
NOTES & QUERIES

FOR
SOMERSET AND DORSET

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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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Dom Aelred Watkin

I have many good memories of Abbot Aelred Watkin who died on 2nd May 1997, aged 79. Among them arriving one day at Mells Manor, a former property of Glastonbury Abbey, and being surprised when Lord Oxford said to me, 'I'm glad you've come now, I want you to meet the Abbot of Glastonbury'. Dom Aelred had become titular abbot in 1976. The centuries vanished when I was ushered in to meet the black robed figure in what had been the abbatial mansion and we fell to discussing Abbot Bere's terrier of Mells, one of the manuscript treasures of the house.

Another document we puzzled over was the curious and untranslated (perhaps untranslatable) Latin inscription round the top of the Norman font in Lullington church. He lost the copy of it which I gave him. I replaced it but the flash of inspiration for which he hoped never came. He proposed me for the Fellowship of the Royal Historical Society and when my candidature was rejected, wrote me the kindest and most encouraging letter. He himself was elected as an undergraduate, a fact of which he was rightly proud, and was also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Dom Aelred was a successful and distinguished headmaster of Downside. To those of an historical bent, he was renowned as the editor of the outstanding *Great Chartulary of Glastonbury* in three volumes, 1946-1958, one of the most important publications of the Somerset Record Society and an indispensable tool for historians. He was elected as a Somerset representative on the SDNQ committee in 1949 and served with the legendary Abbot Horne. Dom Aelred was an assiduous attender at SDNQ meetings and contributed both wisdom and sound common sense to the running of the journal. He retired on becoming parish priest at Beccles in 1975.

40. A PLAN OF THE RAILWAY AT DORCHESTER SOUTH. The Record Office has recently received on deposit a plan of Dorchester South Station. It is dated 27 Dec 1918 and was made by 2nd Lt. Harry Bannister, of the Tank Corps at Bovington. The plan measures approximately 20 by 30 inches and is drawn on paper in black ink with a colour wash. It shows the whole plan of the station with the track layout and sidings, station buildings, engine sheds, turntable and signal boxes, the positions of loading cranes and storage huts, the embankments and many other details. There are two fine sketches of the bridges at Culliford Road and Monmouth Road (at each end of the station), and even such details as the cross-section of the rails both on the main line and in the sidings. A small inset map of the railway system in Dorset show how Dorchester South was connected to the national network. Lt. Bannister wrote a table of notes at the foot of his plan which gives details of the rail gauge, the availability of services such as water, telephone, lighting and telegraph, the rolling stock in the sheds on the day of his visit (16 locomotives, 10 carriages and 180 trucks), the materials used in the construction of the platforms, even the stocks of ballast kept by the Permanent Way staff. (He also makes a note of the weather – misty, some rain). All this is marvellous evidence for the railway historian, but why was Lt. Bannister interested in railways and Dorchester South Station in particular, and why was he able to draw his plan as part of his official army duties?

The answer lies in the sketch he made on the plan of a ‘proposed ramp’ at the western end of the station. This, it seems, was for loading tanks on to railway trucks. In this context the remarks he made on the plan about clearances between tracks, and the height and width of the bridges, can all be seen to relate to the movement of tanks in and around the station. He even notes the construction materials used in the two bridges, which would of course have been relevant to their load-bearing capacity. He makes particular note of the vehicular access to the sidings in the station, which again makes sense if you are thinking of getting tanks on to railway trucks. He concluded that the facilities at Dorchester South were excellent and that there was ample room for providing the loading ramp, although he did concede that the road (Weymouth Avenue) would need to be re-aligned, a tree felled and a lamp-post moved!

Was his plan carried out? Despite his recommendations, I think not. It was on 22 Feb 1915 that the Landships Committee first met under the chairmanship of Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty to consider the capabilities of Landships (tanks as they were later called) in promoting the war. The first tanks saw action at the Somme in September 1915. They were so successful in breaking the stalemate reached in trench warfare that more were ordered. In the autumn of 1916 Bovington was chosen to be the Tank Training Centre. In August 1919, eight months after Lt. Bannister's plan was drawn, the army opened a two-mile branch line to Bovington. According to J. H. Lucking's *Railways of Dorset* p. 45 it was built by prisoners of war. It connected with the main line to London at Wool, where the army had extensive sidings. The Bovington branch lasted less than ten years and was closed in 1928, after which tanks were loaded and unloaded at Wool where the sidings remained in use until about 1980 (the author can remember seeing tanks parked on them).

If putting tanks on to railway trucks seems out-dated in our age of motorways, it may be worth recording that the army still used the railway as the quickest and least damaging way of transporting its heavy tanks long distances. A new loading facility has recently been opened at Redmire in Wensleydale, from where tanks based at nearby Catterick Camp are moved all over the country. I think 2nd Lt. Henry Bannister would approve.

[The plan of Dorchester South Station is catalogued under D. 1423]

The County Record Office, Dorchester, has recently published a Guide to Railway Records. This coincides with the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the railway in Dorchester (the first passenger carrying railway in the county).

ANN SMITH

41. WORGRED, FIRST ABBOT OF GLASTONBURY. The name Worgred occurs in chapter 35 of William of Malmesbury's *De Antiquitate Glastoniae Ecclesiae*: 'In AD 601, on the petition of abbot Worgret, the king of Devon granted five cassates on the estate called Inesuuitrin to the Old Church. I, bishop Mauuron, wrote this charter. I, Worgret, abbot of that place, have subscribed'. The age of the document prevents our knowing who that king was, yet it may be presumed that he

was British, because he referred to Glastonbury in his own tongue as Yneswitrin, which, as we know, was the British name. But abbot Worgret, whose name smacks of British barbarism, was succeeded by Lademund and he by Bregored. The dates of their rule are obscure, but their names and ranks can be seen clearly in a painting to be found near the altar in the greater church.¹

This charter has been variously regarded. Carley, who describes it as erroneously dated to AD 601, associates it with early Anglo-Saxon times (that is, after the English occupation of the mid-Somerset region in the 650s). He notes that while E. E. Barker thought the charter had a genuine basis, David Dumville considers it a 'rank forgery'. There has also been disagreement on the names *Worgret*, *Lademund*, and *Bregored*. Carley considers them all as containing 'Saxon elements', citing Barker's suggestion that these abbots are, therefore, the first recorded members of the new 'English' regime.²

But this view is opposed by Campbell, who says of Glastonbury, 'Its earliest abbots (as they appear in a late list) have apparently British names.'³

Given such disagreement, it is no surprise that some regard any consecutive narrative history of the early abbots of Glastonbury as based on wishful thinking, since we have no authoritative list for the pre-conquest period.⁴ However, of the names *Worgret*, *Lademund*, and *Bregored*, we can at least show *Worgret* to be Celtic. It is apparently the equivalent of Welsh *gworgret* 'remainder, surplus, leavings'. The context of this is as follows.

Welsh *gworgret* occurs in a poem attributed to Taliesin (of the late sixth century) in which he praises the aggressions of Cynan Garwyn of Powys, Cynan won great fame for his victory in Anglesey, says the poet: his outstanding feat was crossing the Menai, and the rest (*gworgret*) was easy.⁵ Another instance occurs in a religious poem by Master John of St David's, active from before 1148 to after 1176. Describing Christ's miracles, Master John says 'He fed five thousand on five loaves of bread, / More was left (*mw y oedd o wargred*) than was seen at the eating.' Here we must read *wargred* (the *lectio difficilior*) after the later manuscripts, and not *wraged* 'women' of the Red Book of Hergest text.⁶ A priest like Master John would have

no special interest in the women mentioned in Matthew 14:21. His concern was rather the twelve baskets of the fragments that remained after the miracle. Master John's 'More was left than was seen at the eating' refers to the multiplication of the bread, which he would regard as a type of the Eucharist.

A third instance of *gworgret* occurs in a heroic drinking-poem by Owain Cyfeiliog (d. 1197), prince of Powys, in which he bids his cupbearer 'carry a lavish measure of bragget / into Gwgawn's hand', where the reference is to a *wirawd worgred*, a 'full draught'.⁷

In the light of this, there is no philological problem in taking *Worgret* as the Old Cornish equivalent of Welsh *gworgret*, particularly as the initial Brittonic semivowel *u* did not become *gw* in Cornish until perhaps the tenth century (as opposed to the eighth in Welsh).⁸ The only problem is in taking a word meaning 'remainder, surplus, leavings' as a personal name.

The literal sense of names is often puzzling, but a possible answer here is from Irish. The apparent Irish cognate of *gworgret* is *forraid* 'excess, superfluity', and this is known as a personal epithet.⁹ It was used of Fergus Forraid, king of the Ui Tuirtri (a people living west of Lough Neagh), who was killed in battle near Sligo on 12 July 704.¹⁰ Presumably Fergus was known for munificence. This approach would be made stronger if we could link *forraid* with Irish *crod* 'livestock, cattle; chattels, wealth' and *crodach* 'goods'.¹¹ Since *forraid* was certainly used of an Irish king, an equivalent *Worgret* might be used of a British abbot.

In any case, there can be no doubt that *Worgret* is a British Celtic name. The belief of that it contains Saxon elements can thus be discounted, as can the idea that it provides evidence for Worgred's being abbot under the new English regime. There is every reason to believe that Worgret was a Celtic abbot of Glastonbury. His name accords with the other Celtic names in the charter, whether genuine or not, preserved by William of Malmesbury. Here *Yneswitrin*, 'Woad Meadow', is the equivalent of Welsh *ynys* 'island; river-meadow' and *gwydr*, 'woad' (from Latin *vitrium*), while bishop Mauuron has a namesake in Welsh *Mauuron*, son of the legendary giant Gloyw who was supposed to have given his name to Gloucester.¹² In short, *Worgret* can be regarded as evidence for the Celtic

Christianity of the West Country before the arrival of the English.

1. John Scott (ed.), *The Early History of Glastonbury* (1981), 88, 89.
2. J. P. Carley, *Glastonbury Abbey* (1988), 2-3.
3. James Campbell (ed.), *The Anglo-Saxons* (1982), 51.
4. Carley, *op. cit.*, xii.
5. Ifor Williams (ed.), *The Poems of Taliesin* (1968), 1, 22.
6. Williams, *op. cit.*, 22. Marged Haycock (ed.), *Blodeugerdd Barddas o Ganu Crefyddol Cynnar* (1994), 355. On the poet, A. C. Breeze, *Medieval Welsh Literature* (1996), 41-7.
7. Thomas Parry (ed.), *The Oxford Book of Welsh Verse* (1962), 31. Anthony Conran, *The Penguin Book of Welsh Verse* (1967), 115.
8. K. H. Jackson, *Language and History in Early Britain* (1953), 387, 389.
9. *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru* (1950-), 1584.
10. Gearoid Mac Niocaill, *Ireland Before the Vikings* (1972), 118.
11. John Lloyd-Jones, *Geirfa Barddoniaeth Gynnar Gymraeg* (1931-63), 698.
12. Ifor Williams 'Glasinfryn', *Caernarvonshire Hist. Soc. Trans.*, ix (1948), 101-8. P. C. Bartrum (ed.), *Early Welsh Genealogical Tracts* (1966), 8.

ANDREW BREEZE

42. TAXATION IN BRUTON IN 1576. My attention was drawn to the tax of a 10th and a 15th on Bruton in 1576 by a reference in *Somerset Protestation and Subsidy Rolls*, by A. J. Howard and T. L. Stoate (1975), p. xiv). This portion of the tax, say the authors, is all that survives and 'in view of the rarity of these rolls containing names subsequent to 1332 this roll may well repay further study.' This statement alerted me, and I was intrigued by the authors' mention of 'extraneous remarks' entered on the roll. However, when I came to examine the document which is preserved in the Public Record Office (XC 5579 E179/256/1), I found that there were no more than those quoted. The roll is for Bruton town only, not the whole hundred. It is said to contain 260 names but the two lists, if not exactly synonymous, are repetitious. I acknowledge the kind help of Mr. D. M. M. Shorrocks.

Brewton

A note of the taxation of the inhabitants there for the XVth and the Xth Anno XVIIIth th. Re Eliz

A note of the seconde payment of the kings sylver for the Towne of Brewton to be paid the xxvth of Februarie anno 1576

Sir Morrys Barkley	xs.	John Compton	viijd.
Leonard Russe for Come farne	vs.	Richard Godfrye	ijd.
Hughe Sherwood	ijs.	Richard Castell	iiijd.
John Deverell	xvjd.	John Strowde	viijd.
Mistris Ousley	ijs.	John Tackle	iiijd.
Walter Illinge	xvjd.	Cutberd Baseley	iiijd.
John Frie	vjd.	John Benninge	ijd.
Anthonie Helyer	xijd.	Thomas Wilton	xvjd.
William Every	xijd.	William Clerke	ijd.
Lewce Plympton	ijs.	William Vinson	ijd.
Geeles Powell	xvjd.	Thomas Holwell	ijs.
Thomas Norton	xijd.	William Russell	xvjd.
John Penny thelder	iiijd.	Richard Hill	vjd.
John Penny the younger	iiijd.	John Busshopp	iiijd.
John Otts	iiijd.	John Walter	iiijd.
John Saunders	iiijd.	John Stephens	iiijd.
Thomas Glasyer	ijs.	Lawvarance Brocke	viijd.
Robert Plympton	ijs.	Walter Chyard	ijd.
William Braban	xxd.	Robert Barnarde	vjd.
Thomas Burcher	iiijd.	John Hill	iiijd.
Nicholas Penny	iiijd.	Marie Yevens	iiijd.
William Sarger	ijs.	William Frye	xijd.
Richard Luccucke	viijd.	Richard Plucknett	viijd.
George Illinge	ijs.	Walter Marten	viijd.
Owen Griffyn	ijs.	William Walter	iiijd.
Joane Jonsons	xvjd.	William Horner	vjd.
Henry Hoskings	iiijd.	Hugh Sexie	vjd.
John Bodhed	iiijd.	William Walter	iiijd.
John Churchowse	iiijd.	William Ruddocke	vjd.
Richard Sheppard	vjd.	Jeffry Jonsons	viijd.
William Bessell	iiijd.	William Gane of Cole	ijs.
William Kingston	ijd.	Edward Spicer	xijd.
John Frowde	vjd.	Walter Illarie	ijd.
John Morgane	iiijd.	John Hellyott	xijd.
Joane Walter	iiijd.	John Garlant	vjd.
Robert Lane	iiijd.	George Alie	viijd.
Robert Rodway	vjd.	John Pettie	viijd.
Thomas Higham	xijd.	Leonard Russe	ijs.
Thomas Coward	xvjd.	Ralf Foulkes	viijd.
William Packsford	xijd.	John Maynard	iiijd.
Thomas Hellyott	vjd.	Thomas Illinge	iiijd.
Aldom Yerbery	xijd.	Ralf Larder	viijd.
Richard Corp	viijd.	Richard Blackwell	xvjd.
Thomas Bartlet	xijd.	John Greene	iiijd.
John Yevans	viijd.	John Perry	xvjd.
John Wyne	xijd.	Richard Lane	viijd.
Richard Younge	iiijd.	Richard Plympton	vjd.
Gerom Dybbyns	xijd.	Richard Hodges	iiijd.
John Lucas	iiijd.	Robert Grace	xvjd.
Poole Glandfeild	xijd.	Robert Davedge	vjd.

Henrie Acarie	xijd.	Robert Davy butcher	xvjd.
Peter Langley	vjd.	Thomas Hopkins	viijd.
Bartholemew Tucker	xijd.	Robert Russe	xvjd.
Roger Tucker	iiijd.	Agnes Tudgey	vjd.
John Colborne	xijd.	Robert Ruffe	viiiijd.
Christopher Stephens	xijd.	Alyce Godwyn	iiijd.
William Hodges	iiijd.	Elizabeth Gane	vjd.
Robert Davy, sadler	viiiijd.	John Vigar for old barton	vjd.
Henry Bayleif	vjd.	Robert Pepper	iiijd.
Mother Coombe	iiijd.	Henry Hussey	vjd.
Thomas Barbour	ijd.	John Wood	iiijd.
Walter Lambell	iiijd.	Dennys Howse	iiijd.
Thomas Haward	vjd.	Richard Howse	iiijd.
Andrew Powell	xijd.	Agnes Strowde	viijd.
Phillipp Yinge	ijs.	Henry Yerberye	iiijd.
William Fudge	ijs.	William Warder	xijd.
John Dyser	xijd.	Thomas Cowley	iiijd.
Fraunces Poole	xijd.	Richard Taber	ijd.
John Walter	xijd.	Pooles (?)men	iiijd.
John Coward	iiijd.	Lawrence Stottell	ijd.
William Itery	vjd.	William Gane	ijd.
Richard Mychell	viijd.	John Fowlkes	viijd.
Ralf Penny	ijd.	Richard Edes	ijd.
William Walter	iiijd.	Polidorus	iiijd.
William Trott	ijd.	Edward Tuckers man	ijd.
Leonarde Lovelace	viiijd.	Morris	ijd.
Esit Rawlins, widowe	xijd.	Lewce Coward	ijd.
Thomas Alwood	xijd.	Russells Mylward	iiijd.
William Cornyshe	vjd.	William Tacle	ijd.
Nicholas Bennet	ijd.	Williem Feild	ijd.
Nicholas Greene	iiijd.	Henry Shepparde	iijd.
Nicholas Holberd	iiijd.	John Albon	iiijd.

Summa vjli. xxjd. whereof

is paid to the collector Mr Midwinder cvjs. viijd. so remayneth xvs. jd. being delivered to Thomas Sherwood and Lewce Plympton as it appeareth by there booke [*endorsed examinatur xvij^{mo} die Septembris 1596*]

A note of the kinges sylver called a Tenth and a fyftene graunted to the quenes ma^{ty} anno of her raigne the xviiijth to be payd the xxj of May next ensewing by these undernamed as followeth

Sir Morris Barkley	xs.	Lewce Plympton	ijs.
Leonard Russe for Come Farme vs.		Gyles Powell	xvjd.
Hughe Sherwood	ijs.	Thomas Norton	xijd.
John Deverell	xvjd.	John Penny thelder	iiijd.
Mr Ousley for the George	ijs.	John Penny the younger	iiijd.
Walter Illinge	xvjd.	John Otts	iiijd.
John Frye	vjd.	John Saunders	iiijd.
Anthonie Helyer	xijd.	Thomas Glasyer <i>alias</i> Carter	ijs.
William Every	xijd.	Robert Plympton	ijd.

Thomas Higham	xijd.	John Dyser	xijd.
Coward	xvjd.	Fraunces Poole	xijd.
William Packsforde	xijd.	John Walter	xijd.
Thomas Ellyott	vjd.	John Cowarde	iiijd.
Aldom Yerbury	xijd.	William Itterie	vjd.
Richard Coop	viijd.	Penny	ijd.
Thomas Bartlett	xijd.	William Trott	ijd.
John Evans	viijd.	John Vigar	ijd.
William Fudge	xijd.	Richard Gane	ijd
John Wyne	xijd.	John Fowlkes	ijd.
Richard Younge	iiijd.	Richard Edes	ijd
Gerom Dybbyn	xijd.	Polidrus	ijd.
John Lucas	iiijd.	Tuckers man the Butcher	ijd.
Powle Glandfeild	xijd.	Leonard Lovelace	viijd.
John Compton	viijd.	Esatt Kawby widowe	xijd.
Richard Godfry	ijd.	Thomas Alwode his tenant	xijd.
Edward Spicer	xijd	William Cornyshe	vjd.
Walter Illary	ijd.	Bennett	ijd.
John Ellyott	xijd.	Alice Johnsons	ijd.
John Garland	vjd.	Nicholas Holborde	iiijd.
George Alie	viijd.	Robert Davy	xvjd.
William Nepe	ijd.	Thomas Hopkins	viijd.
John Pettys	xijd.	Richard Blackwell	xijd.
Leonarde Russe for his tenant	ijs.	John Takell	iiijd.
Ralf Folkes	vjd.	Richard Castell	iiijd.
John Maynarde	iiijd.	Cudberd Baseley	iiijd.
Thomas Illing	viijd.	John Bennyng	ijd.
Ralf Larder	viijd.	Thomas Wilton	xvjd.
William Yerbery	ijs.	William Clarke	ijd.
John Grene	iijd.	William Vynson	ijd.
John Perry	xvjd.	Thomas Holway	ijs.
Richard Lane	viijd.	William Russell	xvjd.
Richard Plympton	vjd.	Richard Hill	vjd.
Richard Hodges	iiijd.	John Busshoppe	iiijd.
Robert Grace	xvjd.	Widdowe Walter	iiijd.
Robert Davedge	vjd.	John Stephens	iiijd.
Thomas Sherwood	xijd.	Lawrence Bocke	viiijd.
Henry Acarie	xijd.	Robert Barnarde	vjd.
Peeter Langley	vjd.	Walter Chyryar	ijd.
Bartholemewe Tucker	xijd.	John Hill	iiijd.
Roger Tucker	iiijd.	Marie Evans	iiijd.
John Colborne	xijd.	William Frye	xvjd.
Christopher Stephens	xijd	Richard Plucknett	viijd.
Henry Bayleiff	vjd.	Walter Marten	viijd.
Robert Davy sadler	viijd.	John Strowde	xijd.
Thomas Barbour	ijd.	William Horner	vjd.
Henry Yerbery	iiijd.	Hughe Sexie	vjd.
Thomas Hayward	vjd.	William Walter	iiijd.
Andrew Powell	xijd.	William Ruddock	vjd.
Phillipp Iunge	ijs.	Jeffrie Jonsons	viijd.
Margaret Goff widowe	xijd.	William Gane of Cole	ijs.

Robert Russe	xvjd.	William Hodges	iiijd.
Agnes Tudge	vjd.	Agnes Strowde	vjd.
Robert Raffé	viijd.	Lawrence Valentyne	viijd.
Alyce Godwyn	iiijd.	Jorneymen	
Elizabeth Gane	vjd.	Richard Tabor	ijd.
John Vigar for old barton	vjd.	Thomas Treygoose	ijd.
John Androwe for Ryashe	vjd.	Loveverance Stottell	ijd.
Robert Pepper	iiijd.	William Walter	ijd.
Nicholas Penny	iiijd.	Morris the ostler	ijd.
Henry Hussey	vjd.	Lewce Coward	ijd.
John Wood	iiijd.	John Edney	ijd.
Dennys Howse	iiijd.	Russells Myllard	iiijd.
Richard Howse	iiijd.		

Summa vjli. vs. vjd.

For paper and for making our subsidye booke iiijd.
 Paid out for a quittance & for our drinkinge at Haywardes xiiijd.

MICHAEL MCGARVIE

43. THE SAMWAYS OF DORSET. This familiar Dorset surname, which derives from the Old English term for a dullard,¹ is echoed in that of a Hardy character, 'Solomon Longways' in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. Historically, prolific colonies of Samways appear throughout the south and west of the county, their representatives varying in rank from humble labourers to members of the gentry. Wherever clusters of namesakes occur in a relatively small area, it is reasonable to presume kinship, a presumption which, in the case of the Samways, is often supported by genealogical evidence.

The family appears to have had a mercantile background and to have profited from the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Their earliest origins can be traced to Dorchester, where a Geoffrey Samways died in 1487, leaving extensive holdings in the neighbourhood. A John Samways of Dorchester (possibly the son of that name who is mentioned in Geoffrey's will) was the grandfather of another John, lord of the manors of Martinstown and, later, of Toller Fratrum, which he took over in 1540 from the dispossessed nuns of Buckland Priory.²

Across the parish boundary from Martinstown, a Henry Samways of Portesham was similarly prospering. In the division of the estates that had formerly belonged to the Abbey of Abbotsbury, he was to receive the manor of West

Shilvinghampton, lands which were to be held by five generations of Henry's male-line descendants until their apparent extinction in the 17th century.³ Both the Martinstown and Portesham Samways were to form alliances with the leading county families. John of Martinstown's sister Alice, for example, married Denis Bond of Lutton, in the Isle of Purbeck, in 1532.⁴

The last of the Martinstown and Toller Fratrum line, Bernard Samways (who died in 1645 at the age of 96), left two daughters, both baptised at Toller in the 1580s. Anne, the elder, married Sir Francis Ashley, Serjeant-at-Law, whose *Casebook*, detailing his activities as Recorder of Dorchester between the years 1614 and 1635, has famously survived. Through their only daughter and heiress, who married Denzil, Lord Holles, they were ancestors of the Dukes of Newcastle.

The younger heiress, Elizabeth Samways, was married to Sir Francis Fulford, whose seat at Great Fulford in Devon is still occupied by their descendants. The couple's tomb at nearby Dunsford Church is decorated with spectacularly colourful heraldry and with painted wooden effigies of their entire family, including what is perhaps the earliest surviving portrait of a Samways.

The Martinstown and Portesham lines were to be reunited in the second half of the 17th century when Giles Frampton, whose mother was one of the West Shilvinghampton Samways, married Elizabeth Fulford, a granddaughter of Sir Francis Fulford and of his wife Elizabeth Samways. They were the ancestors of the Framptons of Moreton.

Others of the name, meanwhile, were traders out of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, which a pair of Thomases, the holders of high municipal office in the 1550s and 1560s, had represented in Parliament in the reign of Queen Mary.⁵ Geoffrey Samways had in 1487 bequeathed property in Weymouth to his son William, so it is quite possible that the two Thomases were his grandsons.

The same may be said of Geoffrey Samways (a warden of Abbotsbury Church in 1552), William and Thomas Samways (of Pitcher's Waddon in Portesham in 1557), and Hugh Samways (Gentleman, of Friar Waddon, a warden of Portesham Church in 1552).⁶ The holdings of these men were close to the

tenement farm at Holwell, in Upwey, that the elder Geoffrey had bequeathed to his youngest son, another Thomas, in 1487.

Numerous lines can be definitely traced from John of Portesham, Yeoman (died 1616; probably son of another Geoffrey, who was farming at Pitcher's Waddon in 1572),⁷ and his wife Emma, daughter of John Garland of Abbotsbury.⁸ Ironically, two of John's sons, his son-in-law and a cousin were each to achieve historical notoriety by being arraigned on criminal charges before their distant (but probably unacknowledged) kinsman, Mr Recorder Ashley, who diligently noted the details in his Casebook.

John Samways' eldest boy, John, had been married at the age of 14 to a neighbouring heiress, Elizabeth Rodden of Rodden Farm. In 1624, he was committed by Ashley to stand trial for her murder. It appears that the couple had only begun to cohabit, at Rodden, when they had come of age, six years after their wedding. No sooner had Elizabeth fulfilled her wifely duty by bearing him a son than her husband had begun to subject her to increasing ill-treatment. He seems to have regularly beaten her with ropes and cudgels, and to have banished her to a bed of straw 'in the lower part of his howse adjoyninge to his barn'. Within a few months, Elizabeth was dead, apparently from the effects of food-poisoning. The court was told how, in an uncharacteristically affectionate mood, her husband had fed her with raisins, of whose 'gristy' taste she was to complain on her deathbed. These facts were sufficient to arouse the suspicions of Elizabeth's parents and of her neighbours. Yet John Samways was evidently to be acquitted at his subsequent trial, for he was in a position to marry again within a few years and to father a further seven children. His descendants through Rodden Samways, the only child of his loveless first marriage, were to continue to farm their ancestral lands until the death of the last of the male line, another Rodden Samways, in 1812.⁹

The family's further criminal misdemeanours are recorded from 1628, when John's younger brother Geoffrey appeared in court alongside his relatives John Hardy and Richard Phillips. The wife of a Weymouth baker had accused them of 'offering her violence and attemptinge her chastity'. Ashley bound them over to appear at the next Assizes, the records of which are lost. Geoffrey was nevertheless to attain a dignified

old age and to father many descendants.¹⁰

Another brother, Henry, migrated to Beaminster, where his uncle, Henry Garland, owned a farm. In 1648, Henry Samways bought the site, on Prout Bridge, of what is now the milk factory. Having lost his house there in the Great Fire of June 1684, he erected in its place the imposing mansion (demolished in about 1960) known subsequently as 'Beridth'. Henry died in 1689, leaving a hoard of 'broad pieces of gold' and some fine silverware, along with such personal items as a sword and scabbard and a small library of books. His son and daughter-in-law (who sold Beridth in 1719) and their children are remembered in a poignant Latin inscription in Beaminster Church.¹¹

Henry's younger son John, a White Clothier, kept a house in Beaminster on the north side of East Street, 'near the horse pool', but also acquired, and resided at, Horsehill Farm in Stoke Abbott, where his extension to the farmhouse in 1691 is commemorated by a stone inscription. Horsehill was to remain in the possession of his female-line descendants, the Symeses and the Daniels, until 1914, when it was sold, ending an association of upwards of 223 years.¹²

The relationship between these Samways and another Stoke Abbott branch, which flourished in the 17th century, is unknown, although the usual family forenames, Henry, John and Nicholas, recur in both. For the same reason, the yeomen Samways settled at Owermoigne from Tudor times can be presumed to spring from a common stem. On the other hand, the ancestor of the Samways who lived at Swyre, until at least the 18th century, was a certain Morgan Samways, who married there in 1606, but who can be identified, on account of his relatively unusual Christian name, with a Morgan who was baptised at Portesham in 1577.¹³

The pattern of these migrations can be observed in some detail in the case of the Samways of Maiden Newton. A Nicholas Samways first appeared there in 1707, when he married a local girl, Catherine Blanchard.¹⁴ There is barely any room for doubt that he was the grandson of Nicholas of Abbotsbury, the philoprogenitive youngest brother of the troubled John and Geoffrey and of Henry of Beaminster, a substantial gentleman in his own right who, in 1662-4, was assessed for tax on five hearths.¹⁵ But the many descendants

of Nicholas and Catherine were somewhat less exalted socially. In 1851, their great-grandson Geoffrey was living in one of the Quarry Cottages at Maiden Newton and was described as an agricultural labourer. His wife Jane and a daughter were employed as 'fishing net braiders'.¹⁶ Yet the fact that Geoffrey Samways bore (albeit unknowingly) the distinctive name of a prominent late medieval landowner is in itself sufficient proof of their kinship. Further research might even establish his right, and that of many current namesakes, to the arms which Bernard Samways of Martinstown registered with the visiting Heralds in 1595, and which, in a variant form, were also allowed to the Samways of Bincombe in 1623.¹⁷

1. P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of British Surnames* (London, 1976), p. 305, noting a 14th-century occurrence in Northants.
2. Will of Geoffrey Samways of Dorchester dated Dec 1486, proved 26 Sept 1487, PCC Milles 4; John Hutchins, *History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset*, II (London, 1861), pp. 697, 709, IV (1874), p. 10; Arthur Oswald, *The Country Houses of Dorset* (London, 1935), pp. xiii, 27-8, and plates 65 and 66; 'Statute Merchant Bonds', *SDNQ*, X (1907), p. 329, XI (1909), p. 12; *The House of Commons 1509-1558*, III, ed. S. T. Bindolf (London, 1982), pp. 267-8. To judge from the known birthdates of his descendants, the John of Dorchester who founded the Martinstown line is unlikely to have been born later than 1465.
3. Hutchins, *op. cit.*, II, pp. 487-8; *The Visitation of Dorset 1677*, ed. G. D. Squibb (*Harleian Society*, London, 1977), p. 26; *Dorset Tudor Muster Rolls, 1539, 1542, 1569*, ed. T. L. Stoate (Almondsbury, 1978), p. 66. The last reference to a member of this line in the Portesham registers appears to be the burial of Henry on 31 Jan 1638/9.
4. Many of Dorset's most prominent families have had Samways ancestry: see especially F. J. Pope, 'The Dorset Descendants of Sir Francis Fulford', *SDNQ*, XI (1909), pp. 12-14, 69-70, and the pedigrees in Hutchins, *op. cit.*, I, pp. 398-9 (Frampton), 408 (Henning), 602 (Bond), II, pp. 480 (Pitt), 618 (Arnold), and III, pp. 326-7 (Trenchard).
5. *The House of Commons 1509-1558*, *loc. cit.*
6. *Tudor Muster Rolls*, pp. 69, 147; 'Portesham Court Roll', *SDNQ*, XIII (1912-13), pp. 268-79; 'Church Goods, Dorset, 1552', *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Field Club*, XXVI (1905), p. 115; J. E. Nightingale, *The Church Plate of the County of Dorset* (Salisbury, 1889), pp. 180, 182; *SDNQ*, XI (1909), p. 12. For 'a daughter of Samways', probably of Portesham, see the Hayne pedigree in *The Visitation of Dorsetshire 1623*, ed. J. P. Rylands (*Harleian Society*, 1885), p. 54.
7. *SDNQ*, VIII (1903), p. 92 (Portesham Documents); will of John Samways the elder of Portesham, Yeoman, dated 17 Feb 1615/16, proved 10 April 1616, PCC Cope 31.
8. Emma's will, dated 5 June 1644, proved 4 June 1655, PCC Hyde 67; that of her father, John Garland, proved in Oct 1612, PCC Fenner 120.
9. *The Casebook of Sir Francis Ashley, J.P., Recorder of Dorchester, 1614-1635*, ed. J. H. Bettey (Dorset Record Society, VII, Dorchester, 1981), pp. 84-5; *Dorset Protestation Returns*, ed. E. A. Fry (*Dorset Records*, XII, 1912), p. 145. Administration of the estate of Rodden Samways of Rodden, Yeoman, was granted to his sister Elizabeth Jerrard on 8 June 1812: DRO A. 1812 DA/14. The estate was purchased by a neighbour, Charles Hawkins of Waddon.
10. *The Casebook of Sir Francis Ashley*, p. 97; *SDNQ*, VIII (1909), pp. 112-13 (Portesham Documents); *Dorset Hearth Tax Assessments 1662-4*, ed. C. A. F. Meekings (Dorchester, 1951), p. 10, where Geoffrey is no doubt the 'Mr Samways' assessed with two hearths in Portesham tithing. Administration of his estate was granted to his widow Susanna in Sept 1675, DRO MIC/R/254.

11. Will of Henry Samways the elder, dated 10 Oct 1687, proved in the Prebendal Court of Netherbury 30 Oct 1689, Wilts. R.O.; Marie de G. Eedle, *A History of Beaminster* (Chichester, 1984), p. 81; Richard Hine, *History of Beaminster* (Taunton, 1914), pp. 50, 123; Hutchins, *op. cit.*, II, p. 136.
12. *Manor of Beaminster Prima Presentments*, DRO D1/7492 and 7122; inventory *post mortem* of John's goods dated 30 May 1712, DRO DA/1/1712/31; Hutchins, *op. cit.*, II, p. 148; *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, England, Dorset, I - West* (London, 1952), p. 226; R. Willoughby, 'Symes of East Melplash, Beaminster and Horsehill', *SDNQ*, XXXII (1988), pp. 708-9.
13. Numerous Samways have been settled at Winterbourne Abbas since Tudor times. A Harry Samways was parson there from 1547: see Nightingale, *The Church Plate of Dorset*, p. 183, and Foster, *Alumni Oxon.* A Thomas Samways was living there in 1642: see *Dorset Protestation Returns*, p. 77; whilst 'Thomas Samwayes the elder, husbandman', leased land in the parish in 1656, where his descendants remained until the 19th century: see *SDNQ*, XIII (1912-13), pp. 239-40, and family papers and correspondence of the Samways of Winterbourne Abbas, 1760-1841, DRO D4/T6. The frequent occurrence of the name 'Thomas' in this family suggests that they were a scion of the Pitcher's Waddon branch.
14. He was dead by 11 March 1731, when Catherine, the relict, was made administratrix of his estate: DRO MIC/R/265.
15. *Hearth Tax*, Meekings, p. 10.
16. *Census Returns 1851*, PRO HO/107/1858/471 and 472, pp. 135 and 137.
17. Hutchins, *op. cit.*, II, p. 697: the arms were *sable on a fess between three crosses flory gold three martlets sable*, with for crest *an eagle's claw erect holding a mallet*. The Bincombe Samways bore *crosslets flory* instead of crosses, and their crest was a *lion's dexter paw erased erect holding a mallet gules*.

RUPERT WILLOUGHBY

44. THE TOPOGRAPHY OF ILFORD BRIDGES. The Isle crossing at ST3715/1770, a mile or so south of the village of Puckington, is an ancient river crossing. Three streams cross the road – the River Isle, an auxiliary channel of the Backstream and the Backstream itself, in that order. All were originally forded, but all are now bridged. The bridge across the Isle is called Ilford Bridge, the next, about 200 yards, and third, 80 yards or so further, are both called Ilton Bridge, but are known collectively as Ilford Bridges. Each has its name, preceded by the initials SCC, inscribed in the stone parapet, so the parapets if not the entire bridges as we now see them were built or rebuilt since 1888. The road is the modern successor of a pre-historic track that joined the iron age forts of Ham Hill and Neroche.¹

The ancient river crossing was called dikedene ford in the Imlinster charter, reputedly granted to Muchelney in 727 AD by Ine, king of the West Saxons.² The name was translated by Bates as 'dyke valley', but by Grundy as the less acceptable 'ford of the Dean of the dyke'.³ I suggest that this sequence of three fords, during heavy weather if not more frequently, was

in effect a single ford (as the ancient name implies), covering 300 yards or so in length, which must often have been difficult or even dangerous to cross.

It is not known when the streams were first bridged. The earliest written record seems to be in the perambulation of the royal forest of Neroche in 1300, which gives the river over the Isle as a landmark on the forest boundary, and calls it Stockenebrugg.⁴ This appears to be a description rather than a name, i.e. a wooden bridge, a bridge made of stocks or logs. The description evidently fossilised into a name, since it appears as Stockingbridge in an inquisition at Ilminster in 1579 and at Stockeingbridge in another at Taunton in 1623.⁵ The pre-historic track is more fully described in the writer's 'Direct route to Taunton'.⁶ The road B3168 immediately south of the river is referred to in the inquisitions mentioned above as 'King(e) Lane' or 'old way'. The former has disappeared, and Old Way is now used only for a short length of the ancient track between Old Way Gate and Cad Bridge in Ilton, but it seems that in former times the name applied more widely.

The term, Ilford Bridges, is well established: it appears in county maps by Day and Masters (1782) and Greenwood (1822) and in various editions of the Ordnance Survey, but in different and somewhat ambiguous positions unrelated to any particular landscape feature, as though there was some doubt of the place to which it applied. In the 1st ed. 6" O.S. sheet 81 SW, however, the name appears twice, once in a nondescript position and the other in line with the highway, indicating it would seem that it applied to the highway linking the bridges or to the bridges themselves; O.S. 358 1/2500 (1975) repeats that usage.

The first element in the ancient name of the ford ('dike') implies a feature of some length, not just an ordinary ford across the river; and the second element (Bates' 'valley') could be taken as a holloway (which, in fact, can still be seen). It runs gently downwards to the Isle so that, when the upper fords overflowed, the track between them and the river was likely to be under water, giving the appearance of a single long ford, probably dangerously deep especially when the Isle also overflowed. When the bridges were built the road level was raised about 10', but it still floods from time to time every year.

Thus, the term Ilford Bridges simply means the bridges that replaced the Isle ford.

1. R. W. Dunning, *V.C.H. Som.*, 'South Petherton' (1978).
2. E. H. Bates, *Som. Rec. Soc.*, 'Cartularies of Muchelney and Athelney Abbeys', vol. 14 (1899).
3. G. B. Grundy, *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, 'Saxon Charters and Field Names of Somerset' (1935).
4. *SDNQ*, VI, 265-6 (1899).
5. SRO, DD/PM.
6. *SDNQ*, XXXIV, 63 (1996).

E. ELLERINGTON

45. THE DORSET 'QUAKER' REBELLION. 1662. The Restoration of Charles II in 1660 is traditionally shown as a great outpouring of joy and relief. At Sherborne, for example, there was music, dancing, bell-ringing, and bonfires, and the streets quite literally ran with beer and wine. Other Dorset towns, notably that citadel of Puritanism, Dorchester, were less enthusiastic. They had reason for their fears.

The new King's ministers soon set about drastically remodelling the country, and destroying the influence of the Puritan Dissenters. As early as January 1661 came the first uprising of militant republicans – in London. It was put down fairly easily, but the Quakers were blamed, and thousands of them were thrown in prison. Six months later, despite the protests of four Quakers who visited the House of Commons, Parliament passed 'An Act for the preventing the mischeifs and dangers that may arise by certain persons called Quakers, and others, refusing to take lawful oaths'.¹

Next year it became clear that it wasn't only the Quakers who would face persecution. The new Cavalier Parliament was set to break all the King's promises of religious toleration, and even before the passing of the Act of Uniformity in May 1662, the independent clergy were growing more and more worried. One, 'John Palmer, a violent Presbyterian and lecture-driver of Kington near Shaftesbury'² even hanged himself in March because of his fears for the religious future.

October 1662 saw the growing fears of the Dissenters explode in a fresh uprising. Surprisingly it was based around that bastion of Cavalier royalism, the town that more than any

other in the South West had fought for Charles I, and rejoiced at the return of Charles II: Sherborne. Thomas Rapson of Sherborne was the first to provide information to the authorities. On 24 Oct he reported that Walter Stone, of Abbots Fee, Sherborne, had prophesied a rebellion would break out within four days, based in London, but involving Dorset also. As well as Stone, another Sherborne man, John Lambert, on his way to buy a horse in Yeovil, tried to persuade Rapson to join the uprising. 'He said only 50 of the town were in the plot, but the old soldiers would join. Lord Steele would head the Horse, and Colonel Ludlow the Foot'.³ Next day Secretary Nicholas received warnings from Bristol 'of an intended rise in the west and in London'.⁴

William Steele, a Baptist, was considered by Edmund Ludlow, 'a man of great prudence and uncorrupted integrity'.⁵ He had been the Attorney-General in 1649, but escaped involvement in the Trial of Charles I due to illness – an illness which had been investigated at the time to make sure he was not faking. A strong supporter of Cromwell, he served as Lord Chancellor of Ireland during the 1650s, before fleeing to Holland after the Restoration. Ludlow himself, the Wiltshire republican and regicide, had been helped to escape arrest by his royalist brother-in-law, Giles Strangways of Muston. Ludlow, who would undoubtedly have been executed if he had been caught, was given a place to hide at East Charleton

'where I lay for about four days, not stirring by daylight out of his walls, my horse also being watered within doors, and the servants commanded not to speak of my being there'.⁶

Ludlow subsequently fled to Switzerland, where he was pursued by assassins, but managed to evade them.

Ludlow remained a potent symbol of threat to the royalist establishment for 30 years. He was also considered to have great influence in the south-west, for as late as 1684, while Monmouth's rebellion was being planned, he was invited 'to go into the west of England to head a party as General',⁷ but refused. Aged 72, he actually returned to England in 1689, after the Glorious Revolution, only for the House of Commons to complain that 'so deadly an enemy both to the monarchy and to the King of England should have the impudence to appear here', and suggest nervously he had been sent for by the popular faction 'to head them, so that when opportunity

should serve he might use his endeavours to the subversion of Church and State.'⁸ Faced with loud demands for his arrest and trial, Ludlow fled once more, and died three years later in Switzerland.

Reports on the involvement of Edmund Ludlow in this intended rising were not confined to the rumours heard by Thomas Rapson. A few days later Francis Bennett of Melcombe gave information about the actual plan, which had apparently been uncovered by Michael Harvey of Clifton Maybank. Seven years later Harvey would be reported for holding a conventicle, and stripped of his office as a JP. As a Dissenter he moved further and further against the government, until in 1679 he was described as 'a fanatic',⁹ and a year later entertained the Duke of Monmouth. But in 1662 he was still firmly for the new King.

The plot had been for 1000 horse to meet at Clifton Wood, three miles outside Sherborne, and then 'disperse themselves through the county and cut the throats of the King's friends; four are taken but not the heads. Ludlow, the old grand rebel, was to command them'.¹⁰

The day after the first news of the plan, on 25 Oct, 'reports of a rising'¹¹ sent two leading local royalists, Sir Francis Napier and Giles Strangways hurrying to Sherborne, calling on the militia to attend them. The alarm spread throughout the county, for two days later the Lyme Regis mayor's accounts include a payment of 2s to 'one that brought news from Sir John Strode concerning an insurrection' and another 6s to 'those which served in the town arms'.¹²

Further afield the authorities responded to the threat of Ludlow, and his thousand horsemen, with something close to panic. In Kent it was said that 'the fanatics there are high and insolent, and threaten all loyal people; they will soon be in arms'.¹³ In 'much discontented'¹⁴ London, on Sunday 26 Oct, Pepys reported:

All this day soldiers going up and down the town, there being an alarm, and many Quakers and others clapped up, but I believe without any reason: only they say in Dorsetshire there has been some rising discovered.¹⁵

This is the first link we have between the rising and the Quakers. The pacifism of the Quakers is well-known, which makes it seem ludicrous that it should be they who planned to

rise against the government. However, in the very early days of the Society of Friends, such an attitude was not so clear cut. George Fox, the chief founder of the movement was an out and out pacifist, but there were other members of the Society, many of them ex-soldiers in the parliamentary army, who had sharply contrasting views.

There is no doubt that the Quakers of Dorset had been subjected to steadily increasing persecution since the death of Cromwell in 1658. At Lyme Regis several were imprisoned, and a mob 'threw in many stones at the window' wounding some Quaker women;¹⁶ there was a full-scale riot at Cerne Abbas, and a meeting at Hawkchurch was broken up. Most significantly a meeting of 30 Quakers at Sherborne was broken up in July 1660, and the men were 'hauled and beaten', then imprisoned overnight. The next day, before the magistrates, the Quakers complained that they were 'peaceable men ... having the word of a king that none should be wronged nor abused for their religion as long as they lived peaceably', but the court was having none of it. One of the justices, George Fulford, said the only evidence against them that he needed was 'their standing with their hats on in face of the court which he said did represent his Majesty's person'.¹⁷ Fourteen of the Quakers were fined and sent to prison. Among them was Edmund Bound, and the Sherborne churchwardens paid 2s to 'Thomas Gull for carrying Bounds the Quaker to prison'.¹⁸ Edmund Bound remained a leading Dorset Quaker for another quarter of a century, while a Francis Bound was imprisoned in Dorchester in 1684 for refusing to take an oath, and in 1697 Edmund Bound from near Holnest was in trouble.

Had this persecution driven the Dorset Quakers to rise up? Most information on the early Quakers in Dorset stems from Samuel Curtis's document, *The Lamentable Sufferings of the Church of God in Dorsetshire*, which was begun in 1659. It is a very full manuscript, giving lengthy detail about many examples of persecution, even to the precise value of objects and crops that were forcibly distrained because Quakers refused to pay tithes. Yet it does not mention the Sherborne uprising, or indeed any occurrences of persecution in 1662 at all. This would seem to rule out Quaker participation.

On the other hand, the authorities at the time had no doubt about the matter. Quite aside from the imprisonment of so many

Quakers, the Sherborne churchwarden accounts for 1662 mention 5s 'paid to the widow Whitelord for beer for the soldiers at the rising of the Quakers at Camelhill'.¹⁹ There is no doubt that the Quakers led by Curtis were of Fox's persuasion, and resolute pacifists. During the riot at Cerne Abbas, when they were stoned, beaten, and even shot at, they do not seem to have resisted at all. Possibly, in the case of the planned rebellion, they were so appalled by the warlike behaviour of some of their brothers, that they decided such men could not be true Quakers, and therefore ignored the event entirely. Or it may have been that the authorities simply used 'Quaker' as a convenient short-hand for any sort of extremists, republicans, sectarians and dissidents. The authorities in Plymouth on 31 Oct 1662 announced:

they are on their watch against an insurrection of the Anabaptists, 40 or 50 of whom, taken at a meeting, are secured, as they refused to promise not to take up arms against the King.²⁰

Whether the rebels were Quakers or Anabaptists, the largely unremembered plot had clearly shaken Dorset. It was not until 12 Nov that Bennet could report 'all is quiet in the county', and even then the seriousness with which matters were regarded is proved by the news that 'a general muster is expected'.²¹ The authorities in the west country also arrested Captain Nathaniel Desborough, the son of Cromwell's brother-in-law, John Desborough, the former Major-General of Dorset, who had gone into exile in Holland.

Thomas Rapson of Sherborne does not seem to have outlived his moment of glory by very much. Just two years later his house in Hound Street tithing, Sherborne,²² was occupied only by Mary Rapson, widow.

Two hundred Quakers were said to have been imprisoned in Dorset alone in 1662, and the legacy of the uprising lingered on for a couple of years. The bitterness of the defeated – and hints of savage repression – can be seen in Roger Greene of Sherborne's declaration in 1663.

that his Majesty should not live five years, and that he did not hang up so many here, but he should see the time that many more should be hanged in the county, and that he valued his Majesty no more than another man, and that all that sat in the House [Parliament] were rogues.²³

The local authorities in the town also remained cautious and

suspicious, and in 1664 ls was 'paid Richard Stickly watching the Quakers at the widow Scott's'.²⁴ The widow Scott lived in a smallish house in the same Sherborne tithing as the Rapsons,²⁵ and was probably the mother of William and John Scott, Quakers who had been imprisoned in 1660. The former became a leading member of the sect over the following thirty years. Over that time the Quakers never rose again – if indeed they had risen at all.

1. Commons Journals, viii, 305.
2. *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic* 1661-2, 307. [CSPD]
3. CSPD 1661-2, 526.
4. CSPD 1661-2, 528.
5. *Memoirs of Edmund Ludlow*, ed. C. H. Firth, 2 vols, (Oxford, 1894), ii, 125.
6. Edmund Ludlow, *A Voyage from the Watch Tower*, part five 1660-1662, ed. A. B. Worden, Camden 4th Series, vol. 21 (1978), 108.
7. *Mr. Wade's Further Information, Octob. 4 1685*, in W. McD. Wigfield, *The Monmouth Rebellion, A Social History*, (Bradford-on-Avon, 1980), 156.
8. *Memoirs of Edmund Ludlow*, ed. C. H. Firth, ii, 511.
9. Douglas R. Lacey, *Dissent and Parliamentary Politics in England 1661-1689*, (New Brunswick, 1969), 161.
10. CSPD 1661-2, 541.
11. CSPD 1661-2, 528.
12. DCRO, DG/LR G2/2.
13. CSPD 1660-1, 541.
14. CSPD 1660-1, 531.
15. *The Diary and Correspondence of Samuel Pepys*, 4 vols, (1908-11), i, 339.
16. DCRO, NQ1/A15.
17. DCRO, NQ1/A15.
18. DCRO, PE/SH CW1/131.
19. DCRO, PE/SH CW1/132.
20. CSPD 1661-2, 531.
21. CSPD 1661-2, 555.
22. *Dorset Hearth Tax Assessments 1662-1664*, ed. C. A. F. Meekings, (Dorchester, 1951), 44.
23. CSPD 1660-85, 94.
24. DCRO, PE/SH CW1/134
25. *Dorset Hearth Tax Assessments 1662-1664*, ed. C. A. F. Meekings, 44.

T. GOODWIN

46. EARLY THIRTEENTH CENTURY DEER PARK IN PUCKINGTON.

In this place the Mallets had
some possessions in the time
of King John and a park¹

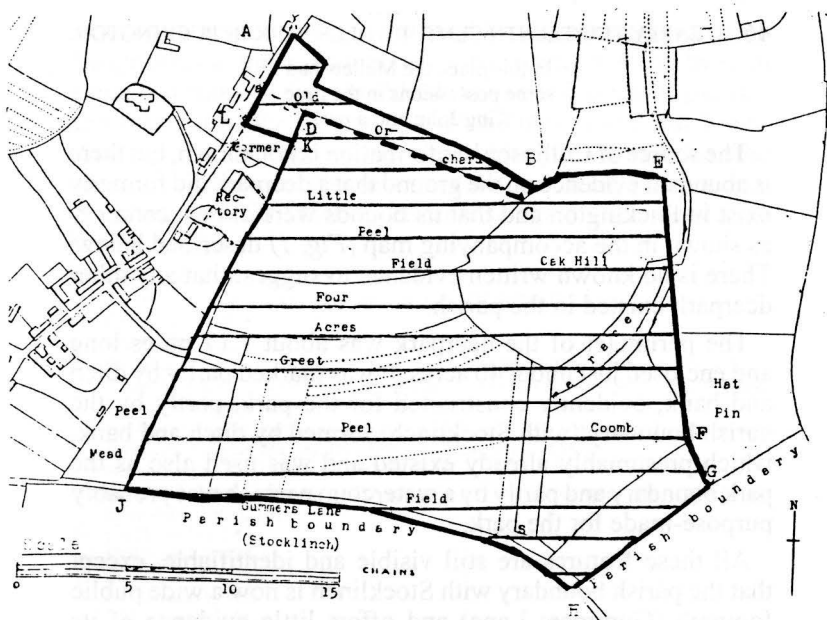
The source of Collinson's information is not known, but there is abundant evidence on the ground that a deerpark did formerly exist in Puckington and that its bounds were almost certainly as shown in the accompanying map (*Fig. 1*) described below. There is no known written evidence to suggest that any other deerpark existed in the parish.

The perimeter of the deerpark was about 1.17 miles long and enclosed just under 40 acres. It was marked partly by ditch and bank, evidently constructed for the park, partly by the parish boundary (with Stocklinch) formed by ditch and bank, which presumably already existed and was used also as the park boundary and partly by a watercourse which was probably purpose-made for the park.

All these features are still visible and identifiable, except that the parish boundary with Stocklinch is now a wide public footpath (Gummers Lane) and offers little evidence of its former status. The perimeter, as we now see it, consists of straight or virtually straight lines for about three-fifths of its length. Gummers Lane is distinctly curved and was probably always so; but two other short curved lengths were probably straight when originally constructed and have come to their present shape by ploughing (forming curved headland) since the park was abandoned.

The way in and out appears to have been where marked at AL on *Fig. 1*, which is the only point where the park meets the highway. The perimeter here opened out to enclose an area, shaped like a hammer head, which could have been used to corral the animals to facilitate their capture for the table. The land at Aa now stands some 4' above the carriage way. This may represent earthworks of an earlier building, but there is no doubt that the land enclosed by ABCD (which slopes steeply down to the highway) has been ploughed in former times, though it is now and for long has been an orchard; so the raised ground level at Aa can be interpreted as a positive lynch formed by this ploughing. This lynch has its negative counterpart at the higher level.

Gummers Lane is so well established as a through way to



PARISH OF PUCKINGTON: early thirteenth-century deer park superimposed on tithe map of Puckington (1837).

Stocklinch that, at first sight, it seems to be the obvious way into the park, but this is unlikely because originally it was not a track at all, but was the parish boundary ditch and bank, which served conveniently as the park boundary. The path lies within Puckington for the whole of its width – the parish boundary does not follow the centre line. There can be no doubt, therefore, that the boundary was constructed by the people of Puckington (not Stocklinch). Thus, the ditch was on the “outside” (the south side), which was the wrong side if serving as park boundary, so some modification must have been made to keep the deer secure.

The sections marked AB, CD and EF were undoubtedly purpose built, the evidence being visible despite the lapse of over seven centuries, AB is marked very clearly by a bank and ditch, the latter being on the “inside”. Both are still very prominent landscape features, notwithstanding the erosion and silting that must have taken place. The ditch is still up to 6' wide and 2' deep and is fully exposed in the field, now called

Old Orchard. The bank is now enclosed by a double fence and covered for the most part by a thick hedge, the fence having protected the bank from plough damage. The bank and ditch follow very strictly the external and internal angles described by AB just to the east of the highway, so the enlarged area enclosed there (the corral suggested above) was an integral part of the park from the outset.

CD also has a ditch (on the "inside") identical to that at AB, but there is no bank. The field boundary is marked by a light fence without hedge, and the field on the south side has been ploughed close up to the fence for many years, the bank – if there ever was one – has been destroyed by ploughing. The ditches at AB and CD must have been very considerable features before silting occurred, for it is clear that, when this long and narrow and steeply sloped field was ploughed, the ploughman took care not to approach too closely to the edge of the ditch. Consequently, as the surface of the field built up higher, the original edge of the ditch was left undisturbed at its lower level. CD is not part of the park perimeter, but is an internal boundary, possibly part of the suggested corral.

EF is also marked by bank and ditch, the latter again on the "inside". It runs across open grassland that slopes upwards on the east side, away from the boundary. The position is exposed, and silting of the ditch and erosion of the bank have almost obliterated both features. The northern ends of the two terraces, shown in *Fig. 1*, cut through EF, destroying it for a few yards, but in so doing expose a vertical section of the bank and ditch clearly visible from the south. The terraces must have been formed after the park was abandoned. BE was probably also purpose-built as a straight line but is now well curved because of ploughing on its north side, where the land slopes steeply down. This ploughing has taken away the earth bank. There is now a deep negative lynch on that side, but a vestige of ditch is still visible on the south side. FG was part of the straight line EF until the park was abandoned and ploughing of the field, now called Coomb (which slopes steeply down towards Gummers Lane), produced a double curved headland (encroaching and destroying the bank and ditch at FG, but falling short of EF). There is now a very deep negative lynch on the west side of the double curve.

In addition to that part of the parish boundary now known as

Gummers Lane, the section GH was also incorporated into the park boundary. GH was constructed by the people of Puckington, so the ditch was on the "wrong" side. The ditch is very wide and deep but appears to be both narrower and less deep from G north-eastwards (where park and parish boundaries part company). The implication is that the ditch was widened and deepened, but only for the distance it was needed to serve as park boundary.

Gummers Lane, as we now see it, offers very little evidence that it was originally a well formed bank and ditch constructed for the sole purpose of separating the two parishes. It now resembles a sunken lane rather than a raised bank, the land on both sides being ploughed for generations. On the Puckington side, the slope has brought down sufficient soil in places to raise the field level above the level of the lane and it has lost some of its width to encroachment at the field edge. Traffic has added to the wear and tear, and the remnants of a stone field-bridge giving access to the Stocklinch side can still be seen. There is a ditch on the south side, which presumably began life as the boundary ditch, but is now a drainage ditch. The only clue to its original status is an eroded and insignificant earth bank, crossing the lane at H, where parish boundary leaves the lane. There is a spring near the south-west corner of Coomb, marked S, which would originally have issued at ground level, but now issues at the bottom of the fissure about 3' deep and percolates into the lane: it would have been a convenient drinking place for the deer.

The watercourse JK, as the park boundary, is wide and deep, but is only 400 yards long. It looks like a natural stream, though often dry nowadays, but was probably man-made. It forms the toft line on the east side of the village and serves as a catch drain from the run-off of surface water from Oak Hill and its adjoining slopes. Its catchment area coincides almost exactly with the deerpark, so there are good *prima facie* grounds for supposing that the watercourse is a ditch constructed for the park and that the benefit it brought to the village was an unforeseen bonus. Its vital importance can be illustrated by reference to the land (which slopes steeply down to the highway) lying between the northern boundary of the park and the highway, where there is no such catch drain (and no village that needs protection). The surface run-off from the eastern

half of this land is often considerable.

Beresford² describes the fencing of a park as 'oak paling, fixed vertically, up to 8' or 9' in height.' Such a fence was so typical that it was 'used as a symbol in the earliest maps, e.g. Elford Park, Staffs., 1508.' The paling was mounted on top of the earth bank, with the ditch on the outside. Such a fence would be very costly to construct and maintain, so straight lines would presumably be preferred. The object was to keep the animals securely penned in, hence the inside ditch and the outside bank and pale: a deerleap would allow them to jump in, but could not easily return over it.³ There is, however, no clear evidence of a deerleap in Puckington. If there was one, the most likely position would be on EF, where the land to the east slopes steeply upwards away from the park boundary. If the pale here was kept low, deer running downhill could easily jump over, but those inside the park approaching uphill and with a deep ditch to cross could hardly jump out.

In addition to its physical effect on the landscape, the park seems to have had an abiding influence on its field names. There can be little doubt that the names of Great and Little Peel Fields and Peel Mead derive from the park pale. John Field records a number of parallels elsewhere in England: for example, Pieces and Fields, etc., called Pale, Pail(s), Palin and Palings.⁴ The Puckington "Peel", pronounced Pale by the Lucas family who have farmed most of this land for three generations, seems to be a local variant. The implication of the name seems to be that the land was put to the plough while some at least of the park pale was still standing or was still remembered.

It is not known when the park was abandoned, but it did not exist in 1557, when the commissioners for the sale of the manor to Henry Portman declared, 'There are nether parkes, mynes, leade or belles upon the said manor to thauditors knowledge'. The probability is that it was never formally extinguished, but fell gradually into disuse. Why, however, was this particular land selected, for today this is some of the best in the parish? Thus, an equal area could have been carved out of Summer Leaze, the lowest lying and wettest land before modern under drainage was provided. The answer must be that in the 13th cent. the land on the eastern side of the highway was least favourable for farming and was the last to be brought into

cultivation: it is higher there, the slopes are steeper and it is only on that side that terracing, the last resort of land hungry tenants, occurred. It is noticeable, also, that the earliest buildings of importance were on the *west* side of the highway: the former rectory site (on the east side) is not necessarily an exception, because it probably did not exist at this early date. In fact, it seems that the construction of the ditch JK served as an effective flood prevention work and, at the same time, helped to dry out the hill slopes.

Puckington no doubt experienced the same increase in population during the 13th cent. that occurred generally in England, until this was reversed by the Black Death. During the century and the early decades of the 14th cent. much marginal land was taken in. The best guess must be that the park was converted to agriculture during this period of rapid expansion of population. The Black Death reached Puckington in 1348,⁵ and that is likely to be the latest date for the survival of the park. If it did continue after 1348, a further hundred years would probably elapse before pressure of population again built up. The paucity of written records, however, suggests the earlier demise.

1. J. Collinson, *History of Somerset* (1791).

2. M. Beresford, *History on the Ground* (1971).

3. W.H.P. Gresswell, *Forests and Deer parks of Somerset* (1905).

4. J. Field, *Dictionary of English Field Names* (1989).

5. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, E.H.B. Harbin, 'The Black Death in Somerset', vol. 63 (1917).

ENOCH ELLERINGTON

BOOK REVIEWS

Robin Ansell (*compiler*), *The Life and Times of Henry Stiby, 1843-1934* (1997, pp. 19, illus., £2.50). This is no. 11 in a series of Historical Monographs published by the South Somerset Museum, prepared in conjunction with exhibitions there. Stiby, the son of a prosperous farmer in Stalbridge, spent his last 65 years in Yeovil, where he was at once a partner in an ironmongery business, an enthusiastic amateur photographer, numismatist, an expert in firearms and civic leader; in fact, a true man of his age. Of the 25 illustrations in the booklet, all individually captioned, 17 are of his own photographs.

D. M. M. S.

Vi, Hocking, *Pen to Paper. Memories of Pen Selwood* (1997, pp. 144, 72 illus., 6 plans of parish walks, £7.50). Mrs. Hocking has written a straightforward, if uncritical, account of this parish over the last 70 years, having moved to Pen House Farm in 1926 from all of four miles away. She recounts her impressions of life on the farm and schooldays in the seemingly remote inter-war period, its church and customs, some local, some of general application.

But her work comes into its own in an impressive chapter of 54 pages entitled 'The Village', in which with total recall she details every house in the parish its alterations, modernisations, extensions, successive occupiers and changes of use, not forgetting those demolished. Linked throughout the book are many illustrations of houses and groups of inhabitants (many helpfully named in an *Appendix*).

This will surely be a best-seller in the parish and increasingly so over the years and ought to prompt a latter day Mrs. Hocking to follow the same path in 2097.

D. M. M. S.

Andrew I. and Henson F, *Poole* (1997, pp. 128) and Cruddas C., *Cobham, the flying years* (1997, pp. 128) (both Chelmsford Archive Photographs series £9.99 each). These are two of the latest publications in a splendid series which will be well known to most subscribers. Many of the hundreds of photographs reproduced in these two books are held in private collections, and are therefore, all the more welcome. While many photographs in the Poole book are without dates, it is always an absorbing challenge to try to date the scene from one's knowledge of fashion or transport. What is also of interest is the slight surprise one feels when considering why some photographs were ever taken: on p. 117 is a starkly forbidding picture of an old warehouse adjoining a public toilet (!), while on p. 13 there is a picture of a 'card school' – an euphemism for a gambling group – which clearly was not meant to be taken, and certainly not preserved. Some photographs clearly were taken in pride: the overstocked butcher's shop in the 1930s, and Bristow's new van in 1937; while others depict

more dramatic scenes: the fire at Brownsea in 1934, and the aftermath of an explosion in a Kinson pottery in 1905. All the pictures are interesting, and whether you know Poole well or not, this volume will certainly give hours of pleasure.

That a pictorial life of Sir Alan Cobham should prove of interest to Dorset readers, might, at first glance, seem surprising. Cobham, however, after an early life as a joy-riding pilot operating out of small local fields, and offering short trips to passengers, became a member of the 'Flying Circuses' of the inter-war years, joined de Havilland's, and then embarked on the search for the means to accomplish air-to-air refuelling. Remarkably, the company, Flight Refuelling, based as it is in Bournemouth, is now sixty-three years old, and many of the photographs of F. R. Aviation, and Flight Refuelling have been taken in Dorset. That flight refuelling is common-place for military aircraft is a tribute to Sir Alan Cobham, whose early experiments are well depicted in this book. Incredibly, when he began the trailing hose for air-to-air refuelling was intended to be caught with a walking-stick!

Cobham's pictures deserve to be placed alongside Leslie Dawson's *Wings Over Dorset*. They make a splendid pair on the bookshelf.

G. J. D.

NOTES

THE WADHAMS OF MERIFIELD (*SDNQ*, XXXIV, p. 171). Ms Lesley Wynne-Davies of 47 Wyndcliff Road, Charlton SE7 7LP has re-interpreted the puzzling inscription on the Wadham tomb, for which a tentative translation appeared in the above Query. She points out that, instead of treating the two blocks (left and right) as separate verses, the lines should be read right across, which makes better sense.

The epitaph now reads:

Cernere sarcophagum valet hic nil non prece fusa
Non nisi spectaculum memores fore de re reclusa
Mater inest nato tumulata simul poliandro
Cor dolet in populo claudere tales humo

Culmen opes decus et probitas nam vita modesta
 Affuit ambobus pensemus hiis ergo duobus
 Sordida bivox¹ pietate deus deviat horum
 Agmina sanctorum² prebeat flos iungere florum

Translation

To see the tomb is worth nothing here without a prayer poured forth
 Not unless the sight prevails (*sense repeated from the verb in the line above*) [to make us] to be mindful of what is revealed

A mother is here, buried with her son in the burial ground
 The heart grieves to enclose such people in earth in the tomb

The summit [is] wealth, honour and moral worth, for a moderate life
 Was present to both. Therefore let us think that for these two
 The two-voiced¹ God turns aside the wretched fate (literally *things*)
 because of the piety

May the flower of flowers (God? Jesus?) permit [them] to join the column
 of the saints.

This is an impressive study, but it leaves the original query of the identity of the lady in the tomb unanswered. Perhaps someone will be prompted to suggest another, now that the phantom 'Army of the Scots' has been eliminated.

1. The picture is of God standing at the cross-roads, one leading to heaven and the other to hell.
2. The previous translator misread the abbreviated *scorum* as *Scottorum*, whereas it is standard for *sanctorum*.

WITCHCRAFT IN DORSET. The article by G. J. Davies in *SDNQ*, XXXIV, Sept 1997, 160 - 163, omits Elizabeth Hoop, whose name has recently come to light in the Chardstock Churchwardens' Presentments for 1609-10. held at the Wiltshire Record Office. (D5/28/12/38).

We present that Elizabeth Hoop was suspected for a witch and was by the Judges comitted to the Gaill

P. WOOD

THE GLORY THAT WAS ONCE BRUTON ABBEY (*SDNQ*, XXXIV, pp. 10-16, 56-61). In the second part of his article M. Passmore noted that the small excavation in 1967 revealed 'cellars' and 'at least one stone-roofed passage'. Both of these had, in fact, been known about for many years and certainly in the 1950s there was a sloping path from the surface which led into the 'cellars', so local people, as well as pupils from the King's School, had easy access.

At some point the School felt that these underground areas constituted a danger and blocked the entrance to one passage, placed soil and rubble some way down the other, and filled up the entrance path. The only access after that time was through a stone slab covered with soil and grass above the edge of the 'cellars'. The School permitted the small excavation group access in 1967. The resulting dig allowed Phyllis Couzens to pinpoint the abbey buildings in relation to the parish church and produce a map in her book *Bruton in Selwood* (1968).

The passage viewed in 1967 left the 'cellar' in a generally north-easterly direction and a projection showed that it would reach the River Brue upstream of the Abbey, possibly near the Abbey Mill. At various places in the stone walls of the passage were rectangular openings. When the excavation group discovered the base of a wall of the abbey buildings they found there a rectangular stone drainage channel, covered with flat stones and the same size as the openings in the walls of the passage. The other passage with the blocked entrance appeared to leave the 'cellar' in a north westerly direction and would have reached the River Brue downstream of the Abbey.

The conclusion may be, therefore, that the 'cellars' and passages were part of a very elaborate system for carrying water to and from the Abbey, presumably for drainage and sanitation purposes.

P. W. RANDELL

SOME INTERESTING DCRO ITEMS: D/FAN: 10 Charles I. Gillingham Court Roll: Membrane 4v., 21 July, 1635: Warrant for keyholders to appear at church to open the chest for a search of the manorial records. Ordered by Thomas Earl of Elgin, new lord of the manor. (*Hutchins*, III, 617 says that the Crown granted Gillingham to Elgin in 1632.)

D/PIT: M7: Series of entries about the re-building of a mill 1425 (details of timbers, cogs etc.)

PE/NPO: OV1/1, 1768, accounts for the building of a Poor House.

1779: a new Poor House

1814: Poor House enlarged & improved
(gives details of materials, labour etc.)

Dorchester St Peter, christenings, early 1850s. Children of Thomas Ratsey Maskew, Headmaster of the Grammar School. Did J. Meade Falkener (born 1858) know him? In *Moonfleet* (published 1898) there are two prominent characters: Squire Maskew, and Ratskey the Parish Clerk.

NG/PRI: A1 (page 23), 19 Aug 1784. Rev. Samuel Payne of Weymouth was charged with felony and forgery.

Quarter Sessions Minute Book, 1784. Fire at Abbotsbury. Details of loss of property and individual claims.

ANN SMITH

WEASEL WORDS. To add to J. B. Smith's 'Weasel Words' in *SDNQ*, XXXIV, Sept 1997, 150 - 157, Charles Kegan Paul, who contributed the Dorset word 'beal' to Joseph Wright's *Dialect Dictionary*, was the erstwhile vicar of Sturminster Marshall, and later publisher of *Poems of Rural Life in the Dorset Dialect*, by William Barnes. In his autobiography, *Memories* (1899, reprinted in 1971) he wrote:

'... I was much struck by the dialect peculiar to that part of the country, and I may as well throw together some words used in it, of which it may be said it would be well if some of them might again find place in general use.' (p. 249)

The first in a list of sixteen examples was 'beal, a weazel', giving the same quotation of its use as that given in Wright's *Dictionary*.

TREVOR W. HEARL

BLACKDOWN HILLS EARLY IRON-WORKING PROJECT. Following their designation as an AONB in 1991 the Blackdown Hills, which straddle the Devon and Somerset border, became a focus of interest in both counties. An archaeological survey highlighted a vanished iron-mining and smelting industry which flourished in the area from prehistoric and Roman to medieval times and the Blackdown Early Iron-working Project was set up to research this little-known aspect of local history.

In 1993 Shirley Simpson, of Exeter Archaeology, compiled a source-list of references to early iron-working in the area

from the basic source material of both counties and a programme of archaeological field work was initiated which has located a number of possible smelting sites.

The Project would like to hear from researchers who come across references to iron-working in the Blackdown area in their source material. Significant examples are place names incorporating sinner, sinder, cinder, pit, black, cole (charcoal) coke and smoke. Medieval inventories listing a furnace (*fornax*) or iron (*ferrum*) and records of rentals paid in blooms of iron are of special interest. Post-medieval references to iron ore, *scoriae* and iron-working are also useful.

For Devon please correspond with Mrs. D. H. Butler, 19 Pool Anthony Drive, Tiverton, EX16 4LT and for Somerset % 9 Clifford Ave., Taunton.

QUERIES

THE GLASTONBURY STAIRCASE. Mr. J. Edmondson of the Shepton Mallet Museum, 70 High Street, Shepton Mallet, writes, 'The Glastonbury staircase, sold from the 'Hall', 29 High St, Glastonbury, in 1928 to the V. & A., was described in a newspaper of the time as having originated at Sharpham Park. Does anyone have any information on this, or on Sharpham Park during the time the Gould family occupied it, or on the occupants of 'The Hall', 29 High St, Glastonbury, prior to its purchase by A. Bailey in 1878'?

MARY ANNING (1799-1847). Mr. Thomas W. Goodhue of 160 South Bay Avenue, Brightwaters, New York 11718, is completing a children's biography on her and wonders if any readers can help with a question.

William Buckland mentioned in the 1836 *Bridgwater Treatise*, vol. 2, p. 51 a 'Fossil ink bag found by Miss Anning in the lias near Watchet'. It is figured in Plate 29 which refers to pp. 307 and 309 in vol. 1). Since she wrote in 1829 that she had never been 'outside the smoke of Lyme,' she must have gone to Watchet sometime between 1829 and 1836. The only other record I have found of her travels is one trip to London in 1830. Do any readers have any information of her visit to Somerset?

THE EARLY HISTORIES OF CROWCOMBE AND SOCK DENNIS. I wish to query the accounts of the histories of Crowcombe, as written in *VCH, Som.*, V, pp. 56-7 (1985) by R. J. E. Bush and Sock Dennis, as written in *VCH, Som.*, III, pp. 231-2 (1974) by Dr. R. W. Dunning. I have looked at the *Indexes to SDNQ*, vols. 1-32, but cannot find that anyone has disputed either account. That being so, I would like to put the following questions to Mr. Bush and Dr. Dunning – or, indeed, any interested reader – firstly on Crowcombe and secondly on Sock Dennis.

Thirdly, I have found an apparent source of confusion in an article, 'Craucombe – Carew', written by John Batten in *SDNQ*, VI, 50 (1898), which I detail below.

1. QUESTIONS ON THE CROWCOMBE ACCOUNT

1 (a) *What proof is there that Robert son of Ives (Fitz Ivo) was identical with Robert the Constable?*

I agree that Robert son of Ives was the Beauchamp ancestor, but I would point out that Robert Fitz (son of) Gilbert in 1084 owed land tax on land in South Petherton Hundred which he held from sheriff William de Mohun (probably at Leigh in Winsham).¹ I believe that Robert Fitz Gilbert did not die until 1165-66, when he was entombed at Legbourne Priory Church, co. Lincs.,² and that he left an aged daughter, Alice, who called herself Alice the Constable,³ though it was neither her husband's name nor her son's, and that she was still alive in 1205-6;⁴ and I point out that in 1199 Alice of Crowcombe was being sued by William the Dane for her land in South Petherton Hundred at Martock and was represented by William Fitz Robert, her brother,⁵ who had made the principal speech at the burial of Robert Fitz Gilbert in 1165-66.

William Fitz Robert in 1200x1218 called himself William the Constable son of Robert the Constable of Holme-in-Spaldingmoor, co. Yorks, when he granted certain rights in Holme to William Fitz Alexander of Sancton.⁶ The date of this charter must be 1200, as in 1202 William Fitz Alexander attempted to obtain more rights there to extend those already gained.⁷ Thus, Robert the Constable, father of William and Alice did not die until 1165 or 1166.

1 (b) *Who was Simon son of Robert mentioned by Mr Bush on p.56?*

Was Mr Bush aware that a Simon Fitz Robert *alias* Simon of Wells was King John's deputy-chancellor and Archdeacon of Wells⁸ between 1199 and 1204 and that in 1166 he had held a little land in Dorset as a minor 'King's clerk'?

- 1 (c) *Why did Mr Bush quote his facts about Simon son of Robert from Collinson's 'History', vol. III, p.515, when the Record Commission's versions of the Pipe Rolls of 1129-30 and 1157-8 contain no reference to this Simon whom Collinson claimed to have found at Crowcombe in the Pipe Roll manuscripts or transcripts?*
- 1 (d) *What proof does Mr Bush offer that the fee, which Robert de Beauchamp claimed to hold in 1166 with a Simon Fitz Robert as his tenant, lay at Crowcombe? Hall's 'Red Book of the Exchequer', p.233 gives no places in Beauchamp's 'Carta' and Collinson had guessed it.*
- 1 (e) *Can Mr Bush also explain how Beauchamp could claim in 1166 to be holding 17 fees of 'old enfeoffment', i.e. before the death of King Henry I, when Robert Fitz Gilbert the Constable was still living until 1165 or 1166?*

2. QUESTIONS ON THE SOCK DENNIS ACCOUNT

- 2 (a) *Why did Dr Dunning quote from Harley charter 58G6 that Richard of Ilchester, Bishop of Winchester, held a hide of land there by grant of Robert of Beauchamp?*

The writer cannot find any reference in this charter to a hide of land, only all the land, etc.

- 2 (b) *Why was Dr Dunning in 1974 unaware that the Somerset Pipe Roll of 1175-76 mentions a William Fitz Ralph of Crowcombe, yet under Sock Dennis he said, 'John the Dane, his (Richard of Ilchester's) heir, brought an action in 1224 concerning a carucate which Richard of Ilchester had conveyed to William Fitz Ralph'?*
- 2 (c) *Why did Dr Dunning say that John the Dane held two fees in Sock from Beauchamp in 1236, yet claim that John the Dane was the heir of Richard of Ilchester, who died about 1188? Should he not have made it clear that it was John the Dane who 'claimed' in 1224 to have been the Bishop's heir?*
- 2 (d) *Why did he say that John the Dane brought an action in 1224 over a carucate in Sock, when by giving two*

references to 'Curia Regis Rolls' XI, pp. 344, 505, he had to be aware that in the earlier hearing that same year the heir of William Fitz Ralph had been suing John the Dane who failed to appear so that the case was adjourned indefinitely yet brought back and reversed within months?

- 2 (e) *Why did he not mention the names of the 1224 claimants for Sock, William de Eston and Juliana./Jolita/Jolenta his wife,¹⁰ and that she was the heir of William Fitz Ralph?*
- 2 (f) *Had he not noted that this action was first sought by William de Eston and his wife in 1204,¹¹ when they offered in Somerset 100s, to have a summons to the 'Curia Regis' against William de Grendham, that William and Juliana de Eston paid up £5 in 1205,¹² but that in 1206¹³ William de Grentham paid half a mark to have the hearing removed, which remained removed for 20 years?*
- 2 (g) *Why also did he not connect William the Dane, who was suing Alice of Crowcombe in 1199 and who in 1194¹⁴ had been suing a number of residents of Ilchester for their lands there, before 1217-20?*

In *VCH Som.*, vol. III, p.191, he states that 'Richard of Ilchester, subsequently bishop of Winchester held Ilchester mill from the Crown by 1155 until his death in 1188'. But William the Dane had moved in on the citizens of Ilchester by 1194 and by 1204 William was renting the hay-lands and mill of Ilchester, which Richard had leased during his entire career.

This raises four questions:

- (a) *Why was Richard called 'of Ilchester'? (b) Who was his father? (c) What was his family name? and (d) Whom had Richard intended to inherit his long-established rights in the mill of Ilchester and those acquired in Sock from Robert de Beauchamp?*

(a) Richard may have been born at Sock when Robert the Constable held Crowcombe and, as Robert, held from the Count of Mortain Marston Magna, only a few miles from Ilchester and Sock. On the other hand, he may have merely liked the town and taken the by-name to distinguish himself from his much younger half-brother, Richard of Crowcombe.

It is my opinion that Richard of Ilchester was the Richard Fitz Robert who in 1152 with his brother, William Fitz Robert,

witnessed a notification by a Henry of Goxhill of his gift to Robert of Sproatley of two bovates of land in Goxhill, co. Lincs, for 4s. rent per annum.¹⁵ The circumstances of this gift are that Henry, also known as Henry of Willerby, in 1152 donated 5a. of land in Willerby, co. Yorks, to Rievaulx Abbey,¹⁶ subject to confirmation after his return from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Henry asked his kinsman, Robert of Sproatley, to take care of his remaining lands in return for the two bovates rent free for seven years, and if he had not returned Robert was to pay the rent equally to the hospitals at Goxhill and Bridlington. This Henry was the youngest brother of Robert Fitz Gilbert and the uncle of the witnesses, Richard and William Fitz Robert, both being present at the burial of their father, Robert Fitz Gilbert, in 1165-6.

Richard of Ilchester, already a cleric in 1152, must have been present at the departure of Henry of Willerby in 1152. Henry renewed the land gift in 1172, his long stay in the Holy Land explaining why he did not attend his brother Robert's funeral in 1165, though another brother, Ralph or Ranulph, did so.¹⁷

(b) To sum up, Richard of Ilchester (Richard Fitz Robert) was the son of Robert Fitz Gilbert of Legbourne (d. 1165-6).

(c) Concerning his true name, Richard of Ilchester was called *de Toclive* in the above Sock Dennis account and was called *Tokelive* in the 1224 lawsuit; the name was undoubtedly *to-Clive*, etc., to being the equivalent of the later *atte* and the earlier *de la*. A Robert *de la Cleve* witnessed a charter to the Abbey of Bury St Edmunds in 1121x1148.¹⁸ Robert the Constable witnessed a charter, also in Suffolk, by Gilbert de Clare in 1138x1143,¹⁹ a Robert *del Clif* witnessed a grant to Bridlington Priory in 1127x1135,²⁰ and Robert the Constable witnessed a charter by William Earl of Albemarle confirming to the nuns of Ormsby, co. Lincs., lands of Gilbert of Ormsby (Fitz Robert), the Constable's own son, in 1150x1160.²¹ All these dates fit the life-time of Robert Fitz Gilbert and also the above references of Richard of Ilchester holding the mill of Ilchester and with him taking a form of the family name, *Clive/Cleve*.

(d) The two lawsuits in 1224 over Sock show that, shortly before his death in 1188, Richard of Ilchester recorded a chirograph at Westminster with William Fitz Ralph of

Crowcombe, his nephew, and the son of Ralph of Crowcombe whose rights Robert de Beauchamp had transferred to the bishop. If this deed had been produced at the second hearing in 1224, as had been intended, it would have shown that it also transferred to William Fitz Ralph the bishop's rights in Ilchester and Sock. William Fitz Ralph died between 1188 and 1204, leaving his inherited rights in Ilchester and Sock to Juliana, probably his daughter or niece, already married to William de Eston, possibly of Long Ashton, but William and Juliana failed to retain these rights in 1224.

Presumably William and Juliana held back for so long because Hubert de Burgh, chamberlain to King John and Henry III to 1232, had been granted the wardship of Robert de Beauchamp, perhaps for as long as 1215. During this guardianship, Hubert de Burgh was entitled to keep all the income from the Beauchamp lands or from any which he could claim, such as Ilchester and Sock. Thus, although in 1224 John the Dane was sued by the Estons as the nominal owner of Sock, by 1236 Robert de Beauchamp held Sock with John the Dane his tenant.

De Burgh's first attempt to augment the lands of his ward was in 1199, when he sued Robert Fitz William,²² grandson and a chief heir of Robert Fitz Gilbert, for having built a mill at Netherton in Marston Magna to the harm of his ward. Marston Magna in Domesday was held by Robert, and Robert Fitz William claimed that this Robert was his heir. In 1227 Robert de Beauchamp sued Robert of Netherton (Robert Fitz William II, grandson of Robert Fitz William of the 1199 suit) over the mill in Netherton and appeared to have won the case. So, it was Hubert de Burgh, as guardian of the Beauchamp lands who had a court hearing removed for William the Dane in 1206.

In 1218-19 in Nottingham a Robert of Crowcombe was sued for dower by an unnamed widow, probably the widow of Robert Fitz William's brother, Ralph.²³ In 1221 she sued again for dower as Amicia, widow of Ralph Fitz William, seeking dower land in Westbury, co. Wilts., from Robert Fitz William.²⁴ Robert Fitz William, however, had been murdered that year at Belbroughton, co. Worcs.²⁵ The sheriff there in 1221 was Walter de Beauchamp.

3. THE BATTEN ARTICLE

John Batten quotes Collinson, *Hist. Som.*, III p.514, that Robert de Constabulo who held Crowcombe in 1086 was the grandfather of Simon Fitz Robert who 5 Stephen [1139-40] had married the daughter of Wimund de Craucombe, but leaving no issue, Crowcombe was divided between *her* brothers, Ralph and Godfrey in moieties, that Godfrey gave his moiety to Stodley Nunnery, co. Oxon., and Ralph's moiety came to Simon de Craucumbe. Collinson appears to have invented a son, Robert, to fill what he thought was a long gap between Domesday and the death of Simon in 1207. He also reported that 'Simon Fitz Robert having no issue, all his lands in Crowcombe were at his death divided between *his* brothers...'

In substituting 'her' brothers for 'his' as the heirs of Simon Fitz Robert in 1207, Batten in 1898 created the impression that Simon had died, not only with no descendants, but with no surviving brothers, so that the line of Robert the Constable had died out. Batten, it seems, wanted to strengthen the case for the Beauchamps to appear to be the true successors of Robert the Constble.

1. VCH, *Som.* I, p.534 (Geld Inquest, 1084).
2. *Pipe Roll 12 Henry II (1165-1166)*, p.2; Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicanum*, V. pp. 634-5.
3. *Lincoln Rec. Soc.*, DM Stenton (ed.), 'Lincolnshire Assize Rolls, 1202-9', Case 239, p.39.
4. *Pipe Roll Society*, 'Feet of Fines in the County of Lincoln 1199-1216', p.103.
5. *Rotuli Curiae Regis*, I, p.277; II, p.55.
6. *Yorks. Arch. Soc.*, vol. 12, 'The Tison Fee', charter 56, p.80.
7. *Curia Regis Rolls*, I, p.457.
8. Foss, *Judges of Medieval England*, I, p.23.
9. H. Hall (ed.), *Red Book of the Exchequer* (1896), p.217.
10. *Pipe Roll 22 Henry II (1175-76)*, vol. 25, p.159.
11. *Pipe Roll (New Series, 18) 1204*, p.184.
12. *Pipe Roll (New Series, 19) 1205*, p.138.
13. *Pipe Roll (New Series, 20) 1206*, p.133.
14. *Rotuli Curiae Regis*, I, p.85.
15. *Early Yorkshire Charters*, II, p.500.
16. *Ibid.*, III, p.62.
17. *Op. cit.* 2n.
18. *British Academy*, DC Douglas (ed.), 'Feudal Documents from the Abbey of St Edmunds' (1932), pp.116-7.
19. *Suffolk Charters IV*, C Harper Bill and R. Mortimer (eds.) 'Stoke by Clare Priory Cartulary I', no.23, p.17.
20. *Early Yorkshire Charters*, III, p.51.
21. *Lincoln Rec. Soc.*, FM Stenton (ed.) 'Transcripts of Charters to Gilbertine Houses' (1922), p.41.
22. *Rotuli Curiae Regis*, II, p.67.
23. *Selden Society*, 'Rolls of the Justices in Eyre for Lincolnshire (1218-19) and

Worcestershire (1221)*.

24. *Curia Regis Rolls*, X, p.248.

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1. ANSWERS TO CROWCOMBE QUERIES BY ROBIN BUSH

(1a) The identification of Robert the Constable, Domesday undertenant of Crowcombe and Hatch Beauchamp, with Robert son of Ives, ancestor of the Beauchamp family, was postulated by R.W. Eyton in 1880, and supported by John Batten in 1891 and 1898, J. Horace Round in the *Victoria History of Somerset*, i, 412, in 1906, and by I.T. Sanders in *English Baronies* in 1960. While I accept that Robert the Constable and Robert son of Ives cannot be proved to be the same individual, the alternative proposed by Mr Cleaves strains credulity in the extreme. That the Robert son of Gilbert who occurs as tenant of William de Mohun in Somerset in 1084 must necessarily be the same Robert son of Gilbert who died in Lincolnshire in 1165-66, over 80 years later, thus making him, presumably, a 12th century centenarian, seems highly unlikely. The descent of Crowcombe as put forward by Mr Cleaves is ingenious, but includes no contemporary record of the ownership of that manor and also relies on the identification of individuals in Yorkshire bearing very common forenames with other similarly-named individuals in Somerset.

(1b-c) The problems faced in writing any account of the early descent of Crowcombe estate is that there appear to be no surviving specific references to its ownership between Domesday and 1227. In default of such evidence details were taken from Collinson's account, garnished with '*floruit*' dates to establish the chronology, but qualified with the insertion of the word 'possible' where appropriate. Collinson also acknowledges the help of 'James Bernard of Crowcombe, esq., for two MSS. volumes of the late Mr Carew' (Preface, i, p.x.), which do not appear to have survived among the Crowcombe Court archives and are not specifically cited in Collinson's footnotes to his Crowcombe article. It is quite possible that

these volumes included abstracts from original medieval sources which have not otherwise survived. It was not VCH practice to add gratuitous biographical information to manorial descents, nor could the Simon son of Robert referred to be proven to be the same man as King John's deputy chancellor and Archdeacon of Wells.

(1d) If Mr Cleaves will reread my Crowcombe article, he will see that I do not claim that the fee in Somerset held in 1166 by Simon son of Robert under Robert de Beauchamp lay in Crowcombe. The statement is given exactly as it appears in the *Red Book of the Exchequer*: admittedly with the implied possibility that the estate **might** have been located in Crowcombe, but no more than that.

(1e) The remarks about Robert de Beauchamp's 17 fees depend on Mr Cleaves' identification of Robert the Constable in Somerset in 1086 with Robert son of Gilbert of Lincolnshire in 1165-6, the 'centenarian', which I would contend that he has failed to substantiate.

As I did not adopt Batten's so-called 'glaring untruth' about Crowcombe in my VCH article, I cannot see that I have anything to defend.

2. ANSWERS TO SOCK DENNIS QUERIES BY DR ROBERT DUNNING

Mr Cleaves is quite correct to take me to task for citing Harleian Charter 58G6 in support of a grant of a hide of land in Sock. It speaks only of unspecified land, and I transferred the hide from what I believe to be the same estate concerned in the later lawsuit in the King's Court brought by John the Dane. However, Mr Cleaves has himself fallen into a serious trap by either believing the version of the charter which appears in the British Library's rather ancient calendars of the Harleian Charters or has been unable to read accurately the original charter. For nowhere does the name Ralph de Craucumbe (or Crowcombe) appear; the name is Ralph de Mancumba (the modern Maincombe) and he is described as having held of Hugh de Vautort (who in 1166 had held 7 fees of Robert de Beauchamp). By this charter, incidentally, the land was to be held by Richard, Bishop of Winchester, of the heirs of Hugh. The date is 1175x1188.

That being the case, Mr Cleaves' assumption that William Fitz Ralph of Crowcombe of the 1170s was worth mentioning in this context is clearly answered. There were at least two contemporaries of the same name in the 1220s whom Mr Cleaves has confused and been led into further unwarranted assumptions.

Mr Cleaves' problem about the descent of John the Dane is curious. John's own evidence in the *Curia Regis* is clear enough: 'Richard Tokeliv sometime bishop of Winchester John's kinsman whose heir, etc., John's father William the Dane was also clear in his charter to Whitehall, Ilchester, in 1217x1220 (*Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.* xiii, pp.26,91): Richard was born a Sock. According to a charter in the Beauchamp Cartulary (P.R.O. E 315/58, 8-9) he witnessed a deed as Richard of Soc.

The rest of Mr Cleaves' points all hinge on the deductions he has made from his erroneous premise. Readers might care to know, incidentally, that other users of the article on Sock Dennis have been more positive. Professor and Mrs Oggins of the State University of New York at Binghamton were inspired by it to write a paper entitled 'Richard of Ilchester's Inheritance: an extended family in Twelfth-Century England' which appeared in the periodical *Medieval Prosopography* 12, pt.1 (1991), pp.57-122. There is a copy of the article in the Somerset Studies Library in Taunton. The authors are scholarly and judicious in their conclusions. They conclude that Richard was either a brother of Osbert and Ralph the Dane, son of Hugh and descendant of the Domesday John the Dane of Yatton and elsewhere; or he was a brother of Thomas de Eston and Maud de Clevedon, son of William de Clevedon and grandson of Hildebert, another Domesday holder at Yatton. Maud de Clevedon was wife of Osbert the Dane so whatever his exact parentage Richard's heirs were Estons and Danes in addition to his two well-known sons Herbert and Richard Poore. That he was born at Sock suggests that he was a Dane rather than a Clevedon.

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