



Friends of Somerset Archives

Snippets - No. 29

September 2013

Welcome to the September edition of The Snippets - what a wonderful summer we've had this year. No mention of floods in Somerset and apparently the best summer for 7 years. I admit to being in the garden and enjoying the sun, rather than working on the family tree, but I am sure that is quite true for many of us. This is the first year since 2005 that I've not welcomed a new grandchild to the family - it does seem quite strange not looking at baby clothes. It has been wonderful seeing how cousins have started to look alike and share similar interests - yet living 200 miles apart. It makes me wonder how did it feel to be a grandparent 150 years ago? No Skype, emails, long delays between letters and few photographs, if any. However, that reminds me of how it felt when I first started on the family tree - contacting people back in the 1970's who lived in Australia and other far-flung places!

Liz
(Editor)

Proposed Event Timetable for the Year Ahead - from Malcolm Daniels, Chairman

Saturday October 19th

The Friends Annual General Meeting will be held at 2pm. followed by a talk by Royston Martin 'The Origins of Surnames' at 2.30pm. The Search room will be open in the morning and you are encouraged to bring a packed lunch and we can all have an informal chat in the foyer. The AGM itself is only for members, but if anyone would like to join in the morning, then they will be entitled to stay. Non-members can come to the talk at 2.30pm. after making a donation as usual.

Wednesday, November 6th at 11am.

Visit to Wells Cathedral Archives - Anne Crawford who has been archivist there for many years will lead a tour and give a talk about their fascinating archives. It will certainly be the last given to us by Ann as she is about to retire and her vast knowledge on the subject is remarkable. There is room for a maximum of fifteen people and so early booking is essential.

Please note, also, that the Wells Farmers Market is open on Wednesdays. Excellent Produce is on sale each week.

December

We have found that meetings in December are not popular due to members having a lot of other engagements and so this year we have decided to forego a meeting in this month.

Tuesday, January 14th at 10 am.

Back by Popular Demand!

My talk and practical session on Photographic Restoration (see a write up by Carol Dimmer elsewhere in this issue about the last session.) Beginners or those with little experience are encouraged to come and laptops will be provided. There is a limit of twelve per session. If demand exists, I may run a second session in the afternoon.

Wednesday, February 19th at 2 pm.

Jane de Gruchy, Archivist at Somerset Heritage Centre, will give a talk on the Dickinson family and their connection to Slavery.

Tuesday, March 18th at 7.30pm.

Janet Tall, Head of Archives at the Somerset Heritage Centre, will give a talk on 'A forgotten disaster: The last voyage of the Empress of Ireland' in which 1477 people lost their lives.

Wednesday, April 9th at 7.30 pm.

A talk by Steve Membury, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Somerset County Council regarding the Longforth and Taunton Priory excavations - more details to follow later.

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 of our meetings are free of charge to members with a suggested donation of £3.00 for non-members. All are welcome. Bring along a 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.

Please continue to support this very important work that we do for the Somerset Archives.

An Introduction to Photographic Reconstruction from Carol J Dimmer

When I saw in an edition of Snippets that Malcolm was going to give a day course on restoring old photographs, I was immediately interested and ready to add my name to the list as soon as it was available. This is I did, hoping that I would get a place which also happened. It was well attended with more people wanting to go than there were places for so Malcolm very kindly held a second session in the afternoon.

So on a July morning, I arrived at the Heritage centre and sat down in front of a laptop full of anticipation. We were provided with a digital copy of an old photograph of a small girl sitting on her horse, tattered, torn and faded - the photograph, not the girl! Parts of the photo were almost impossible to make out and it looked only fit to be regrettably dropped into the bin. This pathetic item, Malcolm told us was going to be turned into something worth keeping.



He took us through the procedure step by step. He explained how this digital representation was made up of millions of tiny dots, how to enlarge the picture so that the dots could be seen and worked on. We were shown how to "mend" the torn edges by cloning - copying similar bits from elsewhere in the photo and painting them into the

blank spaces. Then we smudged the edges so that it was no longer possible to see where the insertion joined. The holes and marks of tears in the picture could be got rid of in the same way. By this time, the photo looked so much tidier, but much of what was in it was still difficult to see.

Malcolm showed us ways of dealing with this. He showed us how the whole picture could be lightened so that parts that had been invisible became clear. Now it was possible to see so much more detail. Parts of the picture were little more than a white blur and we were shown how this could be darkened. The thing that fascinated me most was when the same procedure was used to sharpen up the blurry circle that was the little girl's face. The rest of the picture was fine; it was only this bit that needed help. Suddenly, we could see what she really looked like, her features were clear and there was a real person looking out at us.

You may wonder what we were all doing while Malcolm was showing us this. We were doing what he was doing on our individual laptops. It was our own efforts that were making our copy of the photo come to life. It was a really fun morning and my only regret was that I was unable to remain to practice what I had learnt in the afternoon. I will end with a plea for Malcolm to do another course at a future date, either the same one again or perhaps a Stage 2 version. I will be queuing up to attend either.

One family's experience of the old poor law - by Anne Murch

The Bryant family of Edington, a small rural Somerset village, illustrates most aspects of the old poor law throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, until the Poor law was amended in 1834 and administration taken over by the Bridgwater Union.

Members of the family appear frequently in the Edington overseers' accounts and other documents in the Somerset Heritage Centre. The village overseers of the poor distributed poor relief to them in the form of money in old age, sickness, distress and when widowed or orphaned. They were given clothes, fuel, food, funerals and medical care. They were cared for when necessary and their children were apprenticed. Men were charged as putative fathers of bastard children. Three of the men were employed to use their carpentry skills to help the poor and the village generally, the fourth to do general labouring and the women to do caring tasks. Although they were craftsmen, they appear to have lived close to poverty even when in employment.

Valentine 1670-1731 and Anne

One of the earliest entries was a payment to Valentine Bryant. With twelve other people he received 4s from a 50 shillings fine to be distributed to the poor "on account of the burying Mr James Hall in linen contrary to the Act of Parliament" (which required everyone to be buried in a woollen shroud.) Apart from this, Valentine did not appear to get parish relief. He made coffins for pauper funerals at a cost of about 10s for an adult and between 7s and 2s 6d for a child, presumably depending on age. The

cost of an adult coffin would have been about a week's wage for a labourer. Valentine was given brandy when he nailed a neighbour up in his coffin and tobacco and pipes at the burial. He was also paid most years for doing general parish works making, hauling, putting up and repairing field gates, gate posts and bridges. He was paid 7s 9d in 1709 for a new gate at the West field. His wife Anne in 1729 was paid to dress the foot of an elderly widow.

John 1717-1767 and Elizabeth

Valentine's son John, also a carpenter, was paid by the overseers for similar parish carpentry work to his father. In 1742 he was paid to make a door, durns (doorframes), latch and catch for a door for an elderly widow. He made spinning wheels for the poor at a cost of 2s 8d, and, like his father, he made coffins. John's wife Elizabeth was paid 6s for looking after a travelling woman in 1767. As a widow she was given a bushel of wheat worth 6s 8d. She was paid 13s 6d for looking after a woman for three weeks, then paid 6d a week for giving her houseroom. The parish paid 6d to move the woman's bed to Elizabeth's house. She had a daughter Ann who cost the village a lot of money because of illness. She had been brought home in 1771 and started to receive a regular allowance of 2s a week, material for clothing (dowlas- a coarse kind of linen or calico) costing 6d, a lindsey-woolsey (mixed wool and flax) coat, an apron and a handkerchief (for wearing round the shoulders) costing together 6s 5d. In 1772 she is taken to Wells at a cost of 8s 9d, possibly to a doctor (the reason is not specified). She is twice given physic costing 1s 4d. She was then taken on several occasions to a doctor in Honiton in Devon, over 40 miles away, a not inconsiderable journey in those days. The journey alone cost 15s 6d including 5s for the hire of a horse. She stayed there twice in 1773 with board paid at 5s a week for several weeks plus the doctor's fee for attendance and dressing £2 14s 6d. She went again for 4 weeks in 1774 and a fee of £2 7s 6d was paid for a cure. It seemed she had some fairly unusual complaint to be sent so far. Did a Somerset doctor, who felt unable to cure her, recommend a colleague in Honiton since it seems unlikely that the farmer overseers in Edington would have known of medical specialists in Devon? Unfortunately the cure seems to have been unsuccessful as she died in 1776. In spring and summer 1776 Elizabeth was given relief because two of her daughters were ill, then the cost of shrouds and coffins when they died. By 1780 she was herself getting some poor relief. A carpenter was paid to mend the side of her house and another man paid to thatch it using nine reed sheaves and three hundred spars. In 1784 she got a lock for her house in Rotten Row (the poor houses) and a man was paid 3s 9d for two and a half days repointing it with 8d of lime. She also got turf regularly and sometimes faggots. In 1787 she got money when sick.

John 1757-1800 and Martha

John Bryant was sometimes described as a labourer, sometimes a pauper, breaking with the carpentry tradition. (Another man appeared in the records doing the parish carpentry work until the next John Bryant appeared.) He did general labouring work for the parish raising stones, hauling turf, clearing ditches and making a hedge. On one occasion he was paid 5s for his boy raising stones under the road. He worked for five days for 5s 10d in 1784 raising stones for the additional building at the poor house and

was paid for I day to wheel rubbish away. In 1788 he was paid for throwing the cut (clearing the ditches/rhynes?). He was paid 1s 6d a day for work earlier in 1796 but later in the year 2s a day for 20 days work bottoming the West Nydon Brook along with other men. In 1788 a doctor's bill, paid by the overseers, recorded "advice to the Bryants 10s 6d, Bryant's wife's delivery 1 guinea, advice re Bryant's wife and child 5s." In 1789 Martha had the midwife costing 5s. In 1790 a woman was paid to look after her for three weeks at 2s a week. Although married, Martha was given money directly by the overseers not as a regular allowance but as casual payments varying from 2s 6d to £1 3s, as needed, on a number of occasions. In 1777 there were payments by the parish for two summonses and a special warrant for John Bryant, then a young unmarried man. Later when he was married further warrants are mentioned in 1789 and 1790 which coincide with the casual payments to Martha. More research is needed in criminal records to clarify the reason for this. In 1796 she was paid 2s 6d to look after someone's wife. Although they were never on the regular pension list, they got turf regularly and occasional extras like a bushel of wheat, some potatoes and clothes. In 1791 their son John, "a poor boy" aged 8, was apprenticed to a local farmer and indentures signed costing 9s. In 1795 a local carpenter was paid for curing John Bryant's child's leg. In 1800, the year her husband died aged 43, Martha got money in distress and shoes and the next year a linsey-woolsey coat costing 4s 11d. In 1807 she was paid 4s for looking after Anne Brooks and in 1808 for looking after Anne Brooks and her daughter. As a widow she received a weekly allowance for many years varying from 3s in 1808 2s in 1812 -1814 to 3s in 1815 and 2s 6d in 1817-18. There was a gap in payments in 1809/10 when she may have earned enough from caring for other people. In the autumn of 1810 she began to get 1s a week when in distress and thereafter went back on the regular list of pensioners. The varying amounts probably related to the poor harvests and high costs of wheat in some years. She also got regular loads of turf brought up from the moor for fuel. In 1809 she got 1s towards a pair of shoes for Elizabeth James child. Was she looking after her? The child was receiving an allowance of 2s 6d a week. She was paid 13s in relation to Anne Brook's death in January 1810 which suggests she was looking after her when dying. She was paid in 1810 to do washing and mending for an elderly man. In January 1814 she was given two blankets and a few weeks later had her shoes repaired and mended twice the following year. In 1819 she received 3 yards of dowlas. In 1820 she was paid 12s 6d for looking after another woman for five weeks and got a new pair of shoes. In 1821 she looked after a different woman for 5 weeks at the lower rate of 4s 6d. She got a new blanket costing 5s 6d in 1823, the equivalent of nearly three weeks pension. In 1824 she got five and a half yards of shambra (a lightweight cotton) for a petticoat.

John and Elizabeth

The next John Bryant was a sawyer and carpenter. He appeared in 1807 before a magistrate adjudged to be the father of Elizabeth Porker's child, baptised Elizabeth Bryant. He was ordered to pay 10s towards the lying in and maintenance, afterwards 1s 6d a week towards sustenance and maintenance. By April 1808 he was in arrears of 2 guineas. In fact he then married her and they had ten more children. In 1809 during the Napoleonic wars he was in the militia and Elizabeth got relief as a militia wife.

Like his grandfather and great grandfather, he mended and made bridges. He did a lot of work on the poorhouse, mending the door, putting up door frames, with others repairing it after a fire, putting in a lock, putting in bars and posts, making and repairing stiles, thatching, mending the stairs, repairing the necessary. He made crutches, corded beds, repaired a bedstead for the use of the poor, repaired stairs and moved people's goods. He put a new post in the singing loft in the church, mended the church coffer, put in new seats and a ladder up to the bells. In 1819 he was paid £1 5s for a coffin. Although he was employed, he may have been in poverty, because of his large family and/or underemployment, which would account for his being given fuel regularly when not on regular financial relief. Unfortunately his wife Elizabeth died early in 1827 leaving him with a large family of children ranging from 21 to 2 years old. No doubt the older girls would have looked after the younger ones. He then became ill himself in the summer of that year and started getting an allowance of 9s a week during his sickness. The parish paid for his bedcord. Shortly before he died he received a neck of mutton. After his death an allowance of 8 shillings a week, reducing to 4s, was paid regularly for Bryant's children. The children received regular clothing from the parish in the form of material, suits of clothes, hats, stockings, half boots, quarter boots. Soon after their parents' deaths the older daughters became ill. Julia aged 19 in 1828 got an allowance regularly and 2s was spent on dressing and calico bandages for her knee and a doctor's bill of 6 guineas. A village woman was paid 4s to look after her. She was ill for nearly a year, dying in September 1829. The parish paid for her funeral, a coffin and shroud, digging the grave and tolling the bell £1 5s. Her sister Maria aged 18 was also ill and in October, November and December 1829 there were payments of 8s a month to the Bridgwater infirmary for her. Julian their brother was ill in 1828. As the younger orphan children grew, they were apprenticed to farmers in the village, the girls in housewifery and the boys in husbandry, until they were 21. This saved the parish their continued upkeep. Charlotte was 13, John 11, Eliza 10, Elisha 9 and Michael 9 when apprenticed. In some villages children were apprenticed out of the village but these stayed in familiar surroundings. Even if they were unhappy to leave their family at such young ages, they would be near each other. A village lot book survives, listing the ratepayers in the order in which they were required to take a child apprentice.

This selection of entries about one family illustrates many ways in which the small rural eighteenth century parish worked like a tiny welfare state, responding to many different needs of the poor. It also illustrates the fascinating, small details one can find about the daily lives of the poorer members of society who have left few written records themselves. Overseers' accounts survive for many Somerset villages and are a rich social history source.

Somerset Manorial Documents Register - from Scott Pettitt, the Somerset Manorial Documents Register project archivist

In June work commenced on the 18-month Somerset Manorial Documents Register (MDR) Project.

Manors were for centuries at the heart of local government, society and economies throughout western Europe. They are best defined as territorial units held by a landlord who was himself a tenant of the Crown. In the medieval period the lord of the manor would have had two sorts of tenants on his estate: villeins, who occupied the land in exchange for services rendered to the lord, and freemen who paid a money rent. With the decay of feudalism villein tenure evolved into what is known as copyhold tenure. Copyhold refers to the entering of a tenant's name in the rolls of the manor court. The new tenant, who would have to pay an entry fine and a heriot, or best beast, was provided with a copy of the relevant entry in the court roll (hence 'copyhold'). (In addition to tenancy changes, these courts enforced the payments of dues and services, and had the authority to deal with petty offences like common nuisances and affray.)

The 1922 Law of Property Act brought to an end the last meaningful function of manorial courts through the abolition of 'copyhold' tenure. However, since proof of title to former copyhold land could still depend upon the account of the admission and surrender of a tenancy contained within the books and rolls of a manor court, it was essential that these records should not be lost or destroyed. The Act therefore reserved to all persons with an interest in enfranchised land a statutory right of access to the original court rolls or books of the manor concerned.

To ensure that these and other manorial documents were properly preserved an amendment to the Act (section 144A) made in 1924 placed them under the charge and superintendence of the Master of the Rolls. The Master of the Rolls was also authorised by the statute to make Rules giving effect to this charge. For the purposes of the rules, manorial documents were defined as "court rolls, surveys, maps, terriers, documents and books of every description relating to the boundaries, wastes, customs or courts of a manor" but excluded "deeds or other instruments required for evidencing title to a manor or agreements or draft agreements relating to compensation, or any documents which came into being after 31st December 1925". The Master of the Rolls issued the first Manorial Documents Rules in 1926. At the same time he ordered a register to be kept recording the individual nature and location of the documents concerned.

Though the initial aim of the register was to ensure that it would enable access to records which could determine proof of title, it has long since become used primarily as a resource for historical research.

The original Manorial Documents Register exists in the form of handwritten slips arranged alphabetically by county and then manor. In the case of Somerset there are 10 volumes of such slips. Over the past decade, The National Archives has been overseeing the updating and computerisation of the original Manorial Documents Register (registers for those counties already updated can be viewed at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr/>). This is where I come in. Using the original slips as my starting point, I need to revise, and, hopefully, expand the Somerset

register. As I'm sure you can imagine, there will be no shortage of grey areas as the project progresses. I might have to decide whether a manor existed, whether particular records are indeed for the manor they are supposed to be, and even whether they are actually manorial or not. Some of the problems result from the inadequacies of the old MDR, such as the misidentification of manors, incomplete, unclear or inaccurate descriptions, and incorrect dates. Often, much of the information is simply out-of-date, particularly with regard to reference numbers. There will be many occasions when I have to consult the original documents themselves to resolve some of these problems. These are often in heavily abbreviated Latin or difficult hand-writing styles, but that is one of the aspects of the job I relish the most.

The first three months of the project have been devoted to creating a comprehensive list of Somerset manors for which there are surviving records, or at least might be extant records (the list currently comprises 697 manors). This work has been accompanied by the creation of 'Manor Authority Entries', brief histories of each of the manors on the list. The tales of these manors are often microcosms of the history of England itself, the changing fortunes of many manors buried in the sleepy Somerset countryside inextricably bound up with the fates of their nationally important owners. Take the fabulously named manor of Honibere Lilstock in the Parish of Lilstock. Granted to John Dudley, 1st duke of Northumberland, by Edward VI in 1552, a little over a year later the manor was seized by Crown when Northumberland was executed by Mary I for placing his daughter-in-law Lady Jane Grey on the throne.

Few records offer as comprehensive a window into the past as those of manors. As evocations of the lives of ordinary people in the pre-modern age, manor court rolls, some of which date back to the 13th century, are without equal, enabling us to understand the social and economic structures within our villages, and illuminating a host of other fascinating topics, notably the role of women and the impact of plague and pestilence. Court rolls also provide us with a thoroughly entertaining, but occasionally harrowing, compendium of sex, violence and death, bringing the world of Chaucer vividly to life. Beyond this, they constitute, together with such manorial records as rentals and accounts, which list names of tenants from year to year, an immensely valuable genealogical resource, especially for the period pre-dating the advent of parish registers. In short, though they might often initially appear forbidding, these records are among the most exciting to be found in archives. Sadly, they also remain among the least known, but it is hoped that the updating of the MDR will help to change this, making them much more accessible.

There are a number of opportunities for volunteers to become involved in this project, with a range of tasks to suit all interests available. These vary from researching the history of individual Somerset manors and their records to adding the information contained within the original MDR slips to an Excel spreadsheet.

If anyone thinks they might be interested in becoming a volunteer and would like further information please do not hesitate to contact me at SPettitt@somerset.gov.uk or on 01823 278805.

Records of the mentally ill and disabled in Somerset - from Sue Berry

I should first of all say that while I appreciate that terms such as 'lunatic', 'idiot' etc are these days rightly considered offensive, when dealing with historical records one has to accept the terminology of the period and these or similar terms do appear in this article.

Prior to the 1848 opening of Somerset's County Pauper Asylum in Wells, later called Mendip Hospital, records of individual patients are rare. Some references can be found in parish records such as vestry minutes when parishes made arrangements for the care of their own lunatics. For example, in Bruton in 1794 the vestry agreed to indemnify John Haynes, the brother in law of Ann Coles, against any claim on him for sending Ann to Bedlam (The Royal Bethlehem Hospital) in London.¹



George Cruikshank 1792-1878 Visiting in Bedlam

There were also local doctors willing to treat the mentally ill. One such was Dr John Westover of Wedmore who took patients into an annexe of his own home at the end of the seventeenth century. His journal, as well as recording his treatment of his physically ill patients, gives some details of the mentally ill patients he treated between 1685-1700.² However, such accounts are very rare at this period.

June 17 1689 then Mr Nathaniell Jeanes and I did cum to An account for the tabling of his sister Mrs Elizabeth Jeanes & for other disbursements for the yeare And there did appeare due to me John Westover just nine pounds fower shillings seven pens farthing for the ould dept.

Atherton Holkum of Shipham came to cure the 11th of July 1689 at seven pounds cure, three pounds in hand and the other four pounds when he is well of distemper of

madness and eight shillings a week for his tabling over.

However the majority of pre-1848 material will be found among the records of Quarter Sessions. There are some references to 'lunatics' in the Quarter Sessions rolls, for example the order c. 1613 that Richard Hygdon of Marston Magna, a lunatic, to be kept in his house by several named persons³ although such references are surprisingly few.

The Act of 1774 laid down that private asylums were to be licensed by the Justices of the Peace at Quarter sessions, paying a fee of £10 if the asylum accommodated less than 10 patients and £15 if above. The licence was renewable yearly. Two Justices and a physician were appointed to inspect the asylum and to report on its condition and the care of the patients.

In Somerset no records of inspection of asylums have survived in QS before 1809 and the earliest visiting Justice's report is one of 1817 for Fivehead House, not in the parish of Fivehead as you might suppose but in Otterford. The Justices were not impressed by the state of things there.⁴

On our visit on the 3rd day of June 1817 as well as at other times we observed a considerable want of attention to the personal safety of the patients

We also observed many patients at large and under no control of the keeper or his deputy to the great danger of themselves as well as of the public

There was also an interesting observation that makes it clear that different kinds of mental illness or incapacity were recognized at this time.

We further observed and think that the patients confined in this house are most indiscriminately mixed together and that a due attention to their several ranks in life and more especially to the cast of their mental derangement is much wanting

Practically all the other records of inspection date from the late 1820's and we have them for Fairwater House in Staplegrove, Bindon House in Langford Budville, Monument House in Wellington, Bowyes House in Kingston St Mary, Fullands House in Wilton, Belle Vue House in Weston super Mare, Brislington House, Cleeve House in Yatton, Bailbrook in Batheaston, Longwood House in Long Ashton, Amberd House in Pitminster, Upper House in Monkton Combe, and Portishead House. These asylums catered for those whose families had the money to pay for their keep and treatment. They also, prior to the establishment of the Union Workhouses, took in pauper patients whose expenses were paid by their parish.

From 1828 to 1832 there is a register of certificates of admission of patients into the private asylums giving name, age, occupation and parish of patient, name of asylum and date of removal or death. As well as this register there are records for some of the individual asylums including lists of patients 1828-1852. The majority of these relate

to Fairwater House in Staplegrove.

After the establishment of the County Pauper Lunatic Asylum in 1848 these private asylums ran, as it were, alongside it and there are annual reports of the visitors of private asylums as late as 1923.

An Act of 1815 required parish overseers to submit to Quarter Sessions a list of all the pauper lunatics in their area. These stated name, age, condition eg lunatic, idiot, dangerous, harmless, length of time disordered, where confined, and weekly expense of maintenance.⁵ However, for Somerset, and I believe for many other counties, these returns have not survived before 1828. Between 1828-1841 the returns are arranged by Hundred. In 1842 this responsibility was devolved to the Clerk of the Guardians and there are returns 1842-1885 arranged by Union. Thus in 1885 in the Axbridge Union there were 88 people on the list. Sixty four were described as lunatics, 17 as idiots, two each as imbecile, insane or suffering from weakness of mind and one suffering from dementia. The oldest person on the list was 81 described as insane for several years, the youngest was 10, an idiot from birth. All were in the County Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

The registers of patients in the County Asylum begin in 1848 and there are two series, one for male and the other for female patients. Both series cease in 1959. [N.B. You cannot see anything relating to an individual patient until 100 years after their date of birth, and there are some other restrictions. Contact the Heritage Centre for further details.] These registers or case books give biographical and case histories and are arranged by date of admission. They are indexed and for the male registers there is a composite index to the first 15 vols 1848-1900.

The first entry in the male patients' case book reads

John Stour aged 47 farm labourer married was admitted March 3rd 1848 with melancholia. His general history is as follows. His parents are both of the labouring classes, and he is the youngest of seven children, four boys and three girls. The age of his parents at the time of his birth was the father 36, the mother [left blank]. The grandfather on the father's side was reported to have been insane.... He was first attacked about 18 months ago and has continued insane up to the present time and his age at the time of his attack was 46. He has no family. His wife's age is 46. He has been married 24 years. He has always been of industrious habits, his previous conduct very good, had worked for one family for 26 years and had saved some money and the exciting cause of this attack was from over anxiety in consequence of having been found fault with and discharged by the son with whom he had been on intimate terms and was much attached. His wife was of industrious frugal habits and they lived very happy...⁶

John remained in the asylum until 28 April and was discharged as recovered.

Thomas Withers who was admitted on 13 March 1848 also with melancholia was not so lucky. He was to spend over 20 years there until his death. He was a blacksmith age 58 at the time of his admission and the cause of his attack was given as being of a moral character namely domestic grief arising from the bad conduct of his wife who, to use his own words, was of a malicious bad temper and irritable; he had not any peace and in consequence was often driven from home, "she was always talking at me". They had been married about 35 years. Thomas died in the asylum on 9th July 1870 of apoplexy

Similar registers exist for Cotford (later Tone Vale) Asylum from 1897.

For those interested in reading further, I have listed a few books below.

Susan Marshall *Mendip Hospital: An Appreciation* Melrose Books 2006

Duncan Dougal *The Mendip Hospital* 2000

W Parry-Jones *The Trade in Lunacy: a study of private madhouses in England in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries* Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1972

Peter Bartlett *The Poor law of lunacy: the administration of pauper lunatics in mid-nineteenth-century England* London, Leicester University Press, 1999

Notes

1 D\P\BRUT/9/1/1

2 DD\X\HKN/1

3 Q\SR/16/52-53

4 Q\RLU/c/6

5 Q\RLU/a and b

6 D\H\WEL/17/1/1

7 D\H\TV/16/2 series

Graffin Prankard, - Gunpowder, Nails and Raffle Tickets at "The Best Possible Price" - from Bob Warren

The Dickinson Project team continue to make steady progress in the indexing, cataloguing and conservation of the archive documents. Since the last update in Snippets the most notable achievement has been the development by a member of the indexing team of a computer program to consolidate the data entered into the working spreadsheets so that it can be published in an accessible form for use by researchers. Previously this task had to be undertaken in an arduous and prolonged fashion and could give rise to errors and omissions. Now it is a matter of minutes to run the overall completed spreadsheet data for a letter book volume, often in excess of five thousand individual entries and produce an end result which is ready for printing. Hopefully this program can be used for other projects at the Heritage Centre.

Four out of five of the indexing team are still progressing the correspondence of Graffin Prankard, a Bristol merchant of the first half of the eighteenth century who was the father in law of one the most notable of the Dickinson dynasty, Caleb Dickinson

II, and was largely responsible for the commercial foundations of the family fortune. He traded in everything that could possibly make a profit, virtually throughout the western world, and usually had quite a few ships in the Atlantic or the Baltic at any time. He relied upon agents in many of the major foreign ports and his letter books mainly contain correspondence with them, and also with business acquaintances throughout the British Isles, especially in London. As has been mentioned in a previous articles in "Snippets" Mr. Prankard was a man of considerable and somewhat idiosyncratic character, something that is reflected in his correspondence. We are often entertained and intrigued by these communications and by his business methods, and these often lead us into interesting and sometimes baffling aspects of eighteenth century social and commercial life. Two recent examples that have been especially interesting are to do with an extraordinarily cavalier attitude towards what is these days known as "Health and Safety" and the way in which we often find that what might be considered as a modern innovation had been in existence over two and half centuries ago.

In 1735 the pride of Prankard's fleet was the Baltic Merchant, a substantial vessel of about 300 tons which he owned and which had been built for him recently. It was worked hard, going on trips to North America and the Baltic on a regular basis, carrying miscellaneous cargoes of mainly manufactured goods to the colonies and the northern European countries and returning with rice, hemp, tallow, iron, salt and similar bulk items for sale either in England or for onward export to other ports. His agents in South Carolina were Jennys and Baker, and on pages 231 to 233 of letter book DD/DN/426 there are a series of invoices to them for 23 cwt. of refined sugar in eight hogsheads, 15cwt. of gunpowder in 37 assorted barrels and 26 casks of nails of various sizes. These were to be carried in the hold of the Baltic Merchant and the Master had the responsibility of investing the money obtained in rice, purchased "at the best possible price" a favourite utterance of Prankard. Gunpowder is a very dangerous substance, and, in the eighteenth century was very variable in its quality. At that time the Royal Navy carried the substantial amounts that it needed for its fighting ships in specially designed powder rooms and the crew were subject to a rigorous handling discipline in order to avoid disastrous accidents. Nevertheless on occasions major warships spontaneously exploded when not under fire. A very good description of the powder room of HMS Victory can be seen on the Royal Navy Museum website. This powerful explosive, combined with a large amount of high calorific value sugar and massive numbers of nails, all no doubt packed next to each, was a very dangerous cargo and nevertheless appears to have been successfully delivered. From the correspondence of that time, nobody seems to have queried the wisdom of carrying such a cargo! The Baltic Merchant was the lynch pin of Prankard's business, and later on in 1740, when it was captured by Spanish privateers he became effectively bankrupt and his business activities remained modest thereafter, so why he endangered his ship in this way is a mystery.

A series of entries in letter book DD/DN/424 during the last quarter of 1731 addressed to Prankard's London agent Thomas Hyam also caused much interest. In

these letters he asks Hyam to purchase three lottery tickets for his wife and her two sisters and "I now desire thee now to do it on the best terms canst". This was intriguing for two reasons; state lotteries were supposedly a relatively modern operation and surely a ticket would have a fixed price at point of sale and would be valueless after the draw had been undertaken if it did not have a winning number. Not so! There is a very long history to the English Lottery, which is revealed in detail in a fascinating book: "A History of English Lotteries" by John Ashton published in 1893 by the Leadenhall Press. It is out of copyright and can be downloaded from the Princeton University Library website in its entirety. Perusal of this shows that the prizes at that time were in government stock and a non-winning ticket still had a residual value as a small annuity and was thus a tradeable commodity. Prankard confirms this in a later letter to Hyam in which he returns the three tickets and asks him to examine them to see if any are a prize and "dispose of them for most will buy"



Map match making - from Jane de Gruchy

A few weeks ago, we came across one of those strange coincidences that sometimes happen in archives. We had two researchers in looking at the history of North and South Cadbury, particularly at maps. We knew that we had an incomplete estate map of the manor of North Cadbury from 1797 in the Wyndham collection (DD\WY/121/1) and a map of the manor of South Cadbury which was undated but from about 1830 in another collection (DD\SAS/C212/2/1).

When we compared the two maps, straight away it became clear that they were part of the same map! Someone had very carefully cut along the parish boundaries, and when we put the two maps together they matched pretty much perfectly. As the title and date were on the North Cadbury part of the map, we'd had to make a guess on the date of the other part, and it turns out that we had been a bit far of the mark.

It is not all that unusual for documents that originally belonged together to have 'lost' each other over the years - the classic example is when we have a map in one collection

and the book of reference that goes with it in another. But this is the first time that we've founded two parts of the same map deliberately divided up.

There is, however, another twist to this tale. The 1797 map was originally of the manors of North Cadbury, South Cadbury and Sparkford - but we do not have the Sparkford part here...



FACEBOOK

Did you know that the Heritage Centre now has its own Facebook page? Just search for "Somerset Heritage Centre" and sign up.

[I did this last week and have found it very interesting. Liz]

Somerset Remembers: The First World War - Project Update from Liz Grant

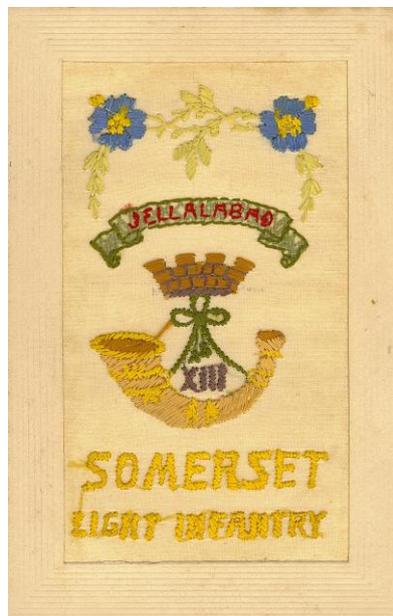
The Somerset Remembers project is progressing well. Throughout June and July we recruited and trained forty volunteers, who are now busy working at the Somerset Heritage Centre. The project has attracted people from various walks of life, many of whom have not volunteered with the Heritage Service before

The volunteers are working on three different projects: the digitisation and transcription of returns made by 176 parishes at the end of the war, which detail the local contributions made to the war effort; the indexing of a select group of Somerset newspapers; and researching and transcribing archives held at the Heritage Centre. The aims of the three projects are to find out what was happening in Somerset between 1914 and 1918. The records being consulted vary from Borough minute books,

to school log books to Quaker minute books and some of the stories which are emerging from the research include fear of air or sea attacks, the ploughing up of the Somerset countryside to contribute to the war effort, the limiting of the sale of alcohol and the contributions made by children. We are also transcribing records such as casualty lists, absentee voter lists and military tribunal records.



The project team have begun the selection of archives and objects to be included in an exhibition at the Museum of Somerset, which will open in August 2014. Work has begun on an online community archive, which will hopefully go live at the beginning of next year and allow individuals to upload stories about Somerset during the war years. Work is also progressing on a programme of events, which will include a Centenary football match, a series of talks and a research symposium.



We have also launched a public appeal for First World War archives and objects, which will help tell the County's story. So If you have First World War objects, photographs, letters, postcards or other memorabilia which show the impact of the war on Somerset, we'd like to hear from you.

If you are interested in the following the progress of the project, please sign up to the blog at <http://somerstremembers.wordpress.com>



If you would like further information on the project please contact us at the Somerset Heritage Centre, by telephone 01823 278805 or email somerstremembers@somerset.gov.uk

THE YEOVIL LOCAL MILITARY SERVICE TRIBUNAL - from Jack Sweet

By the autumn of 1915, voluntary sources could not meet the need to replace the high casualties being suffered on the Western Front and the increasing demands of the war effort. The result was the Military Service Act 1916 which came into force at the beginning of February 1916, and was the first compulsory conscription law ever made in the Great Britain. Initially all single men and childless widowers aged 18 to 41 were registered for the call-up, and local Military Service Tribunals were established by Borough, Urban and Rural District Councils to hear applications for exemption with a further appeal to County Appeal Tribunals. The call-up would be extended to other categories and age groups as the army's losses and manpower needs increased and more than 2.3 million men would be conscripted before the war was over.

The first application to be considered by the Yeovil Borough Tribunal in February 1916, was that of an un-named hairdresser who stated that he had invested all his capital in

the business, his one assistant had already joined the army, he was now working single-handed, and his widowed mother was dependent on him. His younger brother was in the army, another was paralysed and could not work, and a third was working away in a munitions factory. Efforts to employ a new assistant had proved fruitless. The Tribunal granted a conditional exemption on grounds of hardship. Temporary exemptions for one month were granted to a draper, gents outfitter, a motor engineer's cashier and the son of a milk retailer to enable replacements to be obtained, but the application of a tailor was refused.

During the next three years the Yeovil Borough Tribunal, under the chairmanship of Councillor (later Alderman and Mayor) W R E Mitchelmore, held 72 formal hearings and dealt with 2,686 applications. The applications came from a wide range of ages, occupations and situations, and the following cases gives an indication of the range of appeals which were dealt with. The Tribunal's proceedings were reported in the *Western Gazette*, and although in the beginning the names of applicants were withheld, within a few months names were given.

At the beginning of March 1916 the first two conscientious objectors presented their applications. One was a Sunday School Superintendent, who pleaded for absolute exemption as he was completely opposed to war, his mother was blind, his father had been operated upon three times for cataracts, and he had to look after his father's affairs. The Tribunal ignored the conscientious objection, but granted a conditional exemption on grounds of hardship. The second from a 30 years old glove cutter was refused as the Tribunal considered his objection was on political and not religious grounds.

Conscientious objectors featured prominently during the early months of the Tribunal and they were named from April onwards. The following report in the *Western Gazette* of 14 July 1916 gives an indication of the feeling generated by the appeals from persons of conscience.

'Henry David Brookes (18) of Huish, appealed for absolute exemption on conscientious grounds and claimed that men of whatever nationality or colour were all brothers. All war was immoral and militarism the curse of every country. Appellant stated that he was a member of the Adult School but not of any orthodox religious body. He was a member of the No-Conscription Fellowship. - Mr. Matthews remarked that there was a great similarity between the appellant's replies and other objectors. - The father assured the tribunal that he gave his son no assistance, and the appellant said that he "stood on his own". He had held those views for four years. - Dismissed.

'The Chairman stated that the tribunal had given very careful consideration, in all cases of conscientious objectors, to do nothing which would interfere in any way to the just consideration of the cases. As they had come, he hoped, to the end of them he wished to say, and he thought they owed it to the young men who had gone to fight for their country, that they had rendered it the highest service. Many, indeed, had not

only gone forth, but had died, to save their country and those who stayed at home. " I was disappointed," the Chairman proceeded, " to hear the remark made at the last meeting that, to a man that was anxious to do it, service implied no sacrifice. Those men have made the greatest possible sacrifice for their fellow men and the Empire. Those who have taken up the attitude of objectors seem to claim something meritorious in it, and suggest that they are making a sacrifice by taking up that attitude. To me that is absurd. They know in most instances, instead of sacrificing anything, they are preserving their own lives at the expense of those who were giving their lives. It appears to me that we owe it to those who have gone, and I express personally my objection to this attitude of Pharisaical snobbery which some conscientious objectors appear to act upon by placing themselves as superior in some particular characteristic to the men who have gone out and prevented our country being invaded and destroyed as Belgium and France have been. Our brave men out there feel bitterly these wretched and frivolous objections that are made by men against serving their country during its present great trial.'

By August 1916 all appellants were being named and it is interesting to find that the applications range from employees to employers, some of whose businesses will be familiar names to many Yeovilians.

On 28 September 1916, Mr S Clothier, managing director of gloving firm , Messrs Atherton and Clothier was granted exemption until 1 June 1917 on business grounds, and at the hearing on 15 March 1917, Mr Frederick Taylor, proprietor of a drapery, dressmaking and undertakers business and classed as Bi (work not of national importance) requested that he should not be given exemption on condition that he joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment of the British Red Cross or the Volunteer Training Corps, because the whole of his time was devoted to the work of the Boys' Brigade of which he was Captain of the Yeovil Company. The application was supported by the Wessex Council of the Boys' Brigade who emphasised the importance of his work. Temporary exemption was granted to the 1 June next and no further appeal without leave. At the same Tribunal the application of a 20 years old glover, Frederick Glover, of Hillview, on grounds that he had been suffering from bronchial catarrh for six months was dismissed. The twelve other applications heard by the Tribunal included a commercial traveller, motor and agricultural engineer, groom/gardener, plumber, foreman mechanic and a head warehouseman, all of whom were given conditional exemptions to 1 August next.

The clerk to the Tribunal was not immune from the call-up. Thirty-years old Mr R L Hiscott, who also happened to be Yeovil's Deputy Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk to the Education Committee was the subject of a joint appeal by the Borough Council and the Education Committee on 19 September 1916. It was stated that the Town Clerk and Clerk to the Education Committee, Major H C C Batten was on active service, and 'That before the War there were the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and a junior. On the outbreak of War the Town Clerk Mr H.C.C. Batten had joined up, and shortly afterwards the junior, leaving Mr. Hiscott to "carry on" with a boy of 18. The whole of

the duties of the Town Council, Education Committee, Police Court and Burial Committee had fallen upon him, and the work had been considerably increased since through national registration, the tribunal &c. They submitted that his work was of national importance. The military note recommended conditional exemption. Colonel Yates added: "Mr. Hiscott is doing better work where he is." The Tribunal granted a conditional exemption. .

I found the meeting of 13 September 1917 of special interest. Mr Hiscott, reported that he had received a recommendation from the military representatives regarding all the cases which would come before them this afternoon. Of the 99 cases applied for, 96 should be given temporary exemption until 1 February 1918, E Robbins aged 39, a manufacturer, an unconditional exemption, but those of R W Sweet, 18, single (Messrs Thring and Luffman), and B Jennings, 18 single (Messrs Atherton and Clothier) should be dismissed as it was not in the national interest that they should be retained in civilian employment. The two young men had just completed their gloving apprenticeships. The Tribunal adopted the recommendation in full. The R W Sweet was my father Reginald, and within one month both he and Burt Jennings had joined the Wiltshire Regiment . They were sent to France at the beginning of April 1918, but sadly Burt was killed two months later, and my father was badly wounded in the Battle of the River Selle at the end of October a few weeks before the fighting ceased. It appeared that the reason for the 96 exemptions was that all the men were glovers and there were large Government contracts to be completed by the end of December 1917.

The last meeting of the Borough Tribunal was held on 31 October 1918 following the Local Government Board's decision to amalgamate the Borough and Rural District Tribunals. At this meeting the *Western Gazette* reported the following cases were heard:

'Alfred E. Stevens (41), married, Pen Park-road, cardboard box manufacturer, applied on several grounds, including that of certified occupation and that he was the directing head of a large business - The application was objected to. - The Chairman stated that they understood that the business was entirely dependent on Mr. Steven's control - Mr. Kent Francis said that therefore he had the right to claim exemption on that ground - Temporary exemption to May 1st, to join the V.A.D.

'OTHER CASES - Henry R. S. Templeman (43), 25 Queen Street, miller (Bradford & Sons) Feb. 1st. - William John Hewlett (41), 6 Rustywell, cartage contractor &c., May 1st. - Alexander Buchanan (50), widower, North Lane, draper, February 1st and excused Volunteer condition. - John Bonning (25), 20 Brunswick-street, painter &c, (Mr E. Minson), May 1st, to join the V.A.D. - Harold Walter Larcombe (18), 64 St. Michael's Avenue, tailor's apprentice, adjourned for re-examination.'

Eleven days later the War was over and the Tribunals were disbanded within a few months.

New Additions to the Local Studies Library, May-July 2013

Items marked Q can be found in the Quickref section.

Items marked D were donated to the Local Studies Library

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

Adkins, *Eavesdropping on Jane Austen's England: how our ancestors lived two centuries ago* (D) (942.073 ADK)

Aston, *Monasteries in the Landscape* (726.709 AST)

Barry, *Witchcraft and Demonology in South-West England 1640-1789* (133.4 BAR)

Booker, *Great Drought in the South West* (D) (551.577 BOO)

Boyd, *As The Crow Flies* (fiction) (T 823 BOY)

Brown, *Worle Pubs: a history of public houses past and present* (T 647.95 BRO)

Brunning, *Somerset's Peatland Archaeology: managing and investigating a fragile resource* (D) (T 930.15 BRU)

Chater, *Tracing Your Huguenot Ancestors* (929.1 CHA Q)

Codd, *Mysterious Somerset and Bristol* (T 133.4)

Coppack, *Abbeys and Priors* (726.7 COP)

Coverdale, *Church of St. Thomas a Becket and the Parish of Widcombe: a history* (T WID)

Christian, *The Genealogist's Internet* (Q 929.1)

Crockford, *Crockford's Clerical Directory 1963-64* (283.025 1964 Q)

Crockford, *Crockford's Clerical Directory 2010-11* (283.025 Q)

Crockford, *Crockford's Clerical Directory 2012-13* (283.025 2013 Q)

Dalrymple, *Mr Clarke's Modest Proposal: supportive evidence from Yeovil* (T 361.1 DAL)

Devon Library Service, *English in Early America: a bibliography* (D) (973.2 DEV)

Doyle, *British Soldier of the First World War* (940.412 DOY)

Extence, *Universe Versus Alex Woods* (fiction) (T 823 EXT)

Finch, *Drowners* (fiction) (T 823 FIN)

Finch, *Death of the Elver Man* (fiction) (T 823 FIN)

Forde, *Preserving Archives*, 2nd ed. (T 025.84 FOR)

Fowler, *Tracing Your First World War Ancestors: a guide for family historians* (929.1 FOW Q)

General Medical Council, *Medical Register: to regulate the qualifications of practitioners in medicine and surgery* (610.69 1885 Q)

Gorman, *Preservation Management for Libraries, Archives & Museums* (GO/10/1)

Graham, *Canopy of Silence* (fiction) (T 823 GRA)

Greenhill, *Westcountrymen in Prince Edward's Isle* (D) (973.2 GRE)

Gripaios, *South West Economy: papers from a conference held at Plymouth Polytechnic in November 1987* (D) (330.942 GRI)

Gudgeon, *Other Side of the Counter: seven years running a village shop in Somerset* (T381.1 GUD)

Hamilton James, *Kingfisher: tales from the Halcyon river* (T 598.78 HAM)

Hart, *Thorncombe: a tale of three counties* (942.33 HAR)

Hateley, *Industrial Railways and Locomotives of South Western England* (T 385 SOM)

Hawkings, *Criminal Ancestors: a guide to historical criminal records in England and Wales* (929.3 HAW Q)

Hill, *Viking Wars of Alfred the Great* (942.016 HIL)

Homeland Association, *Lynton, Lynmouth and the Lorna Doone Country* (D) (914.235 HOM)

Hunt, *Ordination of the Vicarage of St. Mary Magdalene Taunton* (D) (T254.1 HUN)

Hunt, *A Peep into a Prison: the inside of Ilchester Bastille* (D) (T 365.3 HUN)

Ingham, *Tracing Your Service Women Ancestors: a guide for family historians* (929.1 ING Q)

James, *British Regiments 1914-18* (355.31 JAM)

Jenkins, *Map of the Ancient Landscape Around Glastonbury: energy centres, ancient remains, ley alignments, coasts and islands* (T GLA JEN)

Kain, *England's Landscapes: The South West* (914.23 KAI)

Laplugh, *Exmoor Courtship & Exmoor Scolding: two 18th century Devon dialogues* (D) (T 828.5 LAM)

Lean, *Storm Force: the Westcountry's wild winter of 1989/90* (D) (363.349 LEA)

Little, *Story of Bristol: from the Middle Ages to today* (T 942.39 LIT)

Moorland Mousie Trust, *Green Room: the story of a unique building in the heart of Exmoor* (T ASH MOO)

Musgrove League of Friends, *Celebrating 70 Years: a pictorial history of Musgrove Park Hospital* (D) (T 362.11 MUS)

Nash, *A Year in the Life of Somerset County Cricket Club: through the eyes of its chairman* (T 796.358 NAS)

Newtown History Forum, *Newtown (Yeovil): its people and events* (T YEO1 NEW)

O. N. S., *Focus on the South West* (D) (314.2 GRE)

Owen, *Behind the Green Door: the inside story of Yeovil's first league season* (T 796.334 OWE)

Page, *Victoria County History of Devon* (D) (942.35 PAG)

Palmer, *A Child's Wartime Year in the Blackdowns: a memoir* (D) (T920 PAL)

Paterson, *Tracing Your Prisoner of War Ancestors: The First World War* (929.1 PAT Q)

Polling, *Exmoor Pony* (D) (636.6 POL)

Pridham, *Ancient Church Fonts of Somerset* (D) (T 726.529 PRI)

Redmonds, *Christian Names in Local and Family History* (929.44 RED Q)

Rowland, *Lest We Forget: Henstridge, a Somerset village and the First World War* (T HEN ROW)

Siraut, *A Field Guide to the Royal Forest of Exmoor* (D) (T EXM SIR)

Smith, *British Built Aircraft: Vol 2, South West & Central Southern England* (629.133 SMI)

Smith, *Heritage Landscapes: a guide to Britain's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty* (914.104 SMI)

Somerset County Council, *Somerset Business Directory 1982* (D) (T 380.09 SOM)

Stewart, *Crimson Snow: Britain's first disaster in Afghanistan* (958.103 STE)

Storey, *Women in the First World War* (940.308 STO)

Tarr, *South West Coast Path: Minehead to Padstow* (T 796.51 TAR)

Teasdale, *Tracing Your Textile Ancestors* (929.1 TEA Q)

Timperley, *Ancient Trackways of Wessex* (T 388.122 TIM)
Toller, *Death and Disease in Somerset: analysis of several registration returns between 1849 and 1890* (D) (T 304.64 TOL)
Tull, *For Ever in Green Pastures* (fiction) (T 823 TUL)
Warran, *Church in the West* (D) (282 WAR)
Watts, *Level Guide to the South West* (D) (914.23 WAT)
Wells Cathedral, *Wells Cathedral Girl Chorister Trust: achieving excellence through opportunity* (DVD) (D) (T 782.6 WEL)
White, *The Hills Rejoice* (D) (T 286.7 WHI)
Wilkes, *Tracing Your Canal Ancestors* (929.1 WIL Q)
Williams, *Village Pumps* (D) (628.114 WIL)

New Accessions 16 May - 29 August 2013

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. 20th cent. (A\AWI) (6 boxes)
Taunton: archaeological survey on 45-46 Fore Street, 2009-2013 (A\AWI)

Business records

The Charltons: account book for blue lias stone quarry, and associated documents, 1850-1910 (A\DRP)
Heathfield Manor House Farm: accounts, diaries and photograph albums, 1959-1985 (DD\BRO)
Mark: Albert Day and Sons, accounts ledger, 1913-1923 (A\DCB)
Diaries and ledgers of Mr Warry, blacksmith from North Somerset (thought to be Wraxall), 1881-1960 (A\BAV)
Withypool: farming diaries of John Land of Withypool and other papers, 1913-1953 (A\DRX)

Charity records

Deeds relating to Somerset charities in Bath, Dundry, Somerton and Weston super Mare, 1553-1947 (DD\C)
Shepton Beauchamp: deeds of parish charities, 1629-1780 (DD\C)

Clubs and Societies' records

Bishop's Hull Women's Institute: record book, 2007-2009 (DD\WI)
Kingston St Mary Women's Institute: summary of the information in record books and minute books held at Somerset Heritage Centre, [1923-2000] (DD\WI)
Taunton, Inner Wheel Club: committee meeting and club meeting minutes, attendance book, visitors' book, association directories, etc., 1931-2011 (A\CYL)
Taunton Table Tennis League: minutes and agendas, 1995-2014 (A\DRW)

Taunton District Table Tennis League: meeting minutes and match results, 1972-2013 (A\DRW)

Masonic Rural Philanthropic Lodge (No. 291): minute books, signature books, declaration books, register of members and account books, 1793-1993 (A\DLY) (some records CLOSED)

Somerset County Rugby Football Union: team photographs and match day programmes, 1898-1984 (A\CGN)

Somerset Federation of Women's Institutes: Financial records for Dowlish Wake, Nynehead and Badgworth; Record and minute books for Thornfalcon, North Wootton and Wincanton, 1952-2013 (DD\WI)

Court, police and prison records

East Somerset Coroner: inquest files and recordings, 1995-2012, mainly 2012 (48 boxes) (CLOSED) (C/CR/SE)

West Somerset Coroner: inquests, natural causes and treasure trove files for 2010 (18 boxes) (CLOSED) (C/CR/W)

Taunton and Somerset Police records, guidelines and Quarter Sessions standing orders, 1907-1973 (DD\ASC)

Taunton Police Stations: scrapbooks of the policing career of former Chief Constable Kenneth Steele, 1974-1979 (DD\ASC)

Deeds and family papers

Babcary: deeds relating to a property at Main Street, 1799-1854 (A\DSI)

Chard: deeds and associated papers for the Borough Workhouse, High Street, 1837-1902 (A\DRL)

Duckworth family and estate papers: Letters from Admiral Nelson to Admiral Duckworth; filming location guide for *Miss Marple 4.50 From Paddington*; sales catalogue of Orchardleigh Park; photographs and miscellaneous papers, 1799-1987 (DD\DU)

Wellington: bond between Thomas Austin of Wellington, yeoman, and Daniel Hewson of Milverton, white baker, 1781 (A\CSD)

Wellington: lease of shop, High Street, 1904 (DD\C)

Health and hospital records

Glastonbury Nursing Association: newspaper article and photograph of retiring midwives Violet Clarke and Annie Ellison, 1955 (A\DCI)

Taunton: Plymouth University Facility of Health (SCAT): recruitment brochure, photographs and written history of nursing in Taunton, [1869-2013] (A\DRT)

Wellington Babies Welcome Clinic: minutes, registers, financial records and correspondence, 1915-2006 (A\CSD) (some records CLOSED)

Local government records

Parish Councils

Binegar Parish Council: minutes, burial accounts, maps, etc., 1930-2013 (D\PC\bin)

Bishops Hull Parish Council: parish council minutes and agendas, 1988-2005 (D\PC\b.hl)

Bleadon Parish Council: minutes, 2010-2012 (D\PC\ble)
Charlton Mackrell Parish Council: letter book, 1845-1961 (D\PC\cha.ma)
Creech St Michael Parish Council: documents regarding acceptance of office, accounts, correspondence and newsletters, etc., 1976-2009 (D\PC\crch)
East Huntspill Parish Council: minutes, 2008-2012 (D\PC\hun.e)
Puriton Parish Council: minutes, 2008-2011 (D\PC\pur)
West Monkton Parish Council: receipt and payment book, bank book, financial statements, rate books, valuation book, miscellaneous correspondence, etc., 1873-1983 (D\PC\west.m)
Yatton Parish Council: burials, notices of interment and council minutes, including sub-committees, 1974-2009 (D\PC\yat)

Borough, Urban and Rural District Councils

Axbridge Rural District Council: Highway Authority correspondence and reports to the Council, 1918-1932 (A\DRM)
Bathavon Rural District Council: indexes to building regulation registers, building regulation registers and additional register, 1938-1974 (D\R\ba)
Bridgwater Borough rate books, 1925-1963 (D\B\bw) (143 volumes)
Bridgwater Borough records: declarations of acceptance of office, valuation list for Chiltern Trinity, summons list, stock certificates and Axbridge Rural District Council post war housing statement, 1897-1974 (D\B\bw)
Bridgwater Town Council: documents regarding the Queen's visit to Barnstaple, plaques from Bridgwater Massachusetts, memorial document and miscellaneous Bridgwater documents, 1855-1973 (D\B\bw)
Clutton Rural District Council: indexes to building regulation registers and building regulation registers, 1910-1974 (D\R\clu)
Keynsham Urban District Council: building regulation registers, 1924-1974 (D\U\keyn)
Norton Radstock Urban District Council: building regulation registers and counterfoil certificates of house fit for habitation, certificates of passing of plans, etc., 1929-1974 (D\U\nr)

Somerset County Council

Somerset County Council: Education: Sites and Buildings: Taunton, Bridgwater and Frome Property Review; County Structure Plans, c.1970s-c.1990s (C/EDBD)
Somerset County Council: Education: Schools Organisation: school structure plans, c.2000s (C/EDSO)
Somerset County Council: Environment: Strategic Planning: Town Development Plans and commercial surveys, c.1980s (C/ENPR) (13 boxes)
Somerset County Council: Environment: Finance: records relating to Wyvern Waste Disposal, sold in 2010, c.2000s (C/ENFI)
Somerset County Council: Rights of Way: diversion orders and modification orders, etc., relating to Bab Cary, Barwick, Carhampton, Combe St Nicholas, Doultling, Dulverton, Dunster, East Huntspill, Fivehead, Frome, Great Elm, Long Sutton, Puriton, Selwood, Somerton, Staple Fitzpaine, Upton Noble, Whatley and Yarlinton, 2010-2013 (C/GP/HF)

Somerset County Council: Surveyors: Forward Planning: documents relating to parking, traffic control, Shepton Mallet relief road, etc., c.1970s-c.1980s (C/SUFB)

Military records

Somerset Light Infantry: electronic copies of documents relating to Cyril Wigley, of the 11th Battalion, [1917-1919] (A\DSC)

Somerset Light Infantry: digital image of Fred C Mateer, [1918] (A\DSD)

World War II Memoirs of Cpl. Colin Criddle, [1939-1945] (DD\X\WI)

Ilminster and District Burma Star Association: Minutes, 1952-2004 (A\DSF)

Somerset Light Infantry: papers relating to the 6th battalion, including newspapers, correspondence, histories and photographs, 1984-2010 (A\DRK)

Nonconformist records

Blagdon Methodist Memorial Chapel: marriage register, 1979-1996 (D\N\marc)

Portishead United Reformed Church: marriage register, May 2002-Sep 2007 (D\N\swpo.ur)

Parish and diocesan records

Aisholt: list of rectors, [1313-1930] (D\P\aish)

Bath Abbey: marriage register, 1997-2009, and baptism register for the Chapel of the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath, 1979-1989, 1979-2009 (D\P\ba.ab)

Bridgwater, Holy Trinity: parish magazines, January 1952-June 1957 (A\DRF)

Brushford: marriage and confirmation registers, 1976-2005 (D\P\brush)

Crowcombe: marriage registers, 1993-2012 (D\P\crow)

Hardington Mandeville: PCC records, faculties, tithe award, maps and related documents, 1843-2009 (D\P\hard.m)

Middle Chinnock: marriage register, 1837-2011 (D\P\chin.m)

Taunton, St. James: PCC minutes and accounts, 2010-2011 (D\P\tau.ja)

Timberscombe parish records: baptism register, 1875-2008, and poor law records, 1694-1833 (D\P\timb)

Timberscombe Parish Records: minute books, churchwardens' accounts, quinquennial surveys, faculties, etc., 1881-1990 (D\P\timb)

West Chinnock: PCC accounts and correspondence, 1939-1995 (D\P\chin.w)

Weston, All Saints (Bath): Papers of F E Shepherd, secretary to the trustees of Weston United Charities, 1882-1993 (D\P\w.as)

Parish register and other transcripts

Bristol: transcript and research notes regarding the marriage settlement between John Vyell and Katherine Torynton, document reference DD\HI\A/47 (original document in Norman French), [1389] (A\DSB)

Fiddington burial register transcript, paper and microfiche copy, [1813-1998] (A\BTV)

West Hatch: transcripts of documents relating to Chapter Estates, [1839-1844] (A\DRS)

Photographs and postcards

Electronic images of Bruton railway and cricket field, Chewton Mendip parish church and Rode High Street, early 20th cent. (A\CRR)

Electronic images of: Trinity church Frome, Elm, Ashby, Frome, Keynsham Parish Church and St John's Parish Church Midsomer Norton, early 20th cent. (A\CRR)

Postcards of Somerset: Wells, Bath, Croscombe, Clevedon, Glastonbury, Minehead and Weston super Mare, 1911-1928 (A\DRR)

Somerset: Clement Keely collection of glass plate negatives, 1920s (A\DSJ) (3 boxes)

Research papers

Beckington: NADFAS church record for St George's church, 2013 (DD\X\NDS)

Cheddar Photographic Archive: Volume 1, compiled as part of research for dissertation and book, [late 19th cent-early 20th cent.] (A\DR0)

Clevedon: DVD of essential information about Clevedon: transcripts, indexes etc., [1762-1930] (DD\X\LLY)

Nailsea and district: research and publications, including *Evacuees, Starfish and Things That Go Bump in the Night, The Stolen Man* by Mrs Coulson Kernahan and related research; and *Born in Nailsea? A study of 1881 Census.*, 1980s-2013 (A\BDY)

South Central and South West Gipsy Index (4 disks), [17th cent.-20th cent.] (A\DR1)

Research on Somerset Alabaster: sculpting techniques, notes from study day and papers from a British Museum Conference on Archaeological Stone, c.1990s (A\CUR)

Research relating to the publication of *The Thistle Clockmakers of Somerset* by Mr. and Mrs. Woodford, [1838-2001] (A\DRB)

Somerset: research into the Somerset born casualties of World War I and II, including worldwide cemeteries and memorials and Somerset airmen casualties, [1914]-2013 (A\COA)

School and education records

Martock Primary School: Governors' minutes and Headteacher's reports, 1994-2005 (A\DRG)

Newton St Loe School: miscellaneous records, including correspondence regarding the appointment of headteachers, the closure of school in 1972, proceedings of Richard Jones Charity, and the sale of the school building to Duchy of Cornwall, c.1950s-c.1970s (A\DRH)

Taunton School: photograph of builders outside the tower, [c.1867] (A\CZR)

Taunton School Records: notebook, and diaries and school lists, 1940-1942 (A\DRU)

Wedmore: diary of Jane Cock, student at The Western Counties Cheese School, 1906 (A\DRV)

Other records

Bridgwater: Copy of "Original Rough of the Port of Bridgwater Bristol Chanell surveyed by Lieutenant George M Aldridge RN.", [1853] (DD\X\SKG)

Clevedon: records including a rate book, WRVS records and photograph albums, c.1870s-1960s (DD\X\LLY)

Dorset and Somerset Canal: photocopied documents including plans, observations, management reports and share ticket, [1796-1802] (A\DRN)

Evercreech: documents concerning Evercreech during WWI: photograph album, glass plate negatives and research, 1914-1918 (A\DSE)
Glastonbury and Street: Photograph albums of an unknown family, photographs of individuals, Avalon Rangers skittles team and short service army notice of Frank Charles Bugden, c.1880s-1950s (A\DRE)
High Ham, Low Ham and Henley Community Project: Jubilee scrapbook, 2012 (A\DMZ)
Hinton Blewett: photographs, churchwardens' accounts and typed copy of *Haydon's Gully* by Anna Johnson, 20th cent. (A\BHK)
Nailsea: copy and original documents relating to Nailsea and district, [1440]-2002 (A\BDO)
Nether Stowey: *Book of Common Prayer* belonging to Thomas Poole, 1788 (A\BPP)
Taunton Market Bonds, 1821-1881 (A\DSA)
Taunton: Scrapbook of Josiah Lewis, mayor of Taunton, 1882-1915 (A\DSG)
Taunton: sale catalogue for the contents of Batts House, 4 Jun 1996 (A\ADX)
Withypool: copy of a photograph of the Land family of Hillway Farm, Withypool, [c.1920s] (A\BHN)
Wiveliscombe documents: cycle and accessories account book, also posters, c.1890s-c.1950s (A\DRZ)
Documents relating to various Somerset parishes: copy of Magna Carta, plan of Whatley Villa, papers regarding Sir George Biddlecombe, miscellaneous photographs and newspaper cutting scrapbook, Late 19th cent.-early 20th cent. (DD\X\SOM)
Somerset 'folk' songs composed by Brian Austin, [1972] (DD\X\AUS)
Somerset: map of Somerset entitled 'Somersettensis Comitatus', with description of the county, [c. 1660] (A\DSH)
Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium: rates, returns, and minutes, 1881-2005 (A\DGG)
Somerset Review Order composite maps, 1933 (A\DRZ)
Somerset Voices Oral History Archive: additional recordings and licences, 2012-2013 (A\CMQ)
Letter from Samuel Taylor Coleridge to S C Hall, 1828 (A\BPP)

Contact Information

Chairman: Malcolm Daniels - chairman@friendsofsomersetarchives.org.uk

Treasurer: Frances Daniels - membership@friendsofsomersetarchives.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Frances Daniels - accounts@friendsofsomersetarchives.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth James - editor@friendsofsomersetarchives.org.uk

Deputy Newsletter Editor: Anne Murch - anne@amurch.plus.com

Minutes Secretary: Carol Dimmer - carol.dimmer@btinternet.com

Web-master: Malcolm Daniels - web@friendsofsomersetarchives.org.uk

Tithe Awards project: Jenni Llewellyn - tithes@friendsofsomersetarchives.org.uk