
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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8. THE FURNITURE OF EMILY, 9TH COUNTESS OF CORK AND ORRERY. There is in the Somerset Record Office a duplicate of the settlement made on the marriage of the Right Honourable Richard Edmund St. Lawrence with the Right Honourable Emily de Burgh. It is dated 19 July 1853, the year of their marriage and is 106 closely and beautifully written pages a little bigger than A3, stitched together to form a book. The first 76 pages are the terms of the settlement and the rest the schedules of the estates involved, the lands and holders thereof given in great detail; they all refer to the Boyle estate.¹

The settlement is *quinque-partite*, the parties being firstly, Edmund, the 8th Earl of Cork and Orrery (1767-1856), secondly his grandson and heir, Richard Edmund St. Lawrence, Viscount Dungarvan (1829-1904) thirdly Ulick John de Burgh, 14th Earl and 1st Marquess of Clanricards and (1802-1874) and his daughter Emily (1826-1912); fourthly the Honourable John Boyle (1803-1874), the Honourable Robert Edward Boyle (1809-1854) and the Honourable and Reverend Richard Cavendish Boyle (1812-1886), younger sons of the 8th Earl, and uncles to Lord Dungarvan, and fifthly Ulick Canning de Burgh (d.1867) Lord Dunkellin, eldest son and heir of the Marquess of Clanricarde, William Francis Knatchbull, of Babington House, and Henry Thynne Lascelles (1824-1892), heir apparent to the Earl of Harewood. Lord Dunkellin was the bride's elder brother, and Henry Lascelles was her brother-in-law, having married her elder sister Elizabeth. It is not yet known why William Knatchbull should be in the frame unless he too was a brother-in-law; the husband's sisters all died spinsters.

The reason for the complexity and length of the settlement is the number of people involved; what should happen in the event of all possible deaths and all new heirs is also detailed. Initially the chief beneficiaries seem to be John Boyle, Lord Dunkellin, William Knatchbull and Henry Lascelles. Lord Dunkellin died in 1867 so his share would need to be re-allotted. The 8th Earl of Cork and Orrery died in 1856 so the vast property came to his grandson soon after his marriage. Apart from the Marston Estate and the Manor and Parish of Marston, listed separately, it consisted, according to the schedule, entirely of land in Ireland, known as the Cork Estate, the Charleville Estate, the Inhallow Estate in the county of Cork, the Kerry Estate in the County of Kerry, the Limerick Estate and the Boundon Estate.

This vast document is signed by all the persons named in the five parties. Of all the signatures that of Emily is outstanding in being particularly well formed; it is artistic, scholarly and regular, most unusual for a woman of that period, and indeed for such a young woman of any period.

Emily was the second daughter of Ulick John de Burgh, 14th Earl and 1st Maquess of Clanricarde, an ancient Norman family of many branches, and Harriet, the daughter of George Canning, one of England's most brilliant Prime Ministers. Canning's father had been disinherited by his own relatively humble father and then died soon after his son's birth and Canning had had his own way to make with the help of his uncle, and the heiress he married whose father was also a commoner, albeit a major-general; thus Harriet had no lineage to compare with her husband's but she had other virtues. As the only daughter she was doted on by both her parents and Lord Macaulay, the historian, described her as 'very beautiful and very like her father with eyes full of fire and great expression in her features. She showed much cleverness and information but I thought a little more political animosity than is becoming in a pretty woman.' She was a friend of the powerful and ubiquitous Princess Lieven who called her 'lovely and witty,'² and of the brilliant Lord Brougham; even the critical Lady Holland, whose son Henry had once courted Harriet, liked her enough to hope that Clanricarde 'will behave well to her';³ apparently people abused both his looks, manners and habits.' He was 'a typical Irish aristocrat in temperament and conduct – a good spender, a hearty but dignified drinker and a lover of low company,' particularly female company.

He was not exactly beloved by his tenantry but they turned up in great numbers at his funeral. He was a resident landlord who spent a fair proportion of his time at Portumna⁴ his family seat. Curiously, both Clanricarde and his father-in-law Canning had been clients of the notorious Harriet Wilson; Canning bought her silence concerning him, Clanricarde did not; she describes him as a 'shrewd, clever young man, possessing a good memory and much gentleness'⁵ when he was an Oxford undergraduate of nineteen. In her romantic farce *Paris Lions and London Tigers* the character of Lord Chatterbox⁶ is based on him. At the time of his marriage to Harriet on 4 April 1825 Canning was Foreign Secretary, and Clanricarde soon became

Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. After Canning's death in 1827, Clanricarde was out of politics for ten years until Palmerston, who was partial to him, became Foreign Secretary and made him ambassador to St. Petersburg in 1838. Whether Emily who was ten at the time, and her siblings, went with their parents is not known.

That Emily was unusually pretty and indeed provocative is shown by a portrait of her as a teenager by Richard Buckner which is at Harewood House.⁷ She was described by Elizabeth Davis Bancroft at this time as a 'beautiful girl of seventeen. She is very lovely, wears a Grecian braid round her head like a coronet',⁸ as indeed she does in the portrait. Others also paid tribute to her beauty still evident in the much later portrait by G.F. Watts.⁹ Although she edited the Orrery papers and wrote a small volume of *Memories and Thoughts*¹⁰ little else remains as evidence of her personality. The close friend of her later years Lady Dorothy Nevill, 'one time confidant of kings, statesman and diplomats', as her obituary said, particularly regretted that she had not written more for 'no one probably knew more about the inner social history of time'.¹¹ Her eldest son Charles Spencer Canning (1861-1920) sold the Marston Estate the year after his father's death in 1905. The complexity of his parents' marriage settlement and the difficulty of satisfying all those mentioned therein may have been a factor in this decision.

The following sales certificate of the Earl of Cork and Orrery deceased exists in the Somerset Record Office:

Messrs Walton and Lees and Christies Sales of Books, Porcelain, Furniture, Pictures etc.

Marston House Sale

Gross account realised	£5935	8	6
Christies Library Sale	£4690	4	
Porcelain	148	9	6
Furniture	2080	16	6
Pictures	4575	2	6
Marston House Sale	17408	10	6
Items of Lady Cork's	1804	17	
Christie's Library Items of Lady Cork's		17	
Christie's Furniture of Lady Cork's	1263	10	

It seems likely that the items of Lady Cork's are among the following list presumably drawn up by Lady Cork herself as the writing is so similar to that of her signature on the marriage settlement.

Marston House

Hall.

The two high-backed settees are genuine Charles II covered with old Venetian tapestry.

The two inlaid tables and set of wooden chairs are old Venetian (bought in Venice in 1860).

The high clock is old and fine of its kind (picked up in Belgium for £100).

The blue slab of table close to the staircase is of Russian manufacture said to be unique in the Country and the secret of its composition very jealously kept at the time of its presentation by Emperor Nicholas I to the Marchioness of Clanricarde, English Ambassadress.

The two Hall mantel pieces are genuine old ones found at Fetham's who fitted and supplied them with all requisites at £400 the pair.

The two Cassones [?] one red, ground floor, and the other blue 1st floor are genuine old Venetian, the blue one particularly fine, both good.

Corridor.

One particularly fine chest of drawers is old English and like the red Indian Cabinet inherited – all other chests of drawers there and all oak chests about the house were picked up in various places (the chests of drawers chiefly in France and Belgium).

Ground Floor.

The mahogany sideboard in Dining Room was bought at Duveen's.

The wooden window casing in Dining Room was picked up at Nancy.

The painted panel screen in Dining Room was bought many years ago at Pratt's a well-known dealer.

The chandelier in Library is old Venetian bought in 1861.

The wooden screen in Library is genuine very old German tho' coarse in execution.

The Chippendale chairs and card table in billiard room were bought in Bath.

The two large mirrors in empty Drawing Room are by way of being very old. The largest and most carved is undoubtedly so. The Settee

in that room is of Charles II pattern covered with old French silk picked up in Brittany. The Chippendale Chairs in this room (if any remaining) and in the Corridor are all genuine and picked up all over Somerset.

Two small gilt consoles in the little drawing room re French and very good.

One Italian console close to staircase, grey marble top, carved with angels' heads is extremely fine.

The black Japan Cabinet in Corridor was bought in Bath.

First Floor.

A fine large chest of drawers on the landing is old Italian and was bought in Venice in 1861.

All Chippendale mirrors remaining in any of the rooms and all the black oak in the large bedroom were found at different times in Somerset (and are all genuine several of the glasses having been bought in the original pearwood before gilding).

The inlaid high Cabinet in Boudoir is old Dutch Marqueterie and came from a sale of Lady Frederick Bentinck's things.

A velvet table with gilt legs in that room was inherited and said to have belonged to George IV. I believe the legs to be old mahogany under the gilding.

The brass bed in large bedroom was made at the Bordesley Iron Works and executed at a cost price on condition of the design being given up to the firm for registering. The cost (i.e. of material and necessary tools for executing only with no charge for labour) being £90 odd.

The list indicates a memory as good as her father's and an appreciation of fine furniture similar to that of her eccentric younger brother Hubert whom Dorothy Nevill used to meet often at Christie's. 'Of Dutch pictures he was an acknowledged judge and he was also well acquainted with the English eighteenth century school besides being able to say at a moment's notice in what houses most of the great portraits of that period hung'.¹⁴ 'His principle art treasure, however, is the famous jewel; originally in the Mogul's treasury at Delhi, the Hercules with the diamond sword – one of the three great Cinquecento jewels of the world'.¹⁵ This was brought back from India by Canning's son Charles who had been Governor General and was Hubert's uncle. In later life Hubert chose to call himself Hubert de Burgh Canning instead of Clanricarde, although he was the 15th Earl and 2nd Marquess, for he wished to disassociate himself from

the scandals concerning his father, possibly unjustified, and the bitter troubles with his Irish tenantry. Dorothy Nevill paints a vivid and sympathetic portrait of Emily's brother.

During their last years Emily and Dorothy lived almost next door in Charles Street where their neighbours were the Barings, the Burghcleres and Winston Churchill's mother, Jenny. Emily was 'confined to her couch' but Dorothy used to visit her three or four times a week and said that 'she combines all the qualities of a real grande dame with the very highest intellectual attainments. To me she has always been a highly valued, good and dear friend'.¹⁶

After Emily's death in October 1912 Dorothy wrote to Sir Edmund Gosse, 'My faculties have been so numbed lately that I have written no letters ... I heard from Mr Bugle that she [Lady Cork] died at 4 in the morning, I never heard anything more. There has never been a sound in the paper about her. I think it all the more extraordinary as she was certainly a great light in the world'. A few days later she saw Lady Cork's cortege as it passed her door, 'saw six wreaths', she commented, 'I suppose she was taken to Marston'.¹⁷ Not many months later Dorothy Neville herself was dead.

1. SRO, DD/BR/WJ 16 part 2 of 2.
2. Lord Sudeley, ed. *Lieven-Palmerston correspondence 1828-1856* (London: Murray, 1943), 154.
3. Earl of Ilchester, ed. *Lady Holland to her son 1821-1845* (London: Murray, 1946), 39.
4. D. Roche *Clanricarde country and the land campaign* (Woodforde, Co. Galway: Woodforde Heritage Group, 1987), 17.
5. F. Wilson *The Courtesan's Revenge* (London: Faber and Faber, 2003), 169-70, 240.
6. *Ibid.*, 240.
7. Ex inf May Redfern, Principal Curator, Harewood House Trust, 30 July 2004.
8. E.D. Bancroft *Letters from England 1846-1849* (London: Smith Elder, 1904).
9. Reproduced in M. McGarvie *The book of Marston* (Buckingham: Barracuda, 1987), plate iv.
10. *Ibid.*, 141.
11. R. Nevill, ed. *Life and letters of Lady Dorothy Nevill* (London: Methuen, 1919), 185.
12. SRO, DD/BR/WJ 16 part 1 of 2.
13. *Ibid.*
14. *Life and letters*, 185.
15. Lady Dorothy Nevill *Under five reigns* (London: Methuen, 1910), 288-89.
16. *Ibid.*, 290.
17. *Life and letters*, 287-88.

SUSAN RANDS

9. TROUBLESOME TENANTS: THE RASHLIEGHS AT MERLY, 1867-1869. In *SDNQ XXXVI*, pt 363, pp.1-9, the story of the turbulent private life of Willett Lawrence Adye (1818-78), the Squire of Merly House, near Wimborne ended with his separation from

his wife, the sale of his Dorset estate, and his death in reduced circumstances in 1878. A decade before, Adye was first forced to review his finances by his Steward, Mr James Oakley Chislett of Chislett and Son, East Borough, Wimborne. His income – about £1600 derived from his Dorset estate and an unknown sum from his West Indian plantations – was now insufficient to support the increasing demands of a growing, unhealthy family at Merly, his concealed illegitimate family, interest payments on mortgages, and his continuing expenditure. With the coaxing, support and final agreement of Chislett and his office – from whose letters in the Dorset Record Office the following events can be pieced together – Adye decided to move his family to the Isle of Wight while renting out Merly, in July 1866. The property on offer was the furnished mansion ‘with the stables, gardens, lawns and paddock, together with the shooting over 2000 acres of land embracing some capital covers, also the fishing in the river Stour, about 2 miles’ at £500 per annum. Prospective tenants came and went through the latter part of the year until the Rashlieghs agreed for the house, in February 1867.¹

The reasons why Mr William Rashliegh, of Point Stephen, Fowey, Cornwall (1817-1871) and his wife, the Hon. Catherine Stueart, daughter of the 11th Earl Blantyre took a lease on Merly for three years are not known, but correspondence suggests the healthy reputation of Merly, as well as Mr Rashliegh’s attraction to the excellent collection of Hogarths, were considerations. The Hogarths had been bought on a relatively small budget by Adye’s predecessor at Merly, Henry Ralph Willett (1786-1857) and were in Rashliegh’s opinion ‘in reality . . . the chief beauty of Merly.’ In preparation for their residency the conservatory and greenhouse in the walled gardens were repaired, and some repainting inside the house and the stables carried out but not completed by the appointed time of the Rashlieghs arrival in March. This itself was delayed into Summer by poor weather and the continued ill-health of Mrs Adye following the birth of her last child, Octavius Ellerton, on Christmas day 1866 but it allowed the works to be completed. ‘We think you will be pleased with the house,’ wrote Chislett to Mrs Rashliegh, ‘when we have the honor of seeing you here, as everything now looks very nice, we saw the housekeeper who expresses herself much pleased with everything’. The keys were finally

handed over to the Rashlieghs' housekeeper in late June 1867 and the family then remained at the house until leaving of their own accord, in Sept 1869.²

In general the correspondence from Chislett to the Rashlieghs suggests mutual respect and Chislett informed Adye that they were excellent tenants; for example they had repainted the main gates at their own expense, while re-papering the Green Bedroom with Adye's permission. At first the family came up against local hostility from the son of another of Adye's tenants, Lewer of Merly Hall, but in general became accepted in local society and held a Ball in January 1868 which 'went off well – the rooms lit up looking really splendid & the paintings were greatly admired.' At the end of their tenancy they planned a Ball for the visit of the Prince of Teck and Princess Mary of Cambridge in August 1869; this, however was eventually cancelled.³

The one issue which plagued both the Rashlieghs and Chislett's office were 'the smells' raised within two weeks of their moving in. Almost at once Mrs Rashliegh – always the protagonist in this issue – identified the drains as the source of odours which, in the Hogarth Room, even Chislett considered 'unbearable... we believe we have at last devised a remedy for it, by putting a trap at the outfalls of the drain in the room and so preventing the current of air, when the wind sets from a certain quarter blowing the foul air of the drains up into the house.' After further complaints Chislett then examined the drains from 'the closet... up to the coal cellar and we find them in capital order.' Another tack was taken: while the family were away carpenters were set work lifting floorboards. This exposed yet another problem: dry rot in some of the main timbers on the first floor, the office reporting to Adye that '... the beams under the Hogarth Room were in a very bad state from the same cause – in fact many of the principle timbers were completely off at the ends – and consequently had no bearing whatever on the smells – we are of opinion that had this serious matter not have been discovered one or two of the floor as much ere long have fallen bodily – Of an instance of the state of these timbers – Mr Chislett was at Merly this morning when he forced a stick up the inside of one of these beams – some three feet – this will give you an idea of their state – of course we are having the evil rectified – but it will cost some few pounds.' Ventilated

bricks were inserted, and repairs effected over the following months while the Rashlieghs were abroad, during which time Chislett promised Rashliegh that his office would 'examine and repair what may be necessary at Merly House during your absence & will do our utmost to make it pleasant by the return of yourself and the Hon. Mrs Rashliegh.' In late July he wrote to Adye 'the drains we have had capped and cleaned the ... closets ... thoroughly examined, the floors taken up, & the decayed rafter timbers made good. We have personally been through the whole length of the drains for the purpose of examination the result of the whole being that we cannot trace these smells to any place – So anxious have we been to cure the evil that we have staid for hours at night – owing to a means for a cure – and all to no purpose.' Chislett had also brought in 'a builder of Blandford who had considerable experience in these matters ... who ... after some 2 hours in the building he could suggest nothing.' It must have been with some relief to Chislett that on their return in early Aug 1868 'Mr and Mrs Rashliegh called into the office, they seemed very well satisfied & mentioned nothing about the smells.'⁴

After a few months peace in the Wimborne office affairs at Merly intruded most forcibly in mid November. The letter to Adye is worth quoting in full.

'You will be sorry to hear that we were this morning called early to Merly House to a fire which had broken out in the roof - & we have been engaged nearly the whole of the day in investigating the cause. The damage done is not great (say £15) & which will be covered by the insurance policy... The fire originated between the attic ceiling and the roof (Illegible) at the spot wherein the steps are placed which leads to the trap door of the roof – the ceiling of attick, heavy timbers, are burnt & by the falling burning timbers part of the attick floor is burnt – the fire was discovered by the servants rising at about 7 this morning & by the united exertions of all – indeed by a plentiful supply of water from the tank in the loft – it was got under – until one sees the hold the fire obtained on the timbers of the roof – it certainly does appear most miraculous that the whole house was not burnt down we are quite unable as yet to ascertain to the cause of the fire but so far as we have yet gone into the matter we have very great reason to believe that it was deliberately done ... Mr Rashliegh is doing all in his power to clean up the water – we have the Police assisting us.

Chislett's next three letters outline the developing situation, first to Adye on the 23rd Nov: 'we regret that we cannot for the moment think the fire was an act of carelessness – but on

the contrary a deliberate act for the purpose of burning the house down we feel you will think so as well when we state that straw and a large quantity of paraffin oil had been used & distributed over the ceiling joists in order to ensure their igniting. The Superintendent of Police thinks he has some clue to the preparation and is gone off to town after a servant who had just left Mr Rashliegh's service – & who he seems to think is the guilty party – but we fear he is quite off the scent.' A few days later he informed Mrs Adye that 'I have seen Mr and Mrs Rashliegh but can get no further [illegible] to the origin – beyond the fact of their full belief that the late House Keeper left but two days before the fire [illegible] had given some hints of recourse [illegible] & a scullery maid (now since discharged) – carried out the plan for her.' His final letter to Adye a fortnight later provided new background information: 'there is now not much to doubt but that some of the servants were culprits, we were with Mr R. this morning and what passed at the interview, we have some small hope of bringing the culprit to justice. A few nights since, when just as Mr Rashliegh's valets were putting him to bed, some person threw part of a brick at his bedroom window (your Library) which struck against the pane breaking two squares of glass. [?The evidence] point clearly to the housekeeper who has left together with one of the men servants – still in the house – but who is under notice to leave – although Mr Rashliegh states he will not allow him to go until his investigations be complete.'⁵

The fire brought Chislett visibly back into the orbit of the Rashlieghs, who continued their criticism : they 'still complain of disagreeable smells at times in the house, particularly in the Hogarth Room and the Room above it ... I cannot imagine where the smells arise – the sewer is as clean as the floor of a kitchen and quite free from smell – my idea is that the family *fancy* smells where such do not exist.' Despite Mrs Rashlieghs continual petitions nothing was done until April 1869, when a drainage surveyor was called in to make an inspection while the family was away.⁶

Despite the irritation and discomfort the family obviously felt over this matter, at no point was there any notion of the Rashlieghs terminating the lease, indeed negotiations for an extension were underway at this time. Their unscheduled departure in Sept 1869 was prompted by a decision of Adye at

the instigation of Chislett: 'we have this morning referred to your current account and there find the balance in our favour to be about £1,050.00, not that we find any fault with this, but that it so seriously cripples us in our business transactions that we can scarcely know which way to raise money which as you know is at a high rate of interest.' This placed the firm in a difficult position with other clients and the local banks 'which in a small town like this, where one's position is everything, is of material importance.' A further review found Adye paying £600 per annum to service mortgages raised on the estates. Chislett bit the bullet: 'if you allow us to express an opinion it is this, it would be well to sell the P.P for whatever much it will realise – and even part with the Hogarths rather than take up another sum of money at 6%' Adye agreed to the latter, instructing Chislett to inform the Rashlieghs of the imminent removal of 'the chief beauty of Merly' to Christies for Auction. Mrs Rashliegh's understated reply – 'it would be a serious annoyance to Mr Rashliegh that the Hogarths be removed' – did not fool Chislett, who by then must have been aware of the probable consequences but perhaps past caring, as to Adye he confided that 'we really are quite tired of hearing about the smells in some of the rooms!' Chislett was not to be disappointed; on his return Rashliegh promptly terminated the lease a half year early, at Michaelmas 1869, and within a few days of his letter Chislett was packing eleven pictures – including six *Marriage a la Mode* – for transport by rail to London.⁷

Subsequent correspondence is concerned with compiling and checking inventories, attempts to sell the billiard table, carriage horses, and 'a quantity of note-paper stamped Merly House, Dorset', although on a friendlier note Chislett thanked Rashliegh for 'your kind present of a game pie which I hope to enjoy much – it being a rare treat'. The discussions were heated, especially after Mrs Adye visited the house to find, to her annoyance, a door altered – an item which, with some new carpets, the Rashlieghs impudently charged to Chislett – and new curtains where the old ones were considered preferable. The family having left, the wrangling continued into May 1870, at which point Rashliegh was offered £18 from Chisletts 'in settlement of the claim in order to close the matter'. With his acceptance, the association of William Rashliegh and his family with Merly came to an end.⁸

But the smells had not gone, and work to find their source continued, while also searching for a new tenant. Both appear to have been found simultaneously, for in a letter at the end of the year Chisletts wrote triumphantly to Willett Adye that ‘we have today gone over Merly House with Mr and Mrs Wentworth – the former is a jolly sort of old gentleman aged 76 years – his wife some years younger, they like Merly much – & he states that if the climate suits him he hopes to be a tenant for some time to come ... we have been to some little expense with the closet drains lead pipes &c. for on examination the soil pipes of the closet were all in holes, and of course they had smells emanating from them – they are now all right and we have every hope that the question of smells may be no more heard – we can answer that as far as drains, pipes &c are concerned there is no Mansion in the county where they are in better order’. Chislett could certainly claim the latter, while feeling, perhaps, a certain guilt in respect to the alleged ‘fancy’ of the Rashlieghs, which now proved to be correct.⁹

Soon after her husband’s death, Mrs Rashliegh wrote to Chislett asking for a plan of the reception floor of Merly, and he replied that ‘I felt very sorry indeed to hear of Mr Rashliegh’s death. I saw it at the time in the *Times*. I liked him very much – and am sure you feel this loss much’.¹⁰

The writer acknowledges with gratitude permission to quote extracts from the Chislett and Rawlence Archive, courtesy Dorset History Centre, and the help and patience of the Staff there each March from 2000 to 2004; he is also grateful to the staff of the other archive centres quoted in the text, and to Emma Ratcliff, Ian Ruse and Dr Jim Davies.

1. Dorset Record Office, D/CRL A1/1/27, folio 332 (dated 6/12/1866; Chislett to J. G. Dearden, Witham Hall, Lincs); D/CRL A1/1/27; f.447 (11/2/1867, to Mr Kemp Welch).
2. D/CRL A1/1/27; f.947 (5/11/1867, Chislett to Willett Adye); D/CRL A1/1/27, f.500 (15/3/1867), to Rashliegh; D/CRL A1/1/27, f.642 (3/6/1867, to the Hon. Mrs Rashliegh).
3. Mrs Rashliegh stated ‘*It is a great pity Mr Lewer had not spent a little more money on his education & a little less on crests and Merly Hall headings on the notepaper & such like*’ quoted by Chislett to Adye, see D/CRL A1/1/27, f.877 (1/10/1867); D/CRL A1/1/28, f.91 (17/1/1868, to Adye).
4. D/CRL A1/1/27, f.877 (1/10/1867, Chislett to Adye); D/CRL A1/1/27; f.967 (17/11/1867, to Adye); D/CRL A1/1/28, f.19 (16/12/1867, to Adye); D/CRL A1/1/28, f.208 (28/3/1868) and f.232 (13/4/1868, both to Adye); D/CRL A1/1/28, f.344 (17/6/1868, to Rashliegh); D/CRL A1/1/28, f.438 (12/8/1868 to Adye).
5. D/CRL A1/1/28, f.606 (19/11/1868) and f.613-4 (23/11/1868, both Chislett to Adye); D/CRL A1/1/28, f.622 (27/11/1868, to Mrs Adye); D/CRL A1/1/28, f.648 (15/12/1868, to Adye). *Despite all efforts Chislett informed Mrs Rashliegh some years later that the matter of the fire was never satisfactorily solved.*

6. D/CRL A1/1/28, f.622 (27/11/1868, Chislett to Mrs Adye).
7. D/CRL A1/1/28, f.895 (18/5/1869, Chislett to Adye); D/CRL A1/1/28, f.898 (21/5/1869, to Adye). The 'P.P.' was a reference to a painting by the 16th century Dutch artist Paulus Potter purchased by Ralph Willett of Merly in the late 18th century; its subsequent history is unknown; D/CRL A1/1/29, f.7 (2/6/1869, to Adye, quoting the Hon. Mrs Rashleigh).
8. D/CRL A1/1/29, ff.146 (30/8/1869) 551 (5/4/1870) and 571 (18/5/1870, all Chislett to Rashleigh).
9. D/CRL A1/1/29, f.298 (3/12/1869, Chislett to W Adye). William Wentworth died at Merly House in March 1872. He had been instrumental in the founding of Sydney, Australia, where his body was returned.
10. D/CRL A1/1/31, f.43 (29/4/1872, Chislett to the Hon. Mrs Rashleigh).

ANDREW C. SKELTON

10. ATTORNEY-GENERAL JOHN POPHAM'S PAPERS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES: DRAFT PATENTS RELATING TO RALEGH. In the course of researching a biography of John Popham, Queen Elizabeth I's Attorney-General, I have come across several boxes of draft patents, some of which seem to me to be worth local notice.

John Popham was born in about 1531 at Huntworth, near Bridgwater. After studying at Balliol College, Oxford, and the Middle Temple, he was called to the bar, acquiring a reputation for his work in real actions. He also gained some notoriety: it was said that he acted as an amateur highwayman even while practising as a barrister. Popham became MP for Bristol in 1571 and Solicitor-General in 1579. Elected Speaker of the House of Commons in the Parliament of 1581, he was in the same year appointed Attorney-General.

Popham had many connections in Somerset and Dorset. He lived at Wellington, where with his wife Amy he brought up six daughters and a son. During the 1570s he arranged excellent marriages for the girls, five of whom married into substantial families in the two counties: Penelope became the wife of Thomas Hanham of Winterbourne Zelston; Elinor of Roger Warre of Hestercombe; Jane of Thomas Horner of Cloford, near Frome; Katherine married Edward Rogers of Cannington, and Marie John Malet of Enmore. The exception, Elizabeth, married a Devon man, Richard Champernowne of Modbury, so that Popham became kinsman to Walter Raleigh.

One of the Attorney-General's duties was to check the drafts of patents to be granted by the Queen to suitors, such as Raleigh, to whom they were often given as marks of personal favour. A batch of these drafts, dating from 1581 to 1592, when Popham became Lord Chief Justice, is preserved in The National

Archives at Kew.¹ Boxes numbers 1-11 contain on average about ten rolled-up paper drafts. Some are in Latin, some English; they have been penned by clerks, but in most cases Popham has read and amended the draft before signing at the bottom of every page.

The drafts are listed in TNA's printed index, which helpfully reveals for whom the patents were intended. Among the grantees were the Earls of Leicester and Essex, Lord Howard of Effingham, Sir Christopher Hatton, Sir Francis Knollys and Lord Burghley. Two documents in particular attracted my attention, 'Sir Walter Raleigh—discovery of heathen lands', and 'Sir Walter Raleigh—customs on cloth'. It seems to me possible that these documents are largely unknown to scholars.

PRO 30/34/1. In 1578 the navigator and explorer Sir Humphrey Gilbert had been granted a patent for the exploration and settlement of the American coast. When he died at sea in 1583, his half-brother Walter Raleigh, who had been much influenced by Gilbert, applied for it. Raleigh was at this time enjoying royal favour, so he was awarded a new patent, valid for six years, entitling him to 'discover, search, finde out, and view such remote, heathen and barbarous lands, countries, and territories, not actually possessed of any Christian prince, nor inhabited by Christian people'. This document is a copy of Gilbert's patent – at one point his name has been crossed out and WR written above – and contains several alterations by Popham. A fair copy (now lost) of this document would have been made for the Queen's signature; another copy was inscribed on the Patent Roll in 1584, also at TNA.² The contrast between the immaculately official Patent Roll copy and this draft is very striking, as one can sense in the annotations the concentration and energy with which Popham approached his task. In a sense too this document is a starting-point, for the man who after 1603 took over Raleigh's role in promoting the colonisation of America was Sir John Popham. Indeed, it was he who obtained the Charter of the Virginia Company in 1606. His careful perusal of this document may well have inspired Popham's major contribution to early American settlement.

PRO 30/34/3. At about the same time as he won the Virginia patent, Raleigh was awarded the first of several patents in connection with the wool trade; one in the following year

allowed him 'the subsidy or profits on remnants and overlengths of woollen cloth in the port of London'.³ Also in 1585 Elizabeth's affection brought him another, more valuable patent, to export woollen broadcloths – and to charge duty when he did so. When it was time to renew this grant in 1587-8, the patent was sent to Popham to revise. The document consists of six pages, nos. 1-3 signed by Popham, no. 4 missing, nos. 5-7 unsigned, all quite heavily amended. It grants Raleigh licence to export 'broad woollen clothes dressed or undressed, wrought or unwrought, white or coloured, long or shorte.' This was a very lucrative business; in 1589 Burghley complained that the profits from the grant gave Raleigh an income of £3500 in the first year.

No doubt other draft patents in the Popham papers will be of interest too. Taken as a whole they form a most significant collection, revealing in detail one aspect of an Elizabethan Attorney-General's work for his entire period of office.

After eleven years in this post, in 1592 Popham was appointed Lord Chief Justice of England. He played a central part in the trials of Essex, of Raleigh himself, of the Gunpowder Plotters and Henry Garnet. In spite of his eminence, demanding work and large estate at Littlecote in Wiltshire, Sir John Popham never forgot Wellington. His charitable foundation, the Popham Hospital, carries out his intentions to this day, and Sir John and Lady Amy are remembered by a fine monument in Wellington parish church.

1. TNA, PRO 30/34.

2. TNA, PRO C66/1237.

3. TNA, E 210/10198. See also E 211/114.

4. *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic. Edward VI, Mary, Elizabeth I, and James I CCXXIX* (London, 1856-72), 101.

I am grateful to Brian Jenkins for his advice and assistance with this article. Early brief biographies of Popham are given by Thomas Fuller, *The History of the Worthies of England* (London, 1662); D. Lloyd, *The Statesmen and Favourites of England since the Reformation* (London, 1663); John Aubrey in Andrew Clark, ed., *Brief Lives* (Oxford, 1898); Anthony a Wood, *Athenae Oxonienses* (London, 1691). For family details see F. W. Popham, *A West Country Family* (Sevenoaks, 1976). Documents relating to the discovery of America are printed in full in David Beers Quinn, *New American World* (London, 1979). P. Caraman's *Henry Garnet* (London, 1964), provides a fascinating account of the Jesuit's life and death. Raleigh Trevelyan's biography *Sir Walter Raleigh* (London, 2002), is the latest account.

DOUGLAS RICE

11. WORMS. Of vital importance to farmers and gardeners, earthworms have also much to offer the student of language. How can I even begin to persuade my more fastidious readers of this? Perhaps by citing a question put to informants for a survey of English dialects that was carried out in the mid-twentieth century. It is as follows: 'What do you call those long red creatures that you turn up with your soil; hens like them?' Scanning the responses to this, we find that while in the north and Midlands the picture is rather dull, with *worm* and *grub* relieved by little else, in the south-west it becomes quite colourful, especially in Somerset and Dorset. Thus while a Wedmore informant, like many elsewhere, gave *worms* as an answer, his preferred term turned out to be *easses*. Much the same pattern emerged at Stoke St. Gregory, where *easses* was claimed by the informant there to be the older form.¹ That form was not recorded for Dorset, but a proverb from the county nicely fills the gap. It is: *The vu'st bird, the vu'st eäss*, which is as much as to say, 'First come, first served'.² In the nineteenth century, *easse* will have extended even farther than all this might suggest, and earlier still it will perhaps have been general, so far as one can judge from citations in *The Oxford English Dictionary*. What that work does not provide is an etymology.³ This we must therefore seek elsewhere.

Our search leads us ultimately to the Indo-European root **ed-*, 'to eat', to which can for instance be traced Latin *edere*, German *essen*, and our own *to eat*, all of which mean essentially the same. From the root in question there also emerges the Old English noun *aēs* and, eventually, its modern cognates, Dutch *aas* and German *Aas*, with their shared meaning of 'that which serves as food', but, more specifically, 'carrion', 'carcass'. Thus in *Beowulf* the mother of the monster Grendel, who like him dines on human flesh, is described as *aése wlanc*, 'exulting in carrion' or 'glorying in corpses',⁴ while in German the zoological term for 'carrion eater' is *Aasfresser*. Dutch *aas* and German *Aas* have also taken on the sense of 'bait', and English *easse* illustrates much the same tendency. Of course the modern sense is 'worm', as we have seen, but this will have developed gradually from the general idea of flesh as food, through that of such flesh as a lure or bait, thence in particular to a fisherman's bait, since that is bait at its most familiar, and then finally and specifically to the idea of worm, a fisherman's

bait *par excellence*. If all this seems rather much to swallow at one gulp, we may season it with Middle English *ees* for 'bait', which arguably follows on from older *aés* and foreshadows modern *easse*.⁵

Now to a different word given in reply to our question about the long red creatures turned up in the soil and liked by hens. It is *angledogs*, provided by a Dorset informant from Whitchurch Canonorum. Only two other responses are at all similar. One is *angledutches*, from Mullion in west Cornwall. The other is *angletwitch*, from Altarnun in the east of that county. Not surprisingly, similar forms have been recorded in Devon, and in the nineteenth century their range extended over the Bristol Channel to Glamorgan and Pembrokeshire.⁶ Although this rather variable word has particularly strong associations with Cornwall, we find it cropping up, as already indicated, in south Wales and as far east as Dorset. Of the forms mentioned, it is *angletwitch* that can take us farthest back, to the tenth century, to be precise, as *The Oxford English Dictionary* shows. Many of the citations given there and elsewhere suggest some sort of connection with fishing, an association also conveyed by the first element of the word, namely *angle*, the basic meaning of which is 'fish-hook'. Since the second element, *twitch*, appears to lead us ultimately to a verb meaning 'to pierce', there emerges the idea of a worm used as bait in fishing.⁷

With *palmer-worm* we have a different story. This was an incidental item provided by our Stoke St. Gregory informant, the sense being 'caterpillar'. Given that any creeping thing was once a *worm*,⁸ it is easy enough to accept that a caterpillar could be one. But what of the first element, *palmer*? In fact this by itself is a traditional name for certain destructive hairy caterpillars well known for their migratory and swarming habits. These in turn must have reminded whoever first named them thus of *palmer*s of the human kind, that is, pilgrims returning from the Holy Land. They too were remarkable for their migratory and swarming habits, but they got their name from the fact that they carried palm branches to signify their mission had been completed.

Several points are worth making here. We note first that *palmer* in its original sense of 'pilgrim' also produced a Scottish and North Country verb to *palmer*, meaning 'to wander about like a palmer or vagrant; to go about idly from place to place'.⁹

The second point is that the shift of meaning from 'pilgrim' to 'caterpillar' is not as far-fetched as it might at first seem. Consider the West Country expression *emnets*, primarily 'ants', but by association 'tourists'. If tourists can be likened to ants, because both tend to swarm, it is perhaps not surprising that pilgrims, once likewise well known for their habit of 'swarming', came to share their name with similarly gregarious caterpillars. The comparison simply operated in the opposite direction, from human to creature rather than vice versa. And finally we note that, like *easse* and *angletwitch*, *palmer* can also stir a fisherman's soul, though the meaning now seems to have shifted from 'caterpillar as bait' to 'bristly artificial fly'.¹⁰

1. H. Orton et al., *Survey of English Dialects* (Leeds: Arnold, 1962-71), IV.9.1.
2. Wiliam Barnes, *A Glossary of the Dorset Dialect* (1886; rpt. St. Peter Port: Toucan, 1970), p.35; John Symonds Udall, *Dorsetshire Folk-Lore* (1922; St. Peter Port: Toucan, 1970), p.302.
3. J. A. Simpson and E. S. C. Weiner, *The Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd edn. (Oxford: Clarendon, 1989), 5, 35.
4. Joseph Wright, *The English Dialect Dictionary* (1898-1905; rpt. London: Oxford University Press, 1970), 2, 230; Friedrich Kluge, *Etymologisches Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache*, 22nd edn. (Berlin: de Gruyter, 1989), pp1-2; Joseph Bosworth and T. Northcote Toller, *An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1898), p.19; George Jack, *Beowulf* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1994), p.108.
5. Wright, *loc. cit.*; Simpson and Weiner, *op. cit.*, 5, 78, which puts forward as an alternative to the derivation from Old English *aēs* the hypothesis that Middle English *ees* could have been adopted from Middle Dutch *aes*, 'food, bait'.
6. Wright, *op. cit.*, 1, 58.
7. Simpson and Weiner, *op. cit.*, 1, 464.
8. *Ibid.*, 20, 562. A good example is *slow-worm*, signifying a creature that by no stretch of the imagination is a 'worm' in the modern sense.
9. *Ibid.*, 11, 107; Wright, *op. cit.*, 4, 413.
10. Simpson and Weiner, *loc. cit.*

J. B. SMITH

12. THE SALT TRADE OF GUERANDE (LE CROISIC). The Guerande area of France, marked the northern limit of the regular production of sea salt in any quantity. In this area there were a considerable number of shallow saltwater lagoons where evaporating seawater left salt deposits, which, since the medieval period, were collected and traded across Europe. Some evidence remains in British records of French salt arriving in the Bristol Channel in the second half or the sixteenth century, no doubt principally for the herring fishery. In 1560-1561 French salt, known as bay salt, was entering Bridgwater *via* Ireland whilst in the 1580s and 1590s and the first decade of the seventeenth century salt from La Rochelle or 'Crossick',

(i.e. Le Croisic,) was being taken into west Wales, Milford Haven or Tenby, before then being brought over to the Somerset coast. For example salt arrived in Watchet from Milford Haven in 1602, and in Minehead from Tenby in 1603.¹ Later in the century, when war broke out between England, France and Spain in the 1620s, French privateers captured 26 English ships in the Bristol Channel, plundered Lundy in 1628, and, despite the peace, captured a coastal craft between Flatholm and Steepholm in June 1629.²

During the seventeenth century small seagoing vessels passed along the French waterways between the salt marshes and loaded their cargoes directly. However, in most cases ships stayed at the quayside and their cargoes were brought down by barges and longboats. Usually a designated crew member of the ship to be loaded with salt would check the quality and quantity of the salt before it went into the barge's hold; the salt had to be good and saleable otherwise the cargo would be refused. The length of stay of ships arriving to collect salt was brief. In most cases the unloading of vessels, the buying and the loading of salt, and the completion of paperwork for ships of 40-120 tons, took less than two weeks. The weight of salt carried in each sailing is difficult to determine since the tonnage of the vessels often varied from trip to trip as the owners sought to pay the smallest harbour dues. There are many examples, but, by way of illustration, John Gaich's *Sara* from Weymouth varied between 30 and 42 tons between 1674 and 1677. It was important for masters not to miss the tides, particularly at new and full moons, which gave favourable conditions for leaving the port. Some vessels managed the Croisic trip several times a year, for example Jack Nunn from Plymouth in the *Seaflower* made four round trips between March and Aug 1675.

For most of the seventeenth century there are few detailed records remaining in France of the salt trade with England. The names of a few English salt merchants and ships' masters do remain from the first half of the seventeenth century in various documents relating to Le Croisic, including Henry Mill and Jean (John) Robin in 1633, William Casson master and owner of the *Prosper* from London in 1637, and Thomas Hollman in 1637 and 1640, agent for the Lyme Regis merchant Richard Halfort.

Compared to the scant details of early records, the admiralty

office registers at Le Croisic detailing trade between Feb 1674 and Dec 1677, and Oct 1680 to Aug 1681, provide a wealth of information. There were 1332 vessels, and they averaged less than 40 tons, and of those 91%, some 43,000 tons, were of English origin. Some of the vessels came from as far as York and Liverpool but the south-west ports were strongly represented, especially Devon and Cornwall, and to a lesser extent Dorset, Somerset and south Wales. Heading the list of busy ports were Dartmouth, Bridport (recorded as Broadhempson, Bridhampton, Bredhamston and Broadhemston),* Topsham and Weymouth. The west country ports accounted for 31% of the exit papers, followed by Fowey 9%, Swansea 6%, and Bridgwater 4.6%.

Most British vessels reached Le Croisic under ballast, though some came with cargoes to trade. In 1674 eleven vessels arrived with coal, and some of them were Somerset vessels which had called into south Wales to pick up coal en-route. In 1677 the master of the 60 ton *Walter* wished to enter Le Croisic for salt and had 80 casks of butter to trade. Late in May or early June 1674, Gregory Tiley of Minehead arrived in the *Phoenix* with a cargo of coal, and on 8th June left with a consignment of salt. This was probably one of his last voyages, for he died in 1675 and his probate inventory survives.³ From his inventory it is clear that Tiley was relatively wealthy, with interests in the herring fishery, and he was part owner of two small fishing vessels, the *Thompsin* and the *Seaflower*, and left a 'parcel' of salt valued at £4 15s, which may have come from Le Croisic. Other Minehead vessels in Le Croisic in a sample year, 1676, were:

April	Ambroise Vos in <i>Samuel</i>	36 tons
May	Gabriel Braun in <i>Speedwell</i>	22 tons
June	Robert Hopert in <i>The Friends</i>	30 tons
June	Ambroise Vos in <i>Samuel</i>	40 tons
July	Georges Rindner in the <i>Phoenix</i>	30 tons
July	Robert Isaac in the <i>Happy Arrival</i>	65 tons
July	Walter Chauve in the <i>Esther Marie</i>	25 tons
August	Richard Wrink in the <i>John and Thomas</i>	50 tons
August	Thomas Blecq in the <i>Robin Goodadventure</i>	24 tons

Over 95% of the salt cargoes taken from Le Croisic were intended for the home ports of the vessels, but for some, Le Croisic was a port of call on the return journey from Bordeaux, Nantes or the Iberian Peninsula. The master of the *Bachelor* from Bridgwater, for example, sheltered there from bad weather in Nov 1674, en route from Lisbon with a cargo of tobacco, oil, sugar and oranges.

Table showing the number of salt vessel sailings departing from Le Croisic for Somerset and Dorset ports 1674-1677 and 1680-81

<u>Somerset</u>		<u>Dorset</u>	
Bristol	7	Bridport	3
Bridgwater	56	Broadhempston	65
Minehead	29	Christchurch	3
Watchet	4	Poole	51
		Lyme Regis	37
		Weymouth	76

The pattern of trade was disrupted between 1688 and 1697 by war between France and England. The Bristol Channel was closed because of the action of French privateers, so no French salt reached the Somerset ports. In 1692 the French ransacked English vessels off Ilfracombe, and in 1697 there were fears of French privateers operating in the Bristol Channel as far east as the Holms. The French continued to operate around Lundy in the first decade of the eighteenth century and apparently the Bristol Channel became known to them as 'Golden Bay' because of the rich plunder. However, the French did not have it all their own way. In 1710 the French privateer, *Grand Joseph*, was captured and taken as a prize into Minehead.⁴

The record of 18th century salt trading from Le Croisic is well documented with 3,677 vessels arriving between 1701-1783. However, because of wars, and privateering, the bulk of the trade was increasingly shifting towards the Baltic and away from England. Between 1674-1677 and 1680-1681, 1,214 English vessels arrived in the port but that fell to only 130 between 1720 and 1723, and 134 between 1736 and 1747. On the whole, the tonnage of the vessels arriving to take on salt was much lower than at the end of the 17th century. During the

time of political difficulty, England had developed its own rock salt trade, and that was now commercially available in most of the areas which had formerly used French salt. By the end of the 17th century Bridgwater had become an entrepôt for the rock salt trade.⁵

Between 1720 and 1723 Kentish, Sussex and Welsh vessels did not figure in the arrivals, nor did the port of Lyme Regis in Dorset. Only one vessel, the 250 ton *William* arrived from London during that period. Over half the English craft came from the Cornish ports, and from Dorset, most notably Poole from which 14 vessels arrived between 1720-1723. Some of the Poole vessels, along with those of Dartmouth and Bideford, were fully fitted out deep sea fishing vessels and had taken a detour to Le Croisic in 1721 and 1722 to pick up salt before heading off to catch Newfoundland codfish. Porlock's *Elleanor & Mary*, master Henry Webber, is one example of a Somerset vessel visiting Le Croisic at this time, which returned to Bridgwater in 1723 with 600 barrels of French salt 'for ye fishery'.⁶

Table showing the number of salt vessel sailings departing Le Croisic for Somerset and Dorset ports 1720-1723

<u>Somerset</u>		<u>Dorset</u>	
Bristol	3	Broadhemston	1
Minehead	1	Poole	14

During the period 1736-47 the English ships accounted for only 4% of the salt trade out of Le Croisic. Cornwall was the most significant destination. Even so, this still amounted to 133 vessels departing for England with over 5,000 tons of salt. Bristol and Somerset did not send any vessels during this period. From the Dorset coast there was one sailing each to and from Poole and Weymouth in 1736, and four sailings to and from Poole in 1737. There were no English vessels arriving for salt in 1741 and 1744-1747 because Britain and France were on opposing sides in the Austrian war of succession.

In conclusion we can say that in the 17th century the English dominated the salt trade with Le Croisic, building on the links that had formed from the Middle Ages. The limited supplies of salt at this time and the fact that Guernsey ports often did not

have the facilities for larger long distance trading vessels meant that the trade with other regions, such as the Baltic, were weaker. Later, in the 18th century, partly because of the wars, and partly because port facilities improved, the Dutch and Baltic trades became increasingly more important for Le Croisic.

1. A.K. Longfield, *Anglo-Irish trade in the sixteenth century* (London: Routledge, 1929), 219-221; E.A. Lewis *The Welsh port books 1550-1603* (Cymmrodorion Record Series No XII., 1927), 221, 223.
2. A.H. Powell, *The Ancient Borough of Bridgwater* (Bridgwater: Page & Sons, 1907), 230.
3. SRO, DD/SP 1675/80.
4. D.P. Hussey, *Coastal and river trade in pre-industrial England: Bristol and its region 1680-1730* (Exeter: Exeter University Press, 2000), 41; H. Binding and D. Stevens, *Minchhead: a new history* (Dulverton: Exmoor Press, 1977), 274.
5. Hussey, *Coastal and river trade*, chapters 4 and 5.
6. TNA, E190/1114/4.

This article is derived from *Le Commerce des sels de Guerande a l'Epoque moderne*, written by Gildas Buron of the Musee des Marais Salants-CAP-Atlantique, Batz-Sur-Mer, Loire-Atlantique, translated by John Harris, and edited and adapted by Philip Ashford to concentrate especially on Somerset and Dorset.

GILDAS BURON

13. THE PARISH CHURCH AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY AT LYME REGIS, 1635. The 'presentment' or report of the churchwardens of Lyme Regis in 1635 provides an intimate view of religious life, behaviour in church, the church building, services, and communal affairs in the town. Like many other Dorset parishes, Lyme Regis had remained as a 'peculiar' of one of the prebends of Salisbury cathedral after the county was made part of the newly-created diocese of Bristol in 1542; this unusually detailed presentment, amounting to 12 closely-written pages, was made in response to detailed questions issued to churchwardens in 1634. The replies of the churchwardens, together with many others from the Dorset parishes, is now among the Salisbury diocesan records.¹

The churchwardens at Lyme Regis in 1635 were Francis Harvey and George Bagster, and the presentment was also signed by two sidesmen, John Pitts and Thomas Ceeley, and by the vicar, John Geare, who had been at Lyme for 27 years. The first section dealt with the church building, and although the churchwardens reported that all was well with the structure and furnishings, they went on to list a number of defects. The roof

over the chancel needed repair, rain entered through some of the windows and ran down the walls, and the floor was 'uneven and undecent'. Many of the pews were 'unseemly and unfashionable and without uniformity'. The Ten Commandments were not displayed over the chancel arch, where the space was occupied by the royal arms, but were painted on the north wall 'where the people may well see and reade them, and there are allso other sentences of Scripture rounde about'. The church porch was filled with barrels 'which serve for the use of the Cobbe or Peere of the Towne'. They were used during the annual spring ceremony known as the Cobb Ale.

Little respect appears to have been shown to the churchyard. The churchwardens complained that 'Our Church and Chancell on the outsides thereof are most loathsomely abused and made as it were a privy or house of Office for the conflux of many of the Towne'. People hung clothes to dry in the churchyard, fishermen spread and repaired their sails and nets there, others brought corn to winnow, swine occasionally broke in, and the vicar kept his horses there.

Detailed information was required about the clergy, and the Churchwardens professed themselves well satisfied with the vicar, John Geare, who was resident, preached regularly, administered the sacraments, visited the sick, 'and hath not ben faultie for ought that wee have observed or doe heare'. He wore a surplice during services, observed 'decency and comliness in his Apparell', and appropriately conducted occasional offices, such as marriages, churching of women after childbirth, and thanksgiving for deliverance from the Gunpowder Plot. The curate, Bartholomew Westly, was said to be equally satisfactory. He occasionally gave medical advice and 'doth sometimes upon request give Phisicke in our parish'. He was an ancestor of the founder of Methodism, and later became the vicar of Allington, where he established a considerable reputation as a physician. One parishioner, John Deane, refused to receive Holy Communion from Bartholomew Westly on the grounds that since he was ordained in Ireland, he was not properly qualified to be a minister in England, notwithstanding the fact that both the vicar and the curate had to administer the Communion 'in regarde of the multitude of Communicants'.

Behaviour in church was often very unsatisfactory: 'There

is a greate want of dew reverente and humble submission in our Church in time of divine service, both in dew and reverent kneelinge as allso in not uncoveringe of theire heads, but wearinge theire hatts in time of readinge the Chapters and in Sermon time, the yonge sorte allso learninge of the elder, verie unreverently and uncivelly there behavinge themselves'. The churchwardens complained that their attempts to preserve appropriate order and decency had not been successful, and that 'verie manie disorderlie youthes and children' caused great disturbance. Any notion that children were well-disciplined and controlled in the early seventeenth century is evidently false, for the churchwardens reported that 'A multitude of rude and disorderly boyes and youths doe sitt about the holy Communion table and there much misdemeane and misbehave themselves both in time of divine service and allso of the sermons, and greatly pollute and defile the place'.

Several persons in the town had been excommunicated by the ecclesiastical court, but had for many years remained unrepentant and had persevered in wrong-doing. Others received swifter justice 'There have bene allso latelie some scoldeinge women here Cucked or Washed by the will of the magistrate for theire lewde tongues'. Joane Clarke remained unpunished, however, and was 'a noted scoldinge Rayler and intemperate of her tongue, abusinge some of the best of the Towne'. Others were guilty of 'fightinge and brawlinge in the Church'. Sadly, the churchwardens concluded that, although they knew of no nonconformists or popish recusants, 'there are too many that doe not devoutly and humblie kneele uppon theire knees' during the services. They could not name them all, and 'to name some fewe of many offenders might carry a shew of partialitie in us'.

Particularly interesting is the account which the churchwardens gave of revels and communal ceremonies which were held on Sundays and sometimes disturbed the church services. Manie here have on Sundayes or other holydaies made greate bond fyres for the Christninge of Apples as they call it, causinge thereby greate concourse of people as allso one William Alford the younger makinge or callinge himselfe a Captaine did on Assenation day last duringe the tyme of mourninge prayer and Exposytyon detainee and keepe with him from the Church in a place called the Millgreene a greate multitude of men and

youthes there keeping Gunninge and drumminge and shootinge and thereby much disturbinge the minister in divine service and in his Exposytion or Sermon, the saide place beinge neigh unto the Church and the sound of the drumbe and Gunnesboth there in the saide place and in theire marches to and from the said place out of and into the Towne makinge a lowd sounde into the Church which allso they continued to do after notice given them by the Churchwardens and Constables the divine service was disturbed in the midst thereof and likely to be broken off in regarde to the greatness of the disturbance which was continued notwithstandinge earnest Admonitions given them by the said officers to desist’.

1. Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office, D5/28/35.

J. H. BETTEY

14. MRS. LEIR’S DIARY CONTINUED. For the background to this diary see *SDNQ* XXXV, March 2001, pp140-144.

The year 1784 Jany 4. Mr. Leir was taken ill. 16: Dr. Harrington to see Mr. Leir. Feby. 8: John was very ill, Dr. Slocox [?] to see him. 13: My dear John died this day. 18: My son John was buried. March 15: My eldest son [Thomas] went to Oxford. April 22: Came to Balsam [Wincanton] with Mr. Leir. May 8: Left Balsam & came home. June 14: Our whole family came to live at Ditcheat. August 21: Mr. Leir, self, Charles & servant came to Lyme. Septr. 2: Mr. Shrapnel & son Thomas came. 25: Came home from Lyme. Novr. 2: Thomas went to Oxford. Decr. 13: Mr. Leir, self & son went to Berkely. 18: Returned home.

The year 1785 August 16: Came to lodgings at Weymouth. Septr. 14: Came home. Decr. 19: Came on a visit to Mrs. Capel at Warminster. 22: Came home with the children from school.

The year 1786 May 29: Came with Maria & Elizabeth to Taunton on a visit to Mrs. Warre [of Hestercombe]. June 16: came home. August 17: Came to Lyme with Mr. Leir, Thomas & Charles. 22: Came home from Lyme.

The year 1787 Jany. 6: Mr. Leir’s Aunt Methuen died. April 29: Came to Bath, left Maria at Miss Wagstaf’s. 26: Mrs. Capel, Miss Patten to see me. 30: Mrs. Capel, etc., went away. May 23: Thomas went to Oxford. June 6: Set out with Mr. Leir on a journey to Oxford, came to Rushall [Wilts]. June 8: Came to Hannington [Hall, Wilts]. 11: Came to Oxford. 12: Went to Blenheim & Ditchly. Dined at Woodstock. 13: Son William was enter’d at Queen’s College. We saw the Theatre, painted windows at New College Walks. 14: Return’d to Hannington. 16: Went with Mr. Freke to see Lord Barrington’s gardens [probably at Becket House, Berks] etc. 11: Left Hannington. 22: Came home. August 9: Mr. Leir, self, Thomas, William, Charles, set off for Lyme. Septr. 15: Came home.

The year 1788 Jany. 14: Went with Maria & Eliza, called on Mrs. Wilsonn & came to Mrs. Capel's. 17: Came to Bath, went to the play, left Maria at Bath. 19: Came home with Elizabeth leaving Maria at Miss Wagstaf's school. 25: Went to Bath with Eliza, enter'd her at Miss Wagstaf's school. April 1: Mr. Leir placed Richard & Charles at Mr. William's school at Bratten. 10: Mr. Leir's unkle, Mr. Poore, of Rushall, died. May 20: Mr. & Mrs. & Miss Freke came. 20: They went away. June 4: Mrs. Kington her eldest son & Miss White. 10: A party to Stourhead. 14: Mrs. Kington party went away. *7: Went to Bath, took Mrs Warre & Miss [Warre] & came to Berkely. 19: came home. July 4: Mr. Audrey & Mr. Maundrel came to us. 15: They with son Thomas went on a tour. August 15: Came with Maria & Eliza on a visit to Kingston. [Sepr.?] 4: Return'd home alone leaving the girls to go to school. Novr. 26: Mr. Leir's sister [Hester] came to live at her house in Ditchat [Ringwell].

The year 1789 March 21: My brother [William Shoare] by my father's second marriage died this day. August 4: Came to Lyme with Thomas, Paul, Maria & Eliza. 19: Went to Charmouth to see the King. Septr. 23: Came all the whole family from Lyme. October 1: My girls went school. Richard went to Salisbury on trial. 23: Mr. Methuen & Mr. Baskerville came. 26: Dined at Mr. Jenkins'. 28: Dined at Bailward's. 30: Dined at Mr. Hobhouse's. 31: Mr. Methuen & Mr. Baskerville went away. Novr. 16: Went to Salisbury with Mr. Leir & Richard. 17: Breakfasted & dined at Mr. Chubb's. 18: Set out from Salisbury, saw Fonthill House & came home.

The year 1790 February 8: Came with Maria on a visit to Mrs. Warre at Taunton. March 4: Came home with Miss Eliza Warre. 12: Mrs. & Miss Warre came & brought home Maria. April 17: Mrs. Warre & her daughter went home. Novr. 26: Came with Maria & Eliza to Mrs. Kingston's at Brislington. 27: Went to Bristol to choose furniture. Decr. 4: came home. 17: Came to Bath with Maria & Ann Vincent as my nurse. Lodged in the Abbey street.

The year 1791 January 7: Came home with Maria from Bath. March 1: Came to Bath with Maria to lodgings at Chandos House. April 16: Came home. August 3: Took Elizabeth to school at Miss Wignal's & came with Maria to Mr. Methuen's at Holt. 11: Came home from Holt. Novr. 17: Came with Maria to Taunton. Decr. 9: Came home from Holt.

The year 1792 June 18: Mr. & Mrs. Freke came. 20: Mr. & Mrs. Freke went away. 26: Mr. & Mrs. & Master Bliss came. July 3: Mr. & Mrs. Bliss went away. August 31: Went with Maria & Eliza to Berkely. Septr. 8: Went to Bath & Holt in the evening went to Bath dined there & on to Mrs. Kington at Clifton. 17: Came home from Mrs. Kington's. Septr. 1: Maria & self dined at Crewkerne, came to Lyme, went to Thomas's lodgings, drank tea with Mrs. Rogers & two Miss Morduants. 28: Came home from Lyme. October 25: Mr. Methuen of Holt died. 26: Mr. Leir, Paul, went to Berkely & Holt on account of Mr. Methuen's death. Novr. 3: Mr. Leir & Paul went to London.

The year 1793 Febry. 18: Mr. Leir, Elizabeth & self dined at Berkely & came in the evening to Mrs. Capel. 23: Called at Berkely & came home. May 20: Went to Mrs. Rogers at Charlton. 21: Dined at Mr. Jolliff's [Ammerdown] & came in the evening to Warminster to meet Mr. & Mrs. & Miss Freke. Slept there & came home. 22: With Miss Freke & Maria. 27: Mr. & Mrs. Freke came. 29: Mr. & Mrs. Freke went away. August 2: Mrs. Warre & two daughters came. 28: Mrs. Warre, daughters, went away.

MICHAEL McGARVIE

15. 'IN A GOOD LIGHT': HOLIDAYS IN VICTORIAN SOMERSET WITH A CAMERA. John Derrick was born in 1852 and brought up near Weston-super-Mare, where his family were farming. He studied theology and in 1877 became curate in Cheltenham where he met his wife Edith. The couple had three children between 1887 and 1892; it is through his third child, Freda that his precious glass plate negatives were saved and are now in the Somerset County Museum. The Revd Derrick bought his first camera in 1887 and when he began to take his young family on holiday to Lympsham in North Somerset (where he had grown up), the camera and all its associated equipment went with them. As the children grew, so they went further afield, visiting Kilve, Porlock, Bossington, Culbone, Selworthy, East Quantoxhead, Tarr Steps and Wells, to name just a few places in the photographs. The Revd Derrick's interests included scenes of Somerset landscape, agriculture, churches, craftsmen, village streets and local people. In Freda Derrick's unpublished memoirs she describes many of the places they visited, the people they met and in some cases explains in some detail how her father set the scene for his photographs.

An exhibition and publication have been painstakingly researched by members of the Friends of the Somerset Rural Life Museum, supported by the museum staff reflecting his photographic interests. At least 50 of these fascinating images of late Victorian Somerset will be on show for the first time and more will be printed in the accompanying book; the photographs were all taken during between 1887 and 1907. The exhibition, on show from 19 Aug - 18 Nov 2006 at the Rural Life Museum and 25 Nov 2006 - 17 Mar 2007 at the County Museum, will include vintage cameras from the Museums Service collections and information about early photography.

LOUISE CLAPP

BOOK REVIEWS

Revd Brian Kirk *The Taunton Dissenting Academy* (Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, Taunton) illus., ISBN 0 902152 19 X, £9.95.

The Taunton Dissenting Academy was set up as part of the educational work of Paul's Meeting church by Matthew Warren during the late seventeenth century, at a time when access to higher education was denied to those who refused to subscribe to the doctrines and sacraments of the Church of England. For several decades and under three successive principals, the Academy played an important part in the training of young men as nonconformist ministers, as well as others who where to become lawyers and doctors. The subjects taught ranged from theology and ethics to physics and mathematics. The standards were high, good behaviour and dedication were demanded, and the lectures were conducted in Latin. Sadly the Academy closed in c.1752, largely as a consequence of fierce doctrinal differences amongst the nonconformists, and the establishment of rival dissenting churches in Taunton.

The book is based on an impressive amount of original research and throws light upon an important aspect of nonconformist history, as well as on an institution which had a great influence throughout the west country. It not only chronicles the rise, successful functioning and final decline of the Academy, but the author has also painstakingly retrieved a remarkable amount of information about the students. Many went on to minister to dissenting organisations across the region, and played a major part in nonconformist life and cultural activities. The identification and reconstruction of the careers of those students involved many different sources and the book provides an invaluable work of reference on numerous west-country families and nonconformist churches.

This book also includes much background information about Taunton, the difficulties experienced by dissenters, and concerning the complex theological differences which led to the establishment of rival churches and eventually to the demise of the Dissenting Academy.

J. H. BETTEY

Frome Society Year Book volume 10 2005, edited by Michael McGarvie (Frome Society for Local Study, 2005), 74pp., £6.00 paperback, numerous illustrations, ISBN 0948014 12 11. Available from Hunting Raven Bookshop, Cheap Street Frome, or £7.50 by post from Michael McGarvie, Marston House, Marston Bigot, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5DU.

Once again Michael McGarvie has skilfully crafted a miscellaneous collection of articles relating to the history of the Frome area into a *Frome Society Year Book*. This edition concentrates its opening pages on recent anniversaries: the centenary of the death of the ninth Earl of Cork and Orrery in 2004 and the bicentenary of the death of Vice Admiral Horatio Viscount Nelson in 2005. Understandably the main focus is not on Nelson but on the ninth earl, however the reproduction of the ticket for the funeral of Nelson makes a fitting illustration. The information on the ninth Earl is both personal and poignant, centring on a tribute by Michael McGarvie, following an address by the present Earl of Cork and Orrery. But there is also a great deal more to this volume to be found on a wide range of subjects, including the editor's own research which forms the backbone to this 2005 edition. The highlight of the publication is the article on the Revd W.M.H. Williams, who served as the headmaster of Frome Grammar School for nearly 30 years and came to be considered as a local worthy.

The strength of this volume is the variety of material which the editor has selected for publication. His inclusion of articles and illustrations which would, in most cases, never have reached a wider audience is to be commended. The inclusion of a photograph of two labourers from the 1930s, articles on memories of Frome in the 20th century, monumental inscriptions of Witham Friary and evacuees reminiscences of Frome during World War II, are examples of this. Having said this their inclusion does in no way detract from the value of this volume and it is hoped that there will be many more volumes in this series. Publishing material as diverse as this is essential to the wider study of the subject matter brought to light in this volume, without which many of the subjects would never have been brought to a wider audience.

A. J. WEBB

S.M. Farrington and the Wiveliscombe Book Group *A History of a Somerset Market Town* (Colden Publications, Wiveliscombe, 2005) illus., cd-rom, ISBN 0 9540992 1 4, £18.00.

In 1911 when Hancock published his history of Wiveliscombe, under the title of *Wifela's Combe*, he probably thought that there was nothing left to write on the subject. The 2005 history clearly shows how interests have changed and how much information is now worthy of publishing which would hardly have been considered one hundred years ago. The inclusion of so much different subject matter within the scope of one parish's history is to be commended and it also shows just how diverse community life has been in the town, especially during recent decades. The diversity becomes immediately apparent through some of the chapter headings: butcher, baker, candles and stitch-makers; a history of brewing in Wiveliscombe; call to arms; and from kerseys to pennystone: the woollen industry.

After only three years of research the Wiveliscombe Book Group, under the guidance and leadership of Sue Farrington, have produced an A4, 330 page indexed history of this important West Somerset town. The majority of the research is new and like many local histories will be cherished by those with an interest in the town for many years to come. The volume also comes with a cd-rom containing 25 files of information, some from well known sources but others from maps, sale catalogues and photographs. The vast majority of the sources used for this volume come from two sources, either the Somerset Record Office or private individuals.

This is a well organised and laid out publication containing over 700 hundred illustrations, some of which are in colour, which really does bring the history to life. The inclusion of so many pictures and the high quality of production are due in part to a grant from the Local Heritage Initiative and some anonymous donations. What is also attractive is the inclusion of smaller amounts of text within boxes, giving supplementary information which could not easily be included in the text of the volume. However, the absence of footnotes or endnotes, and locations of photographs, does mean that anyone wishing to pursue those matters further will find it difficult.

To include in one volume so great amount of information and

manage to keep the cost down to only £18.00 is an achievement in itself. To have done it in such a way whereby the volume has been produced that is both easy to read, well researched and so all encompassing, places this book head and shoulders above similar local histories produced in recent decades.

A. J. WEBB

Hearing, T., & Bridges, S., *Dorset Quarter Sessions Order Book, 1625-1638. A Calendar*, (Dorset Record Soc, 2006), £25 plus p&p. Transcribing documents is a normal task for all researchers, but one keeps the effort of transcribing to a minimum by scanning for what one wants, abbreviating, or glossing over irrelevancies. How daunting, therefore, to be faced with the task of transcribing exactly an entire Quarter Sessions Order book of 642 sheets, closely written on both sides in Latin and English, with numerous, sometimes personal, abbreviations inserted by the Clerk of the Court, and which contains thousands of personal names, some difficult to interpret. That was the task – lasting fifteen years – undertaken by Terry Hearing. Every word was then painstakingly checked by Sarah Bridges, an experienced archivist. The result is a transcription which, for the convenience of all readers has been calendared, and which will now stand the test of time, and be an invaluable research tool for future historians and genealogists.

Readers need not be dismayed at the prospect of finding Latin in the text, or for the search they may undertake to find personal or place names, for the volume contains a Latin glossary and a comprehensive index to all names and places. For those who would like to understand further the work of the seventeenth century Quarter Sessions, Terry Hearing has provided an introduction which is remarkable both for its clarity and its scholarship.

It was the vision of the Chairman of the Society, Mr George Clarke, to produce one of the finest volumes that any Record Society has ever produced, and he, and all who assisted, are to be congratulated on providing us with a fine volume that will grace any bookshelf.

Without hesitation I would recommend this volume to all genealogists, and all those interested in the history of Dorset.

G. J. DAVIES

P. Mansfield *Quantock Tales and Sales* (Privately Published, Cardiff, 2005) illus., £3.50 (including postage and packing from the author, 7 Heol Y Bryn, Rhiwbina, Cardiff, CF14 6HX; cheques made to Ainon Baptist Church).

Every so often an aspect of local history has a real connection to a place or places in a far off land, a world away from Somerset's green and pleasant land. Paul Mansfield has unselfishly researched, written, produced and published a 38 page booklet covering some of the more entertaining sales and tales from the Quantocks during the 19th century. The connection with the far off lands is that all the proceeds from the booklet will be going towards a charity that his local church has been supporting over the last few years, i.e. Ugandan widows (some widowed by the rebels, others who have no way of fending for themselves). The church has provided building materials, agricultural implements and land to allow them to provide once more for their families.

This booklet is both entertaining and quite moving, as not only does the author include stories of events and misdemeanours from a bygone age but also ones of a more unfortunate nature. Without giving too much away, and not wishing to put anyone off purchasing this booklet to support the Ugandan widows and their families, I will cite one story of interest. Two hapless locals thought it would be a good idea to capture some ducks on a frozen lake surrounded by a deep snowy countryside. One was caught but the other thought he had made the perfect escape by returning to his cottage. Unfortunately the local constable traced the man's steps in the snow and the culprit ended up doing hard labour in Wilton Gaol. So much for the great escape!

A. J. WEBB

Scrase, T. *Wells – A Small City* (Tempus Publishing Ltd, 2006), 160pp., illus., £17.99. It is high time, after the flood of detailed research on the city of Wells during the past 25 years, that a concise and accessible history of the city were written to succeed Holmes' work of nearly 100 years ago. Tony Scrase, responsible for much of the research, (with an appropriate 24 entries in the bibliography including three of the eleven entries from the late lamented *History Round Wells*) has achieved such a history in masterly fashion.

Starting with a brief description of the city's geography and

probable early settlement pattern he guides the reader through the past 2000 years. The documentation dictates that earlier periods are dominated by clergy and cathedral, but once the city starts to evolve a life of its own, Scrase is in his element. The story unfolds steadily as different activities (cloth making, trading, inn-keeping, the gentry – if being or claiming to be a gentleman may be described as an activity – hosiery, paper making, dairy supply and electronics) come to the fore and fade away under the pressure of economics or changing taste. Within the narrative, episodes are treated in detail – the rise of Peter le Monier in the 14th C and the failed commune; the now hard to imagine buildings in the middle of the High Street; Bekynton's renaissance building campaign; the processions and the mocking of the killjoy John Hole; the murder of the dean by David Barrett, a member of the corporation; the dominance of the Tudway family; the Wells by-pass – and through the whole runs the thread of self-governance of the city. Ironically after 200 years of struggle and 400 of independence, albeit against a background of continuous relative economic decline, the stroke of a political pen reduced the city council to near impotence in 1974.

The volume is well illustrated and the author has used plans particularly effectively to illustrate change. However, Scrase has been badly let down by his copy editor and indexer; one suspects an over-reliance on the spell-checker. Unfortunately the notes to a table have been scrambled; a graph is rendered meaningless by the omission of a scale on the y axis; the index badly needs a second indent and does not completely accord with the text. Despite these shortcomings, this book is recommended to the general reader and to the historian or economist looking for an overview of an unusual English market town.

BRIAN LUKER

William Barnes, *Poetical Pieces*, (Fiducia Press, 2006), 36 pp, 7 woodcuts £6. ISBN 0-9-46217-24-6. William Barnes introduced himself to his fellow townsfolk of Dorchester as a poet for the first time in 1820 through a slim volume of verse simply entitled *Poetical Pieces*, printed by his fatherly friend, George Clark. The 19 year old poet's bold venture has now been republished as a 36 page booklet, thoughtfully compiled and tastefully produced by Roy Gallop and Ken Griffiths at

the Fiducia Press, with illustrations from the poet's own hand as artist and engraver.

The ten youthful 'Pieces' include 'Lines Addressed to an Oak near my Father's Cottage', a poem on 'Danger', and a verse translation from the Latin on 'The Death of Adonis'. But the best known pieces are those focussing on the poet's frustrated courtship of James Camfield Miles's young daughter, Julia, as expressed in 'The Home of my Heart', 'Though you Smile at my Zeal', 'On Woman's Love', and, of course, 'To Julia', which Barnes later recalled as 'my first published poem', having apparently already appeared in the little known periodical, *The Weekly Entertainer*.

The piece most frequently quoted however is 'Destiny', for reasons explained by Alan Chedzoy in an informative and perceptive introduction. There he reminds readers that it was 'emotional frustration' which prompted this venture into verse in an attempt to show Julia's worried parents that her suitor, though a poor solicitor's clerk, was 'no mere inky copyist, but an artist, and an educated man who could quote Pope and read Latin'. Dr Chedzoy defines Barnes's publishing enterprise as 'an exercise in gentrification', though its less-than-genteel jibes at the prospective parents-in-law's greed for gold was more likely to affront than appease them.

Barnes probably regretted his impulsive mockery later, for his poetic publishing debut was apparently unknown to his children and not recalled by the poet when sketching the events of his life, so there is no mention of it after his death in either Lucy Baxter's biography or Miles Barnes's bibliography.

The first to notice it seems to have been Giles Dugdale, observing in June, 1949, in 'Biographical Notes' to *Poems Grave and Gay by William Barnes*, that 'Mrs Coombs' copy, now in the Dorchester Museum Library, is the only one known to exist' (p.xv). Later, in his pioneering biography, *William Barnes of Dorset*, in 1953, he devoted six pages of commentary to it for its

'... many revealing glimpses of the youth who wrote the stanzas, ... witness of the astonishing way in which he had so far consolidated his educational gains since leaving school seven years before.'
(p.44)

Meanwhile, in 1950, Geoffrey Grigson had also drawn from it for his *Selected Poems of William Barnes*, commenting in his introduction:

'There is nothing much to mark in these conventional album verses but their neatness, and the fact that he began to write in normal English, and for many years continued to do so. (p.7)

As far as I know no further copy, other than that which presumably young Barnes proudly presented to his employer's wife in 1820, has yet come to light.

Two somewhat prosaic points about these 'Pieces' which I find puzzling are, first, why Barnes should portray himself in 'Destiny' not only as 'rather genteel', but with 'eyes ... rather dark, and ... hair black as night', when in fact he had blue eyes and brown hair; and, secondly, why he should have adopted the name 'Cyprian' to impress Mr Miles that he was the ideal suitor for the hand of his daughter. The Supervisor of Excise may not have appreciated the classical allusion to 'a worshipper of Aphrodite', but would certainly have been familiar with its metaphorical meaning in 1820 as (to quote OED), 'a licentious or profligate person ... a prostitute'. But did Barnes know that? Or was this one of the perils of his genteel auto-didacticism?

Poetical Pieces is the third of William Barnes's early works to be republished by the Fiducia Press, following *Views of Labour and Gold* in 2003, and *Orra: a Lapland Tale* in 2005. This is a valuable service, making rare material conveniently available to Barnes devotees at a modest cost, incidentally directing attention to neglected aspects of Barnes's life and work, and in this case, also reminding readers that he was not always an old man with a long flowing beard!

TREVOR HEARL

QUERIES

EARLIEST FEMALE TEACHER IN SOMERSET? In the Bath and Wells Diocesan collection at the Somerset Record Office are a series of subscription books recording (amongst other things) the licensing of teachers. Although I have not checked every volume, a reference to a woman teaching during the 17th century appears under the 12 Aug 1682 when Rachel Stuckey was licensed to 'teach an English Schoole and to write in the parish of Weston Zoyland or Huntspill'.¹ My query is whether this is the earliest reference to a woman teaching in Somerset, or for that matter in the West of England?

1. SRO, D/D/bs 42.

A. J. WEBB

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