 19 December 1589. In the years that remained to him he constantly petitioned the crown for funds, which may have led to the presumption that he could only manufacture very small amounts of gold very occasionally.

It may be that these men stumbled upon chlorides, for if one rubs the chlorides of gold or silver onto copper or copper alloys such as brass and bronze, a heavy plating of gold or silver may be obtained. They could have precipitated the chlorides of these metals simply by adding salt to their nitrates, but probably confused the issue by adding all manner of organic

materials for magical reasons. Though additional organic ingredients might not usually have impaired the plating, they would have impaired the experimenters' ability to understand the chemistry of what was taking place.

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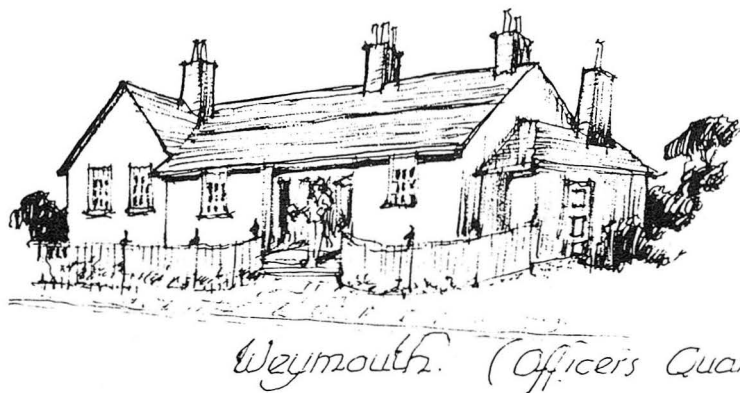
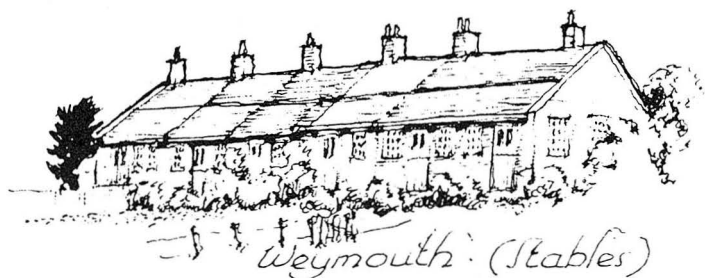
NICHOLAS du Q. BIRD

57. RADIPOLE BARRACKS, WEYMOUTH. In 1805 the Radipole Barracks in Weymouth became the largest cavalry barracks in Britain. Built originally in 1798 for a complement of 408 men and 392 horses, they were extended in 1805 to hold 51 officers, 912 troopers, 986 horses and 29 hospital patients. Unlike the other barracks built in Dorset at that time in Bridport, Dorchester, and Wareham, which were built of stone and consisted of two storeys, the Radipole Barracks were single storeyed and constructed of wood. Unfortunately no plans of these barracks are known to have survived. The 1857 O.S. map clearly depicts "The Old Barrack Square" which was situated immediately to the west of the Dorchester Road at Lodmoor. The O.S. map of 1811, however, shows clearly that the barracks occupied a greater area than just the barrack square. The original barracks extended westwards from the square to the cliffs overlooking what is now Radipole Lake, but which in those days was an inlet of the sea. The 1805 extensions were built immediately to the north of the original barracks on a steeply sloping site between the cliffs and the Dorchester Road. Altogether, the barracks occupied 21 acres of land which was leased from a local landowner, Mr. Edmund Henning.

Although no plan of the barracks exists, it is evident from the following extract from a letter sent from Weymouth by King George III to the Duke of York on 10 September 1804 that they contained at least a riding school.

"I have seen the Assistant Barrack Master General and fully approved of the Plan he has proposed for additions to the Barracks, and erecting a Riding House; which will render it one of the best Cavalry Barracks in the Kingdom."

The 1857 map denotes two buildings on the westward perimeter of the barrack square. These were known as York Villa and Park Villa. It is not known for certain what these



buildings were used for, but they were probably officers' quarters. Indeed, a drawing in *The Cavalry Journal* of 1912, entitled *Weymouth (Officers' Quarters)*² looks exactly like York Villa, which still exists as a pair of bungalows, 24 and 26 Alexandra Road. (Park Villa has long since disappeared.)

To have had the Officers' Quarters immediately overlooking the barrack square would have conformed to the layout of the buildings of other barracks built at that time. Between the two officers' quarters there would probably have been soldiers' accommodation, and even stables. The only building other

than York Villa to have survived, is a long, low building, now comprising a number of cottages, which is situated at the north-east corner of the former barrack square. It is marked on the 1857 map as The Old Barracks. What this building was used for is also uncertain. R.C.H.M. suggests that it may have comprised officers' quarters.³ To have had officers' quarters tucked away at the corner of the barrack square, however, would not have conformed to the designs of other barracks of that period. A ventilation strip in the roof of this building indicates that it was used as living accommodation, perhaps by men, but more probably horses. Indeed, *The Cavalry Journal* of 1912 includes a sketch of a very similar building, entitled 'Weymouth (Stables)',⁴ which depicts what appear to be stable doors.

The extensions to the original barracks were put up hurriedly and inefficiently. During the first eighteen months of their existence, £1200 had to be spent on repairs. It was then estimated that further repairs, necessary to bring the whole barracks up to the standard required by the Government, would cost £2593.4s.2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Complaining that the builder, Alexander Copland, had not performed the contract with common honesty, Mr. J. S. Davies, the Assistant Barrack Master General in the Hampshire District, explained to a Parliamentary Committee on Dec. 15th 1806 that

I found the foundation under the wood framing in the Stables, that dividing the Stables longitudinally, tumbled to pieces, the real cause of which appeared to proceed from the rubble foundation being built with mortar of a bad quality, composed of a muddy sand and a not proper proportion of lime in it. This work was so much destroyed that, in many places it opened a passage; the cavity was so large that the horses on the highest side of the partition were in danger of sliding through under their own mangers into the Stables on the other side of the longitudinal partition, a situation from which it would have been difficult to extract them.⁵

At least two Commanding Officers, Colonels Long and Seymour, both of the 15th Light Dragoons, stated that their regiment would have to be moved unless immediate steps were taken to repair the barracks thoroughly. Nevertheless, during the years when a French invasion was considered a probability, the barracks continued, with the stables still in an unsatisfactory condition, to maintain a full complement of men and horses. From 1810 onwards, however, the barracks were mainly used as depots of regiments serving abroad. In 1812, for instance, the number of troops in the barracks was only 550, comprising largely the Headquarters' staffs of four Light Dragoon Regiments.

Following the end of the war in 1815, the number of troops in the barracks continued to decline. So did the state of the buildings. In spite of £2699 being spent on repairs during the period 1817 to 1822, the buildings deteriorated into a state of dilapidation. In 1824 it was decided to cease using the barracks, and to return the land on which they stood to its civilian owner.

1. H. F. B. Wheeler & A. M. Broadley: *Napoleon and the Invasion of England* (London, 1907), Vol. 2: p. 145.
2. C. R. B. Barrett, Early Cavalry Barracks in Great Britain, *The Cavalry Journal*, Vol. 7 (1912), p. 167.
3. *ibid* Vol. 2, S. E., Part 2. p. 358.
4. *ibid* p. 166.
5. *House of Commons Parliamentary Papers*, (1806-07), Vol. 2, App. 52.

GEORGE LANNING

The author is indebted to Eric Ricketts, R.I.B.A. for permission to reproduce his drawings of the Cavalry Journal diagrams.

58. PUBLIC HIRE CHAIRS IN WEYMOUTH. In 1634 Sir Saunders Duncombe was granted by royal warrant the right to build covered chairs for hire in London and Westminster. Such chairs were not unknown: they had operated in Naples since the early 1660s, and in Paris since 1617. The first Paris hire chairs were open; covered chairs, inspired by London's example, being introduced later. Chairs in Naples were always enclosed, but, befitting a sunny southern city, the covering was light. The first one to be used in England may have been the one which carried the Duke of Buckingham in 1623. By 1636 London had some 40 for hire, and they were described by John Gloag as 'unpretentious, little more than an upright box, rather like a truncated sentry box, roofed by a shallow dome'.¹ Two main types evolved: a four-paned side which splayed out a little below seat level, with a latched door at the front, and the other which had a pronounced rake at the back. The carrying poles, each 10ft. long, slid through metal grooves on each side of the chair. The slightly domed roof was hinged so that the passenger did not have to stoop to get in.

Hire chairs became fashionable in London, and wherever the leisured classes were to be found. In Weymouth², the sedan carriers had a fixed charge in 1791:

From any part of the town to the Assembly Room	1s. 0d.
From any part over the water	1s. 6d.
Waiting an hour	1s. 6d.
Every hour after	1s. 0d.
A short fare	0s. 6d.



Kay's *Weymouth Guide* for 1816 lists seven sedan chairmen. Old guidebooks and directories cannot be taken as infallible but the number seems acceptable:

I. Arnold	45 East St.	I. Farnwell	Conygar St.
J. Bailey	St. Thomas St.	- Hardy	St. Mary St.
T. Buckler	Governor's Lane	- Jolliffe	12 St. Thomas St.
I. Cook	12 Crescent St.		

They are included in a list of 'Gentlemen, Merchants, Tradesmen &c' which runs to 304 names in Melcombe Regis and 73 in Weymouth. Sedan chairmen were certainly '*etcetera*', the social scale classing them as 'unskilled' along with porters, coal heavers and the like. As any two of the chairmen must perforce have worked together, the odd man, whichever he was, may have been a non-carrying chair owner or perhaps an occasional bearer, or 'oddman' as he was indeed called in the business. Out of the season they must have had another job to fall back on.

The total suggests that there were then perhaps three or four public hire chairs in the united borough. Such a total for a resident population of 6622 in the 1821 census can be set against known totals of 11 public hire chairs for Taunton (8534 inhabitants in 1821) and 18 for Exeter (23479 inhabitants in 1821), though the comparisons are not strictly valid as Weymouth — Melcombe Regis, embracing a busy port and a long-established coast resort, one of the three major bathing places along the south coast, also had a sizeable transient population of visitors for part of the year. A more valid comparison may be made with contemporary Brighton, which had grown greatly to become Britain's premier seaside town, the 1821 census recording 24,429 inhabitants, to which may be added an estimated 11,000 visitors a year. In that year the Brighton Town Commissioners laid down that 24 should be the maximum number of licences annually authorised for each of the following types of public hire conveyance: sedan chair; horse- or mule-drawn carriage; ass-drawn chaise; and fly.³

Kay lists no other kind of passenger carrier, so the Weymouth sedans would seem to have had matters to themselves at that time. A coachmaker named Style, in West Street, probably undertook any repairs to chairs that the chairmen could not manage themselves. Given the still small extent of the borough it is likely that the chairs were used largely if not exclusively by the visitors, the locals finding little hardship in walking the short distances. That the town's total of hire chairs was adequate for visitors' needs is clear from a letter from a Mrs. E. Bagenal who wrote from Weymouth to her daughter Jane on 6 Feb 1809 — Weymouth obviously had a winter season: 'A carriage is of no use here — very few keep them — as a sedan chair will carry as far as there is Occation (*sic*).' [The map in Harvey's guidebook of 1800 shows the built-up area as extending for some 880 yards from the bridge on the Melcombe side to Royal Crescent, south to north, and for some 400 yards from the Backwater near the Dissenters' Meeting House to Clarence Buildings near the south end of the Esplanade, east to west.]

With only about one-third of Brighton's population, and a much greater distance from London, somewhat offset by accessibility from Bristol and Bath, which also generated visitors, Weymouth can be assumed to have attracted perhaps 3000 visitors a year. Bath was still the leading inland spa, though Cheltenham and Leamington in particular, had become strong challengers for popularity. By 1793 Bath had the huge total of 250 authorised public hire sedans in addition to Bath chairs. This total was exceeded only by London, where

400 public sedans were authorised to be licensed as early as 1725. If London, by virtue of its great size alone — ten times that of the largest provincial town — was always a special case, Bath was unusual also. Not only was its resident population, 26811 in 1821, still complemented by numerous visitors but also its layout, topography and social requirements were ideally suited to the flexibility of sedan transport. Its chairmen could carry a fare up and down Bath's precipitous slopes, being allowed to charge extra, after a 'mutiny' in 1793, if a given part of the 'lift' was not on the flat. As elsewhere, they could also negotiate streets and alleys too narrow for wheeled vehicles and, if need be, deposit the passenger inside a building. Edinburgh, with its peak total of 188 hire chairs, also had conditions that specially favoured sedans.

On 24 December 1818 Weymouth Corporation resolved that the schedule respecting the hire of sedan chairs be rescinded and that fares be calculated according to precise distances. Chairmen were to be allowed 6d. for every 200 yds. In cases of dispute the distance was to be measured by the municipal official called the Serjeant-at-Mace, who was to receive 6d. for his trouble from the party proved wrong. The new scale appears in Kay's *Weymouth Guide* for 1824 and Benson's *New Weymouth Guide* for 1831:

Hire of chair for every 200 yd	6d.
For every 10 min detained	6d.
For the hire of any chair, or waiting job, per hour	2s. 0d.
All fares after 12 midnight doubled	

'At all balls, routs, or parties, as well as at the theatre, where chairs are in attendance, the chair nearest the door is to take first turn, without preference to the individual chairmen. All differences or complaints are to be settled by the magistrates, anyone offending against these regulations, subject themselves to a fine not to exceed 20s. Any chairman, or chairmen, not attending when required (unless he or they shall be previously engaged) subject themselves to a penalty not exceeding 20s.'

Benson also quotes fares for the hire of wheel chairs, that is, Bath chairs, by now competing for custom. The fare chart for Weymouth was simple. Larger places, as for example Exeter, had detailed charts covering many specified 'lifts' with their precise distances.

The same sedan chair rates are quoted as late as the 1860s in Sherren's *Illustrated Guide to Weymouth*, along with the now lower rates for wheel chairs. Perhaps the compiler had not brought his information up to date or the odd sedan may have survived that long, plying amid the other forms of conveyance soon to supplant it for ever.

Although Benson stated in 1831 that chairmen were licensed annually at the Town Clerk's office, he gave no licence fee. Brighton's Commissioners levied 5s. a year from 1810, a seemingly reasonable fee when compared with Bath's 3s. plus stamp duty, a century earlier. The first traceable official reference to licensing comes in a Corporation Minute of 29 Sept 1836 which covers that of both sedan and wheel chairs, carriages, pleasure boats and 'coal meters', and reads as though licensing were a new requirement. (Coincidentally the first such requirement by Ramsgate Corporation tallies with this late date.)

By this time London's once vast hire chair fleet had all but vanished, ultimately ousted by the city's unending expansion and the final triumph of competing forms of horse-drawn conveyances of varying kinds, the newest being the horse bus. In Bath, whence fashion had fled, leaving the city to the elderly retired and invalids, few sedans remained by 1850; guides of the 1850s mention only wheel ('Bath') chairs. From mid-Victorian Edinburgh too the sedan had all but disappeared. Some other towns clung to one or two sedans into the 1860s. Norwich and Peterborough, for instance. In Newcastle a lone sedan chairman named Henry Elgar, one of a family that had owned most of the sedans there for a century, is listed as such in a local directory as late as 1877 but in the next year he appears as 'chimney sweep', which almost certainly had been his calling for some years.

In Weymouth it is probable that there was a gradual change to landaus, hansom and other horsed vehicles seen in views of Victorian resorts and other towns, as well as to the one-man-powered Bath chair as pictured in a photograph of St. Edmund Street in the early 1880s and in another that shows a prominent aged citizen being thus conveyed.

The County Museum in Dorchester has two preserved sedans. It is possible that one may have come from Weymouth. Its outside maximum measurements, taken from just under the roof, are: height 5ft 3½ in; width 2ft 3½ in; depth 2ft 10½ in. These dimensions are more or less standard. The thin leather that covers the wooden frame is lacquered in black, marking it as a public hire chair. The mouldings around the side windows and door were, it appears, originally lacquered in gold. The inside is upholstered in beige cloth but the seat and sides are not padded, though they may have been so at one time. The lower part of the door is upholstered in patterned red cloth, the upper painted red. The windows have velvet surrounds inside. The

roof, as with all sedans, is hinged at the back.

The licence number, 'No 1' is painted in gold on the back of the chair, all licensed conveyances being required to bear their number, whether on side, door, or rear. From its low number this chair may well have been the first of Weymouth's little sedan fleet. At Cheltenham the Town Commissioners, as licensing authority, required the owner's name to appear on a conveyance but such a requirement seems to have been unusual if not unique. Similar public hire chairs are to be seen in the Assembly Room in Bath, the Royal Albert Museum in Exeter and the County Museum in Taunton. That in Bath adjoins a private sedan whose ornate finish, with much gilding, affords an interesting contrast with the utilitarian standard black finish of the public hire example.

At first the bath chair, as used in the city of Bath to convey bathers straight from bed to bath, was carrying chair with a light framework sufficient to protect the muffled occupant from the early morning chill. It developed into a rather smaller species of the ordinary sedan, whose chairmen would bear either type of conveyance as called upon. The Bath chair, a subsequent local invention, was for long a sort of armchair with large side wheels and intended for invalids and the otherwise frail. In its final form it was a light carriage between two large wheels, the body sloping forwards, and with in the front a small steerable wheel and a tiller manipulated by the one chairman. The lower part of the conveyance was closed once the passenger was ensconced. A perambulator-type folding hood completed the ensemble. This was the Bath chair of which veteran readers may recall having seen the odd survivor in their childhood.

1. J. Gloag, *Georgian Grace* (1965).
2. De la Motte, *Guide to Weymouth* (1791). The Assembly Rooms opened in 1773 next to the Royal Gloucester Lodge on the Esplanade. 'Over the water' refers to 'old' Weymouth, south of the bridge.
3. The fly, a Brighton invention of 1816, was at first a small carriage drawn by a man, sometimes with an assistant pushing. It gradually transmogrified into a light, four-wheel, one-horse hackney vehicle, the term finally coming to denote any light horsed vehicle plying for hire.

Sources

Geoffrey Wilson, 'Public Hire Chairs in Exeter, *Devon and Cornwall Notes & Queries* August 1990; Spring 1991.

'Public Hire Chairs in Taunton', *Notes & Queries for Somerset and Dorset*, September 1991.

Trevor Fawcett, 'Chair Transport in Bath: The Sedan Era, *Bath History*, 11, 1987.

I gratefully acknowledge the help of Weymouth Central Library and the Dorset County Museum.

G. WILSON

59. LORD SHAFTESBURY'S ESTATE AND GARDENING NOTE-BOOK 1675. During the summer of 1675 the propagation of Parliament meant that Anthony Ashley Cooper, first Earl of Shaftesbury, was able to spend some time on his estate at Wimborne St. Giles. He was 54 years of age and the poor health from which he had suffered for many years had been made worse by his hectic political life and by the leading part he had played in the Parliamentary opposition to royal policies, an opposition which was to lead to his imprisonment in the Tower from February 1677 to February 1678.¹ Even on holiday he was not free from politics, and made an active, though unsuccessful, attempt to influence the choice of a new county M.P. for Dorset. But he also showed a great interest in the affairs of his estate, and the survival among his papers in the Public Record Office of a notebook dated 1675 reveals the variety of his concerns and gives remarkable detail about his plans for the garden.²

One project to which he gave his attention was the provision of elaborate regulations for the dining of the whole of his large household at Wimborne St. Giles. These illustrate the surviving medieval arrangements and ceremonies which continued to be observed in the great hall, and the strictly graded hierarchy among the numerous inhabitants of such a great house.³ They are dated 1675, and ordered that the tables were to be carefully arranged and served with food in accordance with the status of each group of servants. The Earl, his family and their guests dined at the high table, and below them was the Steward's table with places for eight persons, among them Thomas Stringer who was Shaftesbury's long-serving secretary, steward of the household and man of business. Food was to be served first to the high table and then to the Steward's table, 'and the victualls afterwards are to serve the Maids' table'. Next came the Gentlemen Waiters' table at which were to sit the fourteen most senior servants, including the Head Cook, Head Butler, Head Brewer, the Earl's 'gentleman' or valet, the Falconer and the Head Gardener. For these servants it was ordered that 'This table to be set presently after my Lord have dined with part of the victualls that come from my Lord's table'. The rest of the food from the high table was to go first to the Grooms' table, at which sat the grooms, porter, coachman, footmen and the under-butler. Lower still came the Maids' table where eleven female servants were to dine, and finally there was to be a table for eleven boys. Orders were also made for the close supervision of the elaborate ritual of the dining hall by the Clerk of the Kitchen and the Usher of the Hall. When all the

servants had dined the porter and boys were to carry the food that remained to poor people at the gates where the attractive almshouses had been founded by Sir Anthony Ashley in 1624.⁴

Dinner was served at mid-day, and evidently more than sixty people dined every day, not counting the many guests and their servants. The notebook written by the Earl in 1675 also gives details concerning the wages and uniform or livery of some of the servants. Those on public display were dressed very smartly and were given a new livery every eight months. They included the coachman who was paid £8 0s 0d per annum, and as well as his livery was also given a hat, shoes, stockings and a great cloak; the postilion who received £5 0s 0d per annum and a pair of boots; the groom and porter who were paid £6 0s 0d per annum, and the footman who had £5 0s 0d per annum together with a hat, three pairs of shoes and stockings as well as a new livery every eight months.⁵ For the use of the household and in order to supply the uniforms for the servants, large quantities of cloth were purchased in June 1675, including red and blue duffell, dowlas, linen, calico and Taunton serges as well as blankets, leather, iron, gunpowder and shot.

The Earl took a keen interest in the farming on his estate as well as in livestock breeding, gardening and fruit growing, and among the books he brought down to Wimborne St. Giles were Walter Blith's *English Improver, or A New Survey of Husbandry*, (1649), Gervase Markham's *English Husbandry* (1616), John Evelyn *Calendarium Hortense or Gardener's Almanac* (1664), and other works on orchards, husbandry and horsemanship.

In his notebook he recorded the arrangements for the demesne arable at Wimborne St. Giles at Michaelmas 1675 with one field sown to wheat, another to be sown with barley, and the third to remain fallow. The estate sheep flock comprised some 3,000 sheep divided into five flocks each with its own shepherd. Orders were also made for 35 cows, and for cart horses, oxen and other cattle. The Earl noted the advice given by 'Farmer Crouch' that he should buy seed wheat from Sussex where it had been grown in a barren ground, and seed barley 'from shady places and north side hills as from Bemmerton by Salisbury'. He also listed the best fairs at which to purchase stock, including the fairs at Stow on the Wold, Maiden Bradley, Hindon and Blandford, and also 'A fair at Pomfret in Yorkshire the best for breeding mares'. Good mares were also to be obtained 'betwixt Banbury and Warwick because a rich country to raise the colts'.

Above all it was the fruit garden in which the Earl was

passionately interested, and his notebook includes several pages on fruit trees, their cultivation, the bewildering number of varieties and on where stocks might best be obtained. He listed places where good fruit gardens had been established such as 'Att Worcester Parke, Sir Rich. Mason's by Nonsuch in Surrey an excellent garden of fruit planted out of France by Sir Robert Long'. Likewise the garden at the Smyth's mansion, Ashton Court, in north Somerset, 'At my Lady Smith's near Bristol the largest and best tasted nectarine, fig and cherry'. The Earl was obviously most impressed by the garden which Sir Henry Capel (d. 1696) had created at Kew and where he cultivated all sorts of fruit including numerous varieties specially imported from France.⁶ Nurserymen mentioned as suppliers of fruit trees include John Wiseman and 'Mr Groom, a nurseryman at Twickenham has all sorts of Sir Henry Capell's peaches, pearres and figgs'. John Wiseman was said to have numerous varieties of pear, including the Bearland or Bosbury pear which made the best perry, but 'These are all grafted upon Quince stocks and therefore of no use to me'.⁷ The number of different varieties of each fruit listed by the Earl includes more than 60 sorts of apple, 50 plums, 23 peaches, 7 nectarines, 25 cherries, 30 pears and 9 grapes. Cider apples mentioned include Redstreak, Harlowe, Broomsbury Crab, White Muss, Red Muss, Fox Whelp, Elyot, Normandy, Bitter Scald, Golden Runnet, Violat, Mr Fenners and Heryot. Shaftesbury's recipe for improving cider or perry does little to inspire confidence, however, for he recommends that

'A gallon of Elder Berreys to a hogshead of cider or perry makes excellent claret. Press them with the apples or pears'.

The notebook contains many ideas and proposals for the planting of fruit trees in the garden and grounds at Wimborne St. Giles, as well as suggestions concerning vegetables and herbs. Later entries include lists of fruit trees, plants and flowers to be obtained from France, especially grapes and melons from Montpellier. There is also a memorandum describing the method of cultivating vines in Languedoc. The reason for this is that Lord Shaftesbury's friend, protégé and physician, the philosopher John Locke, spent the years 1675-77 in France for the sake of his health, and for much of that time lived at the spa town of Montpellier. While there he wrote an account of vine and olive cultivation, and sent numerous consignments of plants, seeds, fruit trees, maps and books to Lord Shaftesbury.

Finally, in view of the Earl's poor state of health it is not surprising that he was interested in recipes for medicines. His

notebook contains several methods of treating gout, ague and worms, and a note on 'Prince Rupert's drops' for the relief of gout in the stomach. There are also potions for treating horses and dogs. One remedy which seems likely to have been effective against all ailments was suggested as a dressing to be rubbed on lambs to ensure that they would not be attacked by foxes. This consisted of a strong mixture of brimstone, tar and gunpowder boiled together.

This notebook is interesting for the information it provides about the working of a great seventeenth-century estate, the large-scale agricultural operations, the very large number of servants and the elaborate household arrangements at Wimborne St. Giles. It also shows that notwithstanding his deep involvement in the complex political life of the time, the Earl shared the typical concerns of an English gentleman, and his careful notes provide a glimpse of another aspect of his character, his love of his estate and his major interest in gardening and fruit growing.

1. For Shaftesbury's eventful political career see W. D. Christie, *Life of the First Earl of Shaftesbury*, 2 vols., (1871); and K. H. D. Haley, *The First Earl of Shaftesbury*, (1968).
2. Public Record Office, PRO. 30/24/5/Part 293.
3. PRO. 30/24/5/Part 286. Similar arrangements for the household at Amesbury were drawn up by the Duke of Queensberry during the early eighteenth century, Wiltshire Record Office 283/203.
4. PRO. 30/24/5/Part 293. Another version of these regulations with some variations is printed in W. D. Christie, *op. cit.*, II, 211-214.
5. PRO. 30/24/5/Part 293.
6. Henry Capel's elder brother, Arthur, Earl of Essex, also had a famous garden at Cassiobury.
7. For details of other seventeenth-century nurserymen and suppliers see J. Harvey, *Early Gardening Catalogues*, (1972).
8. M. Cranston, *John Locke*, (1957), 160-183; W. D. Christie, *op. cit.*, 219-49.

J. H. BETTEY

60. FRACAS AT GREAT ELM, 1874. The following extracts from *The Frome Times* of 20 and 27 May, 1874, provide a good example of the ill-feeling which existed between Anglicans — especially of the High Church variety — and nonconformists in the district at the time. William Strachey was lord of the manor and patron of the living. The Rev. Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne (1830-1907) was a brother of the ninth Duke of Leeds.

'On Thursday morning, three boys belonging to Great Elm, appeared at the Frome petty sessions, in answer to a summons charging them with maliciously breaking the windows of a cottage in Elm parish, belonging to Mr. W. Strachey, J.P. The case was fully proved and the defendants were ordered to pay 10s. damage, 2s. fine, and the costs. The fathers of the children declared they would not pay a farthing, and the prisoners were only released after the

penalty had been paid by the Rev. Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, rector of Elm. The witnesses for the prosecution were Mr. Strachey's coachman and bailiff, both of whom are Dissenters. For various reasons, but especially on account of the prosecution of his churchwarden a short time since, and the recent refusal of the rector — who is an extreme Ritualist — to admit the corpse of a lady, who had attended the Wesleyan Chapel up to the time of her death, into the church for the reading of the portion of the burial office over it, Dissenters and Church people in the village are at "daggers drawn". This may perhaps account for the bitterness of the disturbance on Thursday night. However, on the return from Frome of the parents of the boys — who, by the bye, are members of the church choir — a quarrel commenced between the friends of the prosecutors and prosecuted. Sticks were freely used and some of the combatants were severely treated. Lord Osborne came onto the village green, where the fight was taking place, and endeavoured to get the villagers to leave peaceably for their homes. This the prosecution side refused to do, and set upon his lordship, who was obliged to vigorously wield a stout staff against his adversaries in his own defence. He was, however, coarsely handled, and compelled to seek refuge in his own house. It is believed that his lordship is seriously hurt. Mr. Titt, Lord Osborne's bailiff, also received considerable injuries. In the meantime a mounted messenger was despatched to Frome, and Mr. Supt. Deggan quickly appeared upon the scene, and with assistance dispersed the rioters; but not without considerable difficulty, both parties threatening loudly to resume the fight against each other at the earliest opportunity.'

This account in Frome's Conservative newspaper, which had an Anglican proprietor, was evidently considered biased in certain quarters and the following week a Letter to the Editor appeared signed by 'Four Parishioners of Great Elm' which purported to tell 'the plain and truthful facts':

'When Mr. Titt, bailiff to Lord Osborne, reached Great Elm on the evening in question, in a very excited state, he at once proceeded to drive Mr. Jones's cows (which he met in the lane and which were being driven back from watering after having been milked, by a son of Jones) to the pound, declaring that they were in his (Titt's) possession, and threatened to "knock Mrs. Jones down dead". Several men and women interfering the cows were ultimately driven to their stalls. Some time after this the boys of the village were playing, as usual, at hat-ball on the green, when his lordship (Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne) and his groom, appeared on the scene and began to push and order the lads off from the place. The boys refused to leave; the village green having always been their place of recreation. His Lordship then sent for a stick (for what purpose is best known to himself). Meanwhile the news rapidly circulated that "Lord Osborne was up to his tricks again" and upwards of 20 of the villagers, including youth, women, and fathers of the boys, quickly assembled and encouraged the lads to remain in the green. This led to a deal of plain speaking on both sides, when Mr. Titt stripped to his shirt, sprang over his garden wall into the green, and "squaring up" and putting himself into a fighting attitude offered to give one of the lads' father "anything he wanted", much to the satisfaction of his lordship, if we might judge from the expression, "That's it Titt given him a licking". One of the bystanders asked his lordship if he were going to allow his man to fight. He replied, "Yes, I shall back my man". "Well then I shall back mine", was the rejoinder. The bailiff then gave effect to his

words in blows, which were quickly and efficiently returned, and whilst both combatants were on the ground, his Lordship kept "putting it into one of them" with a stick, which not being considered fair play by a looker on, his Lordship was felled to the ground to keep his bailiff company, the only sticks used being those employed by his Lordship and bailiff. So far from the former being "seriously hurt" he remained amongst the crowd for upwards of an hour, discussing religious topics, and styling — if not ordaining — one of his parishioners a bishop. Mr. Deggan did not require any assistance to disperse the rioters, nor did they threaten to resume the fight.'

MICHAEL MCGARVIE

BOOK REVIEWS

Michael McGarvie, *The Blue House Appeal 1993* (Pp. 12, illus., £1.50, incl. p. & p.); Michael McGarvie (ed.), *Frome Society Year Book*, vol. 4 (1992. Pp. 87, illus., £4.00, incl. p. & p., both available from the writer at 19 Styles Hill, Frome); Michael McGarvie, *The Story of The Grange Tytherington* (1992. Pp. 35, 19 illus., £3.00, incl. postage, available from the writer at Marston House; all three by Frome Society for Local Study). Frome's 'most notable building', the almshouse known as the Blue House, was extensively restored in 1964/65, but, in the face of higher expectations for living conditions generally, the improvements of only 30 years are already out-dated.

In launching the present appeal the trustees have the good fortune of having to hand the town's historian, who succinctly traces the foundation of the Almshouse (between 1465 and 1485, he suggests), subsequent benefactions, the building of the present house in the 1720s and the addition of a charity school — hence the 'Blue', from the boys' coats. He brings his account up to date with plans of the ground floor before and after the 1960s improvement and expresses his confidence that the public will respond with their traditional open-handedness. With this admirable narrative to hand, they would be churlish not to respond.

The Society is to be congratulated in following its 4th volume so closely on the heels of the 3rd *Year Book*. The high standard has been maintained and its particular strengths continued: the need to record and rescue the recent past is recognized, but orthodox articles on older subjects are not overlooked and the many illustrations include photographs of places and streets now demolished. Older inhabitants recall their reminiscences, concentrating this time on the period 1914 to 1939. One nugget among many: the guarding of the Nunney and Trudoxhill

water supply in 1914 for fear of German sabotage — Captain Mainwaring, one feels, would have been in his element.

Mr. McGarvie, not surprisingly, is much in evidence, not only as editor but also as the writer of the two major articles, 'Notes towards a History of Mells Park' (as he modestly puts it) and 'From Batcombe to Baltimore in 1831', a yeoman's diary of a visit to the U.S.A. But perhaps when the 5th volume appears, as it certainly will, the editor should change the mannered typeface used for the three poems.

Tracing the history of an old house can be a frustrating business, often coming prematurely to a halt due to a lack of archive material. Its architectural history can be equally a puzzle, as restoration or transformation from one use to another hides its original form. Happily, Mr. McGarvie has surmounted both hurdles in his *Story*, the account of a farm in Frome, recently (1986) metamorphosed into a substantial dwelling. He has been able to trace, without a break, the house's occupancy, definitely to 1560, less certainly to 1525. This, however, is not a simple catalogue of names. Thanks to McGarvie's extended research in and around Frome he can flesh out the characters of different tenants and their standing in the community.

Turning to the architectural side, he was on hand when the house was extensively restored and the plaster stripped from the walls, aware that this was a crucial period. Thus (for one who has the eye to see it), he can suggest the different stages of building and define the changes in 1986, which a future McGarvie would have found impossible to disentangle. The many illustrations are well chosen and varied, ranging from the exquisite penmanship of a manorial survey of c. 1550, by way of old estate maps and photographs of the farm in the 1930s to the latest improvements in 1990, and an informative dated ground plan.

Criticisms are minor: the anachronistic description of a 16th cent. house as 'semi-detached'; and the interpretation that the reduced fine payable by a leaseholder was due to the house's poor state of repair (this was probably to be linked to the ages of the lives concerned). But these aside, this is a delight and a model of its kind.

D. M. M. S.

A List of those who held or occupied land as Tenants in chief and Sub-tenants or were otherwise mentioned in the writs for Somerset in the Inquisitions Post Mortem between 1235 and

1653, compiled by V. J. S. Doddrell of The Coach House of Oakland, Ambleside Road, Windermere, LA23 1AR. £6.00, incl. p. and p., from the compiler. This is a splendid effort and one that will be welcomed by family historians, to whom this work has been directed, and in particular by those who have already established their genealogies to the 17th and previous centuries.

The compiler has been working for over 8 years and has completed his *List*, or rather Index, of all persons named in the various printed versions of the *Inquisitions* for the whole period of their existence; all entries are given their appropriate regnal year, their relationship with the deceased, where specified, and those (few) instances where place names were assigned.

His *List* does not follow a conventional form, but consists of sets of five microfiche (four complete and one part), each (full) card having 112 exposures, or something in the region of 15,000 — 18,000 names. The medium is not exactly 'user-friendly', but this is less of a drawback, as those consulting the *List* will be looking at a specific name or names.

D. M. M. S.

A. J. Scrase, *Wells. The Anatomy of a Medieval and Early Modern Property Market* (University of the West of England, Bristol, Faculty of the Built Environment, Working Paper 30, 1993. Pp. viii + 231. £8.00, from the above Faculty, Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QY). Since 1982 Tony Scrase has issued several monographs relating to the topography of Wells. He early realised that Wells offered an unusual combination in having a restricted urban area with an abundance of original material. He has now used over 3,800 'transactions', essentially leases and allied documents, covering the period from c. 1215 to 1875. In so doing, and with the benefit of his prolonged research on individual sites, he has here extended the scope to embrace the whole growth and development of the city and its fluctuating economic health.

This is not an easy read: he implicitly accepts that his work is directed at two levels. Firstly, it is aimed at his peers who are working on parallel situations in comparable towns, who will not be daunted by the 'mass of numbers' (*Scrase's words*); but, secondly, he accepts that ordinary readers (of whom your reviewer counts himself) are unlikely to read it through.

Nonetheless, they will be happy to read the core chapters, in which Mr. Scrase deals with the many individual (largely ecclesiastical) estates, will surely marvel at his assurance in identifying present day street numbers against imprecise originals and will be interested to discover that the writer's economic bias has enabled him to assess the various prestigious properties in the city and their locations at different times.

Inevitably, there are distortions due to an insufficient database, which Mr. Scrase recognises, and gaps that cannot be surmounted: leases, for example, may be present progressively in abundance, but no explanation exists why one ecclesiastical owner chooses a fixed term lease while others simultaneously opt for life leases. He is, perhaps, less assured when dealing with deeds of real property: 'by indenture' or 'quadripartite' are the least important part of the description. The work has no index, but to some extent is remedied by the informative chapters, sub-headings, appendices and list of figures. Helpfully, he has supplied three maps giving different street names at different times, but has omitted to define the boundaries of the urban area involved — Liberty, Borough and the suburb of East Wells.

But these are minor blemishes in face of the wealth provided, for which in this limited compass scant justice can be paid. Mr. Scrase looks for another researcher to advance the frontier of his knowledge: that person will find Mr. Scrase a hard act to follow.

D. M. M. S.

Rodney Legg, *Dorset National Trust Guide* (Dorset Publishing Co., 1992, Pp. 224, map & numerous photographs, £9.95.) In 1987, Rodney Legg and Colin Graham published a companion volume, *National Trust Dorset*, (see *SDNQ*, XXXII, Pt. 328, p. 724) and this volume is similar in plan. An outline map indicates the approximate site of each place which is referred to in the text, and the reader is then provided with a short entry to each place, listed alphabetically, together with a map reference.

In a county as large and varied as Dorset it is difficult for any author to single out all the places of special interest. To list everything and have no process of selection would be to produce a volume of massive proportions. Any process of selection, therefore, is bound to raise the question why something was omitted, but, churlish as it may seem, one

cannot help but notice that there is nothing noted for the visitor to Sherborne. Perhaps, like all guide books, especially for those rambling or motoring, the Purbecks hold a special fascination, and the coast-line tends to dominate all the thinking. Wimborne, Wareham, Blandford, Shaftesbury, and the areas around Bridport, all receive attention, so the fact that the book cannot cover the entire county with the same degree of detail is a small quibble.

Rodney Legg writes with vigour, and his entries are concise, sharp in observation, and well up to his usual standard of eccentricity. To those who seek an unusual and stimulating introduction to the county, I recommend it.

G. J. D.

J. H. P. Pafford, *John Clavell, 1601-43. Highwayman, Author, Lawyer, Doctor.* (Leopard's Head Press, 1993, Pp. xiv, 308, illus., £12.50.) Until recently, Clavell was known only as a highwayman and the author of 'A Recantation Of An Ill Led Life'. Here, John Pafford presents his readers with a well rounded and scholarly account of Clavell's life and work, and he also reproduces the 'Recantation', last published in 1634, 'The Sodder'd Citizen' — lost, then re-discovered and printed in 1936 — together with extracts from Clavell's Notebook. The evidence of Clavell's life is pieced together with consummate skill, the account written in a clear and well-balanced style, making it a pleasure to read, and the reader is presented with an absorbing picture of Clavell's strangely varied activities: poet, dramatist, lawyer, doctor, burglar, and highwayman.

Born into a modestly wealthy family near Sherborne, the youthful and impetuous Clavell disgraced himself at Oxford with a petty crime which, unfortunately, left him a victim of blackmail. From that time he fell under the sinister influence of William Bankes, a London money-lender, who exploited his young victim with unscrupulous determination. From 1621 to 1626, Clavell's life was that of a petty criminal endeavouring always to find money to satisfy the demands of William Bankes. His crimes became more serious and he was finally convicted of highway robbery, being saved only by the general amnesty at the time of the King's Coronation. The period he spent in prison reformed him, and after his release he achieved some modest success as a playwright, and, with some support from his uncle, he began afresh in Ireland. There, he was

introduced into genteel society and laboured hard to convey to his sceptical family that he was a reformed character. It was during his time in Ireland that he married a child heiress and practised both law and medicine. While the evidence of his legal activities is scant, that of his medical work is better documented, and Dr. Pafford skilfully reconstructs this more constructive period of Clavell's life. We learn much about the character of Clavell during this reconstruction, and the author's mastery of 17th cent. literature relates what Clavell has written to the wider field of contemporary literature.

A story of this kind might, in less worthy hands, have loaned itself to a popular and sensational interpretation, but it would have gained nothing of value by such a treatment, and would surely have lost that sense of integrity which is to be found in all works of first class scholarship. Clavell's life was sensational, even by the standards of the time, but, to present a rounded and complete picture, the evidence needed to be evaluated, and carefully reconstructed. The painstaking search for evidence, the methodical piecing together of tantalising fragments, and the interpretation — never straying beyond the possible, and never straining against the limitations of the material — needed the sure touch of an experienced scholar. From the quality of the work and the sound judgement which the author exercises when considering Clavell's contribution to 17th cent. literature, it is evident that this work will remain as the standard text on John Clavell for many years to come.

G. J. D.

Patricia H. Coulstock, *The Collegiate Church of Wimborne Minster* (Boydell Press. 1993, Pp. x, 267, illus, £35.) Works of this kind are essential precursors to general works of local history, for only through the careful and detailed examination of documentary evidence is it possible for the local historians to incorporate some findings in their more general, and popular, works. However, many academic theses adapt uncomfortably when they are prepared for general publication, and their format can be forbidding to the uninitiated. This volume, one of the series of 'Studies in the History of Medieval Religion', stands out as one of the most successful adaptations I have ever read. The text is clear and uncluttered, the learning is worn lightly, and the style is mercifully free of pedantry.

The minster church of St. Cuthburga in Wimborne was founded as a nunnery and a monastery in the time of Ine, ruler

of Wessex, in 718, and then emerged as a small collegiate royal free chapel in the 12th cent. The first 5 chapters are devoted to the monastic phase, and the evidence is painstakingly evaluated so that the story of this shadowy period is well presented to the reader. Of absorbing interest are the following chapters which deal with the medieval chantries, for their analysis shows how the chantries were founded, and the author provides a valuable insight into the work of the chantry priests.

While this work will not necessarily appeal to any general reader, it will be essential to all researchers in medieval studies, and will be important to all future local historians of Wimborne, and of Dorset.

G. J. D.

Old Ordnance Survey Maps, Yeovil (East), 1901 (the Godfrey Edition, 1993. £1.75). Alan Godfrey has hit upon the idea of reprinting old O.S. maps of towns in the U.K., the original 25" scale being reduced to a manageable 15" size. The growing catalogue has reached 600 maps, of which 3 relate to Somerset, the latest to be published being sheet 83.14, or the area (west to east) from the former Town Station to Babylon Hill going northwards. This is of particular interest in that the St. Michael's Church/Pen Mill development was just beginning and now, 90 years on, virtually the entire sheet has been swallowed up by houses or the building of industrial estates. It has also a topical interest in the controversy of the building of a super-store planned to be built within the area mapped.

On the blank side of the map, extracts of Kelly's *Directory of Somerset*, 1902, giving the 'Public Establishments' for Yeovil and the alphabetical list of private residents from the same source, have been included. Finally, an essay of some 1,500 words on the history of the area covered by the sheet has been prepared by Robin Ansell, Yeovil Reference Librarian, in which he highlights the mills, glove factories, other industrial sites, the complex triangle of the railway systems and notable landmarks.

Alan Godfrey's intention is to publish the 1500 maps needed to cover all urban areas in the U.K. by 2000 and, given the standard of this present map, I am confident that local interest will ensure that the target will be reached.

D. M. M. S.

F. P. Pitfield, *Hardy's Wessex Locations* (Dorset Publishing Co, 1992, Pp. 96, illus, £9.95.) It is well known that Thomas Hardy based many of his characters and scenes on those people and places around him, or which he knew about through Dorset's history and legends. Here, an author who has already published three much admired books on Dorset, has produced a volume in which he has identified scenes and buildings which appear in Hardy's works, albeit in a sometimes disguised form.

The text is produced in two parallel columns: in the left column appears a short passage from Hardy, and on the right the exact site which the author now identifies. Many places will be well known, and for these the author has little value to add, but some of his discoveries will excite new interest in Hardy enthusiasts: the Hollow Hill of *Under the Greenwood Tree*, widow Jethway's cottage in *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, Arrowthorne Lodge, and the Toll-house in *Far from the Madding Crowd*, are among them. The author also has interesting observations to make about some of Hardy's characters. There is no doubt that he makes some useful contributions to the literature on Thomas Hardy, and this book will certainly be consulted by readers of Hardy's novels and poems.

G. J. D.

NOTES

UNIDENTIFIED SKELETONS. The following information was given to me several years ago by Mr. Ted Neill, an old resident of Maiden Newton.

Between 1931 and 1939 he worked for the Dorset County Council on the creation of the A37 from Dorchester to Yeovil. About 30 or 40 yds north of the junction with the A356, he and his mates were digging to find the top of the railway tunnel when, about three feet below the surface, they discovered about six skeletons laid in a circle with their feet to the centre. They called the foreman, Harry Pigeon, who sent for his superior from Dorchester; several people came out to have a look at the skeletons and eventually took them away. Mr. Neill believed that they lay in Frampton Church for a while before being taken away for burial elsewhere.

According to Mr. Neill, the skeletons lay in chalk, with no visible clothes or any artifacts to show when they were buried. The area above them had once been a wood, and the workmen had to remove scrub before they were able to dig.

I have searched in the Dorset Record Office, the County

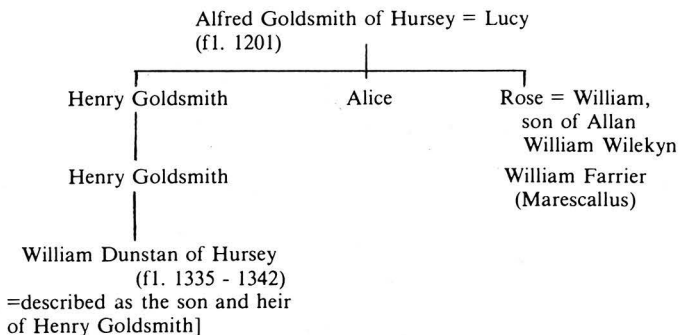
Museum, the records of the County Roads Department and the records of the County Archaeologist without any success. There does not appear to be any marked grave for the skeletons in Frampton Churchyard.

Has any other reader ever come across this story, and can they tell me to what period the skeletons belonged? The road workers were told not to talk about their find, but the discovery must have excited some interest among archaeologists, or at least the police.

PATRICIA WHITE

GOLDSMITHS OF DORSET. Further to *SDNQ*, XXXIII, Part 338, Sept 1993, No 51, Charters in the cartulary of Forde Abbey, currently being edited for Somerset Record Society, reveal more about the family of Dorset's earliest goldsmith.

Alfred (Aluredus) who appears in the Feet of Fines and Plea Roll of the early 13th cent. was Alfred Goldsmith of Hursey in Burstock, who, together with several relatives, made a series of grants of land at Burstock in the first half of the 13th cent. to the abbot and monks. These charters allow the following pedigree to be sketched out.



STEVEN HOBBS

Thomas Goldsmyth of Shaftesbury paid £6.13.4 for silverwork for Walter, Lord Hungerford, 1429-30. (*SDNQ*, XXXIII, Pt. 338, Sept 1993, No 51).

In Dorset County Record Office, D/WLC X/2 contains mid-15th cent. lists of aliens in Dorset towns, and while I cannot recall any Dorset goldsmiths, there are some for Somerset.

ROBERT DUNNING

*N.B. - All replies to advertisements to be sent to
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