
NOTES & QUERIES

FOR
SOMERSET AND DORSET

EDITED BY

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

HERRICK

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All contributions should be clearly typed.

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83. THE FIRST DORSET-PRINTED BOOK? The Licensing Acts, first introduced in 1554 during the reign of Mary Tudor and not finally abandoned until 1696, were designed to discourage the printing of seditious or blasphemous literature by restricting printing to members of the Company of Stationers in London. This 'self-regulation' by the Stationers' Company was notably successful in its objective; apart from the permitted printing of academic books at Oxford and Cambridge only a few major towns in England, such as Bristol, Exeter and York,¹ were able to establish significant printing activity before 1700. Thus, it was only in the early part of the eighteenth century, much later than in most other European countries, that printing spread to the English provinces.

Our principal source of information on pre-1800 printing is the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC)². The ESTC lists books printed in Great Britain, or in English abroad, based on the holdings of a wide range of public, institutional and university libraries across the world. About 850 libraries in England contribute to the ESTC of which 12 are in Dorset³ and 14 in Somerset. The ESTC gives the *location* of a selection of libraries at which a cited work may be studied and the number of locations is frequently used as an approximate measure of the rarity of a given book. For example, the ESTC lists 66 locations for the first edition of Hutchin's *History of Dorset*, but for many rare Dorset books, for example, *Anthems for Christmas Day* by William Knapp, the parish clerk of Poole and printed in London in 1744, only a single location is given. There are, however, even rarer Dorset books, attested to by contemporary sources, but not included in the ESTC since no copy has survived in any of the libraries contributing to the ESTC.

There is no evidence that any printing took place in Dorset before William Bettinson established the *Sherborne Mercury* in 1737.⁴ Bettinson does not appear to have been a native of Sherborne: there are no Bettinson entries in the Sherborne Parish Register in the sixty years prior to his arrival but three occur between 1739 and the record of William's burial on 5th Sept 1746. The colophon of the *Sherborne Mercury* reads *Printed at Sherborne by W. Bettinson from London*. William Bettinson's name, however, does not appear in the list of Stationers' Company⁵ nor Founders' Company⁶ apprentices and

the colophon statement may only be a 'formula' and cannot be taken as evidence he actually came from London.

Unlike Richard Goadby, proprietor of the *Sherborne Mercury* from 1749 to 1778, or Benjamin Collins, proprietor of the *Salisbury Journal* from 1736 to 1772, William Bettinson appears to have concentrated on the production of his newspaper and was not a prolific book publisher. He is identified as the printer on the imprint of only four ESTC-listed books, all printed between 1739 and 1741 (as compared to 140 by, or for, Richard Goadby and an even greater number for Benjamin Collins).

The ESTC lists four books printed by Bettinson; the earliest of which is the second edition of William Prior:

A charge, delivered at the ordination of the Reverend Mr Josiah Bradshaw, Mr Joseph Keech, Mr Matthew Dowdell, Mr Joseph Paull, at Bridport in Dorset, September 26th 1738. The second edition. By William Prior. Published by the desire of the Ministers and people, who were present. Sherborne: printed and sold by William Bettinson 1739.

The ESTC lists three extant copies of this book⁷ and Canon C.H. Mayo also possessed a copy when compiling his *Bibliotheca Dorsetiensis*⁸. The first edition of this book was printed in London by John Noon earlier in 1739. For the second edition, Bettinson reset the text in a smaller typeface reducing the length from 71 to 59 pages. As was the norm at the ordination of dissenting ministers, a *sermon* accompanied the *charge*. Noon also printed the *sermon* (by John Milner) but there is no record of this having been reprinted by Bettinson. In terms of the public, institutional and University libraries used to compile the ESTC, Bettinson's second edition of the *charge* is the earliest, extant book printed in Dorset.

Advertisements in the *Sherborne Mercury*, however, suggest that this was not the first book to be printed in Dorset. Just three months after it started publication, in issue 16 of the 7th June 1737,⁹ the *Sherborne Mercury* carried the following advertisement:

This Day is Published: Objections against PREDESTINATION And the great benefit and advantage of virtue, Justice, and Charity briefly explained. With

Objections against Aetheists and Libertines. To which is added, An encouragement to Universal Charity. By ALEXANDER PROCTOR, School-master at Trent. The Second Edition with Additions. Printed at Sherborne for the Author, and sold by him at Trent School House, and by Mr Joshua Cook, Bookseller in Sherborne 1737.

Proctor was the master of Young's Endowed School at Trent and his burial on 3rd April 1740 aged 60 is recorded in the Trent Parish Register. The unnecessary inclusion of the date at the end of the advertisement strongly suggests that this is a transcription of the title page of the book and confirms the Sherborne printing of the book. As such, it is the earliest book known to have been printed in Dorset. The advertisement is for the second edition of the work, and in the absence of any known copy of the first edition it is not possible to know when, or where, the first edition was printed. Regrettably the imprint only says *Printed for the author* and does not give the printer's name. All the evidence, however, points to it being William Bettinson. Neither the ESTC, nor the advertisements in the *Sherborne Mercury*, provide any evidence for any printer other than Bettinson establishing themselves in Sherborne before the arrival of Richard Goadby in 1749.

Advertisements in the *Sherborne Mercury* provide evidence for two other early, Dorset-printed books not listed in the ESTC. Issue 23 of 26 July 1737 carries an advertisement for:

Poems both Divine and Moral, taken out of the HOLY BIBLE, for the use of All: but more particularly of CHILDREN and SCHOOL-BOYS, in order to improve their reading By WILLIAM PEARCE Printed at Sherborne for the Author: and Sold by John and Joshua Cook, Bookseller in Sherborne.

A second book by Procter was advertised in issue 30 (20th Sept 1737).⁹

This Day is Published: Superficial MEASURE: Plainly made known by Cross-Multiplication, in the Mensuration of Board, Stocks of Board, Pitching, Panes of Glass and Pavements, which truly gives a Content, and done in few Figures By ALEXANDER PROCTER¹⁰ School Master at Trent. Printed for the Author; and sold by Joshua Cook, Bookseller in Sherborne 1737.

All the available evidence suggests that William Bettinson came to Sherborne intent on establishing the *Sherborne Mercury* and that his arrival in the town can be dated to late 1736 or early 1737. If this was, indeed, the time-scale there would be a six month 'window' between Bettinson's arrival in Sherborne and the appearance of the advertisement for the second edition of Procter's *Objections against Predestination* in the *Sherborne Mercury* of 7th June 1737. During this time Bettinson may have printed one or more books, (including, conceivably, the first edition of *Objections against Predestination*). However, without the discovery of additional contemporary sources, we have no means of knowing whether this was the case and the second edition of Procter's *Objections against Predestination* remains the earliest Dorset-printed book for which we have evidence.

1. W.K. Sessions, *The Spread of British Printing 1557-1695*, (Ebor Press, York, c.1988.)
2. *English Short Title Catalogue*: The British Library, London and the Research Libraries Group (<http://eureka.rlg.org>)
3. Blandford Library and Blandford Museum; Dorset County Library, Dorset County Museum, Dorset Military Museum, Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society, Dorset Record Office, Gillingham Parochial Library, Poole Guildhall Museum, Poole Maritime Museum, Sherborne Museum, Sherborne Castle and Holy Cross Abbey, Stapehill.
4. *The Sherborne Mercury 1737-1749*: Somerset Archive and Record Service: microfilms TPHccl/1-3. The Dorset County Library in Dorchester also possesses a copy of this microfilm.
5. D.F. McKenzie (ed.), *Stationers' Company Apprentices 1641-1700 and 1701-1800*, (Oxford Bibliographic Society, Oxford 1974 and 1980).
6. C. Webb (ed.), *London Livery Company Apprenticeship Registers: Volume 21 Founders Company 1643-1800.*, (Society of Genealogists, London, 1998).
7. The Congregational Library London, the Lambeth Palace Library and at Manchester College, Oxford.
8. C.H. Mayo. *Bibliotheca Dorsetiensis*, (The Chiswick Press, 1885), p. 115.
9. These advertisements were repeated in subsequent weeks.
10. Although the advertisements for *Objections against Predestination* give the author's surname as Procter, the three advertisements for *Superficial Measure* all give the spelling Procter. The Trent Parish Register gives Procter.

MICHAEL J. FRENCH

84. WILLIAM JOB MAILLARD: MARKING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH.¹ Surgeon William Job Maillard, M.D., V.C., R.N. was born at Banwell in North Somerset, on the 10 March 1863, son of the Rev. Daniel Galland Maillard, a Methodist minister, and his wife Winifred Elizabeth, née Dawkins. Maillard was educated at Kingswood School, Bath and at Dunheved College, a Victorian public school at Launceston. By qualifying MD (with Gold Medal in Medicine)

at Guy's Hospital in 1890, when he had already been appointed Surgeon to HMS *Duke of Wellington*, he became the first naval medical officer to achieve MD while serving.

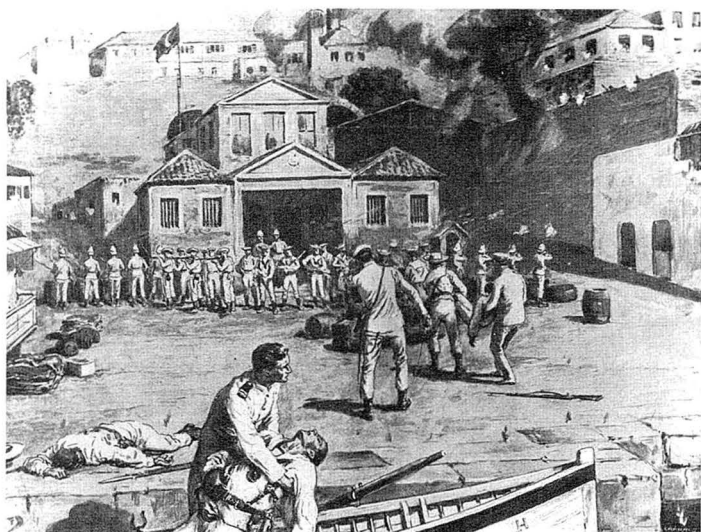
After postings to HMS *Ganges* and HMS *Iron Duke*, Maillard was appointed to HMS *Blake*, flagship of the West Indies station. On this posting he met his wife, Maria Edith Beresford, a trained nursing sister; they were married in 1893 in the British Honduras (now Belize). The years from 1894 saw postings to HMSS *Partridge*, *Blake* (again), *Pembroke*, *Onyx* and *Excellent*, until Maillard joined, on 19 August 1897, the gunboat HMS *Hazard*, patrolling the Mediterranean station near Crete.

At that time Crete was an international protectorate with a mixed Muslim and Christian population, having been ruled by Turkey until earlier that year; the island was not ceded to Greece until 1913. In 1898 a dispute about tax collecting in the capital, Candia (now known as Heraklion or Iraklion), escalated into a full-scale inter-religious squabble. Candia was in the British zone, and Colonel Reid, commanding a small battalion of the Highland Light Infantry, sent in a patrol to take over the town and quieten the unrest.

A correspondent to *The Times*, writing from HMS *Astræa*, takes up the story of the events of Tuesday 6th Sep. 1898:

The whole of the houses round the harbour opened fire on the Custom-house and English patrol. Every window held two or three riflemen, and the fire is described as something appalling. The patrol immediately got into the Custom-house and started to return the fire ... The *Hazard* now began sending armed boats in, 24 men and two officers, altogether there were about 85 men and six officers dead, alive, or wounded in the neighbourhood of the Custom-house. ... The whole town seems to have risen at the first shot ... it is believed that 900 or thereabouts of Christians have been massacred ... The *Hazard's* men behaved magnificently, and I hope they get something out of it. Their doctor should get the V.C. His clothes were shot through in at least a dozen places whilst he was helping the wounded, and he escaped marvellously without a scratch.²

Maillard, who had specially requested to be sent ashore, had disembarked from the *Hazard's* boat and reached a place of safety; however, he went back through a hail of bullets in an attempt to rescue Ordinary Seaman Arthur Stroud, who was wounded and had fallen back into the boat. Stroud was, however, almost dead, and it was impossible for Maillard to lift him out, as the boat was drifting. He returned to his post unhurt, but his clothes were riddled with bullets.



'How Surgeon William Maillard, R.N., won the Victoria Cross at Candia' from The Graphic, 17 December 1898.

Letters home from Maillard are rather diffident about the affair – on September 14th he wrote 'There is no chance of my really getting the Victoria Cross';³ but his VC was gazetted on 2nd December. He thus became the first, and so far the only, officer of the Royal Naval Medical Service to be awarded the VC, and was presented with the medal by Queen Victoria at Windsor, three days after the award was gazetted.

In 1899 Maillard was promoted to Staff Surgeon 'for distinguished service', and was on the staff of the RNVR depot ship HMS *Daedalus* at Bristol between 23 Nov 1899 and 29 August 1900, after which he was posted to HMS *Archer* on the Australian station. From April to July 1901 he was in England again with HMS *Duke of Wellington*, but from 31st July took sick leave on half pay. He was retired unfit on 7th April 1902, and on 7th June was admitted to RNH Great Yarmouth, which specialised in mental disorders.

The nature of Maillard's illness is unclear: opinions have ranged from 'severe mental strain at war in Crete ... chronic diffuse meningo-encephalitis about 3 years'⁴ to 'possibly a brain tumour'.⁵ Maillard was discharged into the care of his wife on 19th January 1903; he died, aged 40, at Bournemouth on 10th

September that year, and is buried in the town's Wimborne Road Cemetery.

1. Reproduced by kind permission of the *Journal of the Royal Naval Medical Service*. Thanks are due to Captain (Retd) PH Starling, Curator, Army Medical Services Museum, for sharing with me the results of his research in The National Archives, including Maillard's service record, the entries from HMS *Hazard's* log for the 6th September 1898, and a copy of Maillard's death certificate.
2. *The Times*, Monday 19 September 1898.
3. Letter in INM files.
4. Death certificate.
5. Winton, J. *The Victoria Cross at sea* (London, 1978). Some of Winton's information on Maillard derives from O'Connor, A. *Surgeon William Job Maillard, V.C., M.D., R.N.* (JRNMS, Vol. 50 (1964), pp. 64-70) and consequently perpetuates several inaccuracies.

JANE WICKENDEN

85. FAIR DAYS IN SOMERSET AND DORSET 1731. In January 1731 *The Gentleman's Magazine* or *Monthly Intelligencer* was founded with the intention 'to give Monthly a View of all the Pieces of Wit, Humour, or Intelligence, daily offer'd to the Publick in the News-Papers, (which of late are so multiplied, as to render it impossible, unless a man makes it a business, to consult them all) and in the next place we shall join therewith some other matters of Use or Amusement that will be communicated to us'.¹ Placed at the end of the first issue, after a list of books published in the month, as 'a matter of use' was the first of a series of lists of fairs held in England and Wales. This first list was in chronological order of 'FAIRS from the beginning of February to the 12th of March'. The fairs listed for Somerset and Dorset were:

February 2 Lyme (D), 3 Axbridge (S), 14 Ashbrittle (S), 22 Bath (S), 24 Blandford (D), 24 Frome (S). An entry for February 2 'Dorchester', without giving the county name, was also printed.²

Fairs were divided into those held on fixed dates of the calendar (often on or related to Saints' days), and those whose dates were related to the moveable feast-days of the church year. In the February issue, placed between a review of national news and a list of books published in February were two chronological lists of fairs divided in this way, from 12 March to 12 April.

Firstly 'FAIRS in MARCH and APRIL'

March 25 Axbridge (S), 25 Bp's-lidiard, 25 Bridport (D), 25 Croscomb (S),

April (none).

Secondly 'Moveable FAIRS'

Cerne (D), midlent Sunday

Castle Cary (S), Tuesday before Palm Sund.

Ilchester (S), Monday before Palm Sunday.

Langport (S), Second Sunday in clear Lent.

Milling (D), Palm Sunday.

Somerton (S), Tuesday after palm Sunday.

Shaftsbury (D), Sunday before Palm Sunday.³

By the time that the March issue was published it had been decided that one list should be typeset using italic type-face for the moveable fair-dates and placing the fairs in (roughly) alphabetical order. The actual, rather than descriptive, dates of the moveable fairs were given, the list being printed before '*Observations in Gardening for APRIL, 1731*'. The '*Alphabetical LIST of FAIRS to the 12th of May*' contained:

'The FAIRS in APRIL, 1731'

21 Ashil (S), 16 Bruton (S), 23 Chedder (S), 23 Frampton (D), 25 Mountecut (S), 20 Milverton (S), 16 Midsummer Norton (S), Pensford (S), 27 Philips-norton (S), 20 Pedleton (D), 25 Stowgummer (S), 25 Stokeunderham (S), 13 Somerton (S), 23 Wotton-basset (S), 16 Winborn (D),

'FAIRS in MAY'

7 Bath (S), 1 Corfe-castle (D), 1 Castle-carey (S), 3 Chard (S), 1 Evershot (D), 3 Holway (S), 2 Lime (D), 1 Northpetherton (S), 1 Pembridge (S), 1 Philipsnorton (S), 1 Sturmister (D), 3 Stowgussy (S), 1 Wilscomb (S), 2 Woolbridge (D), 3, 9 Wells (S).⁴

At the end the author added '*N. B. If any Fair is mistaken, the Author, will upon Information given, rectify it in the Progress of this Work*'. It was a pity that he had not noted that the Wiltshire town of Wootton Bassett was given as being in Somerset.

Over the next six months further lists were printed in a similar fashion and position in the magazine.

The Alphabetical List of '*Fairs to the 12 of June*' contained: 'MAY'

27 Cern Abbey (D), 27 Chewton (S), 27 Cutcomb (S), 29

Castletown (D), 27 *Lidford* (S), 25 Somerton (S), 18 Tallowdown (D),

‘JUNE’

11 Axbridge (S), 7 *Dunster* (S), 5 Milbournport (S), 11 Porlock (S), 4 Ryston (S), 11 Stavord (S), 11 Stockland (D).⁵

The list of ‘*Fairs from June 12, to July 12* contained:

‘JUNE’

29 Abbotsbury (D), 29 Ayleford (D), 24 Bridgwater (S), 29 Bath (S), 29 Blandford (D), 14 *Berrington* (S), 29 Charmouth (D), 24 Dorchester, 29 Dilverton (S), 14 *Dorchester* (D), 14 *Gillingham* (D), 29 Huntsfield (S), 29 Lamport (S), 17 Queen’s-Cammel (S), 14 Shaftesbury (D), 24 Southpetherton (S), 17 Taunton (S), 24 Wells (S), 24 Wareham (D),

‘JULY’

5 Woodland (D), 17 Ward (S), 17 Wharley (S).⁶

For ‘*Fairs from July 12 to August 12*’:

‘JULY’

22 Allington (D), 25 Bristol (S), 16 Evershot (D), 25 Holthil (D), 22 Ilchester (S), 22 Langridge (S), 22 Lympsham (S), 25 Milverton (S), 15 Sherborn (D), 22 Wedmore (S),

‘AUGUST’

1 Bath (S), 2 *Curry-evil* (S), 4 St Deacon (S), 10 Farnham (D), 1 *Lidford* (S), 10 Lawrence-lidiard (S), 10 Martock (S), 1 North-curry (S), 10 Peddy (S), 1 Stowgomer (S), 10 Sherborn (D).⁷

For ‘*Fairs from August 12, to September 12*’:

‘AUGUST’

13 Bleagon (S), 24 Crookhorn (S), 24 Cranborn (D), 15 Eastbrint (S), 24 Frampton (D), 15 Hermitage (D), 29 Ilchester (S), 16 Keynsham (S), 15 Morelidge (S), 24 Stawbridge (D), 31 Taller-downs (D), 29 Weston-zealand (S),

‘SEPTEMBER’

8 Bruton (S), 8 Beaminster (D), 8 Bishop-lidiard (S), 8 Buckland (S), 1 Downterry-hill (S), 8 Edg-mead (S), 1

Gillingham (D), 8 Glassenbury (S), 8 St Mary (S), 12 Stow gussy (S), 3 Winborn (D), 7 Woodbury-hill (D), 8 Wotton (S), 9 Wrington (S).⁸

For 'Fairs from September 12, to October 12':

'SEPTEMBER'

15 Ashill (S), 21 Bridgwater (S), 29 Bridport (D), 29 Borough (S), 14 Comsbury (S), 18 Castle-carey (S), 29 Chestock (D), 29 Glasenbury (S), 21 Lime (D), 24 Lamport (S), 29 Milverton (S), 29 Over (D), 14 Shroton (D), 17 Stavord (S), 19 Somerton (S), 29 Southbrent (S), 14 Wilscomb (S),

'OCTOBER'

11 Wells (S).⁹

For 'Fairs from October 12, to November 12':

'OCTOBER'

28 Blanford (D), 18 Corfe-castle (D), 18 Chislebury (S), 18 Dulverton (S), 18 Milborn-port (S), 18 Piddletown (D), 28 Pensford (S), 14 Queens camel (S), 13 Sturminster (D), 28 Somerton (S),

'November'

1 Brambel (S), 2 Chard (S), 11 Frome (S), 10 Lamport (S), 11 Nuny (S), 1 Pool (D), 11 Perlock (S), 6 Shepham (S), 6 Yeovil (S).¹⁰

This last list was the final one that was printed in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, the editor not giving the fair dates for the rest of the year ending February 12, albeit that there were few fairs to list for the winter months.

There are several discrepancies between these lists in the *Gentleman's Magazine* and the lists printed two years previously in *A Book of Fairs or, A Guide to West-Country Travellers*.¹¹ A suggestion of plagiarism of information from the *Book of Fairs* is the following: the Somerset list had been printed with a comma between the two halves of the name 'Buckland St. Mary' for the fair held on September 8; the *Gentleman's Magazine* gave two fairs for that date – one for 'Buckland' and the other for 'St Mary'. The date for the April 27 fair for Philips-norton (Norton St. Philip) was given as being a moveable fair, whereas it was a fixed-date fair, being held in

the eighteenth century four days before the feast of SS Philip and James (May 1). Plagiarism was rife in the eighteenth century and that information given here must be checked with other sources, if possible, for historical accuracy. Another cause of confusion is that if a fixed-date fair was due to be held on a Sunday, it might be held on the following Monday.

1. *The Gentleman's Magazine*, Number I. for January 1731. (This date was January 1730 by the Old Style –the Julian Calendar - and pre-empted the Gregorian Calendar date by two decades).
2. *Ibid.* In this, and the following lists, the original spelling is replicated. For conciseness the author has abbreviated the publisher's various spellings of the county names to their initial letter, and placed them in parentheses.
3. *Idem*, Numb. II. February 1731.
4. *Idem*. Number III. March 1731.
5. *Idem*. Number IV. April 1731.
6. *Idem*. Numb. V. May 1731.
7. *Idem*. Numb. VI. June 1731
8. *Idem*. Numb. VII. July 1731.
9. *Idem*. Numb. VIII. August 1731.
10. *Idem*. Numb. IX. September 1731.
11. See C.J. Brett, *SDNQ*, pt.360, 358-362.

COLIN J. BRETT

86. JAMES DEWEY OF BLOXWORTH: SOLDIER & PARLIAMENTARIAN. The English Civil War had a considerable effect on the whole country: the religious intolerance and persecution of Catholics continued, the absolute powers of the monarchy were reduced, and the political importance of parliament was enhanced. In parts of East Dorset there was a group of people who were closely involved with Parliament. Sir Walter Erle of Charborough was already an M.P. and a J.P., and a prominent leader. To the west of Charborough Park was the Bloxworth Estate where the owner, a lawyer named George Savage, also supported the Commonwealth. Another lawyer named George Filliter had close connections with Bloxworth and was to become prominent during the Civil War. The fourth member of these important Parliamentary supporters in this part of East Dorset was James Dewey.

James Dewey was born in about 1604 but not much is known about his early days. All of his early associations seem to have been connected with small villages in the Blandford area and this suggests that he was an owner or tenant of property and had some knowledge and experience of farming. The Strangways family of Winterborne Muston – although they were

not the senior branch of this distinguished family – must have approved of James's pedigree for James' second wife was the fifth daughter of this large family. They were staunch Royalists and would not have been likely to agree to the marriage if they had known that James would become a supporter of the Parliamentarians. Sadly the marriage only lasted a few years. Mary was buried in Bloxworth after her early death in 1638 and James married for the second time. Little is known about his second wife but they had a large family of six children. Two of the children were baptised in Bloxworth but of the remainder, two were Christened in Child Okeford and two in Tarrant Crawford. James Dewey was probably living in Tarrant Crawford with his second wife when the Civil War started in 1642. Shortly afterwards the family returned to Bloxworth.

James became a mounted soldier and had reached the rank of Captain by 1644. During the war, Captains were paid £1-10s-0d a day but few received their pay when it was due. It was usual for payments to be made in arrears – no doubt when morale had become particularly low and funds became available. James is listed as serving in Colonel Brunes' Regiment but although there were many lesser engagements, there were no major battles in Dorset during the war. Weymouth fell to the Royalists in the early stages of the war but Poole and especially Lyme Regis held out – the latter against furious attacks by those supporting the King. The stronghold of Corfe Castle remained in Royalist hands until Feb 1646 despite earlier attempts to dislodge the garrison. From time to time there were minor engagements against the towns and ports which when not repulsed resulted in a change of allegiance. It is not clear whether James was involved in many of the engagements but there is evidence later that he was often employed in an independent role working in a small group rather than as part of a large force. It seems that from early days, his superiors found him to be a reliable soldier and a conscientious supporter of parliament.

The Parliamentarians were quick to establish a system for raising money for their cause and this led to the formation of the Dorset Standing Committee which from the early days in 1643 included the names of Sir Walter Erle of Charborough and William Savage of Bloxworth. Sometime later the names of Thomas Erle and Captain James Dewy (*sic*) were included

in the list of members. James is described as 'M.P. for co. Dorset' and this is further evidence of his approval by the authorities. His duties as a soldier, member of the Standing Committee and as an MP were many and various. In 1644 he provided food for the garrison troops in Wareham when he arranged for Nicholas Symonds of Melbury Osmund to deliver four cows to the soldiers. It was probably not James' fault that Nicholas did not receive the £12 payment until some four years later. One of the chief sources of income was with the sequestered estates – the land taken from the Catholic owners and leased to tenants approved by the Committee. The rules were fairly strict. The new tenants made a contract with the Solicitor of the County paying an approved rate which included the payment of a third of the rent to the original owner. James was the tenant of Keinson [Keynston] Farm for one year from Sept 29th 1647. The owner William Arundell had been sequestered and the rent was £300. James had to be reminded to pay William Arundell. He may have been charged too much. The rent charged to later tenants (James Fawne and others) was £188-13-4d. Occasionally, the new tenant was told to pay others and Morgan Blandford who farmed in Corfe Mullen had to pay £40 to Lt Thomas Butler who had been blinded in the war and if he failed, 'Captaine Dewy, or any other Commander in this Countie ... are hereby to cause this order to bee observed'.

James was rewarded for his work when, in 1646, the County Treasurer was ordered to pay him £32 from 'the rents and pfitts of a ctaine farme in Beere Regis, called Filloles' for services he had rendered to the State.¹

Portland surrendered to the Parliamentarians in April 1646. Sometime later, James Dewey's troop was sent there presumably to help to secure and garrison the place. In Oct 1648, one of the inhabitants, John Hyne together with others, appealed to the Dorset Standing Committee to be reimbursed for costs which he and they had incurred whilst billeting the troop. The Committee ruled that John Hyne was to be paid thirty-three shillings for supplying candles and £8-11-0 was to be deducted from the pay of the troop for money owed by them to the inhabitants.

The early successes of the Royalists in 1643 would have caused great alarm in East Dorset but the important operations were further to the west beyond Portland and into Devon and

Cornwall. By May 1643 much of Dorset was held by Parliament and this led to increasing complaints that Dorset had become a transit area for troops and that the local people had to pay unnecessary costs, particularly for the unlawful activities of the Royalist troops – in addition, for the inconvenience of maintaining them. This led to the formation of the Dorset Clubmen men who though poorly armed were prepared for action against soldiers of either side who were making their lives intolerable. Their number and complaints were sufficient to warrant a visit by Oliver Cromwell and he addressed five thousand of them on Aug 4th 1645 on Hambledon Hill. His words must have been particularly persuasive for it was said that the Clubmen departed in peace.

Although there was now no fighting in Dorset, the authorities continued to be wary of any sign of support for the Royalists. In Jan 1650, there was a report that a number of people in Blandford had proclaimed publicly that the Prince of Wales was the King of England. James became involved in this and the men concerned were arrested. In 1650, James was one of three who were appointed as the Sequestration Commissioners for Dorset. They were to be responsible ‘for the better ordering of the estates of Papists and Delinquents’. Although some changes in the law were made later the three men continued to be the Commissioners until the restoration of Charles II.

At the end of the hostilities, the Commonwealth cavalry in Dorset were reduced to two troops of Horse, and there were further reductions during the following year. The reductions did not apply to those serving in Colonel Brunen’s Regiment for a later incident shows that James continued to be in command of a troop until at least 1655. The incident occurred at about midnight when James with a troop of cavalry and a company of infantry arrived at the Rectory of Todber, just north of Sturminster Newton, to arrest Hancock Clark the son of the Rector – the reason was not stated. Hancock had seen the troops arrive and a somewhat colourful account was later reported.²

Hancock ... leapt out of a back-window into the midst of the Horse in the orchard with his drawers, shirt and one stocking on; and, being set upon gave Dewey a dangerous blow with an iron pin of an axle; while the rest, in the darkness, were struck off their horses by the limb of an apple tree.

Hancock escaped but the troops arrested his father, the seventy year old Rev Roger Clark and are said to have ‘bound him neck and heels until the blood ran out of his eyes; to have carried him forthwith to Sturminster-Newton Castle; and to have burned his fingers with matches – of which torture he was about six months in recovering.’

Another incident in which James Dewey was said to have been involved was reported in the same book. The Rev William Wake had been appointed as the Rector of the Holy Trinity and St Michael’s Church in Wareham in 1624. Some time later, someone from a military company in Norwich visited him and wrote an account of the meeting:

Before I parted from this town I had free and generous entertainment from the honest, merry and true-hearted parson there, both at his own house, and in the towne, and enjoyed much mirth from him ... he was both a good scholler and a good soldier, and an excellent drum—beating parson, his preparations, troops and voluntaries, his marches, skirmishes, and retreats, he beats ad volentatem.³

William Wake was sequestered and in 1645 he was captured in Sherborne Castle. He had moved to Blandford during the war and shared a house with the Rev Richard Hooke, another sequestered parson who had been removed from his living in Durweston. With others, he continued to hold religious services either in Bryanston Chapel or in his house. Their activities came to the notice of the authorities and four men (including James Dewey) were sent to his house where they:

Pulled him out of his bed and kept him, a very infirm man, on their guards; and daily moved with them, as they were commanded, from place to place. They afterwards brought a troop of dragoons to seize him and such as frequented the prayers of the church ...⁴

The Rev Wake was restored to his church in Wareham after the war but sadly he died soon after the Restoration.

Charles II was proclaimed King on May 10th 1660 and although the policy was ‘to forgive one another as we expect to be forgiven’, there were a number, including James Dewey, who did not expect clemency. James went into hiding and may have stayed for a time on the Continent but he came back to this country only to be arrested for treason. In 1665/6 he was

lodged in the Tower of London. By 1670 he was back in Bloxworth but he died five years later and was buried in the aisle of St Andrew's Church. He was sixty-eight and the gravestone in the Church records his death and that of his first wife. The grave and inscription includes the name of the wife of his second son, the former Mary Savage who was the parson's daughter.

1. Filloles [Philliois] Farm is south of the Bloxworth boundary at Map Reference SY 8691.
2. Bayley, A.R., *The Civil War in Dorset*, (Dorchester, 1910), p. 451.
3. Hutchins, J, *History of Dorset*, Vol 1, p. 121.
4. Bayley, p. 457.

The author is grateful to Mike Dewey who has made an extensive study of James Dewey and has allowed me to use his very detailed notes.

ANTHONY BLAD

87. RECORDS OF TWO EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY ATTORNEYS IN NORTH SOMERSET. The family connections of two lawyers, George Webb (died 1751) of Coxey Close Farm, Long Ashton and Robert Codrington (died 1764) of Rownham, Long Ashton have resulted in the survival of numerous documents concerning land tenure, estate management and industrial enterprises in north Somerset. The collection illustrates the tenacity with which country attorneys and their heirs retained the records of their clients, so that they survive in quite unexpected collections. These documents are now part of the large archive of the Calley family of Burderop Park near Swindon, who were major landowners in north Wiltshire during the 18th century.¹ The connections between the Webb, Codrington and Calley families were traced by Andrew Crookston of Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office when he listed the Calley papers. George Webb was the son and heir of Obadiah Webb, a farmer in Long Ashton, who also possessed a clay pit and brickworks. Webb became the legal adviser to Captain William Stretton, mariner, of St Michael's Hill, Bristol, and when Stretton died intestate in October 1737 Webb administered his estate and became the guardian to his three children. Later Webb married Stretton's daughter, Mary. When Webb died in 1751 his widow, Mary, married Robert Codrington, an attorney who also lived in Long Ashton. Thus Codrington acquired the papers relating to Webb's legal practice, including those of Captain William Stretton.

Robert Codrington was the son and heir of Colonel John Codrington (died 1753) of Wraxall, who in 1699 had married Elizabeth, the only daughter and heiress of Edward Gorges of Wraxall Court. John Codrington was also an executor and trustee of the estate of Sir John Smyth of Ashton Court, so that the documents which were passed on to Robert Codrington included much material on both the Smyths and Gorges estates in north Somerset. When Robert Codrington died in 1764 all his papers passed into the hands of his brother-in-law and executor, Oliver Calley of Overton House, Wroughton, Wiltshire, and thus into the Calley family archive.

As might be expected, the material from the two attorneys, Webb and Codrington, relating to north Somerset is largely concerned with land, property and agricultural matters. There are numerous leases of lands at Tickenham, Wraxall, Failand and Long Ashton, records of repairs to farms and barns, account books recording receipts for the sale of crops, livestock and milk, and a lease and inventory of an inn near the ferry across the Avon at Rownham.² More unusual and of great interest, are various documents which illustrate early 18th century economic enterprises in the part of north Somerset stretching from Nailsea and Wraxall through Failand and Long Ashton to Bedminster on the southern outskirts of Bristol. These records of commercial activities will be described briefly in the following section.

The collection includes an agreement made in 1700 between John Bryant, millwright of Portbury, and William Winter of Wraxall, John Godwin of Nailsea and Thomas Mudge of Nailsea, coalminers. Bryant agreed to erect a wind-powered pump on the hillside at South Park, Wraxall to drain a coal mine on land belonging to Edward Gorges of Wraxall Court. This illustrates the development of mining in the Nailsea coal seams at this time, since the shaft to be drained was 12 fathoms deep. Clearly the earlier practice of obtaining coal by digging 'bell pits' of 10-20 feet deep was being superseded by sinking shafts which required drainage.³ Another commercial enterprise at Wraxall is illustrated by a ten-year lease granted in 1708 by Edward Gorges to Edward Sperrin and William Sperrin, yeomen, of Wraxall. This was for a coney or rabbit warren 'scituate and lying on the South side of Wraxall Hill on the south side of Broade Roadeway leadeing from the old Thorne

in the said Roade on the west bottom below Failands Cross to the end of Wraxall Hill westwards'. Rabbits were highly-prized and profitable at this time and there was no doubt a ready market for them in Bristol. Far from being the pests which they later became, the animals were carefully nurtured, protected from predators and provided with artificial burrows dug into 'flatts' or terraces on the hillside. The lease granted the use of all the existing burrows and leave to make 'two Flatts more at any place on the said Hill'. The warreners were required to maintain a breeding stock of 80 couple of rabbits, and it is a tribute both to the fecundity and to the profitability of rabbits that an annual rent of £5 could be charged. In addition, the lease provided that the landlord, Edward Gorges, was to be supplied with 'good and saleable conneys' at one shilling per couple, 'it being agreed not to exceed sixty couple in any one year'.⁴

Other commercial enterprises in the district for which evidence survives in the papers of Robert Codrington and George Webb include the lease of land at Rownham for the ferry across the Avon to Bristol and for the landing of cargoes from ships (1748), the accounts of a quarry at Wraxall (1754), and details of clay-pits in the parish of Long Ashton (1730-40).⁵ The clay was used for making bricks which were sold in the rapidly-growing port of Bristol and for the manufacture of pottery. It was also purchased by glassmakers in Bristol to make the refractory pots in which the glass was melted, they also used bricks for the construction of their distinctive glasshouse 'cones'. Particularly interesting are the accounts of a glassworks at Temple Street, Bristol during the 1720s. The glasshouse had been built on land leased from St Mary Redcliffe by Humphrey Perrott, a member of a well-known Bristol glass-making family. The cost of his new glasshouse and the need to borrow money in order to complete it led Humphrey Perrott into financial difficulty and in 1726 he was declared bankrupt. His estate was administered by Captain William Stretton, whose papers later passed into the hands of George Webb and thus to Robert Codrington, as was explained earlier. William Stretton continued to operate the glassworks after Perrott's bankruptcy; 25 men were employed in the manufacture as 'Workers at the Fire'. They were paid weekly wages of £1 5s 0d for skilled men, 18s 0d for 'improvers' and as little as 4s 0d for boys. The accounts also reveal that Humphrey Perrott had amassed debts

of £7378 6s 2d. These included a mortgage to Obadiah Arrowsmith of £1000, outstanding costs on the glasshouse and book debts of £2000, and sums owed for clay, sand, soap-ashes, kelp, bricks, bottle-moulds and packing cases amounting to £4298. Sadly the accounts reveal that following his bankruptcy Humphrey Perrott was reduced to being employed by William Stretton in packing glassware in his own glassworks.⁶

Bristol was one of the largest centres of glass-making, and there was much competition in the trade. It is clear from these papers that Humphrey Perrott was already in difficulties in 1723 when he entered into an agreement with two other Bristol glass-makers to regulate the working of their factories and to limit production to their mutual advantage. They agreed that 'the Trade, Art or Profession of making Crown Glass hath been and is subject and liable to many disadvantages and inconveniencys for the defect and want of regulations and agreements ...'. They therefore undertook to restrict output, not to make glass in more than one furnace at a time and not to erect any new glasshouses without pulling down their old ones. It is uncertain whether this agreement was implemented but it certainly did not save Perrott from bankruptcy.⁷

Under Stretton's management Perrott's works continued to produce both crown glass and bottles on a large scale. Receipted bills show that customers throughout Wales and the west country were supplied with glass. Many consignments could be delivered from Bristol by the regular coastal shipping service, and places are mentioned all along the coast from Watchet and Barnstaple to Mevagissey and Fowey. Glass was also dispatched via the numerous carriers operating from Bristol and there were customers from Hereford, Warwick, Worcester, Pershore and Marlborough to Taunton, Exeter and several inland places in Cornwall such as Liskeard, St Columb and Mitchell. In addition, glass was sold to the masters of ships trading from Bristol and to customers in New England. Some of these sales were of bottles filled with water from the Hotwells. Many sales were of small quantities. For example, the account sent to Thomas Cheeke of Taunton in March 1729 was as follows:

	£	s	d
Balance due	4	15	8 ¼
3 Cases 2 nd Crown Glass	6	15	0
3 Ditto Bristoll Green	4	10	0
3 doz flatt 3 pints		6	0
5 doz large pottles @ 2/6		12	6
2 large maunds		2	0
Total	54	1	2 ¼

William Cox of Brunswick, New England received the following account in April 1730:

Box Square 200 foot @ 3d	2	10	0
ditto @ 4d	2	6	8
2 boxes		6	0
12 doz of 8 square flatt quarts	1	2	0
12 doz of London shape quarts	1	0	0
2 doz pottles plain		5	0
1 doz Gallons ditto		6	0
	8	15	8
Allowance for bottles returned		3	2 ½
Total	8	12	5 ½ ⁸

The involvement of Captain William Stretton, who was described as 'mariner', may explain the presence among the Calley papers of sundry accounts of John Norman, who was a Bristol merchant. During the period 1722-3 he was involved in the insurance of cargoes and ships trading from Bristol. He was also dealing in sugar, dyewood, cotton and indigo from Barbados and Africa. His accounts provide details and names of numerous ships and masters involved in the trade and of cargoes brought to Bristol.⁹

1. Wiltshire & Swindon Record Office 1178/—.
2. WSRO 1178/575; 1178/589; 1178/592; 1178/653; 1178/654.
3. WSRO 1178/588.
4. WSRO 1178/590.
5. WSRO 1178/575-7; 1178/203-5.
6. WSRO 1178/619; 1178/620. Cyril Weeden, 'Bristol Glassmakers' in *Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society Journal*, 17, (1984), 15-29.
7. WSRO 1178/617.
8. WSRO 1178/618/1; 1178/618/2.
9. WSRO 1178/699; 1178/700.

J.H. BETTEY

88. THE RUNAWAY. The year 1695 brought an end to much of the strict press censorship of the 17th century. Local newspapers soon sprang up in a number of towns around the South West of England, which included titles such as the *Exeter Mercury* (1714), the *Taunton Journal* (1725), the *Sherborne Mercury* (1737), the *Bath Journal* (1744) and *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* (1752). Though many of these early titles were short lived, others flourished to be joined in the early 19th century by such long running favourites as the *Taunton Courier* (1808).

One criticism made of a number of these early newspapers was their lack of local news and on the whole that criticism is a fair one. However, at a time when news traveled slowly the newspaper was in its way the 'Information Superhighway' of the 18th century. What better vehicle could there be therefore to spread a message to surrounding towns and villages. Thus, 'the Runaway' was to feature repeatedly in almost every issue of these early papers. For those willing to spend a few hours pouring through these early editions, brief pen pictures of many working class characters are preserved for posterity.

These runaways fall neatly into a number of categories. Deserters from both regular armed forces and the local militia appear alongside runaway husbands, wives, apprentices and escaped prisoners. Even runaway dogs with names such as Chowdar, Nero, Dash and Sancho not to mention a stray parrot¹ appear in the local news.

Runaway wives

One of the earliest type of runaway notices to appear are those regarding runaway wives. One might expect at least a small proportion of these notices to be phrased in language pleading for a wife to return home: this however is never the case. Nor is it normally the case for a third party to be mentioned in the elopement² suggesting that the wife, for whatever reason had just had enough! After browsing a few of these runaway wife notices it becomes clear that these were simply a means by which a husband terminated his wife's credit (rather similar to the way that we would inform our bank on the loss of a credit card). The threat of a wife running up credit must have been a very real one as husbands regularly mentioned their wife's intention to deliberately put them heavily into debt.

Two examples are:

Sherborne Mercury 20th February 1738/9

Whereas Hannah, the wife of Mr Hercules Bawdon, of the Parish of Murlinch, in the County of Somerset, having threatened her husband that she will run him Five Hundred Pounds in debt, and she being lately eloped, hath contracted many and considerable debts at Bridgwater, Wells, Glastonbury, and Somerton: This is to give notice to all persons, not to trust the said Hannah Bawdon, for that he the said Hercules Bawdon will not pay any debts she shall contract after the publication hereof.

Sherborne Mercury 14th February 1737

Whereas Elizabeth, the wife of John Tachell, of Yeovil in the County of Somerset, cordwainer, did elope from her said Husband on Saturday the twenty-eighth of January last. This is to give notice to all persons to forewarn them, that they do not entrust the abovesaid Elizabeth Tachell after the publication hereof, the said John Tachell being determin'd not to pay any debts she shall contract.

Runaway husbands

Notices relating to runaway husbands are entirely different in content. These notices were not placed by anxious wives but rather by the parish overseers. The last thing the overseers wanted was a wife and possibly a number of children applying for parish relief, therefore husbands were pursued with some determination and maintenance fees were extracted as is evidenced by a number of quarter session cases. One notice from 1768³ (though outside the Somerset/Dorset area) mentions no less than six persons who left their families chargeable on the parish of Trowbridge. These notices are far more infrequent than those regarding runaway wives but two examples are 'Thomas Godfrey age 30 of Keynsham who deserted his wife at Bridgwater 28 Dec 1778' and 'William Clatworthy who deserted his wife at North Petherton 27 Oct 1814'.

Escaped Prisoners

Early references tend to be rather brief though by the 19th century some of the escapes make good reading. Those imprisoned for such dubious reasons as stirring up local unrest sometimes took on celebrity status when they escaped. One Bristol fugitive hit the headlines for a number of weeks before being apprehended and eventually hung. A few 18th century examples follow:

Hannah Shitler of Corfe Mullen nr Wimborn in custody on suspicion for murdering her bastard child escaped from custody on 6th May 1744. She has dark brown hair and a crooked nose.

Francis Harding broke out of Dorchester gaol. From Bell Chalwell a

wheelwright and house carpenter. November 6th 1744.

James Barter escaped from the House of Correction at Sherborne on 6th January 1741. From Morcombe nr Shaston. Age 22 convicted of horse stealing. He has a red sanguine complexion, freckled with a scar on his right cheek, small eyes and a flat nose.

Runaway apprentices

Orphans and children from poor families posed something of a dilemma for parish overseers. It was certainly worth the investment of a fee to one of the locals to take on the poor child as an apprentice. In many parishes masters were forced to take on a parish apprentice on penalty of a fine for non-compliance. It is easy to understand therefore the resentment that often followed. The apprentice would live with their master as one of the family often having to move to another parish to carry out their work. To put the practice into a modern day context it would have been rather like expecting all ratepayers to take in a foster child. A number of cases of cruel treatment can be found in the quarter sessions of the time.

From the apprentices point of view it must have been easy to become disgruntled especially as many of these masters used them as cheap labour and taught them no real skill. For all this, it is easy to imagine the annoyance of a master having invested a number of years training in an apprentice only to see them elope.

Occasionally, runaway apprentice notices are conciliatory promising no punishment if the apprentice returns home promptly. Other notices are rather more threatening in nature, one of the most unforgiving coming strangely enough from a rector! As well as threatening the runaway apprentice with prosecution, persons who took them in would also be liable to the penalty of the law.

Descriptions of these apprentices can be quite revealing. One common feature often mentioned was a 'pock marked face', which could simply refer to acne though it is just as probable that it indicates that the runaway had suffered from smallpox. The chances of this must have been increased by the unusual practice of inoculating some of these young paupers with smallpox in the hope that it would prevent a more severe outbreak in later years. The practice was eventually stopped but in its time probably killed as many as it protected. These runaways often headed for the large cities where they could

more easily blend in with the crowd. Others emigrated or joined bands of highwaymen.

The majority of parish apprentice indentures no longer exist but occasionally those that survive can be matched to runaways. One example of this is Edward May of Bicknoller. His indenture, dated 4th June 1762 can be found at the Somerset Record Office (Bicknoller apprenticeship indentures D/P/bic 13/6/1-135). Edward was apprenticed to Robert Gardner and ran away with his brother Thomas as advertised in the *Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury* of 16th May 1774. Thomas's indenture no longer exists and thus these notices act as a good substitute in filling in gaps in parish records.

Apprentice notices became so commonplace in the latter part of the 18th century that they have been used as a basis for studies into the average heights of the time. By the early 19th century the frequency of these runaway notices were on the decline. Other examples follow:

June 5th 1768

Run away from his master, William Thresher, apprentice to John Warren, white worsted maker, in Stowey, Somerset, aged about eighteen years. He is a thin lad, strait flaxen hair, short cut on the crown. Wore when he went away a drab colour coat, with brown duroy lining, white metal buttons, green waistcoat with horn buttons, buff breeches, four shirts etc.

Also at the same time run away, William Jessup alias Williams, apprentice to Robert Govett, Farmer, in Stowey, Somerset: He is a tall thin lad, aged about eighteen years: wore when he went off, a blue grey coat, with yellow buttons, dark blue waistcoat with horn buttons, leather breeches, black ribb'd stockings, and three shirts. Whoever shall give notice of the said apprentices to either of their said masters, so as they may be taken, shall receive Half a Guinea Reward; but if any Person entertains or harbours them after this public notice, shall be dealt with as the Law directs, by us,

JOHN WARREN
ROBERT GOVETT

April 16th 1768

Ran away from his master, John Bryant, of Henlade, in the parish of Ruishton, Somersetshire, GEORGE BANTON, a Parish Apprentice, eighteen years old, about five feet four inches high, of a pale complexion, with brown hair, goes fauntering in his walk; wore off either a light grey coat, with metal buttons, or a brown coat, lately turned, with new hard ware plated buttons, old buff breeches, a new pair of shoes and brass buckles, and is supposed to be gone towards Bristol. Whoever harbours or employs the said apprentice after this public notice will be prosecuted according to the law by me,

JOHN BRYANT

Sometimes, fellow apprentices with a sense of humor would place bogus notices in the papers. A correction was quickly printed the following week by an embarrassed editor but such notices must have caused consternation for the poor apprentice accused of eloping.

Military deserters

Desertions come under two categories, the more serious of the two being regular soldiers and sailors. Often the notices mention one specific individual rather similar in content to those for runaway apprentices but sometimes longer lists appear.

The following names are part of a list of deserters from the regular forces which appeared in the *Bath Journal* of 19 Aug 1745,

Deserted from Shepton Mallet

Jonas Pearce	age 22	5' 11"	born East Lydford Somerset
Abraham Weaver	age 37	5' 8"	thatcher born Wells
William Dolin	age 22	5' 7"	born Tewton impressed Mendip Pensford
William Coleman	age 27	5' 6"	a sheerman wears a black wig
William Masters	age 22	5' 9"	blacksmith born West Lydford wears a black wig
Thomas Lewis	age 26	5' 5"	labourer Langford cut on left hand
William Howard	age 22	5' 5"	barber born Bath wears brown wig
John Larder	age 30		labourer born Widmore 5' 9" impressed Langford

Deserted from Basingstoke

Joseph Buck	age 28	5' 5"	labourer born Peterhead Somerset
William Lawrence	age 25	5' 8"	labourer born Widmore

Deserted from Maidstone

John Tapscott	age 27	5' 5"	labourer born Shaftesbury
George Fowles	age 34	5' 5"	born Luton Somerset

Selection for militia duty was rather like selection for jury duty nowadays where a ballot was held to raise the required number of militia. The wealthy could always buy a substitute while for those of more modest means it was possible to take out insurance against being selected.⁴ The working classes had no choice, it was a case of join the militia or go on the run. An example of this is the following list of deserters which appeared in the *Taunton Courier* dated 12 Oct 1810,

Whereas the undermentioned Non-commissioners, officers, and privates, belonging to the Bridgwater Local Militia, now assembled for Training and Exercise at Bridgwater aforesaid, have neglected to join the same, and have been therefore deemed Deserters from the said Regiment. These are therefore to require all Constables, Tythingmen and other His Majesty's Peace Officers

to apprehend all and every the said Deserters, if they can be found, and to carry them before some Deputy Lieutenant, or Justice of the Peace, that they may be dealt with according to Law.

Name	Place of Abode	Rank	Trade	Age	Height
John Hutchinson	Bridgwater	Serjeant	Labourer	28	5 10
Thomas Lee	Ditto	Corporal	Ditto	53	5 10
William Griffiths	Ditto	Private	Ditto	19	5 6
Mark Bennett	Ditto	Ditto	Hatter	22	5 3
James Dyke	Ditto	Ditto	Wheelwright	17	5 4
John Lake	Ditto	Ditto	Labourer	24	5 7
William Holton	Ditto	Ditto	Shoemaker	19	5 0
James Coles	Enmore	Ditto	Ditto		
James Hosier	Middlezoy	Ditto	Ditto	22	5 2
Arthur Brownsea	N Petherton	Ditto	Ditto	25	5 7½
John Stacy	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto		
Jonah Baker	Old Cleeve	Ditto	Ditto	22	5 10 ¼
Joseph Clifford	Shepton Mallet	Ditto	Clothier	21	5 5 ¾
John Stark	Ditto	Ditto	Taylor	21	5 6 ½
Israel Webb	Ditto	Ditto	Clothier	36	5 3
William Tiller	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto		
Emanuel Cattle	Gotten	Ditto	Labourer	19	5 5
George Long	Overstowey	Ditto	Ditto	20	5 4
Joseph Tucker	Emborough	Ditto	Taylor	21	5 4 ¾
George Vater	High Littleton	Ditto	Labourer	22	5 5
Richard Weaver	Westmonckton	Ditto	Ditto	23	5 2 ½
David Silway	Paulton	Ditto			
John Lloyd	Bridgwater	Ditto			

1. Lost in 1777 by W. Hardy of Barnstaple.
2. An example where a third party was mentioned is that of Elizabeth Foot, wife of John Foot of Langport. She eloped with a soldier.
3. *Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury* notice dated 7 June 1768.
4. For an example see the *Taunton Courier* 7 June 1810.

PAUL MANSFIELD

89. LEPIDOPTER LORE. A legend apparently first recounted by the historian Paulus Diaconus (c.720 – c.799) has it that, while out hunting one day, the Frankish king Guntram (561 – 592) was overcome by tiredness and fell asleep under a tree not far from a mountain. A watching servant saw a strange creature emerge from the sleeping king's mouth and make its way down to a nearby stream. This it tried in vain to cross, until the servant laid his sword from bank to bank to form a bridge. Once safely on the other side of the stream, the creature proceeded to an opening in the mountain, then returned over the sword bridge and into the mouth of the sleeping king. On waking, he told of a marvellous dream he had just had, in which he crossed a river by an iron bridge and entered a mountain,

where he discovered a vast treasure. When the servant told his side of the story, both decided to dig in the mountain. Here they found much gold and silver, which the king donated to the Church.

Transmitted from one medieval author to another, this story entered the vernacular tradition of many lands, to be recorded by folklorists of the nineteenth century and their successors. According to Hans-Jörg Uther, an important authority on the subject, variants have been collected in Ireland, Scotland, Iceland, the Netherlands, France, Germany and many countries to the east, even as far afield as India, Korea and Japan.

Given the wide distribution of what is one of the oldest European traditions, it is not surprising that different sub-types have arisen. Those of interest for present purposes are as follows: (1) versions ending in the discovery of treasure, much as narrated above; (2) versions in which the weather-beaten skull of a dead horse is the destination of the creature emerging from the mouth of the sleeper, who on awaking tells of a visit to a wonderful mansion; (3) versions in which, while crossing water, the *alter ego* is in danger of drowning, an experience that not surprisingly causes the dreamer much distress, not only while he sleeps, but also after he awakes.¹ In addition, it seems appropriate to posit yet another sub-type, (4), in which the *alter ego* enters a hole, which the sleeper's companion blocks with the end of his staff for a time. When the sleeper awakes, he tells of a dream in which he was imprisoned by his companion in a dark cave, and could not regain consciousness until released.

Easily accessible specimens of sub-type (2) are for instance to be found, for twentieth-century Ireland, in Maurice O'Sullivan's *Twenty Years A-Growing* and, for medieval France, in Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie's *Montaillou*.² Interestingly, this latter version appears to contain the germs of our (3) and (4). As for (1), quite a close approximation was recorded for Scotland about the middle of the nineteenth century.³ Although my readers will have noted that England is not included by Uther in the above list of countries in which the tale is to be found, our sub-type (4) was in fact recorded in Lincolnshire in 1859.⁴ Moreover, an example of sub-type (3) was collected by W. F. Rose from an old man and his wife at Worle in Somerset, and published in the present journal in 1893, under the heading

‘Absence of Soul from Body’. Here now is an excerpt from Rose’s note:

I had a long account from an aged man, which his wife entirely confirmed, of two labouring men who after their *al fresco* dinner sat down beside a pond. One dropped off to sleep, and the other noticed a butterfly flitting over the surface of the water, and at times touching it. Whenever the butterfly touched the water, the sleeping man was observed to start. On waking he said that he had had a fearful dream – that someone had been trying to drown him, and that he was most thankful to awake.⁵

One of the things that strike us here is that the sleeper’s *alter ego* takes the form of a butterfly. It has to be added that Rose’s account is not alone in this, since the same insect is mentioned in some other variants, though Paulus Diaconus himself is unspecific about the nature of the emerging creature, which elsewhere can for instance manifest itself as a bee or lizard.

The idea of the human soul as a butterfly or moth, but also as a bee, is doubtless even more ancient than the tale-type under discussion.⁶ It surfaces again and again in vernacular tradition, arguably inspiring Thomas Hardy in his poem ‘Something Tapped’ to associate a nocturnal vision of the beloved’s face in a window with a moth presumably attracted by the light burning within:

I rose and neared the window-glass,
But vanished thence had she;
Only a pallid moth, alas,
Tapped at the pane for me.⁷

Rather closer to the tale told by Paulus Diaconus, and perhaps underlying it, is the widespread tradition that a sleeping person must not be wakened too suddenly lest his soul have insufficient time to return to his body. A County Tyrone source expresses the idea like this: ‘Don’t arouse a sleeper roughly in case his soul has not returned. Otherwise, the sleeper’s mind may never be normal again.’⁸ A good example of the same belief is provided by the following Scottish Highland account, published in the late 1880s:

A young lad was sleeping outside on a sunny slope one day, and somebody came upon him and roughly wakened him. The lad was practically insane thereafter, but a skilled person was consulted. He directed that the lad should a year exactly from the former time again sleep where he was before, and be allowed to waken of his own accord. This was done, and, as he slept, the wondering onlookers saw a beautiful bee coming along and enter the lad’s mouth. When he awoke he was perfectly sane and sound.⁹

Consider also Thomas Hardy's tale 'The Superstitious Man's Story'. Of the five strange occurrences apparently presaging William Privett's death in that tale, one is the emergence of an insect referred to as a *miller moth* or *miller's soul* from his mouth as he sleeps.¹⁰ Whereas in the tale-type discussed above, the *alter ego* generally returns to the sleeper's mouth, thus ensuring his survival, in Hardy's story there is no such return, and Privett is found by the companion who has been watching over him to have died in his sleep. In a letter of 20 May 1924 Hardy wrote of all this to E. B. Poulton:

The incident of the 'miller moth' flying out of the man's mouth at the moment of his death – supposed to be his soul – is or was a belief in this county [Dorset] ... How old the superstition may be I do not know. The old lady who told me [possibly Hardy's mother] said it happened in her childhood, & that would have been about 1820. The common white moth is still called a "miller's soul" by the peasantry, for obvious reasons.¹¹

How obvious are the reasons, though? Why folk speech can refer to lepidoptera as *souls* should admittedly be clear enough by now. That the tendency is not peculiar to Dorset is shown by the use of the same name elsewhere in England,¹² but also beyond, as evidenced by French *âme*, Sardinian *spiritu*, modern Greek *psychí*, *psychári*, Russian dialectal *dushinka*, *dushechka*, literally 'little soul', alongside the Standard *babochka*, arguably a diminutive of *babka*, 'grandmother', the hypothesis being that the creature is seen as the reincarnation of an ancestor's soul, much as with Rhaeto-Romanic *mammadonna* and Swedish *käring-själ*, literally 'old woman's soul'.¹³ None of this can, however, explain the Dorsetshire connection with millers. In his story Hardy does point to the coincidence that William Privett had worked in a mill for several years of his boyhood. More to the point for present purposes is that the moth as described by Hardy is white.

Dorset is, or was, far from alone in associating white, 'floury' lepidoptera with millers, as a brief onomasiological survey now will show. One source of relevant names is for instance a type of childish rhyme in which 'flour' is demanded of captured white moths or butterflies with mealy wings. Hence the Sardinian *faghefarina*, from the formula *Faghe farina, si non ti occo*: 'Make flour or I'll kill you.' Logically enough, such butterflies and moths were known as 'millers', as in the Turinese *mulinara* and its analogues elsewhere in Italian dialects, or the

many counterparts in German folk speech, from *Müller* through *Millermahler* to the even more polysyllabic and tautologous *Müllnermüllnermahler*.¹⁴ Compare English *miller-doustipoll*, that is, 'dusty-head', once current in parts of southern England alongside the Wiltshire *millardy-mollard*, which features in a rhyme from that county: *A millardy-mollard, a ten o'clock scholar, What makes you come so soon?*¹⁵

In fact virtually any largish white moth or butterfly was referred to as a *miller*, whence various rhymes hinting at sharp practice in the mill. Here is a representative version noted by William Barnes: *Millery, millery, dowsty poll, How many zacks hast thee a-stole? Vow'r an' twenty an' a peck, Hang the miller up by's neck*. Having caught such a moth and thus interrogated it on its alleged taking of toll, children, Barnes tells us, would make it plead guilty, and then condemn it.¹⁶ Much, one might add, as their Sardinian counterparts did, or threatened to do, with the *faghefarina* referred to above.

Admittedly without the lines containing a death sentence, such rhymes seem to have been directed by Devonshire children at the miller himself, though doubtless when he was out of earshot. From the southern part of the county comes: *Miller, O miller, O dowsty poll! How minny zacks hast thee a-stawl?* From north-west Devon comes the very similar: *Millerdy, millerdy, dowsty poll, How many pecks hev you a-stole?*¹⁷ If nothing else, such rhymes are a repository of now forgotten attitudes to millers in local communities.

A good deal more could be said of lepidopter lore and the names that are often a key to it. What for instance lies behind the Standard name *butterfly*? A couple more examples will, however, suffice. In popular tradition the presence of a moth can be a sign that news, generally good news, is on the way. Thus a Taunton informant stated in 1922 that a person around whom a moth flew would soon receive a letter. Rather more specifically, from Bradford-on-Tone came in the same year the report that, if a moth flew round a lamp once, a postcard would arrive next day, while two circuits of the lamp betokened a letter, and three a parcel. Relevant beliefs from other parts of Britain are along similar lines, as are counterparts from farther afield, as indicated by Lepidopter names such as the French *porte-nouvelle*, *nouvelle*, *bonne nouvelle*, the Portuguese *boa nova*, and Provencal *visito*. Returning to south-western England

we encounter the Hampshire belief that, if you kill a miller-moth as it flies round a lighted lamp, you will get a letter next day.¹⁸

This item from Hampshire calls to mind the disturbing but well-attested West Country tradition that a person seeing his first butterfly of the year must kill it 'for luck'. Of course this can be expressed the other way round. In other words, if you neglect to kill the first butterfly you see, you will have *bad* luck.¹⁹ Despite such negative formulations, there is little in this superstition or custom, *pace* Riegler,²⁰ to suggest that the butterfly is essentially viewed as a bad omen and must for that reason be destroyed, any more than there is, say, in the Manx belief that the first bumble bee of the season must be caught and taken to the fishing 'for luck', or in the similar Scottish one that such an insect caught and kept in one's purse will ensure solvency.²¹ To me it seems rather that for an age less fastidious than our own the butterfly, like the bumble bee, was a symbol of hope and opportunity that must be grasped without hesitation, whatever might happen to the insect itself. Note that it was the *first* butterfly or bee that was thus sacrificed. Popular tradition was much preoccupied with such 'firsts'.²² The first water of the year brought luck,²³ as did the first straw hat of summer,²⁴ or the first star of evening. Or, as a Taunton informant put it in 1922: 'The first butterfly you see of the year, wish. If you can catch it, you will have luck.'²⁵

1. Hans-Jörg Uther, 'Guntram', *Enzyklopädie des Märchens*, 6 (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1988), 305-11. For information on Japanese variants, see Kurt Ranke, 'Biene', *Enzyklopädie des Märchens*, 2 (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1979), 305.
2. Maurice O'Sullivan, *Twenty Years A-Growing* (London: Oxford University Press, 1955), pp. 13-15; Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1980), pp. 351-52.
3. Sabine Baring-Gould, *A Book of Folklore* (1913; rpt. Pulborough: Praxis, 1993), pp. 18-19; Katharine M. Briggs, *A Dictionary of British Folk-Tales* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1991), B, 2, 583-84.
4. *Ibid.*, 524; Ernest W. Baughman, *Type and Motif-Index of the Folktales of England and North America* (The Hague: Mouton, 1966), p. 196, Motif E721.1.2.4.
5. *Ibid.* 524-25, cited from W. F. Rose, 'Worle Notes', *Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset*, 3 (1893), 235-36.
6. French examples in Paul Sébillot, *Le Folklore de France: La Faune* (1904-06; rpt. Paris: Imago, 1984), pp. 340-41; Japanese in Lafcadio Hearn, *Kwaidan* (Frankfurt am Main: Rütten and Loening, 1921), pp. 135-59.
7. *The Complete Poems of Thomas Hardy*, ed. James Gibson (London: Macmillan, 1981), p. 464, no. 396.
8. Loreto Todd, 'County Tyrone Folk-Beliefs', *Lore and Language*, 1, 7, (July 1972), p. 6.
9. Steve Roud, *The Penguin Guide to the Superstitions of Britain and Ireland* (London: Penguin, p. 415, cited from Alexander Macbain, 'Highland Superstition', *Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness*, 14 (1887-88), 232-72.
10. Thomas Hardy, *Life's Little Ironies*, ed. Alan Manford (Oxford: Oxford University Press,

- 1996), p. 182.
11. Ibid., p. 264.
12. Joseph Wright, *The English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905; rpt. London: Oxford University Press, 1970), 5, 629-30.
13. Richard Riegler, 'Schmetterling', *Handwörterbuch des deutschen Aberglaubens*, 7 (Berlin and Leipzig: de Gruyter, 1935-36), 1241-43; Max Vasmer, *Russisches etymologisches Wörterbuch* (Heidelberg: Winter, 1976-80), 1, 35; Terence Wade, *Russian Etymological Dictionary* (London: Duckworth, 1996), p. 19, where an alternative etymology for *babochka* is also tentatively suggested.
14. Ibid., 1239-40.
15. Wright, op. cit., 4, 112.
16. William Barnes, *A Glossary of the Dorset Dialect* (1886; rpt. St. Peter Port: Stevens-Cox, 1970), p. 82; cf. Wright, op. cit., 4, 113, with comparable rhymes for Shropshire, Hampshire and north-west Devon.
17. Ibid., 2, 217.
18. Ibid., 4, 113.
19. Opie and Tatem, op. cit., p. 51.
20. Riegler, op. cit., 1251.
21. Opie and Tatem, op. cit., p. 47.
22. Roud, op. cit., p. 193.
23. Opie and Tatem, op. cit., pp. 427-29.
24. Roud, op. cit., p. 440.
25. Opie and Tatem, op. cit., pp. 376 and 51 respectively.

J.B. SMITH

90. LARGE SCALE FARMING IN SOUTH DORSET DURING THE LATER SEVENTENTH CENTURY. Some material among the papers of the Awdry family of Chippenham which are in the Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office at Trowbridge add further information to an article on 'Economic pressures and village desertions in south Dorset' which appeared in *SDNQ*, XXXIII, 1991, 3-6.¹ This described the string of deserted sites along the Winterborne valley south of Dorchester, and the 'engrossment' or amalgamation of farms whereby tenants were evicted and settlements deserted in the interests of ever-larger sheep flocks. By the time of the Hearth Tax returns of 1662-4 the effect of this process in the Winterborne valley were only too obvious. Winterborne Farringdon was completely deserted and the church was a ruin. Winterborne Herringston had only three households, Winterborne Came had two households, while the settlement at Whitcombe was already virtually deserted.²

Much of the land in these parishes was farmed by one man, Melchisedek Gillett. The final result of the amalgamation of farms and the scale of farming conducted by Melchisedek Gillett can be seen in his will and probate inventory of 1680.³ By the time of his death Gillett was farming most of the land in

Winterborne Came and Whitcombe and also possessed land at Jordan on the coast, Watercombe, Bompston, West Stafford, Cipton and Coker's Frome, together with additional grazing land in Somerset. Melchisedek Gillett's daughter, Edith, had married Henry Arnold of Ilsington, near Puddletown in 1651.⁴ A century later the Revd Dr Henry Arnold, a canon of Wells cathedral, married Ann Awdry, daughter and co-heiress of Ambrose Awdry, a wealthy Wiltshire landowner. On her death, the Arnold family records, including material relating to Melchisedek Gillett, passed to the Awdry archive.

Gillett's wealth and possessions at the time of his death in 1680 were valued at £4,672. 7s. 10d, and his farming enterprise was enormous. He possessed a well furnished house at Came, with eight hearths and five bedrooms, including a chamber for men servants containing five bedsteads. There were extensive farm buildings and vast numbers of 'things belonging to husbandry'. He had 20 bushells of pease in store and unspecified quantities of cheese, bacon and malt, together with a particularly well-equipped kitchen. The inventory lists 3,216 sheep valued at £1,239. 8s., and 109 cattle of all sorts including 68 milking cows at Bompston Mead, 16 at Whitcombe and 26 at Came. There were 33 horses, including five plough teams, 14 lean pigs and three fat ones at Came valued at £12, four stocks of bees, poultry, firewood and a furze rick. The inventory was compiled on 8 Sept, 1680, and already 514 acres 'of new corne of all sorts' had been sown, and large, though unspecified, quantities of corn and hay were in store. As well as 'sulls' or ploughs, plough teams and their harness, his farming equipment included several wagons, 'putts' or dung carts, numerous 'eythes' or harrows, 'drags' or heavy harrows, rollers, sieves, winnowing sheets, sacks and 'barne shovells'. Like most wealthy contemporaries, he had large sums of money loaned at interest to numerous creditors. £1,136. 8s. 4d. was lent on the security of 'good bonds' and £711. 8s. 2d. 'on bad security' no doubt at a much higher rate of interest.

Melchisedek Gillett was evidently a cautious, careful man, much concerned to husband his wealth and anxious to make elaborate arrangements for its disposal. His long and detailed will was dated 18 May 1680 and was proved on 1 July 1680. He left small sums of money to the poor and to the churches at Whitcombe, West Knighton and Dorchester, 10s to the poor at

Winterborne Came, 2s 6d. to each of the almsmen at Dorchester, and £2 to 'my servant Angell Besse'. His godchildren received 2s. 6d. each, and a few impoverished relatives were left small amounts. He expressed no particular affection or regard for his wife for whom he claimed 'I have made competent provision', and he left her two copyhold tenements at Whitcombe, together with 'one of my best feather beds, three paire of my best sheetes, one rug, one paire of blankets, two bolsters, two pillows and pillow ties'. His two eldest daughters, Jaquetta and Christian, received only small bequests on the grounds that he had already made adequate provision for them when they were married. His youngest daughter, Edith Arnold, was clearly his favourite, he had provided a dowry of £1,000 when she had married, and it was to Edith, her three sons and three daughters, that the bulk of the estate was left. She had named her eldest son Melchisedek and her younger son Gillett, and Melchisedek Arnold was especially favoured. He was left much property including 'the sheep leaze or pasture called Watercombe Down' worth £40 per annum, and the tithes of Whitcombe 'which I purchased of John Tregonwell, Esq'. He resided at Winterborne Came, and the genealogy of the Arnold family compiled by John Hutchins shows that Melchisedek Arnold 'of Came' died in 1719.⁵

Melchisedek Gillett had obviously lived frugally and had amassed a great fortune, but although he was farming on such a massive scale, controlling so much land and employing so many labourers, he continued to be described, both in his will and in his inventory as 'yeoman', and his wearing apparel was valued at no more than £10. He was buried in the churchyard at Whitcombe where his tombstone bore the inscription '*Hic jacet corpus Melchisedek Gillett aetatis 75 qui obit 6 September 1680 et Christianae 1^{ae} uxoris ejus*'.⁶ His farming enterprise dominated the parishes around Winterborne Came and left little room for small tenant farmers, some of whom had no doubt become labourers and drove the plough teams which were listed in Gillett's inventory. It was this ruthless process whereby smaller farms were swallowed up by the major landowners that was later to be deplored by the poet William Barnes who, as rector of Winterborne Came, would have been well acquainted with the scene of Melchisedek Gillett's farming activities and with its results.

‘Then ten good dearies (dairies) were a-ved
 Along that water’s winden bed,
 An’ in the lewth o’ hills an’ wood
 A half a score farm-housen sttod :
 But now – count all o’ m how you would,
 So many less do hold the land –
 You’d vind but vive that still do stand,
 A’comen down vrom gramfers’.

- 1 I am indebted to Stephen Hobbs for showing me these papers.
- 2 J.Hutchins, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset*, 3rd ed., 1861-70, II, 519-22 ; C.A.F. Meekings, *Dorset Hearth Tax Assessments 1662-4*, 1951, 16-18.
- 3 Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office 873/100. The original will is in TNA, PCC 164 Bath.
- 4 *Visitation of Dorset 1677*, Harleian Society, 117, 1977, 1, 89, 99. The marriage settlement is included in the papers at WSRO 873/100.
- 5 Hutchins, *op.cit*, II, 618.
- 6 Hutchins, *op.cit*, II, 518.

J.H.BETTEY

BOOK REVIEWS

Liz Grant, *The Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's) 1685-1959* (Somerset Books, 2004). ISBN 086183 491 7, 160pp, illustrated, £19.95. Foreword by Major General P.J. Bush OBE. This book was produced after Liz Grant, an archivist at the Somerset Record Office, spent a year cataloguing the archives of the S.L.I. at Obridge Road thanks to a project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This book covers all of the major events in the history of the regiment from its inception in 1685 through to the amalgamation with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in 1959. The regiment has had a colourful history receiving its first battle honours in 1704 at the siege of Gibraltar and ever since it has been involved as a tool of political power in Britain's colonial history. However, it was not until 1782 that the regiment became officially associated with the county and many of the illustrations in this book reflect this association over the last 170 years. Many of these illustrations have never before been imprint and leave little to the imagination, conjuring up a picture of a world which although long past has now been brought to light thanks to this selection of images by Liz Grant. The watercolours showing Amir Dost Mahomed Khan, the entrance to the Bolan Pass, and the bazaar in Kabul, are just a

few images from the pre-photographic period, many of which will be of equal interest to geographers as well as military historians. This volume contains over 140 illustrations varying from a recruiting poster to some very crude sketches of the Zulu Wars, from the interior of the officers' quarters to prisoner of war camps, from a 17 ft. deep shell hole to an exercise on Exmoor.

The chronological arrangement of the text (with occasional diary extracts) is easy to follow and is broken down into nine chapters, all of which are well-balanced and equally well illustrated. The text is both factual and concise, although with surprisingly few references to individuals of outstanding merit; it includes portraits and details of William Knox Leet, Lieutenant George Albert Cairns, Private J. H. Silk, Captain Simon Latutin and Private T.H. Sage. In addition to the main history is a tenth chapter on Somerset's militia and territorial forces but disappointingly the publisher has not included an index, bibliography or details of the records that have been catalogued. This is however a fine addition to the published material on the S.L.I. and one which reflects the broad scope of regimental activity through all periods of time from India to South Africa, China to the Somme, and the West Indies to the Mediterranean. At £19.95 this offers good value for money because of the number of illustrations and the quality of both the text and production.

A.J.W.

Barnes, William, Orra: *A Lapland Tale*, introduction by Ken Griffiths (Fiducia Press, 2005), pp. 48. £.7.00, From Fairfield Rd, Southville, Bristol BS3 1LG. This book is a reprint (the first, I believe) of a narrative poem originally published by J. Criswick of High West St, Dorchester, in 1822. It was written by a twenty-one year old, self educated solicitor's clerk who was lodging above Mr Hazard's pastry-cook shop, and one who had recently fallen hopelessly in love.

'Hopelessly', because James Miles, a customs officer, did not at all approve of Barnes as a suitable match for his daughter, Julia. The young man was poor, had no profession and few prospects. Barnes's answer to these implied criticisms was to publish this narrative poem about a tragic love set in Lapland.

He obtained his local colour from Guiseppi Acerbi's *Travel through Sweden, Finland and Lapland to the North Cape* (1802), which I suspect was leant to him by the Rev. J.H. Richman, Rector of St Peter's Church, Dorchester.

The story tells how Orra, a Lapland maiden, is courted by Lawo, from one of the mountain tribes. She falls in love with him at first sight but their conversation is interrupted by her father who makes it plain that another suitor is preferred, one who possesses deer 'thick as the stars in heaven'. On hearing this, Lawo gives up and spreads his sail. In desperation, Orra goes after him but is stranded on a barren island when her little boat is swept out to sea.

*She senseless fell with horror and despair,
Nor can she gain her boat if she should leap
Down from the rocky height into the deep:
Oh! no! 'tis death to go, 'tis death to linger there.*

In which melodramatic extremity Barnes leaves her. The story is told in sixty-five stanzas and illustrated by the author.

Presumably the piece was meant to induce Miles to sympathise with the sincerity of Barnes's motives as a suitor, and the poignancy of his situation as a lover. Moreover it served to demonstrate that the writer was an educated man, one who could quote Virgil and Dryden, and supply erudite little notes concerning the domestic life of the Lapps. Above all it showed that Barnes was unusually talented, both as poet and artist. Miles remained unimpressed. It was not until five years later, when Barnes had established a successful school in Mere, Wilts, that he agreed to the marriage.

The style of the poem is derivative and echoes much verse of the period, particularly that of the *Lyrical Ballads* of Wordsworth and Coleridge. Nevertheless, Orra is a remarkable achievement for one in Barnes's humble situation, though it has more biographical than literary interest.

Lovers of Barnes will be grateful to Fiducia Press for bringing out this poem which is not easily obtainable elsewhere. The original woodcuts are reproduced, and the printing and paper are excellent.

ALAN CHEDZOY

Brigitte Brauch-Velhorn, 'The Reception of Thomas Hardy in Germany,' Part 2,

The Thomas Hardy Year Book, No. 34, ed. G. Stevens Cox and Nicola Harris (Toucan, Guernsey, 2004), 192 pp., illus., £18 (£12.50 including post for subscribers), UK ISSN 0082 – 416X.

The author has shown remarkable ingenuity and perseverance in tracking down responses, both written and broadcast, to Hardy's work as received over the decades in German-speaking countries. Theses, critiques, reviews, comments, notices, entries in works of reference are presented chronologically according to their kind, with full bibliographic details, followed by Brauch-Velhorn's detailed summaries, explanations and reactions. Many of the reviewers' remarks that she has assembled are given in the original German and then carefully translated. It has to be said, though, that even the most competent linguist needs support when straying from his or her mother tongue. Such support should have been given by the editors of this volume. Unfortunately for both author and reader, they clearly failed. On the other hand the numerous illustrations, reflecting various aspects of Hardy's reception in Germany, are a bonus. They themselves speak volumes.

Unlike German in this country, English is widely taught and understood in Germany. While there may well be a message in this for complacent Anglophones, a measured response is still called for, since subtleties of style and milieu can escape readers over-confident of their proficiency in a language they mistakenly consider 'easy'. Such victims of their own superficiality will also tend to apply their own yardsticks (*Heimatkunst*, *Blut- und Bodenliteratur*, or even third-rate popular fiction as produced by the prolific Hedwig Courths-Mahler) rather than assess Hardy's work on its own terms and within its own context. Not surprisingly, then, some of the items we find here are trivial or misguided, as when one commentator mistakes Hardy for his namesake the Radical reformer (1752-1832).

At the opposite end of the spectrum are critiques, notably by Georges Waser and Heinz Ohff, in which every word carries weight. Waser considers the visual impact of Hardy's language, not least on film-makers. Equally responsive to the visual, Ohff

gives the title 'Black-and-White Photograph of a Painting' to his 1989 review of *The Return of the Native*, rendered shortly before by Dietlinde Giloi. As might be divined from this, his message is that the colour of Hardy's language is lost in Giloi's translation. For instance, the dialect, which contrasts so strikingly with the narrative in Hardy's work, is mainly translated by Giloi into Standard German, with occasional 'jargon-insertions' (whatever that might mean). In fact, Hardy's dialect passages provide an insuperable problem for his translators, who understandably shy away from seeking an equivalent variety of German and thus transferring Dorset to Mecklenburg or wherever. They usually compromise by adopting some form of colloquial, lacking in marked regional associations.

Hardy's dialect is of course far from being the only problem. His very titles baffle. Take *Jude the Obscure*, in which *obscure* has been much debated, but *Jude* more so, since as it stands it means 'Jew'. As for the narrative, Ohff illustrates the problems by referring to Hardy's description of Arabella Donn, handsome, but a little coarse in skin and fibre. How does one translate *fibre*? And indeed, what precisely did Hardy mean by it? Since, while pointing up the problem, Ohff offers no easy solution, Frau Brauch-Velhorn gamely provides two colleagues' attempts, described by her as 'excellent', at rendering the relevant passage. In one of these, we note, Jude receives as an airborne billet-doux from Arabella not just a well-aimed lump of offal from the pig's innards she has been washing in a stream, but also the bladder, thankfully not part of the salvo in Hardy's text.* Such straightforward factual errors – and plenty there are in the translations I have studied – are avoidable. We must, however, concur with Ohff, as translated by Frau Brauch-Velhorn, that few if any renderings will ever succeed in conveying Hardy's 'musicality, his narrative rhythm, the indefinable that makes a writer a poet'.

* Before throwing the offal, Arabella has cut off the bladder. In the texts of 1903 and 1912 the bladder has also been excised, but by a different hand.

Flora Fraser, *Princesses; the six daughters of George III* (John Murray, 2004,. Pp. 476).

This is a magnificent tome. The profligacy and irregular marriages and alliances of George III's eight sons have long been known and copiously documented but the virtue, talent and affection of his six daughters have been little recognized or regarded. Flora Fraser has researched widely in archives in Germany, America and Scotland, but notably in the Royal Archives, Windsor Castle, and the private collection of Harcourt MSS. Lady Harcourt of Nuneham Courtney was the friend who had known all their secrets, to whom all had written their most intimate confidences which reveal just how admirable these hard pressed women were under the strain of keeping up appearances with a mad father and a mother deeply anxious and embittered. The Queen had borne a child a year for fifteen years to the King who in his illness did not recognise her but rambled on about, and endeavoured to pursue other women.

After recovering from his first attack in 1789 he had planned to go to Hanover to find husbands for his daughters but Dr. Willis advised instead 'a few dips in the sea', and the King seems to have chosen Weymouth because his brother the Duke of Gloucester already had a house there. Bathing, sailing, concerts and going to the play in the company of his wife and pretty daughters suited the King very well, and for the next twenty years 'away he would dash' to Weymouth whenever he could persuade his sometimes unwilling entourage of its desirability.

Three Dorset characters play a part in this story: Major General Thomas Garth, the general in charge of Weymouth district, Lady Ilchester, the wife of the third Earl of Ilchester, and Lady George Murray, the Earl's mother-in-law. Thomas Garth was one of the King's favourite equerries and this book shows that he was indeed the father of Princess Sophia's illegitimate son. Lady George Murray in 1808 was appointed Lady-in-waiting to the Princesses Augusta, Elizabeth and Mary and accompanied Mary and Amelia, the youngest princess, to Weymouth during the latter's last desperate search for a cure before her early death in 1810. When Lady George's daughter Caroline married the Earl of Ilchester in 1812, Lady Ilchester and her friend Mrs. Campbell were appointed ladies-in-waiting to the Queen's grand-daughter, the Princess Charlotte, heir-

apparent; the Princess seems to have preferred them to the ladies previously in charge of her. Lady Ilchester was with the Queen taking the waters at Bath, when they received the tragic news of the Princess's death in childbirth in 1817; two years later Lady Ilchester herself died from the same cause. Her mother stayed on at Melbury for most of the rest of her life, ostensibly to look after her four grand-children.

The longest lived of the Princesses was Mary who married her cousin the Duke of Gloucester, the only son of the King's brother, on 22 July 1816 when they were both forty. Just over a year later at the end of October 1817 they paid what Flora Fraser calls 'a bridal visit' to Weymouth. In a letter to the Prince Regent dated 28 Oct 1817 Mary described this visit, and 'meeting a most agreeable old lady with a wonderful memory' who told 'stories of fifty years back with a degree of cheerfulness that is delightful'. This description is similar to others of Susan O'Brien at this time. As readers of *SDNQ* will know Susan describes at great length in her journal the Gloucesters' visit to Melbury in October 1817. Flora Fraser unaccountably calls Melbury 'Nutting', but it hardly detracts from this fascinating monument to the loyalty and stoicism of George III's daughters.

[Publisher please note: it is extremely taxing trying to refer to the notes when they have no page numbers and there are no referral numbers in the text.]

SUSAN RANDS

NOTES

'WITHOUT INTEREST'? Amongst papers of the Strachey family at the Somerset Record Office is a folder¹ with a label written in the 19th century stating 'Miscellaneous letters as far as examined without interest'. As this year marks the 320th anniversary of the Monmouth Rebellion it is worth printing the following transcript for those with an 'interest' in the rebellion and Norton St Philip.

June the 27th 1685

In a skirmish with the Rebels at Phillipsnorton I Mr Thomas Clark riding in Captain Sands his Troope brough away one Bay mare about foureteene hands high the owner being killed of from her Back their in the place In witnes that the content here off is true wee have here unto set our hands [signed] Will Codrington John Davis Tho: Wyrall Robert

Muttelbery Henry Kidman

The action by Clarke to legitimately claim possession of the rebel's goods after the skirmish, with the help of the testimony of his companions, would have been worthwhile as the value of a horse at this time was in the region of at least £5.00. This document, which if it concerned any other time in history would not warrant publication, has been printed to show that yet another piece of history relating to the rebellion has come to light.

¹ SRO, DD/SH box 35 folio E.

A.J.W.

ROVELESS. Further to recent articles in *SDNQ* on the meaning of the word *roveless* and its variants, the following gives food for thought. The publication of a query by Barry Lane¹ coincided with my access to a document in The National Archives (TNA) concerning a Special Commission of Enquiry.

On 19 Jan 1575/6 an inquiry was held at Norton St Philip concerning the 'limits, metes & bounds of all the lands, tenements & possessions of William Crowche Esq. lying and existing in Wellowe'.² The enquiry discovered that William Crowch had concealed lands of the former Monastery of Cirencester of the clear annual value of £13 2s. Most entries of the lands are of the type:

Unu' Tenement' in Wellowe p'd cu' gardino quatuor acras et tres Rod prati octaginto et novem acr' terr' arr' in Australi [2? illegible words] tali Campis ibm cu' pertin' in Tenu' Johnis Buckyll per Ani liijs iiijd. (*One tenement in Wellow aforesaid with a garden, four acres and three rood of meadow, eighty-nine acres of arable land in the South [2? illegible words - ?East/West] Fields there, with appurtenances in the tenure of John Buckyll, annually 53s 4d.*)

Two other entries are pertinent:

Unu' Tentu' *roveles* [2? illegible words] tuor acr' pastur' et xxxij acr' terr' arr' in Campis p'd cu' pertin' In Tenu' Georgii Skydmore per Ani xxjs xd ...

Unu' cotagiu' *Rovelesse cont per est 1 acr' di* [1? illegible word] Tenur' Will'm Warde per Ani ijs vjd

Here we have two instances of the use of the English word *roveless* for which the scribe could not use a Latin equivalent.

The first instance causes no problems. The entry can be translated as 'one *roveless* tenement [2? illegible words] 4 acres

of pasture and 32 acres of arable land in the aforesaid fields, with appurtenances in the tenure of George Skydmore, annually 21s 10d'. 'One *roveless* tenement' may be interpreted as 'one tenement *without a house*'. There can be no suggestion here that the holding is of *rough pasture*, as J.B. Smith would have us believe³ since the land is specifically described as 'pasture' and 'arable land in a common field'. The manorial homage would not have condoned 32 acres of rough pasture within their common fields, which were exclusively for arable crops. Ploughed land in the arable field could not revert to rough pasture when the land was in fallow.

A usual translation of the second instance would be 'one *roveless* cottage containing by estimation one acre and a half [?in] the tenure of William Ward, annually 2s 6d'. What is to be made of 'one *roveless* cottage'? How can we have 'one cottage *without a house*'? An explanation may be supplied by Latham who, for *cotagium* gives 'cote, cottage,' and in addition, 'cot-land'.⁴ The OED gives for 'Cotland', 'The piece of arable land (of about 5 acres) held along with his cot by the old English cotset or cottar'.⁵ The sense of 'Unum cotagium *Rovelesse*' may therefore be 'one cotland *without a cottage*', with the meaning that the cotland had lost its cottage, or possibly that the land was held 'along with' but 'separate from' his cot or cottage.

As Barry Lane writes, 'it was important . . . to remember the origins of property'. In *Domesday Book* the use of the words translated as 'cottager' is 'almost entirely confined to the south-west counties'. For Somerset there are some 60 occurrences of the word *cottarii* for 'cottars' and 5 uses of *coscezes*, for the plural of 'cotset' or 'a cottage-dweller or cottage holder' and with four exceptions they are in manors on the eastern side of the county.⁶ Of these cottars or cotsets, three are in Wellow Hundred and another 15 in the neighbouring hundreds of Chewton, Kilmersdon and Frome. It is unfortunate that the *DB* survey excluded Wellow manor itself, but we may infer from the above that William Ward's predecessors were cottars or cotsets who held a cotland.

One difficulty is that I have not come across the use of the word 'cotland' in documents relating to northeast Somerset. Do readers have knowledge of the use of the word 'cotland' in Somerset? Have readers any comment or explanation to add

concerning 'Unum cotagium Rovelesse'?

1. *SDNQ*, part 360, p.384.
2. TNA, E 178/1942.
3. *SDNQ*, part 358, p.283.
4. Latham, R.E. *Revised Medieval Latin Word-List* (reprint, 1980).
5. *The Oxford English Dictionary*, Ed. 2 (1989).
6. Thorn, C. and F. *Doomsday Book* (1980) p.300. The authors incorrectly report the number of occurrences of 'Cottager' as 'about 20'.

COLIN J. BRETT

QUERIES

DEDICATION OF CAPLAND. It would be of interest to know the dedication of the church which was at Capland near Hatch Beauchamp. Broadway church is dedicated to St Aldhelm and St Eadburga and although Capland church was not in the detached portion of Broadway parish called West Capland, is it feasible to think that Broadway took one of its named saints from Capland when that church was closed in the 14th century? Hilary Bolitho, Broadway, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 9QY.

STATIONMASTERS AT MINEHEAD. For some time I have been researching the various stationmasters on the branch railway to Minehead. I have pinned down many of them, but the years before 1871 remain a blank in some cases. For example, at Bishops Lydeard, I know that a man named Julius Parry was in charge in 1872 and was replaced by Charles Gore in 1877, but I have been unable to find out whether Mr Parry was appointed in 1862 when the line opened or whether there was a previous incumbent. Similarly, at Crowcombe, I know that Henry Vowles was the man in charge in 1867, but I do not know how long he had been there at that time. Has anyone got any good ideas about how to research these men? I have looked at the Bristol and Exeter records at Kew, but they do not seem to record staff appointments.

I am also interested in the effect the opening of the railway had on Watchet and Williton between 1862 and 1874. How fast did these towns grow during this period - how many new industries were spawned by the coming of the iron road? Ian Coleby, 32 Holway Avenue, Taunton, Somerset.

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