



Friends of Somerset Archives

Snippets - No. 31

March 2014

Dear All

So much has happened since the last Newsletter and Somerset has been in the news since Christmas. Being the daughter of a farmer I must admit to a feeling of pride that the farming community from all over the country pulled together and helped the farmers on the Somerset Levels. It was also good to see all the local communities pull together. I don't think I will ever forget the sight of Prince Charles being towed on a trailer - sat on a seat entwined with flowers!! Thankfully the flooding has now receded but it will be some time before the countryside will return to normal.

I feel very privileged as my twin 8 year old grandsons came to stay for the weekend. We took them to the tram at Colyton - not having realised that there had been a tidal surge at Seaton which had damaged the tramline. We had to take one trip from Colyton, which took about 30 minutes in all, and then drive to Seaton to have a trip at the other end of the tramline. We had a very good view of Axmouth on both trips and I was able to tell my grandsons that 200 years ago relatives had been christened and married at the church they could see from the tram. I am hoping that they will take an interest from all the "Snippets" I am passing on and perhaps history will become a little more personal to them!

I know this was mentioned in the last Newsletter, but for those of you who haven't done so, I can recommend signing up for the blog from the Heritage Centre regarding WW1 - just visit <http://somerstremembers.wordpress.com/>

With best wishes

Liz

Friends of Somerset Archives Event Timetable from April 2014

Wednesday, April 16th at 7.30 pm.

A talk by Steve Membury, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Somerset County Council regarding the Longforth and Taunton Priory excavations.

Tuesday, May 6th at 10.30am.

A visit to the Alfred Gillett Trust Archives, better known to most of us as the Clark's Shoe Archives, at Street, where Archivist Charlotte Berry will give a presentation and there will be a tour of the public and strongroom areas. Disabled access is only by special arrangement and so if you have particular requirements, please get in touch. This visit is limited to 20 persons, so early booking is essential. The Clarks site at Street is co-sited with Clarks Outlet Centre and so this trip could include a visit to the shops there.

Wednesday, June 11th at 2 pm.

Sue Berry a former Somerset Record Office Archivist, will give a talk about 'Legalisms and Jargon in the Archives'.

July

Meeting to be arranged.

August

There will be no meeting due to many holidays being taken in this month.

Wednesday, September 17th at 7.30 pm.

Sam Astill, Assistant Curator of Somerset Museum and Liz Grant, Archivist at Somerset Heritage Centre will make a presentation about 'Somerset Remembers' at the Somerset Museum with a private viewing of the exhibition there. More details to follow.

Attendance and Booking Arrangements.

All meetings are free of charge to members with a suggested donation of £3.00 for non-members. All are welcome. Bring along friends - even better, get them to join us. After all the membership fee is less than the donation for three visits!

For most events, you do not have to book a place, but some you do to be sure of a place. In any event, it is helpful if you do, so we know roughly how many people to expect. You can book by contacting Bev or Helena at the Somerset Heritage Centre on 01823 278805 or archives@somerset.gov.uk.

The Following Email is published as received.

Please note that this response and indeed the original article 'The Huguenots of Chewton Mendip' are both included in the Snippets with the overriding statement that
Any articles in Snippets are the responsibility of their individual authors. The Editor and Deputy Editor of the Friends of Somerset Archives newsletter cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies or omissions.
Malcolm Daniels, Chairman

Some Corrections and Clarifications to 'The Huguenots of Chewton Mendip' Published in the Friends of Somerset Snippets - No. 30, December 2013

The article on 'The Huguenots of Chewton Mendip' (published in Snippets No. 30 for December 2013) contains certain errors and misrepresentations of historical fact. As these are published in a newsletter linked to the Somerset Archives, the research groups of the Harptrees History Society (HHS) and the Hinton Blewett History Group (HBHG) consider that these should be challenged in the interests of historical accuracy.

The principal matters relate to the material about the family of the 'Thierys of Widcombe', whose connections with Hinton Blewett are well known to the HBHG. Indeed, the HBHG passed on information about the Thiery family to a descendant of the family who was researching the family history. This may perhaps be the same person referred to as a parallel researcher on page 2 of the article?

The first matter concerns the assertion on page 3 of the article that 'Widcombe was once a detached tithing of Chewton Mendip, which has now been absorbed into Hinton Blewett and West Harptree ...'. This statement is incorrect insofar as it refers to Hinton Blewett.

The correct position is that what is now the North Widcombe tithing of West Harptree Parish was previously a tithing of Chewton Mendip Parish. It became a separate parish in the 19th century and was subsequently absorbed into West Harptree Parish. In the early part of the 15th century, the manor of Widcombe (as it was by then) was bought by the Crown and became part of the Duchy of Cornwall. The layout and boundaries of the manor are shown in the map

prepared for a survey carried out in 1793. These boundaries are still clearly identifiable today, although the northern part of the manor is now under the Chew Valley Lake.

The 1793 map also shows the boundary with the parish of Hinton Blewett. The hamlet of South Widcombe lies just across the southern boundary in the parish of Hinton Blewett. Hinton Blewett has always been distinct as a manor/parish from Chewton Mendip, as shown by the Domesday Book, and we are not aware of any documentary evidence that might indicate why this particular part of Hinton Blewett might have been part of Chewton Mendip at one time. Perhaps the author has been misled by the fact that the Duchy of Cornwall manor of Widcombe, as it now exists, was extended in modern times, through the acquisition of Tudor Farm in South Widcombe. This acquisition added land in Hinton Blewett and East Harptree to the original manor.

This situation is very well explained in 'The Manor of Widcombe; an Historic Landscape Survey' by Vince Russet and others, published by the then Avon County Council in 1998. It also includes the relevant documentary references. Unless the author of this article has unearthed documentary evidence that supports his assertion, therefore, the position set out above must be accepted.

The second matter concerns the photograph on page 4 of the article that shows an unidentified dwelling at Coley, which 'may have been where the Thiery family lived'. As there are no other illustrations in the article that are linked to the Huguenot families of Chewton Mendip, the implication is that this particular building above all others does indeed have a provenance connected with the Thiery family, regardless of the qualification 'may have been'. However, there is no reference to any research that has been carried out to back up this assertion.

The Thiery landholdings were all in the parish of Hinton Blewett and as Bevis Thiery was buried at Hinton Blewett, the most likely situation would be that the Thiery family lived in the parish of Hinton Blewett. However, the building illustrated is the house now known as Coley Court, in the hamlet of Coley in the parish of East Harptree. The mill referred to was on the other side of the lane shown, by the bridge over the River Chew on the East Harptree side. It was not 'next to' the dwelling as stated, although the mill leet runs under the detached garage off the right hand side of the picture to rejoin the Chew further downstream, again on the East Harptree side.

The River Chew is (and was) the parish boundary between East Harptree and Hinton Blewett. There are a few dwellings over the bridge on the Hinton Blewett side of the Chew and one of these might well have a better claim to have been the Thiery family dwelling.

Unless the author has some convincing evidence of a link to the Thiery family, all that can be said of the dwelling illustrated is that it is an attractive building that can be photographed from the public highway.

Incidentally, anyone expecting to find Coley 'between Chewton Mendip and Litton' would be disappointed, as it is about a mile beyond Litton on the B3114 going towards East Harptree. Similarly, Litton is incorrectly described (on page 3 of the article) as being 'between Widcombe and Chewton Mendip' as it lies between Coley and Chewton Mendip (or more precisely the hamlet of Ford); South Widcombe is about three-quarters of a mile beyond Coley down a back lane.

Finally, there appears to be a possible confusion (on pages 4 & 5 of the article) between the John Strachey of Sutton Court (1671-1741), who is mentioned in connection with the appointment of Elias Rebotier as rector of Chelwood, and his father, also John Strachey. It was John Strachey senior (1634-1675) who was the contemporary and friend of John Locke (1632-1704), who would have been nearly 40 years old when the son was born.

Records of Rural Parish Apprentices pre 1834 - from Anne Murch

When people think of parish apprentices, they may think of those children who were sent, often from cities, to work in the northern mills during the industrial revolution or perhaps of poor child chimney sweeps. We hear less often about rural parish apprentices in husbandry and housewifery or some other lawful business, particularly those from predominantly agricultural parishes, who stayed in their own villages. There are plenty of references to the latter in the archives. They appear in overseers' and churchwardens' accounts, vestry minutes, apprentice registers and lot books, quarter sessions records and indentures through the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries.

Under the old poor law the overseers could save money by apprenticing any children, over seven and under sixteen (14 before 1696), who were orphans or whose parents were overburdened and unable to provide for them, usually because they were themselves on relief. Once apprenticed these children would no longer be a charge on the parish. They could be apprenticed from the age of seven but in the 19th century were a little older. There are plenty of examples of seven and eight year olds. In Chilton Polden for example in the latter part of the 18th century 7 was the commonest age for the child to be apprenticed. The age for completing the apprenticeship was 24 for boys, (reduced to 21 in 1778 when it was thought that as a result "good harmony between master and apprentice" would be maintained), and 21 for girls, but the latter could be released earlier to get married or if they had an illegitimate child. These apprenticeships were much longer than traditional trade apprenticeships which were normally seven years. Masters or mistresses of parish apprentices would presumably get more work from them as they got older. This period predates universal education and it was expected and not unusual for many children of seven upwards to be working, for example scaring birds or picking stones. In working class autobiographies written towards the end of this period many of the writers describe starting work at about 8 years old. Also bastardy orders for maintenance required putative fathers to contribute until a child was seven on the presumption that it could then be apprenticed or could earn a few pence for its keep. It also wasn't as unusual as it would be today for children generally to grow up outside their nuclear family.

The majority of boys were apprenticed to husbandry, the girls to housewifery, if they lived in a mainly agricultural village. Their masters or mistresses were members of the village who had property listed in the poor rate and who were regarded by the churchwardens, overseers and magistrates as being honest and suitable to train and discipline a child. They were required to take an apprentice when asked to, unless they could show a good reason why not, and could be fined £10 for refusing. One can imagine that the prospect of an apprentice was not always welcomed and some, particularly the better off, chose a fine in preference. Sometimes the circumstances of a master or mistress changed. In Marston Bigwood a master himself became chargeable to the parish and could not maintain an apprentice.

Parents also usually had no choice in practice but to agree, if the overseers decided to apprentice their children, as the alternative would be to lose their entitlement to parish relief.

Winsham vestry in 1806 recorded "that from Sunday next all parochial relief whatsoever as well in money as in clothing, except in case of real sickness, and that always to be certified under the hand of the parish apothecary, for the time being shall cease to such paupers as having child or children of a bindable age shall refuse their consent to the same being bound out under parish indenture unless such child or children shall be declared by the parish apothecary as unfit to be bound through sickness or any bodily defect in which case such child or children shall be exempt so long as such inability shall continue". Children had to be sufficiently healthy to be an apprentice which meant that a child with a handicap might remain at home. In Stoke St. Mary a child who had gone blind was discharged from her apprenticeship as being unable to serve. In another village a child was described as "non compos mentis and has not the understanding to undertake the duties of apprentice".

In one case in Edington in 1789 a girl called Ann Way was to be bound but a note on the indenture reads that she was not bound "on account of her mother taking her from the parish". Many paupers would find it difficult to leave their parish to reside elsewhere unless they had relatives to help them or could find work.

In a small village, where everyone knew everyone else, one can imagine that ratepayers might have had a preference for some children more than others and parents might have preferred their children to go to some ratepayers rather than others!. Lots were often drawn or a rota made to decide who should have the next available child. In High Littleton they were very precise about their system. The village property was divided into allotments. The numbers of the allotments and the names of the children were to be written on bits of paper and put into a hat. The first child drawn would go to the first allotment drawn. Where several people were included in one allotment the person with the largest amount of property was to take the child. Winsham in 1806 recorded that children should be bound out on the following plan: "First that every payer of 3s to the poor (*the poor rate*) shall be liable to take one parish apprentice for each such 3s or pay a fine of £10 for each". When all these ratepayers had been supplied with one apprentice the rates would be gone over again and "odd sums" put together and the largest payer should take an apprentice and the others pay to the largest payer their proportion of £10. The Butleigh records refer to disputes occurring from time to time over apprenticing with some people "pretending their estates are not liable". The overseers described a detailed system of lots and rotation even down to the ballot papers being 3 inch long and 1 inch broad and folded! Edington had a Lot book describing the property of each person eligible to be required to take a child and as children became available their names were entered in turn against the relevant ratepayer. The women who took apprentices were widows or single. Keeping a register of apprentices was a legal requirement in Acts of 1780 and 1802. Failure to do so could incur a fine for the overseer. There are a number of examples of registers or lists of apprentices in the Somerset archives, many from the early 19th century following these Acts.

There was the potential for abuse of the child, but within the village context at least the parents and other villagers would probably be aware of any extreme ill-treatment. (There were some dreadful examples of cruelty to children apprenticed in cities or apprenticed to ship owners of over a certain tonnage who could be compelled to take them.) If abuse came to light, it could be dealt with by magistrates, who could discharge the apprentice, require the master or mistress to deliver up his or her clothes and be ordered to pay the overseers the cost of placing the child again.

One often finds a succession of children from one family being apprenticed so that their parents, if still alive, would have children living in several homes in the village. Out of 27 children apprenticed in Edington, 19 had siblings who were also apprenticed.

Some children were apprenticed outside their parish which gave the overseers an additional safeguard against future expense, since after 40 days of their apprenticeship they gained a legal settlement in the new parish. These apprenticeships were often for learning a trade like cordwainer, carpenter, weaver rather than husbandry. Villages varied considerably in apprenticing within or outside the parish. All the Edington and Chilton Polden children seem to have been apprenticed in the parish, except where they were apprenticed to someone who had property in the parish but lived outside it. An Act of 1816 regulating the binding of parish apprentices required children to be bound to someone who resided at a reasonable distance not exceeding 40 miles.

The child was taken to be examined before two magistrates to be bound and for the indenture to be signed. This must have been quite daunting for a small child, particularly when, as in the case of Edington, there were no magistrates in the village and a journey was involved. The magistrates had to be satisfied that the master or mistress was a suitable person.

The wording of specific parish apprenticeship indentures was different in many respects from other apprentice indentures. Parish indentures took slightly different wording between the early 18th and early 19th centuries but the requirements of master and apprentice remained essentially the same. The apprentice had to agree faithfully to serve his/her master or mistress according to his/her wit and ability and honestly, orderly and obediently to demean and behave his/herself. The master or mistress had to teach and bring up the child or cause it to be taught and brought up and give "meet, competent and sufficient meat, drink, apparel, washing and other things necessary". A very important wording from the point of view of the ratepayers was that the master or mistress provide for the apprentice "that he be not in any way a charge to the parish or parishioners of the same but of and from all charge shall and will save the said parish and parishioners harmless and indemnified during the said term". Parish indentures have the signatures of magistrates, churchwardens, overseers, master or mistress but not the parents.

The names of apprentices appear in the overseer's accounts because of the various expenses incurred regarding them, the cost of the indenture £1 and several shillings paid for travel and refreshment when fetching it and when going to the magistrates, the cost of the premium paid to the master or mistress (in Edington and Chapel Allerton this was £2), and often the cost of an entire new suit of clothes and new shoes for the child so that he or she was dressed in a decent fashion. Typically a boy would have shoes, stockings, breeches, shirts (also called changes), waistcoat, coat and hat, a girl would have shoes, stockings, gown, petticoat, shifts (also called changes), coat, neckerchief, apron and hat.

Some children were apprenticed more than once, for example if a master or mistress died. A year after the death of his parents, John Bryant of Edington aged 11 was apprenticed to a widow but, when she died a few months later, he was apprenticed again, this time to a local farmer. Later the same year his ten year old sister Eliza was apprenticed. This happened just before her one of her older sisters, who had probably been looking after her, died and another sister was ill. In Chilton Polden a 7 year old Giles Periam was apprenticed to a Joseph Morse but two years later a new indenture said he was very willing and desirous to be signed over to John Clark in the art and business of a cordwainer.

In some Somerset parishes, for example Fiddington, Charlinch and Cannington, charitable bequests were made for the apprenticing of poor children. These might have been used for

trade apprenticeships which cost a higher premium than the husbandry and housewifery parish apprenticeships and might have been used for the "second poor", i.e. those not on relief.

THE 'WAYZGOOSE' - from Jack Sweet

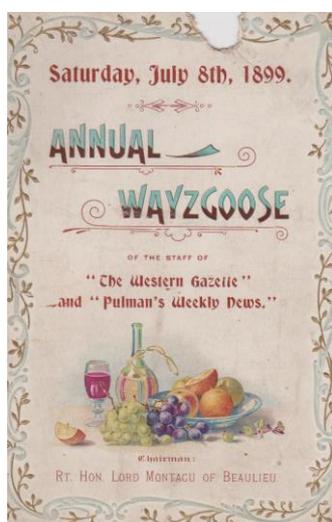
A little while ago I was looking through the columns of Pulman's Weekly News when I came across the headline 'Our Annual Wayzgoose', and reading on discovered that the article in question was a report on an outing enjoyed by the staff of Pulman's Weekly News and its sister paper, The Western Gazette. Looking, where else but to the Internet, I found that a 'Wayzgoose' was the name given to the annual excursion or dinner of the staff of a printing works or newspaper. It seems that the annual event evolved from the traditional entertainment given by a master printer to his workmen each year to celebrated St Bartholomew's Day on 24 August, which marked the traditional end of summer and working by candlelight began.

To continue, on Saturday 8 July 1899, the newspapers' annual Wayzgoose was to London on a special excursion train put on by the London and South Western Railway Company, and Pulman's wrote that 'according to custom, the staff gave the public the opportunity of sharing the advantages of the organised trip and the result was that nearly 900, in addition to about a 100 members of the staff left Yeovil for a long day out in Town'.

Many of the excursionists had an early morning trip into Yeovil from Crewkerne, Martock, Stoke and surrounding villages to leave with the main party from Yeovil Town Station at 5.15 am, prompt. The long train pulled by two locomotives, made brief stops at Yeovil Junction and Sherborne to pick up more passengers, and arrived at Waterloo Station just after nine o'clock.

Leaving the excursionists to enjoy the attractions of the capital, including a Grand Review of Volunteer Regiments in St James's Park and the London Zoo, the staff made their way to Earl's Court Exhibition Centre where, after assembling in the Western Gardens, they were entertained by the directors of the newspapers' parent company to an excellent hot luncheon provided by Messrs Spierce and Pond in the Chop House.

The meal, presided over by the chairman of the company, The Rt. Hon, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, was followed by a toast proposed by the editor, Mr G F Munford, to the Proprietors, thanking them for their generous hospitality and the interest taken in the welfare of their employees.



Lord Montagu responded as did the managing director, Mr Trevor Davies, and the proceedings concluded with a toast to Her Majesty the Queen and the singing of the National Anthem. There was no set programme for the rest of the day, some of the staff left for central London whilst others remained to enjoy the attractions in the Centre's grounds and the Great Britain Exhibition 1899, the Great Wheel and 'a hundred and one side shows'.



After a long day, the journey back to Yeovil left Waterloo Station at 12.20am, reaching home at half-past four in the morning 'all unanimously of the opinion that the trip had been one of the most pleasant ever held'.

Dickinson Project Progress Report - from Bob Warren

Work continues apace by our volunteer team of six working on both the indexing and conservation aspects of this project.

Recently we were much encouraged after coming into contact with a PhD student from Birmingham University who has been able to make very considerable use of our indexing efforts on the Prankard letter books. We were also able to suggest some secondary source material to her, especially several articles by a noted Prankard researcher, J. H. Bettey, so our efforts are not in vain!

On the 19th of February our Supervising Archivists, Liz Grant and Graeme Edwards, gave an excellent lecture on the Dickinson family and their papers to a well attended meeting of the Friends of Somerset Archives. You can see a detailed report of this elsewhere in this edition of "Snippets". For the members of "Team Dickinson" it was a useful refresher course in the overall history of this dynasty and their rise and fall over a period of more than four hundred years. We indexers are necessarily stuck in the relatively brief period of time that a particular letter book covers and have to attempt to understand the background, personalities and relationships

that currently prevailed. At present three out of four of us are immersed in the era of the War of Jenkins Ear from 1739 onwards, and therefore tend to lose touch with the "big picture".

Another revelation for us that the lecture contained was that an original portrait of Caleb Dickinson II [1716-1783], had been discovered in the Somerset Museum Service reserve collection, who have kindly allowed the reproduction shown below:-



As I had mentioned in a previous article, we had only seen this before as a crude black and white partial image on the dust cover of "Winging Westward", an idiosyncratic history of the Dickinsons published forty years ago by Joy Burden, the then last remaining direct member of the family. This full colour, well detailed, image allows us to discern a great deal more character from the portrait. He is seen in early middle age, perhaps during the early 1760's, by which time he had transformed himself from a Bristol based Quaker merchant into a country gentleman with considerable estates in the Somerton area and a thriving range of trading enterprises including sugar plantations in Jamaica. His face is shrewd and he wears a conservative form of the wigs that were fashionable during the eighteenth century: a "no nonsense" man, and this is well confirmed in the letters that we are examining. It shows an erudite mind, focussed on the detail of the business and especially on the bottom line. At times he is a "control freak" writing letters which give detailed instructions for the carrying out of requested tasks. An example of such is contained in a piece of correspondence that was discovered by one of our team, Ted Ewens. The following letter to his errant nephew Caleb III is an intriguing admonishment:-

*Kingweston, Somerset
October 16th, 1769*

To Caleb Dickinson Jnr.

Dear Nephew,

I confess that a letter from you was somewhat unexpected, after estranging yourself so many years from me; for no other reason that I know of than my sincere advice on your setting out

in life did not then agree with your humour or the self interested schemes of those you adhered to; cancelling at one the many obligations you owed me.

Happy it is for you I hope that at last you see things in a different light and can distinguish between your real and imaginary friends. Your father's eyes were blinded as well as your own, but you are the sufferer and sorry I am for it.

Time is not redeemable and is walking on apace for, if I mistake not, you are now just entering your thirtieth year and have everything to seek. Nevertheless I wish that Dame Fortune (who so early threw herself in your way) may again be propitious to you.

As you act for your father so you may one of these days, should you stay in Jamaica, for other branches of your family, but at present there don't seem to be any opening.

I am Dear Nephew

Your affectionate Uncle

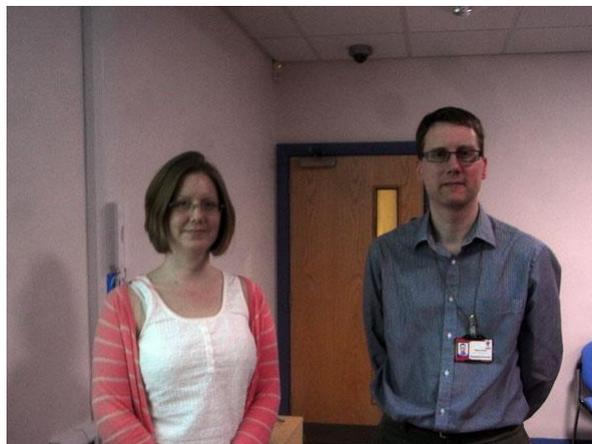
Caleb Dickinson

(DD-DN 579 Page 79)

The recipient nephew Caleb III (1740-1820) was the son of Vikris Dickinson (1718-1797). His mother Martha Reeve died when he was only a year old. Soon after this letter was written he travelled to Jamaica to manage the family estates. Whilst there he is reputed to have fathered three children classed as "not white". This prompted his father Vikris to draft a very lengthy will in 1796 preventing inheritance of his estates by illegitimate descendants. Caleb eventually returned from Jamaica to become Caleb of Pickwick Lodge in Corsham, Wiltshire.

The Dickinsons of Kingweston House, Somerset and Jamaica - from Malcolm Daniels

On 19th February, Liz Grant and Graeme Edwards, archivists at the Somerset Heritage Centre gave a very interesting talk about the Dickinsons of Kingweston:



Caleb Dickinson merchant of Bristol was granted 6000 acres in Jamaica for his gallant conduct when Jamaica was taken from the Spaniards. With the death of Caleb Senior in 1728, the Jamaican Estates were inherited by Ezekiel, Caleb and Vickris and were then run as a joint venture. In the 1740s the family moved from Bristol to Kingweston House, purchasing the Manor of Kingweston for £2839. With Friends in Bristol, Caleb and his family used Kingweston as a holiday home. He did, however spend a lot of money refurbishing the house. The true purpose for the purchase of the Manor came to light in his will where he said that he intended it to be the family seat and the residence of his son William.

He continued to buy lands in Somerset in Butleigh, Baltonsborough, Glastonbury, East Lydford and Lymphsham. He had also inherited lands in Clifton and so at his death he had a considerable estate to leave to his successors.

The 6 major plantations, by the time of a deed in 1764, total some 15000 acres as well as sugar mills and other buildings and of course slaves, which were considered at the time to be possessions. The Dickinson's ships were bringing sugar, mahogany and rum back to Britain from the family's plantations. In the Dickinson papers there are 'endless accounts' about sugar production.

For most of the time, the plantations in Jamaica were managed for the Dickinsons, but in 1756, Caleb went to Jamaica to make improvements to the running of the plantations. He reported to his wife that his arrival had not been taken well by those who had made 'freely with the property'.

The Plantation owners were in general harsh towards their slaves. However the Quaker influence is seen in how the Dickinson slaves were treated. For example, if they became unfit to work they were sold rather than being whipped or abused.

He makes interesting comment about a servant boy Billy who he brought back to England with him to be apprenticed to a carpenter. He arranges for him to go back to Jamaica, but explains in a letter that in England he was treated as 'other servants' were and that he expected this to continue back in Jamaica. The words 'other servants' had then been modified in the letter to read 'other white servants.' He expected Billy to be treated as other indentured servants.

Graeme also pointed out that a letter referred to a slave who was born of a black mother and a white father, someone who had administered the Jamaican estates. The son was also a slave as the matter was determined by the status of the mother. It did not matter whom the father was even if he were white.

Friction was evident between the brothers, with Vickris and Caleb rarely communicating, and in 1777 all correspondence between Ezekiel and Caleb ceased and all future dealings between the two was dealt with by Ezekiel's son William.

Caleb and his wife Sarah had eight children, seven of whom died young leaving only William who was born in 1745 when Caleb died in 1783. The Jamaican interests were mainly run through his uncle Ezekiel who just seemed to pass things to William for opinion.

During the American War of Independence, the British Colonies were under threat from the French navy and correspondence ensued about the fears of the capture of Jamaica by the French, but this ceased after the defeat of the French navy in June 1782.

By the 1790s consideration is given to replacing sugar crops by cotton.

The Dickinson family was very active in the evolution of the treatment of slaves with payment being proposed for dutiful work, how slaves should be paid the same as field slaves and detailed benefits and costs of such a scheme.

Hurricanes caused mass destruction of sugar plantations, particularly the one of 1780. Another in 1790 caused the production of sugar to be reduced to one half.

William became a MP. On the death of his father, he began to remodel Kingweston House. Records of the details of this work add greatly to our knowledge of how the Dickinsons lived. The growing stature of William helped in his election as MP for Somerset in 1796, continuing until his death in 1806. Whilst in parliament, he championed the West Indies opposition to the abolishment of the slave trade in 1799. The rise of William is illustrated by the grant of arms to the family in 1788.

At home he made investments in drainage, turnpikes and the navigation of the river Tone. He purchased a share in the Flat Holm lighthouse in the Bristol Channel where duties were paid by passing ships according to their tonnage.

William died in 1806 and was survived by his only son, another William, who continued in politics, becoming MP for Ilchester in 1796 and Lostwithiel in 1804 and was a firm supporter of William Pitt. He was made Lord of the Admiralty where he served until his father's death. In 1806 he was elected as MP for Somerset and he held the seat until 1831. Like his father, he was initially opposed to the abolition of the slave trade, but admitted, in 1807, that he was impressed by the moderation of the bill and did not impose it. He was appointed Chairman of the Somerset Quarter Sessions between 1821 and 1835. He was also deeply interested in Greek and Roman Art and funded the study of it.

Like his father he wanted to remodel Kingweston House and Estate. Much of the house was modified including new entrance, new stairs, a new library and not to forget the important services, a new wing was built to house kitchens and servants quarters. Much of the grounds was also remodelled.

Compared to his son, not many of his papers have survived. However it is interesting to note that he purchase a portable threshing machine in 1813. He purchased additional lands in Charlton Mackerel, Charlton Adam and Babcarry. In 1823 he proposes a Coffee Plantation at Appleton in Jamaica.

At the passing of the Abolition of Slavery Act in 1833, compensation of £15000 was paid for 814 slaves across five plantations. This is equivalent to approximately £1 million in today's money.

After 25 years as an MP and riddled with gout, he decided to cease being an MP and to spend his time between being at Kingweston and travelling on the continent. William passed away in Naples in 1837. His body was buried in Naples, but his heart was brought back by his family to be buried at Kingweston.

Francis Dickinson was his successor. Francis first stood for election in 1837, losing, but he eventually became MP for West Somerset in 1841. He intended to stand again in 1847, but

withdrew due to lack of support. He was seen as being too sympathetic to the Roman Catholic Church which was very unpopular at this time.

His thoughts turned to ecclesiastical matters and in particular to the rebuilding of Kingweston Church. This was started in 1851. There is much correspondence about Wells Theological College and Wells Training School which later became Wells Training College. This college eventually merged with the Salisbury Training College in the mid 20th Century and is now known as Sarum College.

In 1850, Francis was involved in a scheme to buy the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey, but there seems to have been few who would back the scheme and it subsequently failed. Francis considered selling off his half of the Jamaican estates, but he didn't proceed. In 1844 an agreement was made for the division of lands in Jamaica and Francis gained full control of Peppar and Bonavista pens and appurtenances.

Note by the author of the review, Malcolm Daniels:

It is not possible to include everything in this review and I cannot really do this talk justice in just a couple of pages. I do hope though that this may have whetted the appetite of those who have an interest in the Dickinsons to further investigate the very large body of documents now held at the Somerset Heritage Centre. I would also like to thank those members of the Friends who have devoted much time to the letter books and the preservation and conservation of Dickinson documents.

Friends of Somerset Archives Newsletter - from Eve Theobald

One of the things I love most about my job as Archives and Local Studies Assistant is the constant discovery of new and exciting items and collections. Whilst searching the catalogue for hand-drawn illustrations of Somerset for a Facebook post, I came across an unlisted box of photographs, postcards and illustrations. As it stands, the collection was not at all helpful for what I originally wanted it, but whilst I was looking, I found this photograph album full of wonderful images of Wells and the surrounding area. Here are some of my favourites.

This double page shows the Centenary of the Oddfellows in Wells. The Oddfellows is a friendly society, set up to protect and care for members of the community before the welfare state, trade unions or the National Health Service. These photographs show huge gatherings of people, watching members of the society parade, and in some cases joining in.



These gentlemen are involved in the Somerset Agricultural Show at Wells, probably members of the committee. I love the sense of pomp and circumstance in the photograph.



These photographs show the entrance to the Bishop's Palace and Gardens in Wells, and large gatherings outside. One shows people in best dress, all looking towards the camera. The other is titled 'Wells Welcoming Col A Thrale Perkins home from South African War'. It looks like a very grand occasion!



There are probably hundreds of photograph albums stored in our collections, so it is pure chance that I found this one really, but the variety of images means that it is a fascinating volume. I hope you've enjoyed looking at the images too!

Somerset Manorial Documents Register Project – from Scott Pettitt

This 18th-month project is now at its half-way point. Over 800 manors have now been positively identified and the manorial documents database now contains 4,500 entries. Over 30 collections have been examined at Somerset Heritage Centre for manorial records, and within the next couple of months the search will widen to examine the holdings of other repositories where Somerset manorial records are either known or thought to exist. Most are in neighbouring counties, but others are further afield in Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire. There are also reasonably significant accumulations at the Huntington Library in California.

There have been a number of intriguing and/or unusual finds. These include a note of expenses for a manor court held at Halse in October 1773 (ref: DD\DV/12), which records that 8s was spent on beef and mutton, 1s 6d on bread, 1s 4d on nuts, and 3s on puddings. All these sums were dwarfed, however, by the princely 19s spent on beer! The earliest document added to the database thus far is a court roll for the manor of Fairfield, dating from 1275-9 (ref: DD\AH/66/5/1). Another gem is an extent of the manor of East Coker, dating from 1321 (ref: DD\WHh/656) when the manor was the property of the de Mandeville family. Unsurprisingly, it's a potent source for village life before the Black Death. For example, we are told that one Maud de Senclere 'holds two virgates by knight service and she shall find the lord one esquire with all his outfit and in all armies for 40 days at her own expense'.

The project remains on schedule and should be completed in December. The database should 'go live' at some stage in February 2015. The registers for counties already completed is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr/>

New Additions to the Local Studies Library, December 2013-February 2014

Items marked Q can be found in the Quickref section.

Items marked D-FRLM were donated by the Friends of the Somerset Rural Life Museum.

Items marked 'fiction' or 'poetry' can be requested from the strongrooms

Angus, *A Horse Called Hero* (fiction) (T 823 ANG)

Arnold, *History of Britain's Parliamentary Constituencies: Somerset* (T 328.334 ARN O/S)

Astell, *Around Minehead in old photographs* (T MIN AST)

Betty, *The Capture of the Baltick Merchant, 1740*, in *The Mariner's Mirror*, February 1990, Vol. 76 No. 1, pp.36-9 (623.8 SOC)

Biggin, *A Long Time Ago: life of a Somerset yokel* (T 920 BIG)

Borodale, *The Knot* (fiction) (T 823 BOR)

Boycott, *Spotted Pigs and Green Tomatoes: a year in the life of our farm* (T 630.92 BOY)
Brown, *World's Best Cider: taste, tradition and terroir from Somerset to Seattle*
(T 641.341 BRO)
Brunning, *Lost Islands of Somerset: exploring an unique wetland heritage* (T 930.1 LEV BRU)
Byrne, *Cheer Up Ye Poor British Miners: songs from North Somerset Coalfield and beyond*
(T 780.24 BYR)
Crockford, *Clergy List 1863i* (283.42 1863)
Crockford, *Crockford's Clerical Directory 1948* (283.42 1948 Q)
Dawson, *Pigs in Clover; or how I accidentally fell in love with the good life* (T 640.92 DAW)
Drew, *Rough Guide to Bath, Bristol & Somerset* (914.238 DRE)
Elliott-Cannon, *In Quest of the Doones* (T EXM ELL)
Eveleigh, *Hoe and the Hidden Horseshoe* (fiction) (T 823 EVE)
Eveleigh, *Joe and the Lightning Pony* (fiction) (T 823 EVE)
Faith, *Glastonbury, the Templars and the Sovran Cloth: a new perspective on the Grail legends*
(T 398.094 FAI)
Garrett, *The People Who Made Wells Cathedral More Than Stone & Glass* (T 726.6 WEL3)
Gray, *Mendip Underground: a caver's guide* (T 551.4 GRA)
Grove, *The Archaeology of the South West: South West Archaeological Research Framework
2012-2017* (T 930.1 SOM GRO)
Heard, *Peter Heard's Paintings of a West Country Life* (T 759.2 HEA)
Hildrew, *An Artist on Exmoor: the paintings of Ken Hildrew* (T 759.2 HIL)
Hill, *The Gauntlet, Glastonbury: a thousand years of history* (T 930.1 GLA)
Howes, *Gay West: civil society, community and LGBT history in Bristol and Bath, 1970 to 2010*
(T 306.76 HOW)
Iredale, *Discovering Local History* (929.1 IRE Q)
Jefford, *Once a Busman* (T 920 JEF)
Kelsall, *North & Central Somerset: photographic memories* (T91 KEL)
Kreps, *Glastonbury Assembly Rooms* (T GLA KRE)
Mansfield, *Somerset Inquests & Murders from the Taunton Courier 1838-39*
(T 364.152 MAN O/S)
Martin, *Millfield: a school for all seasons* (T 373 MIL MAR)
Mattocks, *To Weston With Love: getting nostalgic about Weston-super-Mare* (T WES 19 MAT)
Milligan, *My Ancestors Were Quakers: how can I find out more about them?* (929.3 MIL Q)
Muirhead, *Somerset* (Penguin Guide) (T91 MUI)
Osmond, *Somerset & Bristol* (914.23 OSM)
Palmer, *Clarks: Made to Last: the story of Britain's best-known shoe firm* (T 338.768 PAL)
Parr, *A Sketch of the Kafir & Zulu Wars: the experiences of an officer of the S.L.I in South
Africa 1877-1879* (T 356 PAR)
Pearce, *Recent Archaeological Work in South-Western Britain: papers in honour of Henrietta
Quinnell* (T 930.2 PEA O/S)
Pitts, *Hengeworld* (T 930.1 STA2)
Reflections from the Somerset Levels: Somerset Levels RDA Carriage Driving Group
(T 798.6 SOM)
Riley, *Historical and Archaeological Study of Tarr Steps, Exmoor National Park* (donation)
(T 930.1 EXM RIL, O/S)
Rowntree, *Nyland Hill* (donation) (T NYL ROW)
Royal Bath and West of England Society, *Royal Bath & West: celebrating 150 shows*
(T 630.942 ROY)
Ryall, *West Country Wicca: a journal of the old religion* (T 299.94 RYA)
Skinner, *Flavours of Somerset* (T 641.5 SKI)

Somerset's Lost Railways (DVD) (T 385 SOM)
Steaming Through the West Country (DVD) (T 385 STE)
Strong, *The Sacred Stone Circles of Stanton Drew* (T 398.094 STR)
Tiller, *Remembrance and Community: war memorials and local history* (940.467 TIL Q)
Towey, *My Ancestor was an Anglican Clergyman* (929.3 TOW Q)
Walker, *London Midland Steam Twilight: Midland lines and the Somerset & Dorset pt.1*
(T 385 WAL SDR)
Warren, *The Phoenix Works, Chard: SIAS Survey #19* (donation) (T 669.094 WAR)
Weeks, *Exploring Woodland: the South West of England* (T 796.51 WEE)
Welch, *Somerset & Dorset Sunset* (T 385 WEL SDR)
Wells Bookworms, *Heather's Bracelet* (T 940.53 WEL)
West Somerset Railway: *Spring Steam Gala 2013* (T 385 SPR)
Weston-super-Mare: *the history of Somerset's seaside gem* (DVD) (T WES19 WES)
Wood, *Exmoor Amour* (T EXM WOO)

New Accessions 12 December 2013-18 March 2014

Not all of these collections have been listed, but (unless they have access restrictions) they are all available for research at the Heritage Centre. If you cannot find the details on our online catalogue (www.somerset.gov.uk/dserve), please get in touch and we can give you more information.

Archaeological records

Archaeological reports and field archives for Buttle Lane, Shepton Beauchamp, and Fairfield House, Stogursey, 1993-2009 (A\BHF)
Hawkcombe: plans of excavation at Hawkcombe Head, 2011 (A\AWI)
Stanton Drew: archaeological report of investigations at Quoit Farm, 2013 (A\CTB)
Somerset Levels Project: project archives including slides of site and excavation, 1:10,000 maps, 16mm film of excavations, project account books 1972-1989, correspondence concerning grants, newspapers found in the excavation hut of Harold St. George Gray c.1935, 1930s-1990s (6 boxes) (DD\SLP)

Business records

Anonymous farm note book and diary, 1920-1921 (A\DPY)
Kingston St Mary and Exmoor: farming records of Mary Tucker, including photographs, ledgers, etc., c.1920s-c.1980s (A\DVF)
Taunton: additional records of Charles Goodland and Sons, coal merchants, late 19th cent.-early 20th cent. (DD\GND)
Weston super Mare, Birnbeck Pier: Letter Collection and Office Cash Return volumes, c.1910s-c.1970s (A\DUY)
Somerset and Dorset Railway: staff registers with transcript; drawings of Tucking Mill Viaduct, Tender Tank Arrangement and Locomotive pipework, 1870s-[1944] (A\CWO)
Somerset and Dorset Railway: photographs of staff at Highbridge Station; joint committee appendix to working time tables and CD of plans previously deposited, c. 1900-[1944] (A\CWO)
Somerset and Dorset Railway Trust: pamphlets, photographs, notices, etc., 1900-1976 (A\CWO)

Clubs, Societies' and Charities' records

Kingston St Mary Women's Institute: minute and record books, 1997-2010 (DD\WI)

Norton sub Hamdon Local and Natural History Society: records relating to Norton sub Hamdon, including Parish Council records, 19th cent.-21st cent. (A\BPB)
Norton sub Hamdon Local and Natural History Society: committee meeting minutes, newsletters, village newsletters and printed ephemera, 1998-2013 (A\BPB)
Ruishton Sunday School Reward Fund deed, 1880 (DD\C)
Taunton and Halse: charity papers, 1846-1866 (DD\C)
Taunton Swimming Club: additional records, including papers relating to the Club Centenary, a swimming production at the Brewhouse, the bathing station at French Weir, St. James's Pool, the Club's final event and photographs, 1890s-2000s (A\BXU)
Westbury sub Mendip: papers concerning the Village Hall Centenary celebrations, 2013 (A\DLV)
Winscombe: minute book of the Winscombe Branch of the United Nations Association, 1956-1961 (A\AUS)
Winsham WI: Record books, minute books and financial records, 1993-2013 (DD\WI)
Yeovil Liberal Democrats: press cuttings, records relating to Paddy Ashdown at Local Government Organisations and file relating to South Somerset District Council, c.1980s-c.2000s (two deposits, A\BHI and A\DUH)
British Red Cross (Somerset): records including minutes, year books and reports, membership records, proficiency registers and training material, 1911-2002 (6 boxes) (A\DUE)
Somerset Opera: minutes, correspondence and associated papers, 1980-1989 (A\CYY)

Deeds, wills and family papers

Bishopswood: diaries and accounts of Don and Mary Jennings, 1952-1984 (A\DUU)
Ilminster: deeds relating to Bell Close Allotments, 1778-1879 (A\DUF)
Mells: leases of lands in the manor and probate of John Knapp and Jeffrey Greenland, 1753-1782 (DD\X\WI)
Street: deeds for Leigh Cottage, Vestry Road, 1872-1951 (A\DUZ)
Wiveliscombe: Additional papers of the Hancock family: family diaries and journals, correspondence, etc., 19th cent.-20th cent. (12 boxes) (DD\HC)
Photocopied deeds relating to Wyndham family lands in Somerset, Devon, Dorset and Wiltshire, [1926-1948] (DD\WY)

Local government records

Parish Councils

Brympton d'Evercy Parish Council: minutes, 2000-2004 (D\PC\brym)
Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council: Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton sewerage plans, nd, mid 20th cent. (D\PC\che.f)

Borough, District, Urban and Rural District Councils

Records relating to Shepton Mallet, including: Shepton Mallet Nursing Association and Maternity Centre records; Welcome Home Fund minutes; Home Words church magazine; register of summonses; drainage committee minutes; Collett Park minutes; 1960s town redevelopment plans; and copies of the Bath Chronicle, c.1870s-c.1930s (A\ANL)
Sedgemoor District Council: electoral register (unedited version), 2014 (Q/RER)
Taunton Deane: unedited copy of register of electors, 2014 (Q/RER)

Somerset County Council

Definitive Map: Bishops Hull, c.1975 (C/EPRW)
Diversion orders and modification orders, etc., relating to Chipstable, Comeytrowe, Otterhampton, Weare, Barrington, and Chapel Allerton, 2012-2013 (C/GP/HF)

Somerset Education Department: files relating to the Somerset Schools' Folk Dance Festival and the Somerset Children's Parliament, 2003-2007 (C/EDDS)

Somerset Fire Brigade: correspondence and associated papers concerning the awarding of Queen's Golden Jubilee Medals to fire-fighters who had served for five years or longer, 2003 (C/FB)

Library Service: promotional materials and photographs, 1950-2013 (12 boxes) (C/LIB)

Photographs of Somerset County Council Roads and Bridges Department, Langport Division, from Ernest Walter Victor Stripp, [1930s-1940s] (A\DVB)

Military records

Photographs of the West Somerset Yeomanry in Porlock, Minehead and Africa, c.1880s-c.1940s (A\DUG)

Photographs and papers of Walter Male, RSM 6066, 1902-1921 (A\DUS)

West Harptree: postcard of Gournay Court Military Hospital, c.1915 (A\BAV)

Somerset Light Infantry Old Comrades' Association: lists of subscribers, 1924-1936 (DD\SLI)

Somerset Light Infantry: photograph albums and letter of Private Arthur Dicks, c.1940 (A\DVI)

Somerset: certificate confirming that the name of Staff Sergeant M.J. Harden of the Auxiliary Territorial Service was published in the *London Gazette*, 9 Aug 1945 (A\DUJ)

Nonconformist records

South Petherton and Crewkerne Methodist Circuit: records of Broadway Hill and Stoke sub Hamdon Methodist churches, 1909-2013 (D\N\sp.c)

South Petherton and Crewkerne Methodist Circuit: records of churches in Broadway Hill, Crewkerne, Ilminster, Ilton, Kingsbury, Martock, Over Stratton, Seavington, Stoke sub Hamden and West Chinnock, 1846-2008 (D\N\sp.c)

Taunton: records relating to Mary Street Chapel, 1783-1927 (A\DUV)

Winsham Congregational Church: register and papers, [1791]-1926 (D\N\wins)

Parish and diocesan records

Baltonsborough: National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) Record of Church furnishings of St Dunstan's Church, 2013 (DD\X\NDS)

Bicknoller: photographs of past vicars, with list; illustration of proposed new lady chapel; brief history of the church, [1249]-1950s (D\P\bic)

Broomfield: Parochial Church Council minutes, 1962-1993 (D\P\broo)

Curry Mallet: record of the induction of Richard Jay to the United benefice of Hatch Beauchamp with Beercrocombe, Curry Mallet and West Hatch, 1988 (D\P\cur.m)

Hinton St. George: parish magazines, Domesday 900 records, burial register (1953-2013) and banns register (1928-2013), 1953-2013 (D\P\hin.g)

Ilminster: baptisms, 1944-2003; marriages, 1956-1991; confirmations, 1898-2005; banns, 1970-1994; accounts, 1987-2001; tithe redemption papers, 1922-1926; faculty papers, 1925-1994 (D\P\ilm)

Merriott: parish magazines, registers and Domesday 900 surveys, 1948-2005 (D\P\mer)

Queen Charlton: banns, baptism and burial registers, 1813-2013 (D\P\q.cha)

Whitelackington: marriage register, 1993-2009 (D\P\wlac)

Somerset: Church Patronage Trust: deeds for church property, 19th cent. (A\DUI)

Photographs and postcards

Roadwater: photograph of the ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the village hall, 1928 (A\DBM)

Staplegrave: AFC Photograph, an unidentified cricket team and possibly Australian army under AFC Club sign, 20th century (A\DUP)
Taunton: photographs of Victorian buildings around Fore Street, with index and descriptions, c.2000 (A\DUL)
Taunton: photo postcard of the Somerset County Museum, c.1950s (A\DKI)
Press cuttings and photographs relating to Wansdyke, Midsomer Norton and Radstock, c.1970s-c.1990s (A\DPQ)
Slides taken by the late Peter Nicholson of Salisbury, Wiltshire, of architecture, etc., in Somerset, 1960s-1970s (DD\X\SLO)
Somerset: miscellaneous photographs discovered in Bath, early 20th cent. (A\DUQ)
Somerset: photographs taken by Cyril Pursey of landscapes, animals, buildings, agriculture and crafts, people, transport, etc., c.1950s-2000s (5 boxes) (A\DUT)
35mm slides of Somerset landscapes and buildings, c.1960 (A\DVD)
Somerset: English Heritage 'Images of England' research papers and photographs, 2000s (3 boxes) (A\DUX)

Research papers and transcripts

Bridgwater and district: personal papers of Dr Peter Cattermole, including papers re. the West Somerset Railway, accounts of Sedgemoor District Council, Blake Museum working papers, Friends of Blake Museum, Bridgwater and District Civic Society and CDs and DVDs, 1972-2012 (A\CYJ)
Buckland St Mary: transcripts of baptism and burial registers, [1541-1641] (A\CQY)
Nailsea and district: Electronic Copy of 'Evacuees, Starfish and Things that go Bump in the Night' by Peter Wright [a history of Nailsea, Backwell, Wraxall and Failand during the Second World War], 2013 (A\BDY)
Rosewell of North-East Somerset: transcription and genealogical index, [1484-1700] (A\DUK)
Weston super Mare: Boudier family tree, [19th cent.] (A\DVH)
Somerset Gardens Trust: Garden surveys with related photograph albums, c.1990s-c.2000s (A\ASM)
Monumental inscriptions for Ashbrittle, Bathealton, Bridgwater St Mary, Chipstable, Halse, Heathfield, Langford Budville, Milverton, Nynehead, Raddington and Thorne St. Margaret, [1578-2013] (DD\X\MDT)

School and education records

Hinton St. George First School: log books, admission register, managers' minutes, punishment book, 1893-1978 (A\DVC)
Taunton: Vinyl LP 'Music at Bishop Fox's' with CD copy, [1978] (A\AXN)
Taunton: photographs of Queen's College, 1980s-1990s (A\CFG)
Queen's College, Taunton: calendars, newsletters, posters and other miscellaneous papers, 1984-2002 (A\CFG)

Other records

Clevedon: apprenticeship indenture of Reginald William Hale; correspondence from W. Burston and Son, builders; prospectus for St Brandon's School; photographs of Burnham on Sea, 1940s-1980s (DD\X\LLY)
Clevedon: copy price list for Clevedon and Portishead Laundry Co., 1964; Laundry Book (blank); catalogue and rules of Clevedon Parish Lending Library, 1920 (DD\X\LLY)
Glastonbury: photographs and plans of the Abbey Barn, c.1973 (DD\RLM)
'Glastonbury Now' DVD, 2011-2012 (A\DUO)

Ilton: correspondence related the requisition of cottages at Broughton Farm for war workers, 1942-1945 (A\DVA)
King's Sedgemoor: List of claims, investigated and annotated by John Billingsley, 1795 (A\DUW)
Rode Manor: sales catalogues, 1954-1955 (DD\NA)
Taunton: typed article written by Miss H. K. Bright-Chard entitled "Taunton Memories", Mar 2014 (A\DAA)
Wells Cathedral: five oral history recordings of cathedral stone masons, 2011 (A\DUR)
Weston super Mare: miscellaneous planning and other records, including local plans, illustrations of churches, local publications and maps, 20th cent. (A\DVJ)
Wrington and Kenn: miscellaneous documents including deeds, sale catalogues, rate books, Golden Lion account book, etc., 19th-20th cent. (A\DVG)
Yeovil: copy catalogue of ancient and modern works of art, models, natural curiosities, etc., in the Yeovil Exhibition, [1856] (T\PH\sro)
Plans of Shepton Mallet workhouse, Yeovil Hospital and Tone Vale Asylum, Cotford St. Luke, 20th cent. (A\DKK)
Somerset: miscellaneous deeds, correspondence, volumes and other papers, 18th-20th cent. (DD\X\WBB)
Somerset: miscellaneous deeds and wills, 1815-1871 (A\AUS)
Somerset: master negatives for Somerset newspapers, [2013] (CLOSED) (T\PH\tbl)
Somerset Voices: oral history recordings, master copies and public copies; license agreement forms, 2012-2013 (A\CMQ)

World War 1 - Liz

If you have any stories about relatives serving during WW1 could you please send them to me for the next edition. It need not be a long article, but what your relation did and where. I know that my Grandfather, the only son of an aged and ailing farmer in South Petherton, did not need to go to war. However, he was in South Petherton one day and was handed a white feather. The shame of the white feather was enough to make him sign on the dotted line, leaving a sister in charge of the farm, and he joined the Machine Gun Corps. I have a photograph of him taken at Grantham, Lincolnshire - the same town where I served my basic training in the WRAF in the 1970s. Being a farmer's son, Grampy looked after the mules, taking ammunition up and down the lines, and was very lucky to survive.

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