
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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22. RICHARD POPL PLE CAINES, CORONER FOR THE WESTERN DIVISION OF SOMERSET. The post of coroner was a prestigious one in 18th - century Somerset. When a position fell vacant the subsequent election was fiercely contested, as is illustrated in the following extracts from the *Sherborne Mercury*:

Wednesday se'nnight came on at Ilchester the election of a coroner for the eastern subdivision of Somersetshire. The candidates were Mr Layng, Mr Higgins and Mr Dowling. The contest was a very warm one, and lasted till Wednesday last; but Mr Dowling declined the contest on the close of the 2nd day's poll. A considerable majority appeared in favour of Mr Layng who was accordingly elected. So long a contest for this office is a very uncommon circumstance.¹

In the following year the election of a coroner for the Western Division took place:

On the day of electing a coroner for the Western Division of Somerset at Ilchester a spirited opposition was unexpectedly made in favour of the late coroner; but, on Mr Ball's arrival with a number of respectable gentlemen freeholders, the contest was given up and Mr Ball was accordingly elected.²

By the early 19th century high inflation and static remuneration made vacant posts less lucrative. Despite this, there was still a steady stream of applicants when a coroner's post became available. Success at the ensuing election could lead to great celebration. This was certainly the case when Mr Ashford was elected coroner of the eastern division of Somerset in 1828. The warm and spirited contest lasted for seven days culminating with the resignation of Mr Burnard. It was then that the celebrations started:

After Mr Ashford had been duly sworn in and chaired, he proceeded, accompanied by many of those who had actively supported his cause, towards his residence at Castle Cary. On their arrival, within four miles of that place, they were met by a respectable body of yeomanry on horseback, who having formed themselves into regular order, preceded the carriages; as they advanced, the numbers increased, evincing by their spirit and enthusiasm, the delight they felt, at the triumph of their favourite candidate. At the entrance of the town, the

horses were taken from the carriage, on a box of which Mr Ashford was seated, and the people themselves drew him through the streets amidst the acclamations of thousands. The town itself presented a sight which must have been to him most gratifying, every house, nay, every cottage, even the humblest, was decorated with branches of laurel. At the habitations of the more wealthy, flags and ribbons were tastefully arranged among these victorious emblems. The ladies were seen on every side displaying blue ribbons and waving their handkerchiefs. Their presence contributed in no small degree to heighten the animation and the gaiety of the scene. The bells rung a merry peal, and the cheerful strains of an excellent band of music exhilarated the hearts of the joyous multitude.³

Celebrations continued at a local inn where liberal quantities of beer and cider were consumed and no doubt resulted in a few hangovers the next day!

Amongst these early 19th-century Somerset coroners one name stands out, Richard Pople Caines, coroner for the Western Division of Somerset from 1817 until his death in 1851. Caines was born on 12 June 1767 at Brockhampton, Dorset, the son of John Caines and Ann née Pople. He was baptised ten days later at Buckland Newton. By 1793 he had moved from Dorset to Somerset, marrying Ann Sherrin on 27 March 1793 at St Andrew's, High Ham. He remarried just a few years later to Rebecca Barrel at North Petherton on 27 January 1799. Rebecca died in 1808 and in 1810 Caines married for the third time, to Sybella Gristock. In 1808 Caines was described as a 'linen draper'⁴ and in the same year he was appointed captain of the Langport and Somerton Volunteers; it is worth noting that by 1810 he was the Langport agent for militia insurance.⁵ By 1816 Caines was working as a Wine and Spirit merchant.

Rumours started to spread at this time that Richard Phillips (also spelt Phellips in some documents), coroner for the Western Division of Somerset, had deserted his post. An investigation was made and Phillips's dwelling in Queen Camel was found to be 'shut up and unoccupied since June 1816'.⁶ Phillips also appears to have run up hundreds of pounds worth of debt. Long before Phillips was officially dismissed notices appeared in the *Taunton Courier* soliciting votes for various candidates. These manifestos were quickly withdrawn when the

candidates discovered that they were premature in their solicitations. At least three candidates showed an interest in the post namely Richard Caines of Langport, John Pyne of Martock and Theobald Mills, a surgeon of Bishops Lydeard. Caines ended his manifesto with the following words:

It is true, Gentlemen, that I cannot adduce a medical profession as an additional pretension to your patronage and support, and indeed if I could, I certainly should not so far disrespect your understanding, as to urge it in any way whatever, since it is obvious to every one from instances existing at this moment in this, and other Counties, that such an acquisition is not at all necessary to the due execution of the duties of a Coroner.⁷

By the time of the election in March 1817 it had become a two horse race between Caines and Mills. Though Mills would appear to have been the better qualified candidate due to his medical background, Caines clearly had the depth of support to win the election. Although both men received nearly 200 votes each 'Mr Mills respectfully declined all further contest, and Mr Caines was declared to be duly elected'.⁸ His first inquests, taken at the end of March were probably those at Puddimore on the body of Mary Mallard, found dead in her bed, and at the Mill, West Charlton on a three year old lad, son of Mr Chard, the local miller who drowned near the mill pond.

Caines encountered a number of frustrating issues during the early years of his coronership. The first of these was almost certainly the fault of his predecessor. The division between the various coroners districts was hazy at this time. Somerset was divided into three coroners' districts, the exact demarcation lines only being formalised around 1845. By that date the Western Division covered the area as far across as Huntspill, South Petherton, Kingsbury and part of Devon. It was the largest of the three divisions covering 405,460 acres and by 1845 had a population of 116,810. Alongside these three divisions, the boroughs of Bridgwater and Langport held their own inquests, as did Bath.⁹ With Phillips absenting his post it is hardly surprising that coroners from other districts were sometimes called upon to carry out an inquest in the Western Division. Caines did his best to rectify this via a circular to the

various parish officers:

Mr Caines of Langport, one of the Coroners for this county, has transmitted a circular, through the constables of the Hundreds, to the parish officers within their division, stating that, "Notwithstanding it is more than six months since he was elected one of the Coroners for this county, it appears that, in many cases, his appointment is not sufficiently known, as it frequently happens that another Coroner is sent for to perform these duties, which by reason of the contiguity of his place of residence, more properly devolve on him. By this irregularity, not only the respective Parishes are subjected to an extra expence, but the county also; the Coroners being paid out of the County Stock. He therefore informs them, that in the event of any misadventure, sudden death, or other case requiring the presence of a Coroner, much inconvenience and expence would be saved by dispatching a messenger to him on such occasions."¹⁰

Another issue which Caines must have found most irritating was the reluctance of various parish officers to contact a coroner 'in all cases of misadventure, unnatural, violence or sudden death'.¹¹ His letter to the Bishops Lydeard churchwardens in 1818¹² must have caused some consternation in that parish.

Gentlemen,

I have received information from 2 respectable persons that in 2 instances very recently, bodies have been interred in your parish on which inquests ought to have been held, but that no coroner had been sent for because, it was stated, that "the county rates were high enough without any such unnecessary expenditure being added to them."

I beg now to name the persons whose death have been so announced to me.

Mary Vickary¹³ found dead in her bed and Sommerfield the wife of a Blacksmith near Gore Inn who died suddenly. If my information should prove to be correct the parish officers have acted improperly and neglected their duty as by the statutes in all cases of misadventure, unnatural, violence or sudden death, it is indictable as a misdemeanour to bury the body before or without sending for the coroner and he is at liberty to have the body taken up¹⁴ and to indict the parish.

R.P.Caines.

Langport 27 June 1818

Mr Lethbridge, a local dignitary, replied with a conciliatory

letter stating that in the first case, he had authorised there to be no inquest. However, regarding the second case Lethbridge stated that he would speak to the churchwardens and 'they would attend to it'. Whether this issue was taken further by Mr Caines at the time is unknown.

Even more frustrating was an ongoing issue with the Ilminster parish officials. Imagine going to the expense of travelling to another parish to hold an inquest only to be sent away empty handed by a dismissive churchwarden. This is exactly what happened at Ilminster. However, Caines was not a man to be easily deterred. In 1829 he raised a complaint before the magistrates at the Somerset Michaelmas sessions against the inhabitants of Ilminster. He cited the following occasions where an inquest had not been held:

A young man named Hopkins, fell out of a gig by driving over a heap of stones: he was carried to an inn where he expired in a few hours.

A child was burnt and died in about three days.

Mr Slee was walking (apparently in good health) in company with Mr Hanning and another gentleman, and he fell down dead. Mr Hanning, in this case ordered that no inquest should be held, as he was present and saw him die!

A person named Govier was driving a cart or van, and fell off his seat, received an injury in his head, was carried home; and died in a few hours.

The case that probably brought things to a head occurred when a boy named Lawrence died from an injury after falling from a horse. Caines heard of the death and went to Ilminster only to be told that "Mr Hanning says, when a person is seen to die, there is no occasion for an inquest". When Caines took issue with Hanning and Stayning, the churchwardens, Mr Hanning replied, "I shall not argue the case with you: I insist on it, no inquest shall be held". The Ilminster affair caused much correspondence in the local press but despite Caines's protestations the case appears to have ended in a vague stalemate at the Michaelmas sessions.

Another sore point amongst the county coroners was the issue of remuneration. In 1818 a coroners bill came before parliament but, in a time of austerity following the war with

France the bill failed. Though the coroners had some justification in their request there was still quite a strength of feeling against any increase in the county rate to fund such a rise in the coroners' allowances. One letter published in the *Taunton Courier* in February 1818 read as follows:

It seems that in consequence of the rejection of their former Bill, which was to give the Coroners 2s 6d per mile, and 40s for every inquest, they have been chastened into a little modesty, and propose filling up the blanks with 1s 6d per mile, that is 9d from and to home, still however requiring 40s for their attendance. Thus a Coroner's attendance at Taunton from Langport, 13 miles, (where the nearest Coroner resides,) would give him £2 19s 6d for his morning's ride between breakfast and dinner; and, perchance, he may have another call for his attendance, at the same time a little further on; so that for the day's duty, the amount may altogether reach £7 or £8 and this amount, be it remembered, is to come out of the County Stock, which stock comes out of the Poor Rate – a source of expenditure, already the subject of so much loud and well founded grievance and complaint.¹⁵

Rumblings of discontent amongst the coroners continued for some years to come.

An interesting letter written by Richard Caines to the *Taunton Courier* gives an insight into the busy life of a coroner in the 1820s. In his letter Caines lists the number of inquests he conducted and the miles travelled in the three years leading up to the Michaelmas Sessions of 1826.

<u>Years</u>	<u>Inquisitions Taken</u>	<u>Miles Received for</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>
1824	95	1711	£159 3 3
1825	107	1968	£180 17 6
1826	<u>123</u>	<u>2239</u>	<u>£206 19 3</u>
	325	5918	£547 0 0
Not paid for returning		<u>5918</u>	
		11836	

Caines continued his letter by giving an example of his workload for one week:

I beg to add an instance of the manner in which I was employed in one

week, a short time since. I left home on a Monday morning to go to Dulverton, in the vicinity of which place I had to hold an inquest¹⁶ on the following morning. The distance from my house is 40 miles, and after using the utmost diligence, I reached home on the Wednesday, about noon. In the course of that night, I was called out of my bed to proceed to Wells, and from thence I had to go to Bicknoller,¹⁷ near Watchet. On my return to Taunton, I received a letter, requiring my attendance at Lady Bridport's, at Cricket,¹⁸ and on Saturday night, I returned home, thus actually travelling in six days 197 miles, for which (as travelling expenses), I got from the county £4 3s 3d and not a shilling more, either directly, or indirectly, except four pounds for the four inquisitions, the same as the Coroners were paid eighty years ago. At that time there was no house tax, nor window tax, nor horse tax, nor gig tax, nor servants tax, nor a great number of other etceteras which I will not trouble you with naming.

After commenting further on the trifling amount paid to coroners from the county rate he finished his letter with the following conclusion:

For the present I have not leisure to say more on this subject, only that if your readers will trouble themselves to peruse these statements, very little more will be necessary to convince them that the Coroners are not fairly paid.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
R P Caines, Coroner
Langport, August 30, 1827.

Caines certainly knew much about financial difficulties as between 1823 and 1826 his name appeared in the *London Gazette* as an insolvent debtor. The wording in the *London Gazette* in both 1823 and 1826 suggests that Caines may have been an insolvent debtor on two separate occasions. Presumably his insolvency was short-lived, otherwise he could not have continued to carry out a coroner's role.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Assignees of the estate and effect of Richard Pople Caines, of Langport Eastover, in the County of Somerset, Gentleman, and formerly of the same place, Victualler and Dealer in Foreign and British-Spirits, also Dealer and Chapman, an Insolvent Debtor, who was lately discharged from the King's-Bench Prison, under and by virtue of an Act of Parliament, made and passed in the first year of the reign of His present Majesty, for the Relief of

Insolvent Debtors in England, and of an Act to amend the same, passed in the third year of the reign of His said Majesty, will, on the 16th day of September next, at Ten o'clock in the Forenoon precisely, attend at the House of Jane Cooke, known by the sign of the Langport Arms Inn, in Langport-Eastover, in the said County, to make a dividend out of the balance of money in their hands amongst the Creditors of the said Insolvent, whose debts are expressed in the schedule delivered by the said Insolvent; when and where the said Creditors of the said Insolvent, are to come prepared to prove their respective debts; and if the said Insolvent, or any of his Creditors intend to object to any debt stated admitted in the said schedule, such objections are at the said time and place to be made.
 - Dated the 31st day of July 1826.

Caines's coronership was a time of great change. When he first took office, certain of the rulings made at inquests were antiquated to say the very least. Perhaps two of the strangest were *Felo De Se* and the concept of *Deodand*, both of which are outlined below.

Felo De Se

Latin for 'felon of himself' simply meant suicide. At a time when almost all people in this country considered mankind to be created in the image of God, self destruction was seen to be blasphemy. A Bridgwater inquest from 1739 gives a clear example of the strength of feeling against those who took their own life:

and not having the fear of God before her eyes but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the Devil and having a portion of yellow Arsenick mixed with Jollop and infused in water did then and there voluntarily and felonously drink the same and from the operation and effect of the said poison languished untill Tuesday the twelfth day of this instant June about nine o'clock in the evening when she thereof dyed.¹⁹

Two exceptions to *felo de se* being declared were in the case of minors and those deemed insane at their time of death. In such cases no punishment was carried out after death. However, where *felo de se* was pronounced the subsequent punishment must have proved extremely traumatic to surviving family members. The corpse was often dragged out between 9 p.m. and

midnight and buried at a crossroads. A stake would be driven through the body of the deceased to prevent the 'undead' from rising.²⁰ It has been suggested that a number of the crossroads in Somerset take their names from those buried there. Many of the coroners and juries must have abhorred this ancient practice and went out of their way to pronounce temporary insanity wherever possible.²¹ In 1823 Mr Thomas Barrett-Lennard's²² bill brought an end to the practise of driving a stake through the body of the deceased, though we continue to find the comment 'buried at midnight' in parish registers for some years after 1823.

Deodand

This word is derived from *Deo Dandum* – to be given to God. Where an object or instrument caused a person's death that item became a forfeit. What usually happened was that the owner of the horse, wheel or whatever other item caused death would be expected to pay a fine equal to the value of the deodand. This was finally abolished in 1846 largely due to the advent of the railway and the subsequent spate of deaths caused by trains.

In amongst the run of the mill inquests, Caines presided over a number of more unusual cases. For instance, in 1826, a poor hen-pecked Stogumber man was found hanging from the roof of a hay loft. On investigation it was ascertained that 'his wife had locked him out of doors, denounced vengeance against him if he dared approach the house; and that she had otherwise treated him in the most brutal manner'. In 1827 poor William Webber was struck by lightning at Ridler's Farm, Dulverton. The man was found naked with the clothes blown from his back and the nails blown from his boots, and in 1828 Mr W. Dymond, a Wellington carrier was crushed by his wagon at Taunton after his horse had been startled by a bear. The bear was taken into custody and its owners told that they were not to leave town until a verdict had been ascertained. The men somehow released the bear and were last seen heading in the direction of Wiveliscombe. The Taunton beadle was subsequently censured for not keeping order on the streets.

Equally unusual was the verdict of a jury at Clatworthy in 1824. Many rumours had surrounded the death of William

Ridler, a man with smallpox who was rather partial to telling a few untruths about his landlord, Samuel Dummett, a miller at Wilton. The rather gullible jury had clearly gotten wind of Ridler's stories which included a yarn about Dummett dragging him from his bed, pulling him downstairs and pushing him out of the door. A verdict of 'manslaughter' was returned much to the consternation of the coroner who had not in any way suggested such a thing. Poor Dummett spent some time in prison and was left greatly out of pocket before his good name was cleared.

Richard Pople Caines carried on his duties into old age. For the last five or six years of his coronership his deputy, Mr W.W. Munckton, surgeon of Curry Rivel carried out most of the inquests and on his death Munckton became the new coroner for the Western Division of Somerset. Caines died in 1851 at the grand old age of 84. He was the oldest member of the Langport Corporation and had four times held the office of chief magistrate of that borough. He was also for 25 years General Surveyor of the Langport, Somerton and Castle Cary Turnpike. He was buried at Huish Episcopi on 30 August 1851.

1. *Sherborne Mercury*, 21 Sep 1789.
2. *Sherborne Mercury*, 13 Dec 1790.
3. *Taunton Courier*, 19 Mar 1828.
4. Somerset Heritage Centre (SHC), DD/CC/A/27841.
5. This insurance covered an individual against being chosen by ballot to serve in the local militia. A substitute was purchased to serve in their place.
6. SHC, Q/C/8/2.
7. *Taunton Courier*, 1 Feb 1817.
8. *Taunton Courier*, 27 Mar 1817.
9. Wells held this same privilege some years before but this had been relinquished.
10. *Taunton Courier*, 16 Oct 1817.
11. SHC, A/ARW/2/3.
12. *Ibid.*
13. SHC, D\P\B.Lyd 2/1/8. Mary Vicary was buried on 9 June 1818 aged 66. Mary Somerville was buried on 23 June 1818 aged 58.
14. Caines actually carried out such a threat at Lympsham in November 1827 when the body of Mary Coles was disinterred after being buried without an inquest being held (*Taunton Courier*, 21 Nov 1827).
15. *Taunton Courier*, 26 Feb 1818.
16. Peter Maynard aged 70 fell from a ladder.
17. Charles Carrot aged 7 months found dead in bed.
18. John Reece aged 20 cut throat.
19. SHC, D\B\BW/1917/41 Bridgwater coroners' inquisitions.
20. For example see SHC, DD/S/GLY 104 for a Nynhead burial certificate of 8

Jan 1734: 'I condemn the corpse of the felon to be buried at a crossway a stake struck through him and so forth'.

21. See *Taunton Courier*, 16 Dec 1835 - Pawlett case of disputed *Felo De Se*.

22. M.P. for Ipswich.

PAUL MANSFIELD

23. THE SOMERSET-DORSET COUNTY BOUNDARY, AN EXERCISE IN HERCOLOGY. Launched in 2006 the Dorset County Boundary Survey took its inspiration from work on the Dorset/Devon border first undertaken in the 1980s.¹ In existence by AD 774 the boundary here between Uplyme and Lyme Regis probably dates to the 680s,² the first reference to the shires is found in the Laws of Ine about a decade later.³ From the OE *sciran*, to 'cut' or 'divide' to the Normans they were 'counties'. As Campbell notes⁴ 'the shiring of England was 'a system of formidable and integrated power . . . a major feat of government' . . . to remain in place 'until the major revisions of 1888 and 1974'. The six shires of Wessex first listed between 800 and 860 may be a century or more older.

The Dorset/Devon border at Lyme not only follows a very man-made course but is marked by a distinctive boundary bank supporting several veteran tree stools not hitherto recorded. Coincident with the boundary here is a length of a Glastonbury Abbey charter boundary of 938⁵ which presents several names suggestive of a former function of the early shire boundary, that related to the collection of tolls, and which has prompted that suggestion that what we see here is the re-instatement of the old Roman *portoria*⁶ where a trade route crossed an established border.⁷ The later seventh century was a prosperous trading period and one enhanced at Lyme by the production of salt, a valuable commodity and a long-established source of revenue.⁸

The route running up valley from Lyme crossed the Devon border at the *salteforde* of 938 alternatively the *warelackeforde* and the old road running westwards up from the harbour crossed the Devon border at *werboldiston* represented today by Ware House in the hamlet of Ware; the road itself marked here by a *waegn geat*, 'way' or 'wagon' gate. The first element in both *warelackeforde* and *werboldiston* is OE *waru*, 'ware' 'merchandise' that found in current English 'warehouse' which also carries the meaning 'watchful' 'observance' as in 'beware.'

While there have been changes made to the course of the Dorset boundary most recently in 1974⁹ there is sufficient here to have prompted a fresh look at its significance as a linear, historic landscape feature of considerable antiquity. The study is one to bring together the two ‘arms’ of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society.

Suffice to say there is, as yet, no definitive statement on the Dorset/Somerset border; this is work in progress. Joining the Axe just south-east of Chardstock it leaves the river at Clapton and then follows a route across country reaching the Yeo at Yeovil, whence it runs eastwards defining the northward Sherborne salient enhanced by boundary changes in 1896¹⁰ and then across Blackmore to the junction with the bounds of Wiltshire and Somerset at Penselwood. Its course along the Axe itself invites further inspection; the collection of tolls along continental rivers is evidenced for seventh-century Merovingian Gaul.¹¹ Border estates here are characterised by ecclesiastical lordship. Forde Abbey (in Thorncombe), its function vested in its name, formerly occupied a Devonshire enclave on the east bank of the river was included within the jurisdiction of the Exeter diocese. In 1086 Thorncombe was held by Baldwin, the Devonshire sheriff; Forde held by Ranulf from Baldwin.¹² Transferred to Devon from Dorset in 1844 and 1896¹³ were the prominent south-western Chardstock ‘spur’ formerly a Sherborne episcopal estate together with Stockland held by Milton Abbey and Hawkchurch by Cerne Abbey; the latter is not recorded in 1086. Of note here are the beacon sites at Chardstock and *Coleson House* in Hawkchurch.¹⁴ A ‘strategic’ border significance is presented by Sherborne’s hundred/manors of Beaminster, Yetminster and Sherborne itself which run with the Somerset border.¹⁵ The Benedictine charter of 998 includes reference to ‘beacon service’ as the responsibility of the bishop¹⁶ an ‘institutional’ role we may understand as held by the medieval church.¹⁷ Lines of sight - strategic viewpoints across Somerset – have presented a number of times along those lengths of the boundary so far walked, including not only the Chardstock beacon, but Ashland Hill above Halstock, [Kingston] Penn Hill at Yeovil and from Purse Caundle which, by 1086, was an Athelney Abbey manor.

The location of Sherborne itself on the Dorset/Somerset border is of a significance hitherto, it seems, unexplored. The cathedral community set up in 705/6 was itself based on an earlier British Christian estate.¹⁸ Its location in relation to the two counties-to-be goes far to acknowledge the existence of two seventh-century British lordships spanning the higher part of the south-western peninsula. Their naming, their designation in terms of their respective *-saete*, 'dwellers' 'inhabitants' goes far to suggest a re-naming – indeed a re-creation – by an incoming English administration for purposes of administration and taxation.¹⁹ That is those inhabitants of *Doro-* [*Durotrigian*] country and of 'summer' country – echoes here of one-time seasonal movement to the Moors and Levels.²⁰ The earliest reference to the two counties is as a combined force when in 845/8 the Somerset men with the Dorset men under their respective *duces* led by Bishop Ealhstan fought against the Danes raiding at the mouth of the Parrett.²¹ The two counties were to share the same shire reeve 'sheriff' until 1566.²²

The Somerset/Dorset boundary here follows the River Yeo which emerges at the foot of the limestone escarpment at what is now Yeovil Pen Mill, a strong candidate for the site of the battle of 658 *aet peonnum* 'at pens.' Conflict at a boundary ford is a well-known theme in early literature and there were two Pen Hills here, if not three. The victor King Cenwealh 'strong Briton' 'drove them [the *wealhas*, 'welsh' *i.e.* his fellow Britons] in flight [downstream] as far as the Parrett'.²³ From this time he plausibly took at least nominal control of both territories and was to be claimed as the *fundator* of the episcopal estate just upstream at Sherborne with the granting – the confiscation – of a British Christian estate *at Lanprobi*.²⁴ The Yeo is a tributary of the Parrett and - geographically-speaking – Sherborne is in Somerset. The prominent northward salient in the county boundary here may be understood as related to the tax status of this early episcopal estate. Sharing a common pattern of assessment in 1086 the Sherborne *predium monasterii*, 'home estate,' up-valley from the old Roman Ilchester *civitas* was to claim ecclesiastical *immunitas* from demands made by the Crown. Henceforward no longer assessed as part of the territory to the north it was to be included within

that to the south where it had no pre-existing status.²⁵ The character of prominent county boundary salients, if not related to an obvious geographical feature may thus well merit further inspection.²⁶

The Yeo river name of today, OE *ea* 'water,' was formerly the River Ivel or *Gifle*. Suggested here is an element related to a fork or confluence.²⁷ A plausible alternative is presented by OE *gafol* 'tax' 'tribute'; as noted above the river here runs with the county boundary.²⁸ The *gafol* river ford *at pens* at Yeovil/Pen Mill bounded the early royal manor/borough of Yeovil and it is surely not by coincidence that it is located here; control of the river crossing may be reflected in its name. An alternative river crossing, a 'bypass,' may be represented a mile and a half up river to the south by the [failed] medieval borough foundation at Stoford; the 'stone ford' on the shire boundary, the foundation of which probably represents an attempt to divert toll-paying traffic.²⁹

There are two places along the Somerset/Dorset border which present an association with a medieval saint's life, Halstock with St Juthwara and Perrott with St Indract. Both *Lives* include references to movement, to pilgrimage; that for Indract supplies the context for his martyrdom. Juthwara's remains were translated to Sherborne c1050 by Bishop Aelfwold. Virtually nothing is known of her *Life*. Entertaining pilgrims she was beheaded by her brother and carried her head to the altar.³⁰ Her name later rendered as 'Judith' is probably of Brittonic origin but remains problematical; it presents a British name element *luth* but 'of the wrong gender' and an OE second element *-waru* Latinised as *-wara* as in *Cantwara* 'people of Kent.' The name presents 'immense possibilities for distortion through mis-hearing, mis-rendering and/or folk etymology' comments Carole Biggam.³¹ Considered in a border context however draws attention to OE *waru* 'ware' 'merchandise' already mentioned, and a rendering of OE *iude* 'jew'. Halstock, *halgan stoce* 'holy place',³² was the site of a major Roman villa.³³ In 1086 it 'slipped the record,' there is no reference to this manor for either Somerset or Dorset. A Sherborne prebend, the bounds of the estate are recorded in a charter of 847.³⁴ A *preosta lege*, 'priest's lea' and

a *dic* 'bank' or 'vallum' mark the border with Somerset, a prominent manmade feature, today much eroded and overgrown. As noted above lengths of this border offer a panoramic view across Somerset. There is a reference to a lost *Moryate* 'moor gate' at Halstock³⁵ but no gate is mentioned in the charter bounds.

We are better informed on St Indract³⁶ although no one has yet made mention of the possible significance of the shire boundary in his martyrdom. Indract is a well-attested Irish name. His story is found in an anonymous *passio* of the early twelfth century which claims to be a copy of an earlier exemplar, now lost. His cult was certainly a local one. William of Malmesbury notes that Indract's relics were held at Glastonbury placed there by King Ine.

Returning from Rome, Indract resolved to visit Glastonbury with his 7 (or 9) companions. At the time the king was holding court at *Pedret* [writes John of Tynemouth,³⁷ *Pedred* to the writer of *passio*] and his *ministri* dispersed in the surrounding *villulae*. Indract and his company were robbed and killed on the orders of King Ine's evil henchman *Huna*.

[South] Petherton was a royal manor in 1086 and has been given as the site of *Pedred*.³⁸ But not before considered here are the manors of North and South Perrott which not only straddle the shire boundary but the Axe-Parrett watershed; this is a border of some antiquity. Ine is listed as one of the benefactors of Sherborne with the gift of land at *iuxta Pedridun* 'next to' 'up against' *Pedridun* which, as O'Donovan observes, could be either North or South Perrott.³⁹ In 1086 North Perrott was held by the Count of Mortain and South Perrott was 'on lease' from the Bishop.⁴⁰ Thus presented is an example of a 'pairing' of royal and ecclesiastical interests across a shire boundary which we find elsewhere.

On the ground the county boundary today is marked by a large and distinctive bank which follows a very man-made course running east-west across what is now a golf course and on into woodland where it is unmanaged and overgrown. And again presents a number of a number of large veteran coppice stools and pollards of Oak, Field Maple and Ash giving some indication as to its antiquity.

The anonymous *passio* gives the date of 689 for Indract's martyrdom – one year into the reign of King Ine. Given that the Indract cult may 'be attributed to the ingenuity of two hagiographers',⁴¹ this was an 'ingenuity' which may have embraced knowledge of early shire 'border controls'. One of the decisions taken at the Synod of Hertford in 672 was to direct attention against the practice of clergy, *peregrini*, wandering about without written permission from their bishop and which is duly cited by Bede. Lapidge notes that the writer of the *passio* seems to echo Bede in his introductory passages.⁴² Indract and his company in making their journey followed the social conventions of one order only to fall foul of another newly imposed by the *Ecclesia Romani* and (re-)enforced by West Saxon rule.⁴³ The story may not have been written down until the tenth century, but this is the time which witnessed the Glastonbury Uplyme charter of 938 and declaration of the *werboldiston* and *waegn geat* on the Dorset/Devon border. Murder on a contested border remains a current theme into the twenty-first.⁴⁴

There is no reference to the *waegn geat* in the 1516 edition of the Uplyme charter⁴⁵ by which time dues were presumably only payable at the port itself. The origins and evolution of the Somerset/Dorset county boundary, as noted above, is a subject for further enquiry, for further field survey. The territorial pairing implicit in the *Notes and Queries* is of considerable antiquity, the course of the administrative boundary destined to be established between them is well worthy of attention.

1. K. Barker, 'The Early History of Sherborne' in S.M. Pearce (ed), *The Early Church in Western Britain and Ireland*, Studies presented to C.A. Ralegh-Radford, BAR British Series 102 (1982), 85-91; Fig 7.6. See also K. Barker, 'The Sherborne Estate at Lyme' in K. Barker, D. Hinton and A. Hunt (eds), *St Wulfsgie and Sherborne; essays to celebrate the millennium of the Benedictine Abbey* (2005), 199-205. 'Hercology' is the study of boundaries a word first coined by the author (*Antiquity* LVI, 1982, 214).
2. K. Barker, *Usque Domnoniam*: the setting of Aldhelm's *Carmen rhythmicum* in K. Barker with N. Brooks (eds), *Aldhelm and Sherborne; essays to celebrate the founding of the bishopric* (2010), 20.
3. F.L. Attenborough (transl and ed), *The laws of the earliest English Kings* (Cambridge/Llanerch, 1922/2000), 39, 49.
4. J. Campbell, *The History of the English Shires* (1993), 2.
5. H.S.A. Fox, 'The Boundary of Uplyme' in *The Devonshire Association Report and Transactions*, vol. 102 (1970), 35-47. See also K. Barker, 'Lyme and the Devon-Dorset county boundary; where the questions began,' *Proceedings of*

- the Dorset Archaeological and Natural History Society*, vol. 129 (2008), 197-208; fig 4.
6. See K. Barker, 'Usque Domnoniam: Sherborne, Glastonbury and the Expansion of Wessex' in Barker and Brooks, *Aldhelm and Sherborne*, 85, 94-95; Fig 2.9.
 7. D.S. Potter, *The Roman Empire at Bay* (2004), 47-8. See also W.T. Arnold, *The Roman System of Provincial Administration* (1879), 191-2, and I. Wood, *The Merovingian Kingdoms* (1994), 214-17.
 8. T. Pestell and K. Ulmscdhneider (eds), *Markets in Early Medieval Europe, trading and 'productive' sites, 650-850* (2003); A. Drouin, *Les Marais Salants en Aunis & Saintonge jusqu'en 1789*, Société d'Histoire et d'Archéologie en Saintonge Maritime (1999). For Lyme see K. Barker, 'Of salt and the coast at Lyme,' *Proceedings of the Dorset Archaeological and Natural History Society*, vol. 127 (2005). 49.
 9. G.S. Fry, 'Boundaries of Dorset', *SDNQ*, Vol. X, Pt LXXXIV, June 1906, 86-7; R.L.C. Wood, 'Dorset: the County's Boundary' (Dorset County Council, 1981), unpublished.
 10. With the transference from Somerset to Dorset of the parishes of Goathill, Poyntington, Sandford Orcas and Trent (Fry, 'Boundaries of Dorset', 86).
 11. I. Wood, *Merovingian Kingdoms*, 215.
 12. Domesday Book, *Devon* (1985), 2 vols, 16: 165, 166.
 13. Fry, 'Boundaries of Dorset', 86.
 14. J. Hutchins, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset* (1774), vol 2, 299.
 15. K. Barker, 'Sherborne in AD 998; the Benedictine Abbey and its Estate' in Barker, Hinton and Hunt, *St Wulfsgie and Sherborne*, 157, fig 16.
 16. S. Keynes, 'King Aethelred's charter for Sherborne Abbey, 998' in Barker, Hinton and Hunt, *St Wulfsgie and Sherborne*, 10, 12; Barker, 'Sherborne in AD 998; the Benedictine Abbey and its Estate', 151. The Bishop's estate also included Holcombe Rogus ['beacon'] on the Somerset-Devonshire border by 1086 held by the Devonshire sheriff. K. Barker, 'Bishop Wulfsgie's lifetime: Viking campaigns recorded in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* for southern England,' in *ibid*, 127 and Barker, 'The Sherborne Estate at Lyme', 202.
 17. As may be implied in Aldhelm's *Farus Editissima* where it was the duty of the priestly *flammiger* to maintain the Light. See K. Barker, *Usque Domnoniam: Sherborne, Glastonbury and the expansion* in Barker and Brooks, *Aldhelm and Sherborne*, 105-6; and *Usque Domnoniam*, the setting' in *ibid*, page 48, note 174. The responsibilities of the church in the maintenance of [coastal] beacons – not hitherto noticed it seems – may be implied in the founding of Trinity House by Henry VIII. With the Dissolution of the monasteries such services were no longer provided. See also K. Barker and G. Le Pard, 'St Aldhelm and the Chapel at Worth Matravers,' *Proceedings of the Dorset Archaeological and Natural History Society*, vol. 126, 2004, 148-156.
 18. Barker, 'Usque Domnoniam: Sherborne, Glastonbury and the Expansion', 59-62; Fig 2.
 19. Barker, 'Usque Domnoniam: Sherborne, Glastonbury and the Expansion', 86; see also C.P. Lewis, 'Welsh Territories and Welsh Identities in Late Anglo-Saxon England' in N.J. Higham (ed), *Britons in Anglo-Saxon England* (2007), 130-43.
 20. See K. Barker, 'Usque Domnoniam: 'Sherborne, Glastonbury and the Expansion'', 86, note 153. In Welsh, Somerset is 'Summerlands'.
 21. M. Swanton (transl and ed), *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles* (1996), 65.

22. W. Gresswell, *Dumnonia and The Valley of the Parrett A Historical Retrospect* (1922), 3.
23. Swanton, *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*, 32.
24. K. Barker, 'Pen, Ilchester and Yeovil: a study in the landscape history of south-east Somerset' *Somerset Procs*, 130 (1986), 12-14; also K. Barker, 'Usque Domnoniam: Sherborne, Glastonbury and the Expansion' in *Aldhelm and Sherborne*, 60-65; Fig 2, Pl 2.1.
25. K. Barker, 'Usque Domnoniam: Sherborne, Glastonbury and the Expansion', 89-90.
26. East of Sherborne, Gillingham presents the only- *ingas* name in Dorset; the *Gillingas*; 'the homestead or village of *Gylla*'s people', A.D. Mills, *The Place-names of Dorset*, Pt 3 (English Place- name Society, vol LIX/LX), 9-10. The focus of a larger royal manor in 1086, Gillingham occupies a distinctive northward salient in the Dorset boundary, the north-western length bordering Somerset and the north-eastern bordering Wiltshire. It is clear from Aldhelm's writing that there were fluent Latin speakers in seventh-century Wessex. Latin *Gillo* is a legacy hunter. Lewis and Short, *A Latin Dictionary* (1879).
27. E. Ekwall, *English river names* (1928), 221-2.
28. K. Barker, 'The Dorset/Somerset county boundary at Yeovil: Roman Order from Imperial to Episcopal, Taxation and Landscape', *Proceedings of the Dorset Archaeological and Natural History Society*, vol. 131 (2010), 219-236; for OE *gafol*. See pp. 219-20. 228. Ilchester the old Roman '*gafol* chester' was destined to lose its Latin name. Bosworth and Toller *An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary* (1898), 358, note a *gafol-ford*, a 'tributary ford' in Cornwall, now Camelford, the site of a battle between the *Weala*, 'Welsh/British' and the *Defna*, Devonians *aet Gafolforda* in 823. One the principal tributaries of the Yeo is the River Cam, 'a late back formation from *camel*'. See also Ekwall, *English river names*, 64.
29. Barker, 'The Dorset/Somerset County Boundary at Yeovil', 228, fig 4. As Beresford noted 'the borough is one of those that stand at the boundary of two counties, and the [control of the] ford crossing into Dorset may have more importance than the present lane would suggest' see M. Beresford, *New Towns of the Middle Ages, Town Plantation in England, Wales and Gascony* (1967), 141, 485. B. Arnold, *Princes and Territories in medieval Germany* (1991), 178-9, notes the intense competition engendered by border tolls. 'In order to tax the lucrative transport of salt . . . Duke Henry the Lion impiously knocked down the bishop of Freising's bridge over the Isar at Oberföhring in 1157 and diverted the road to a new bridge and toll station on land of his own.' 'This diversion proved so successful that the settlement at Munich quite rapidly grew into a town . . . '.
30. R. Love, 'The Life of St Wulfsgie of Sherborne by Goscelin of Saint-Berthin' in Barker, Hinton and Hunt, *St Wulfsgie and Sherborne*, 101-2, 104, 115-7. See also J. Fowler, *Mediaeval Sherborne* (1951), 208-10.
31. Dr Carole Biggam, Dept of English Language, University of Glasgow, *St Juthwara*, unpublished note to the author; grateful acknowledgement for her assistance.
32. A. Fagersten, *The place-names of Dorset* (1933), 223.
33. B. Putnam, *Roman Dorset* (2007), 92-94. See also R.N. Lucas, 'The Romano-British Villa at Halstock, Dorset, Excavations 1967-1985,' *Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society Monograph Series*, vol. 13 (1993).
34. G. B. Grundy, 'Saxon Charters of Dorset: Halstock', *Proceedings of the Dorset*

- Archaeological and Natural History Society*, vol. 58 (1936), 112-115. See also Barker 'Sherborne in AD 998', 149-50, 156.
35. Fagersten, *The place-names of Dorset*, 223.
 36. M. Lapidge, 'The Cult of St Indract at Glastonbury' in *Anglo-Latin Literature 900-1066* (1993), 419-52. See also Canon G.H. Doble, 'Saint Indract and Saint Dominic, *Somerset Record Society*, LVII (1942), 1-24, also *SDNQ*, XXIV, (1946), 126, and Rev C. Platts, 'The Martyrdom of St Indract,' *SDNQ*, XVII (1921-3), 18-23.
 37. G.H. Doble, *The Saints of Cornwall, Part 6, The Saints of North Cornwall* (1997), 28-9. On his return from Rome John of Tynemouth described Indract as landing at the port of *Tamerunta* where he built an oratory, and it was from there he set out for Glastonbury.
 38. Lapidge, 'The Cult of St Indract at Glastonbury', 423, 433; the Latin in the *passio* reads *Pedred* (*ibid*, 435, line 20).
 39. M. A. O'Donovan (ed), *Charters of Sherborne*, Anglo-Saxon Charters III (1988), xli, xliv.
 40. Domesday Book, *Somerset* (1980), 19:45, and *Dorset* (1983), 27:9. See also Barker, 'Usque Domnoniam; Sherborne, Glastonbury and the Expansion', 100, notes 208, 209.
 41. Lapidge, 'The Cult of St Indract at Glastonbury', 438.
 42. B. Colgrave and R.A.B. Mynors (ed and transl), *Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (1969), iv 5; 351. Lapidge, in 'The Cult of St Indract at Glastonbury', 434, notes that the anonymous author of the *passio* begins his account with sentences which present verbal similarities to those used by Bede. There is as yet no means of knowing the origins and age of the boundary between North and South Perrott and when it may first have been formally marked out; many lengths of the shire boundary will surely have followed the course of already-existent boundaries. It has been suggested that, in furtherance of the fiscal, judicial - and military - aims of the West Saxon administration, there may have been a 'directive' by which the newly-established shire boundary could be recognised, see K. Barker, 'Lyme Regis is in Dorset, Uplyme is in Devon: thoughts arising from the research seminar of October 2008' in *Proceedings of the Dorset Archaeological and Natural History Society*, vol. 130 (2009), 224. Crouched inhumation burials found at North Perrott school (in Somerset) may be 'considered as outliers of the *Durotrigian* form of burial' notes Papworth, where disruption of occupation is evidenced under Roman occupation and where, as at Ham Hill and South Cadbury' there is evidence of severe measures taken against the local people' (M. Papworth, *Deconstructing the Durotriges, A definition of Iron Age communities within the Dorset environs*, BAR British Series 462 (2008), 84, 164-5, 183, 187). One of the results may have been the formal establishment by the Roman administration of the Axe-Parrett watershed tribal/regional boundary.
 44. The audience of the Indract story would have been familiar with the association between boundaries and places of execution. See Andrew Reynolds, *Later Anglo-Saxon England, life and landscape* (1999), 79, 109.
 45. Fox, 'The Boundary of Uplyme', 39, 45.

KATHERINE BARKER

24. GODWYN OR LYNGE – A WELLS PROBLEM, C. 1406-1560. The name Godwyn¹ was prominent in Wells affairs

from the 1420s to after the Restoration. They are often assumed to have been a single family with a straightforward family tree. This tree seems ultimately to derive from 19th - century notes and lectures by Thomas Serel, which it can be seen with minor variations on several modern family history websites. It begins with John Godwyn who was master of the borough guild on seven occasions between 1420 and 1455. He, it states, had a son William who married the daughter and heiress of one Swayne. He was succeeded by his son, another John, and this son's heir was again William who was a lawyer and surveyor of the bishop's lands. The subsequent Godwyns who were prominent in local politics and landholding in the late 16th and 17th centuries were all descended from him. This last stage is undoubtedly correct but the previous steps are problematic. It is worth noting Bindoff's comment² when considering the one or more John Godwyns who sat as a Wells MP 1539 to 1553. He thought that so many families of the name inhabited Wells in those years that it was impossible to be certain who was who. There is a further issue in that forms such as Godwyn *alias* Lynge are generally used from 1499 to c.1550. This piece is an attempt to set out what is known.

The intention is to keep the account as simple as possible as there were many other Godwyns in Somerset in this period. For example, William Godwyn, merchant of Somerset, loaned another merchant £200 in 1377.³ But it is highly unlikely that John the glazier (see below) was his descendant. He obviously started in a more humble way. Other apparently unrelated Godwyns have been excluded. Similarly, the Lynge name has Lenge and Linge as variants. Wells records have occasional Langs and Longs in this period. Again they are ignored as there are no known links.

John the master

This man, who was to go on to be one of two dominant figures in the town guild, became a freeman of the borough in 1406. He was admitted on the strength of having married a freeman's daughter. He was a glazier, which was an unusual trade for a potential master. Most that rose to this position were merchants, clothiers or lawyers rather than craftsmen, which might explain

why it took him 17 years to become master. In contrast the other dominant figure, William Vowell, was a merchant and took only nine years. John is also unusual in his relatively light profile in the property market. Masters generally lived in High or Chamberlain Street and frequently acquired other leases or freehold properties. In 1413 John acquired a parcel of farmland at Swanningham. By 1427 he was living on the east side of Wet Lane (later widened to create Broad Street) and with Richard Sennere owned a house in St Cuthbert's Street. Both houses paid an annual rent to the town guild.⁴

John was obviously a respected and venerable figure in his later years. He had given up any trade by then and is described as a gentleman. In 1446 he was amongst the lay worthies testifying to the suitability of a new dean, when he was described as a gentleman and 'aged 60 years and more'. He does not feature in town records after 1456. In 1458 he and Joan, his wife, were licensed to hear masses in the chapel or oratory in their house.⁵ Presumably he was then infirm and approaching death.

The Lynde connection?

If John had a son William he neither became a freeman nor left any trace in surviving Wells property records. However, his claimed wife and father-in-law do appear. In 1483 William Lynde, weaver, and Juliana his wife, daughter and heiress of Richard Swayne late of Wells, were concerned in transactions involving three acres in East Wallesfield. The wording indicates that the land had been Swayne's. They were mentioned again in 1495-6 when the lease was assigned.⁶

Now a mother's second marriage is sometimes the reason for a name with an alias. However, Swayne was a weaver, a relatively humble trade and he had no other known property. He did become a freeman in 1446 but never progressed in the guild. He therefore seems too modest for a marriage alliance with the family of a leader of the guild. His known son-in-law was as modest, and was also a weaver; he became a freeman in 1478 who was admitted by apprenticeship. It was easier to become free by patrimony or marrying a freeman's widow or daughter, the first also carried more prestige. So it is safe to assume that

William was an outsider and then unmarried. However, one of his pledges was John Lyng. John is discussed below and was probably the father of the first of the John Godwyn *alias* Lynges. So John and William were probably close kin, cousins or uncle and nephew.

Three John Godwyn *alias* Lynges

The Godwyn name reappeared in the city records in 1499 when John Godwyn *alias* Lyng, junior, became a freeman. He was admitted by patrimony so his father must be listed earlier. Moreover, the 'junior' suggests another John. The only likely candidate is John Lyng who had become free in 1468 and who rose to be churchwarden in 1478. This suggests a man of moderate means as until c.1510 the post of churchwarden was rarely held by future masters but was the culmination of the career of those of the 'middling sort'.

John Godwyn *alias* Lyng I did not have a long career. His simple will of 1507 was followed by probate in 1508.⁷ Earlier he paid £3 towards the fine levied on Wells for alleged support of Perkin Warbeck, when payments ranged from £1 to £40. So his was a minor contribution but he was listed under High Street. John's will mentions his brother William. William acted as a pledge for his nephew in 1512 as William Lyng. He later acted as pledge for two new freemen in 1519 and 1520, on the first occasion as Godwyne and the second as Godwyne *alias* Lenge. By 1523 he was gaining status serving as warden of the altar of St Anne. In the 1524 Lay subsidy he was listed under Southover and paid on goods worth £5.⁸

John Godwyn *alias* Lyng II became a freeman in 1512. He was admitted by patrimony and is initially described as junior so he was the son of John mentioned above. He served as churchwarden in 1519 and 1520 and paid the 1524 Lay subsidy as a High Street resident assessed on goods worth £10. So the family status was improving.

The situation became complicated in 1525 when a third John Godwyn *alias* Lyng became a freeman. He was described as a mercer and qualified by apprenticeship. His first pledge was his namesake indicating close kinship. After this it is difficult to distinguish who is involved unless the writer made it clear.

Initially, the method was to describe them respectively as 'senior' and 'mercier'. Later, in 1546, one is called gentleman and the other mercier. John III was churchwarden in 1529 and John II M.P. in 1539, but in the 1540s it is safest to list office holdings without certain allocations up to 1547 when John II died.

One of them sat as M.P. in 1542 and 1547. Similarly one was master in 1540, 1541 and 1543. In the period 1518-29 one of the two sued John Goddard, clerk, and William Dytte for detention of deeds of Wells lands and tenements.⁹ One may also have been involved in another case of this period. In it a group of Bedfordshire men sued Julian and John Lyng, Richard Smith, John Campe, John Robynson and John Atwell of Wells for detention of deeds relating to land and messuages in Wells late of Robert Claver of Woburn. The action does identify another, otherwise unknown, Lyng.¹⁰

One can say with certainty that it was John the mercier who in 1539 began to lease town owned properties in High Street, beginning with no.31 and by mid-century adding 49 and 51.¹¹ Also it was he who sat as M.P. in 1550 and 1556 and served as master in those years.

William Godwyn

William became a freeman in 1534. He was admitted by patrimony, so he was the son of one of the last two Johns. He was churchwarden in 1546 and served as M.P. in 1553 and 1554. He was fined for not attending Parliament in 1554 and his sureties were Nicholas Godwyn, gentleman of Wells, and John Godwyn, clothier of Croscombe. Nicholas is otherwise unknown but John of Croscombe obviously flourished in that decade.¹²

William leased 29 High Street and 32 and 34 Chamberlain Street. The latter came with various Wells cottages and rural parcels.¹³ He served as surveyor of the bishop's lands, appointed first by Bishop Clerk jointly with the bishop's brother Thomas. He was re-appointed by Bishop Knight who added Nicholas and Aldred Fitzjames to the group. However, he was actually a lawyer and was acting as the chapter's attorney by 1553.¹⁴

He died relatively young when all his sons were minors. But he had founded the later family. The significant Godwyns in Wells history for the following century are his descendants. They describe themselves as esquire or gentleman and paid taxes on land rather than goods in various Lay subsidies. Their stories have been thoroughly documented.¹⁵

Later Lynges

Although William the surveyor/lawyer never used the alias, the name Lynge still appeared. In 1548 William Lynge rented a stable by the millpond (by the modern South Street-Mill Street junction) from the cathedral escheator. Subsequent accounts recorded payments with the usual spelling variations. However, the entry of 1565 has Goodwine *alias* Linge indicating the family in this study. During this period, in 1558, the cathedral communar paid William Lyng for providing various fabrics for use in the cathedral.¹⁶

Conclusion

The evidence to link the John Godwyn of the early 15th century to the later family has evaded this writer. If any reader has noticed any relevant references he will be pleased to learn of it.

If the first and later Godwyns were connected the family fortunes had suffered disastrously between the 1450s and 1499. The Godwyn *alias* Lynge family built up its wealth and status over some three generations in what seems to have been a new start. Such a collapse is not, of course, impossible. John the glazier could have disposed of most of his assets by a combination of devotion to the town guild and a long, economically inactive, old age. Indeed, as explained, the foundations of his prominence are mysterious. Besides his craft he must have traded in something, probably cloth that was the usual foundation of Wells fortunes between 1340 and 1540. Up until John's time dynasties of masters were unknown. Dominant figures such as John le Roper, Thomas Tannere and John Blithe left no heirs. John's slightly younger contemporary William Vowell was the first to be followed by an equally prominent son.

The gradual progress of the later Godwyn *alias* Lynges is in

many ways typical with its switch to training sons in the law and the acquisition of property. In this they show similarities to their contemporaries the Mawdeleys and Vowells. If they differed it was because they did not also place sons in the church. The other two produced a series of middle rank churchmen, canons, priors and an archdeacon.¹⁷ This is the more striking as the 17th century Godwyns were often recusants and therefore deeply concerned with their faith.

[My thanks to Tony Nott for commenting on a draft of this piece.]

1. The spelling Godwyn has been preferred as it is generally used until late in the 16th century also it avoids further confusion with the kin of Bishop Godwin.
2. S.T. Bindoff, *The history of Parliament: the House of Commons 1509-58* (1982), 228.
3. The National Archives (TNA), C 241/162/37.
4. D.O. Shilton and R. Holworthy (eds.), *Wells City charters*, Somerset Record Society (SRS) 46 (1932), 200; A.J. Scrase and J. Hasler (eds.), *Wells Corporation properties*, SRS 87 (2002), 32, 34.
5. C. Maxwell-Lyte and M.C.B. Dawes (eds.), *The registers of Bishop Bekyngton*, SRS 49 and 50 (1934-5), i p311, ii p433.
6. Historical Manuscript Commission, *Calendar of the manuscripts of the Dean and Chapter of Wells* ii (1914), ch. 708, 692, chs. 724-5, 695.
7. F.W. Weaver (ed.), *Somerset medieval wills 1501-30*, SRS 19 (1903), 110-1; TNA, Prob 11/15.
8. For the 'Warbeck' fines A.J. Scrase, 'The Citizens of Medieval Wells' in *History Round Wells* 6 (2002), 44-5; and for the 1524 Subsidy see Scrase, 'The 1524 Lay Subsidy at Wells' in *History Round Wells* 9 (2005), 15-45.
9. TNA, C 1/511/61.
10. TNA, C 1/542/25.
11. Scrase and Hasler, *Wells Corporation properties*, 38, 55-6.
12. Bindoff, *History of Parliament*, 229; for John of Croscombe see, for example, TNA, C 1/142/23/197.
13. Scrase and Hasler, *Wells Corporation properties*, 47-9, 55.
14. *Calendar*, ii, ch. 762, 703; L.S. Colchester (ed.), *Wells Cathedral communars' accounts 1327-1600* (1984), 232.
15. For subsidies see A.J. Webb (ed.), *Tudor subsidies: 1558 and 1581-2*, SRS 88 (2002), 69; for later history A. Nott and J. Hasler (eds.), *Wells convocation act books ii*, SRS 91 (2004), 971-2 provides a good starting point while more detail on various family members can be found in J. Hasler and B. Luker, *The parish of Wookey: a new history* (1997); A. Nott, 'Poxe, Puncke and Puritane' in *History Round Wells* 4 (2001), 2-4; A. Nott, *Under God's visitation* (2010).
16. L.S. Colchester (ed.), *Wells Cathedral escheators' accounts 1480-1600* (1988), 311-36; Colchester, *Communars' accounts*, 253.
17. A.J. Scrase, 'The Mawdeley Family' in *Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset* 36, part 366 (2007), 144-54 and part 367 (2008), 192-9, and part 370 (2009), 355-7; A.J. Scrase, 'From Wells burgesses to Norfolk gentry' and *Report of Wells Natural History and Archaeological Society* (2010/11), 24-37.

TONY SCRASE

25. SDNQ SYMPOSIUM, DOWNSIDE ABBEY, 2011. The following papers are a synopsis, provided by each author, of their talks given at our recent symposium. The committee decided to print these papers as both a record of the symposium and as a point of reference to those who were unable to attend. If any reader wishes to contact one of the authors please send any communications to Ann Smith (whose address is at the front of this issue). One exception to this is the paper by Professor Katherine Barker which has been printed as an article in this edition.

The committee are very grateful to all those who attended, especially the speakers for all their hard work on the day and for submitting a synopsis for publication in this issue.



The speakers at the SDNQ symposium, 1 October 2011.
From left to right: Colin Maggs, David Cousins, Professor
Katherine Barker, Dr Robert Dunning, Colin Brett, David
Bromwich and Dom Aidan Bellenger (photograph by A.J.
Webb)

26. DORSET MONASTERIES IN THE LATE MEDIEVAL PERIOD, 1290-1540: TWO PROSOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES. Information concerning Dorset monasteries in the

late Middle Ages is patchy and sparse. A study of entries in the bishops' registers, combined with other sources, has been used as the basis for two prosopographical studies of the ecclesiastical patronage of the Dorset monasteries, and the monks and nuns in the Dorset monasteries before and after Dissolution.

Shaftesbury Abbey was a large well-endowed monastery which, in the first half of the fourteenth century, held 44 livings, 30 in Dorset, 10 in Wiltshire, 3 in Somerset and 1 in Sussex. Despite this formidable list of livings in their patronage, the Abbey's spiritual income in the *Valor* was only £88:10:8, about 8% of their total income. From this it can be deduced that the advowsons' major value to the monastery lay in using them to reward well-educated and ambitious clerks, who often came from influential families. These clerks could conduct the Abbey's business, act as external eyes and ears for the monastery in court and ecclesiastical circles, and lobby for the Abbey where necessary.

Detailed study of the lists of clerics presented to their livings shows evidence of career planning by the monastery. At any one time about seven well educated and influential clerics would have been available to the Abbey. These were generally presented to the more valuable livings, especially to the prebends which had no residential requirements. Many of these clerics are recorded as holding offices within the monastery and acting for the Abbess.

As a nunnery they also required clerics to officiate at divine service in the Abbey church, with its numerous chapels and chantries. Shaftesbury Abbey was fortunate in having not only a number of livings within the town, but a cluster of other benefices within easy reach of the Abbey to which they could appoint suitable clerics. There is evidence that these clerics formed a team to ensure a continuous round of divine service in the Abbey church. The list of clergy presented by Shaftesbury Abbey contains many examples of clerics who spent their lives serving in the Abbey's livings, moving from one living to another.

Information about the monks and nuns in the Dorset monasteries has been extracted from the ordination lists and monastic election records, mainly in the registers of the Bishops

of Salisbury. Knowing the year when a monk was ordained a priest enables an estimate to be made of the monk's age in any subsequent year. Additional information concerning their careers has come from published papal records and documents in The National Archives of England.

The monks in the Dorset monasteries tended to follow the custom, when entering a monastery, of adopting a new surname based upon their town or village of origin. Analysis of these locative names shows that Abbotsbury, Cerne and Milton Abbeys tended to rely on local recruitment, with two thirds of the monks coming from Dorset. Sherborne and Milton had about a fifth of their monks coming from further away than Dorset and the four surrounding counties. About a fifth of Cerne and Sherborne's monks came from Somerset.

With such a small number of monks in the four Benedictine and one Cistercian monastery in Dorset, detailed analysis of changes in the number of monks with time is not possible. However, there is an indication of a drop in numbers in the middle of the 15th century, with numbers rising again until the Dissolution, in line with more detailed studies possible in other counties.

Tracing the subsequent careers of the ex-religious after the Dissolution is difficult. Pension records¹ enable a good estimate to be made of the date of their death and, where ordination data is available, an estimate of age at death can be made as well. An analysis of the number of monks and nuns surviving after the Dissolution show that they had a similar life expectancy, enduring the rigours of the outside world, to that they might have expected if they had continued to enjoy the sheltered life of the monastic cloister. The last Dorset nun who witnessed the Dissolution, Margaret Lovell of Shaftesbury Abbey, died in 1602, and the last Dorset monk, William Dyer of Cerne Abbey, died in 1594 at the age of about 89.

1. The National Archives, LR 6, Office of the Auditors of Land Revenue, Receivers' accounts for Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall; SC6 (HENRY VIII), receivers' accounts for possessions of the dissolved monasteries of Dorset.

DAVID COUSINS

27. FRUITS OF THE DISSOLUTION: THE KING'S INCOME FROM SOMERSET AND DORSET 1605.

In 1575 a boy was born into a London mercer's family. When he was 21, he started trading on his own by exporting and importing cloths. The next that is heard of him was that he was knighted in 1613, quickly rose in court circles, and was rewarded by being made the first Earl of Middlesex. He was made Lord treasurer but was impeached in 1623 and fell from grace, and died in 1645. This man was Lionel Cranfield. The almost unknown fact about him was that he was Receiver-General for Somerset and Dorset from 1605 to 1613, collecting income for King James I and his Queen, Anne of Denmark.

The management of Tudor royal finances was traced starting with Henry VII's reforms of the Exchequer, Cardinal Wolsey's control on behalf of Henry VIII, the valuation of the monastic establishments in 1535 (the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*) and the setting up of the 'Court of Augmentation of the Revenues of the Crown' in 1536. Lionel Cranfield applied his own methods to the collection system but reporting the results had its faults. A warning was given that some Crown records may not be as truthful as they appear. Historians beware.

The sources of the royal income in 1605 stemmed largely from monastic sources. At the Dissolution, there had been 44 religious houses in Somerset and 24 in Dorset. Additionally there were also 66 religious establishments in other counties that had properties in the two counties. By 1605 a large proportion of these sources of income were not available to the Crown but revenues were collected from lands of about half of the ex-religious houses.

Other sources of royal income included ex-Chantry lands, forfeited lands, jointures of the Queens Jane Seymour and Katherine Parr, concealed lands and profits from alum mines in Dorset.

Besides collecting money for the Crown money had to be paid out. In addition to fees and expenses of bailiffs, stewards and Exchequer officials, perhaps the most revealing of Lionel Cranfield's entries were the following. Five named scholars at Oxford received exhibitions; payments were made to the captains of Portland and Sandsfoot castles; and alms were

distributed in Somerset, but not in Dorset. Ecclesiastical pensions were honoured, including one to an ex-nun of Amesbury Priory, who was drawing her pension for the 67th time.

Lionel Cranfield's records offer a unique insight into the way that the Royal revenues were collected. From many perspectives it was an imperfect system, but right from the start it was obvious that Cranfield was an enthusiastic servant of the Crown. He transferred his meticulous record-keeping from his own affairs to those of James I and employed his own servants in the collection and distribution of the royal revenues to his best ability.

COLIN BRETT

28. RELIGION ON THE EDGE: DISSENTING CONGREGATIONS ON THE SOMERSET AND DORSET BORDERS IN THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES. Dissenting congregations and centres tend not to adhere closely to county, diocesan or parochial boundaries. Indeed, for the survival and anonymity of such gathered communities, the blurring of boundaries is an advantage in evading penalties. Sometimes it is the personal, family groupings which determine the congregation and pattern and centres. The Congregational meeting house at Trudoxhill, in Somerset, was opened in 1717, replacing a house chapel at nearby Witham. 'Witham', as Robert Dunning has suggested, 'was a sensible place for such gatherings, for should a Somerset justice of the peace begin to take interest in them, they could, without much difficulty, cross over into Wiltshire for a while.' The peregrinations of the independent congregations of Axminster and Chard in the second half of the seventeenth century, recorded in the small volume of the *Ecclesiastica*, shows how survival in a time of persecution was aided by mobility. Such movement continued when persecution ended and emerges clearly in the circuits of the Wesleyans and Bible Christians in South Somerset.

The Bath Catholic congregation, one of the largest in the South of England, was cosmopolitan on account of its health

tourism. Its chapels provided for Catholics living in both Somerset and Wiltshire. Roman Catholic congregations in rural areas were closely associated with the patronage of gentry families and some of these, too, crossed county boundaries. Bonham, in Wiltshire, under the patronage of the Stourtons, adjoined both Somerset and Dorset. The adjoining Marnhull 'mission', securely in Dorset, under the protection of the Husseys, benefitted from a particularly complicated parochial geography.

Neither Dorset nor Somerset were great centres of Catholicism. Using the measure of the number of ordinations to the priesthood in the years 1558 – 1800 Somerset has a total of 93 with Dorset only 46, as compared to 876 from Lancashire and 494 from Yorkshire, the two leading counties. The individual Somerset family with the greatest number of ordinations (seven) were the Keynes of Compton Pouncefoot on the Somerset/Dorset border. All of them were Jesuits. Alexander Keynes (c.1641-1713) worked in England both in the West Country and East Anglia. Charles Keynes died in 1673. Edward Keynes (1609-1665) died a victim of the plague in London attending the sick. George Keynes (1553-1611) died at St Omer at the Jesuit College there. A second George Keynes (1628-1659), ordained priest in 1654, died in the Philippines on his way to the Jesuit Chinese Mission. John Keynes (c.1624-1697) was probably the best known of the family. His name appears in Titus Oates' list of intended victims during the Popish Plot and served six years as Jesuit Provincial from 1684. Under James II he opened two London Jesuit colleges and witnessed the destruction of both with the Glorious Revolution of 1688. He was a noted controversialist and theologian. Maurice Keynes (1592-1654) worked mainly in the English Jesuit mission as did Maximilian Keynes (1652-1720), born in London and perhaps not a member of the same family. Maurice Ewens (1611-1687), who used the alias Keynes, had an Elizabeth Keynes, a member of the Somerset family, as his mother. He was caught up in the Popish Plot and was the author of a Latin poem, *Votum Candidum*, 'a congratulatory effusion' dedicated to King Charles II in 1669. The contribution of Compton Pouncefoot, with its county marginality, to the

English Catholic community and the Society of Jesus in particular was indeed considerable.

DOM AIDAN BELLENGER

29. THE BELLFOUNDERS OF SOMERSET & DORSET.

Recent years have seen the publication of *The bells and belfries of Dorset*, by Christopher Dalton (3 vols, Upper Court Press, 2000-2005), *Towers & bells of Devon*, by John G.M. Scott, Frank D. Mack & James M. Clarke (2 vols, Mint Press, 2007) and *The church bells of Somerset*, by George W. Massey (Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society, 2011). Alongside detailed gazetteers, all three provide itemised lists of the known output of individual bellfounders.

These lists spell out that, as has always been known in general terms, most of the medieval bells in Somerset and Dorset churches were supplied by London, Salisbury, Bristol and Exeter founders, that most of the modern ones have been cast in Whitechapel and Loughborough, but that in between, roughly from the Reformation to the railway age, most have been the work of small businesses situated in the two counties and in their immediate neighbours.

In Somerset and Dorset these start with two undated but late medieval founders, Thomas Hey of Montacute, and another without a known name or place, but provisionally linked to Shaftesbury. Thereafter we know the names, places and working dates of Roger Semson of Ash Priors (1530-1560), John and George Poole of Yetminster (1557-1584), William Cole of Mudford (1583-1596), the Purdue family of Closworth, Taunton, Glastonbury, Stoford, Salisbury and Bristol, and their successors at Closworth (1572-1767), William Warre of Leigh (1589-1618), the Wiseman family of Montacute (1589-1649), Robert Austens of Compton Dundon, father and son (1618-1671), the Cockey family of Frome (1681-1815), Thomas Wroths of Wellington, again father and son (1684-1750), the Bilbie family of Chew Stoke and Cullompton, Devon and their successors at Cullompton (1698-1855) and Thomas Bayley and his successors at Bridgwater (1739-1832).

Distribution maps of the known output of each of these

founders show varying degrees of success, and of penetration into each other's territories, with the Purdue family proving the most prolific in the seventeenth century, and the Bilbies in the eighteenth. The maps also invite questions about the logistics of transporting such heavy articles as bells in the days before railways. This was sometimes done overland, with churchwardens paying for hire of horses and oxen, and sometimes by water, with payment for a Severn trow used for a voyage between Bridgwater and the Rudhall foundry in Gloucester. At yet other times the founder cast the bell on site, as the Wroths did with an exceptionally heavy bell for Wells Cathedral, cast in the Dean's coach house in 1703.

DAVID BROMWICH

30. THE SOMERSET AND DORSET RAILWAY. The Somerset & Dorset Railway, also known as the 'Slow & Dirty', or 'Swift & Delightful', endeared itself to its locality. As its name hints, it was the union of two separate railways whose economy benefited from a union. It is very surprising that many who were too young to remember it, or never travelled on it, hold it in awe. There are two principal societies who promote it: the Somerset & Dorset Railway Heritage Trust at Midsomer Norton with a short length of track which will be extended over the years, and the Somerset & Dorset Railway Trust which has a museum at Washford station on the West Somerset Railway. Both these are in Somerset and, as yet, Dorset has only minor schemes.

The Somerset Central Railway (SCR) was promoted in 1851 to lay a broad gauge railway from Glastonbury to the main line at Highbridge; shoemaker Quaker James Clark was a leading light. The level route made construction easy. It opened in 1854 and was extended at each end to Burnham and Wells in 1858 and 1859 respectively. A pier at Burnham allowed a passenger ferry to Cardiff, while Highbridge Wharf was used for commercial traffic.

The Dorset Central Railway (DCR), which opened in 1860, was a standard gauge line from the London & South Western Railway (LSWR) at Wimborne to Blandford. The company

aimed to extend to the broad gauge SCR at Cole, while the SCR would extend its line from Glastonbury to Cole.

The physical link was made at Cole on 3 February 1862 and the two companies amalgamated on 1 September 1862, by which time a third rail had been laid over the SCR's broad gauge section to enable it to be used by standard gauge stock. The combined company, styled the Somerset & Dorset Railway, had a seal which depicted Glastonbury in one half and the seal of Dorchester in the other. Although the two companies met at Cole, through running Burnham to Wimborne was impossible because although the DCR had a line from Templecombe northwards to meet the SCR at Cole, the DCR's Blandford to Templecombe section was not opened until 1863.

The SCR and DCR and running powers over the LSWR to Hamworthy gave a through route from Burnham to Poole and with the railway-owned ferry to/from Cardiff and another railway-owned ferry operating between Hamworthy to Cherbourg, it was an international line! French railways took passengers on to Paris. The trouble was, vast numbers of passengers failed to travel from Cardiff to Paris or *vice versa*. The directors put on their thinking caps and came up with the idea of extending over the Mendips to Bath to join the Midland Railway branch. This placed the 'S&D' on a through route from the Midlands to the south coast.

The 26 miles of line were built in the amazing time of two years. Built over difficult country requiring lengthy viaducts and tunnels, it opened in 1874 and made use of its running powers over the LSWR's Poole to Bournemouth West line also opened that year. All this effort overstretched the company and it was in financial difficulties. The Midland Railway and the LSWR took it on a 999 years' lease so 'Joint' was added to its title. The Midland tried to send all its south coast traffic via the line and in 1910 a daily average of 650 wagons were exchanged at Templecombe.

During WW2 the line was especially busy before and immediately after D-Day. Post-war summer Saturdays experienced heavy traffic and there was a procession of Friday night/early Saturday morning trains to Bournemouth, these returning north later that morning.

The Beeching Report proposed closure as some passenger and freight traffic was going by road. Most of the line closed on 7 March 1966, though in Dorset the line from Blandford to Broadstone remained open for freight until 1970 and in Somerset Bason Bridge to milk traffic until 1972.

COLIN G. MAGGS

31. AN AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING. In the Autumn of 1887 it 'occurred to some Antiquaries resident in the counties of Somerset and Dorset that the time was come for the establishment of a local *Notes and Queries*.' Thus begins the editorial introduction to the first volume of *S. & D. N. & Q.* that appeared in 1890. Such a coming together of minds had little need for an elaborate constitution, for which the current Committee is most grateful. It was all so simple and straightforward. 'After the discussion of a few preliminaries a committee was formed, two Editors were appointed, and the experiment was set in action.' The experiment continues well over a century later.

The committee, more than half of them clergymen, was dominated by Somerset, though Montague Guest of Savile Row must be considered among the Dorset minority. The several hundred subscribers and supporters (the distinction not at all clear) listed by 1890 reflected a far better balance, including some distinguished national figures: the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, Bodley's Librarian, the Chief Librarian of the British Museum, the Honorary Secretary of the Folk Lore Society, Maltravers Herald, the archaeological giant General Pitt-Rivers, the historian E.A. Freeman.

So the fame of *S. & D.N. & Q.* was very soon established and found subscribers among the New World Establishment in the form of Boston Public Library and the New England Historical Genealogical Society; and also among what proved to be rather ephemeral contemporaries in the form of the editors of *Notes & Queries* for Lincolnshire, Gloucestershire, East Anglia, Northern (at Alloa) and Scotland (at Aberdeen). And also, intriguingly, from some ladies such as the authoress Mrs E. Boger of St Saviour's Grammar School in Southwark, Mrs

H.R.P. Sandford of Queen's School, Chester, Miss Payne of 2 Westerhall Villas, Weymouth, and Miss E. Samson of Upwey. Charlotte G. Boger, also of St Saviour's School, sent in queries.

Success in the first three years for *S. & D.N. & Q.*, and indeed for its continued success, was clearly due to the breadth of the interests of its active subscribers: history, genealogy, archaeology, natural history, topography, folklore, customs, dialect. It became, to use a modern phrase, the search engine of choice for many scholars. A trawl through its first volume, highly recommended for an idle hour, will reveal polite controversy, trenchant criticism, obsessive enthusiasm and a vast array of information. Some subscribers used its pages to gather information for their books, some to display their scholarship, more to share their findings or encourage others to search and discover.

And you will be entertained. Where else will you learn about the terms used in talking to domestic animals, a Note contributed by Professor H Carrington Bolton, of the University Club of New York City? Where else learn scholarly views on the introduction of *Helix pomatia* into Dorset? And where else read a story of family grief as is, not in Volume I but in Volume VIII (no 137), a tale clearly so attractive that the Editors overlooked its (un)likely Devon connection?

R.W. DUNNING

NOTES

COKE ESTATES IN SOMERSET AND DORSET. The researches of D.P. Mortlock, librarian at Holkham, covering the period 1718-28, were published in 2007 under the title *Aristocratic Splendour: Money and the World of Thomas Coke, Earl of Leicester*. What was described as the Great Estate belonging to Coke in the 1720s was summarised in an appendix from various individual surveys. The estates lay, as might be expected, principally in East Anglia, but there were outliers in other counties including Somerset and Dorset: Donyatt, Portbury, Durweston and Shillingstone. A second appendix lists Donyatt, 'Okeford Shilling', and 'Durweston and Knighton' as

having been bought by Sir Edward Coke in the early 17th century.

The Donyatt survey, the original at the Somerset Heritage Centre listed a bailiff, five principal tenants, thirty-eight lesser tenants, a mill leased to John Baker and a brick kiln, probably rented to William Stuckey.¹ The Portbury survey listed only a bailiff and small tenants, evidently tenants of small acreages since one of them was Sir George Norton. Sir George held a piece of land called Portbury Hill; another tenant occupied Portbury Hill Warren. There was a water grist mill, a windmill, and a 'spot of ground to erect a windmill on ye common'. Also listed was Richard Tuckey, bailiff of Portbury Hundred.²

The originals of the Dorset surveys seem to be among the Holkham archives. Durweston had a bailiff and sixteen small tenants (one estate was Sulcomb Copps). The royalty of the river was rented to William Dominey, who was arrested for non-payment in 1726). Shillingstone's bailiff headed a list of twenty-two small tenants. A brick kiln was let to Allen Lawrence.

A third appendix lists the advowsons attached to these estates: Donyatt rectory worth £80, Shillingstone rectory £170 but let at £200 and Durweston rectory worth £70 but let at £105 with the rectory house kept in hand.

1. SHC, DD/X/PM.

2. SHC, DD/PN 49.

R.W. DUNNING

BANWELL SEWERS. In Michael Williams' *The draining of the Somerset levels* he noted the lack of records of the Courts of Sewers during, amongst other periods, the seventeenth century.¹ The recent discovery of a 'Water Jury Book' for Banwell, from 1824, throws a little light into the workings of the jury from the 1660s until the mid 19th century.

The volume has a neat record in the front which was copied from an 'Antient Book bearing Date 1662' recording the following customary days:

The Customary days for this Jury to meet and view the Commission Works, are the Monday week after our Ladyday, and the Monday following after Michaelmas day.

And so often at other times as need shall require, Warning being given or sent them by the Foreman of the said Jury

The volume then lists twenty areas of works to be viewed in 1824 belonging to the Banwell Jury of Sewers. How many of those twenty were in existence in the 17th century is not stated in this volume.

The volume has been heavily annotated and was clearly updated for many years after 1824 with the names of those who had to undertake their duty to carry out repairs and maintenance. It also contains other information which pre-dates 1824, such as the construction of the lower part of the Lythy Yeo in 1775. This belonged to the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells and was extended in 1801.² Some earlier papers are held at the Somerset Heritage Centre.³

1. M. Williams, *The draining of the Somerset levels* (1970), 80.

2. The volume is in private possession.

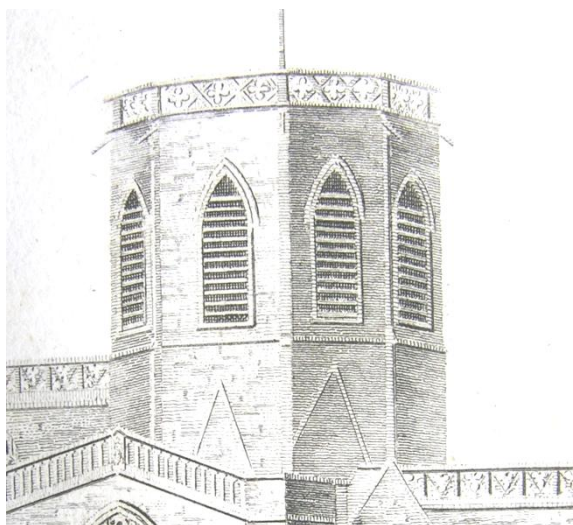
3. SHC, D\RA/1/2/111.

A.J.W.

QUERIES

THE OCTAGONAL TOWERS OF SOMERSET. On an expedition of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society to South Petherton on 20 July 1921 Bligh Bond drew attention to its octagonal tower, noting that there were twelve of these in Somerset. They are in the central south of the county, the furthest north and east being Doultling, and South Petherton the furthest south. Furthest west are Bishops Hull and Pitminster. The others are Barrington, Somerton, Podimore, Ilchester, North Curry, Weston Bampfylde, Stoke St Gregory and Barton St David. In five, Doultling, Stoke St Gregory, South Petherton, North Curry and Barrington the tower is central at the crossing; except for Barrington these are the biggest and the finest. Four have west towers: Weston Bampfylde, Podimore, Pitminster and Ilchester. Podimore is interesting in that you can still see the squinches from the porch. The tower at Bishops Hull is also built over the north porch. Barton St David's is in the angle between the north transept and chancel and Somerton is in the south.

None of the towers is high; all are built in three or four sections of which only one or two of the highest are octagonal, except in the case of Barton St David which is unique in being octagonal from the ground up. Two, Doultong and Pitminster, have spires. Except for Doultong octagonal towers are short and stocky compared with most other Somerset towers. Doultong is probably the oldest, originating in the 12th century; North Curry, Podimore and Pitminster are 14th century and all the rest 13th century.



The church tower at North Curry, reproduced from Collinson's *History and Antiquities of Somerset*, 1791 (A.J.W.)

It has been suggested that except for the churches with the central octagonal towers, octagonal towers have survived in relatively minor parishes where funds were not available for rebuilding. On the other hand maybe they did not need rebuilding because they were so sturdy, and why was the octagonal shape chosen in the first place?

At least two, Doultong and South Petherton are in land well documented as having been substantial Templar holdings but there are many other Templar sites where the church towers are not octagonal. Any explanation or ideas about these towers

would be very welcome.

Sources.

F.B. Bond, *Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society* LXVII (1921), xxxiv.

J.H. Harvey, 'Templar holdings in east Somerset' in *SDNQ*, 31 (1981), 135-41.

Sir M. Nathan, 'Documents relating to Somerset in the custody of Winchester College' in *SDNQ* 21 (1933), 56-60.

R.J.E. Bush, 'Martock' in *Victoria County History of Somerset* IV (1978), 9, 11, 21.

SUSAN RANDS

BOOK REVIEWS

R.W. Dunning (ed.), *Jocelin of Wells: Bishop, Builder and Courtier*, pp.236, over 20 plates and 25 other illustrations, Boydell and Brewer, 2010. ISBN 978-1-84383-556-1, £50.

This work comes from two sources. The first is ongoing archaeological investigations around the palace at Wells initially sparked by the appearance of parch marks on the croquet lawn. The second was a conference held there in September 2006 to mark the 800th anniversary of Jocelin's enthronement. The results are 10 chapters. Nicholas Vincent considers the making of a bishop in 1206 attributing a major role to King John. Jane Sayers then considers the role of a 13th century bishop while Diana Greenway looks at Jocelin's relations with his chapter and Sethina Watson at his relations with his cathedral cities. The work then moves on to his role as a builder. Tim Tatton-Brown puts the Wells palace into a wider context while Jerry Sampson looks specifically at Jocelin's Wells buildings. This in turn leads to the final section on the palace. Alex Turner, Christopher Gerrard and Keith Wilkinson report on the geophysical surveys. Mark Horton then discusses the location of Jocelin's palace. Next (and most unusual) David Hill reports on the lichen on the stonework and finally Matthew Reeve takes the story on by describing Bishop Burnell's transformation of the palace.

The work brings together much valuable information. It reflects the limitations of the evidence so there are sharp differences of view. Thus Vincent is willing to give weight to suggestions that Jocelin had a son and his brother Hugh II,

bishop of Lincoln, a wife and family whereas Sayer dismisses them out of hand. Similarly there are differing views on the status of the brothers' father, Edward of Wells. The most novel contribution is on the lichens. These colonise stone very slowly and their fungus components grow at similarly glacial rates. So long undisturbed stone will have the richest variety and rarest types. The study both tells us about sequences of change and highlights valuable biodiversity.

If I have to be critical it is that some contributors stick to closely to their own specialism without attempting a wider view. Thus the early chapters discuss the move from Bath without ever making the point that Bath was an inconvenient place to run a Somerset diocese given its location at the extreme north-east corner of the county which its immediate access to the Fosse Way could not counter. There was an obvious parallel with Chester that was too peripheral to oversee a north-west Midlands diocese and the seat switch to Coventry or Lichfield. So some move to a more central location must have been likely. However, Wells is not then an ideal choice it lacks access to both a Roman road and navigable water. Watson is perhaps particularly tied to her literary sources. Thus she attributes most importance in the emergence of a town at Wells to the activities of the Bath-based bishops, Robert, Reginald and Savaric. However, Robert's first charter was designed to banish the market from the church precincts. So the key questions are surely how and when that market emerged. Similarly, she takes Jocelin's statement that his brother Hugh founded the Wells hospital 'in accordance with the desires of our father' to attribute the genesis of the scheme to Edward of Wells. But surely his deathbed wish may have been more general asking for good works and/or the generation of prayers for his soul to hasten his passage through purgatory. Reeve shows another example of a failure to look at the wider picture. He attributes the failure to set Burnell's great hall at right angles to Jocelin's building to the existence of a stream blocking a more regular site. Thus the (unmentioned) parallel between the orientation and the Anglo-Saxon cathedral (and following that the wider town) is presumably chance. He does not consider how easy it would have been to move a water-course in this level area with

a high water table. Jocelin had carried out a major realignment to create the northern boundary of his park. Also the area must have featured numerous mill leets going back to at least Domesday while fulling mills were being added by Jocelin's day.

But these are quibbles. This is a clear statement of current knowledge. We may be able to get no further as regard literary evidence but as the archaeologists stress in their contributions, excavations in the area of Burnell's great hall will undoubtedly prove valuable.

TONY SCRASE

D. Dawson, D. Hunt and C. Webster, *Somerset and the defence of the Bristol Channel in the Second World War*, 132pp, illustrated in black and white and colour throughout, A4 format, Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, 2011. ISBN 978-0-90215-2236-1, £14.95. Available from the Society, c/o Somerset Heritage Centre, Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, TA2 6SF, please add £4.95 postage and packing.

Some subscribers who have been supporting SDNQ for more years than they care to remember may recount the name of the Somerset editor before my predecessor. If you can, then it will be a pleasant surprise to find that one of the authors of this volume is his son. SDNQ has many aspects of longevity, so the inclusion of a review of this volume is especially welcome.

This is a thoroughly well researched and equally well illustrated volume containing a wealth of physical evidence of Somerset's involvement in World War Two. But as the title says there is more than just Somerset material in this volume. Readers interested in the period who are studying the adjacent counties and further afield in South Wales will find many useful facts and many maps of relevance to their research.

The authors have examined the underlying reasons that led to the construction of the many and varied war-time edifices in Somerset, many of which were cloaked in secrecy. But this examination is set within the wider strategic picture, which on the whole for Somerset was a role of protecting the Bristol Channel, especially the major ports. This was driven by the fact that a tenth of the imports on which Britain relied for survival

came through this region. It was a region that relied upon air support and this is also documented in this volume, along with virtually every other military aspect that was connected with the county.

Even the most knowledgeable of military historians will find something of interest in this volume, because of a combination of the use of the most recent research available, the authors' unique knowledge of the subject but also of the topography of the county. Similarly this is a volume that will appeal to local and social historians, as well as those with a nostalgic interest in World War Two.

My only criticism of this volume is that some readers may find some of the maps confusing as they lack a scale, county or national boundaries, as well as corresponding toponyms, and some of the illustrations would have been better received had they been slightly larger. But this does not detract from the professional appearance of the text, the enjoyable content and the overall structure of the volume

A.J.W.

J. Jolliffe, *Family matters*, 126pp, colour illustrations, A5 format, published by the Author, 2011. £18.00. Available from the Author, Brunton House, Alnwick, NE66 3HQ.

This book is an outline of the histories of four families: the Horners, and more recently the Asquiths, at Mells; the Jolliffes at Ammerdown, nearby; and the Herveys, who had been established in Suffolk since the Middle Ages and included some notable eccentrics. Therefore there is much in this volume of interest to those historians whose net covers Mells and Ammerdown, as well as the influence and connections those families had in the neighbourhood of those areas.

For readers of SDNQ the account of the Horner family of Mells from the 15th century contains details of every generation from that time to the present. Unsurprisingly the work of Michael McGarvie has been drawn upon in this chapter and is very wide-ranging. In contrast to this the account of the Asquiths mainly concentrates on the principal figure in the family's history. His history is well document and is presented in this volume in a refreshingly clear way. There are some local

connections with the Hervey family, as the author mentions their visits to Bath and their connection to the Fox family. However the Jolliffes can be traced back to Leek in Staffordshire, who came to Somerset in 1780 and their association with Ammerdown is well documented in this volume. Representatives of these families held high public offices, as well as serving the church, military and state to a greater or lesser degree.

Unfortunately, although there is a bibliography there are very few citations and there is no index, but nevertheless this is an enjoyable easy to read volume that contains many interesting accounts of local characters. One such incident involved one of the female members of the Horner family took up cycling at the end of the 19th century. The lady ‘half tumbled off into the arms of one of her sisters-in-law’, and she said “I’m so sorry . . . but it is so difficult to get off”. To which the reply came “I wish it were impossible to get on”, reflecting the disapproving attitude towards this lady’s cycling activities. Another quote from this book refers to the relationship between the families at Ammerdown and Mells that at one time made ‘those between the Montagus and the Capulets seem positively cosy’.

The author refers in the text (on page 48) to a ‘dull but interesting book’, which is a description that cannot be applied to this interesting and readable volume.

A.J.W.

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A.J.W.

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