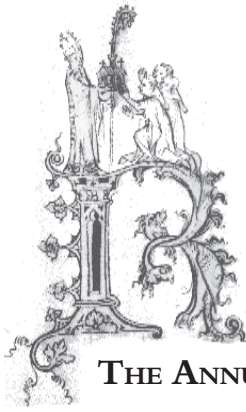


THE



RECORDER

THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WILTSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

## EDITORIAL

The Annual General Meeting for 2012 was held on the 9 June in the lecture room of the Devizes Museum. This was an appropriate setting for our 75th anniversary, since this was where it all started. Sir Harold Brakspear's great grandson spoke on the collection of drawings by his ancestor and on his work. A good collection of pictures was seen.

Later in the year, the Society held a joint Conference Day, in conjunction with the Wiltshire Local History Forum, to celebrate 75 years of existence of the Wiltshire Record Society. This was held at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham on Sunday, 21 October, and consisted of five speakers, all of whom were excellent and made for a very enjoyable day. An admirable account of the talks can be found in the Winter edition of the *Wiltshire Local History Forum Newsletter*, but for the record we began with a talk from Dr Virginia Bainbridge, who spoke on the many medieval publications of the Society over the years. This was followed by Barry Williamson, member and retired teacher, who gave us a most interesting insight into the Arundells of Old Wardour. Steve Hobbs spoke about modern records and preserving the vast collection in the Archives, followed by Dr John Chandler who looked to the future and the inevitability and desirability of digitisation. Ivor Slocombe then spoke about his interests as a local historian and the many fascinating records which had inspired him over the years, his work with school children and his discovery of the documentation of extant military tribunals. Finally, we were regaled with a lively talk by our keynote speaker, Adam Nicolson, the author of *Earls of Paradise* (a book well worth reading). He explored the world of early modern Arcadianism as found through the archives of the Earls of Pembroke and through the surrounding landscapes. Archives and landscapes, he said, should never be separated. Something worth remembering for all of us!

The day ended with a short speech and toast

proposed by Ken Rogers and the cutting of a beautiful cake, made by Shirley Hobbs.

Sally Thomson, Editor

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME? – LOXWELL AND THE POTENTIAL RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM OF A MONASTIC FOUNDATION

On the 13 April 1149, monks from the Cistercian abbey at Quarr on the Isle of Wight were at Devizes Castle where they were granted land at Loxwell (Wilts) so that they could build a daughter house.<sup>1</sup> Loxwell is sited deep within Chippenham Forest far from habitation and therefore a place that was seemingly ideal for a religious foundation. The monks arrived here in 1151; however, after only three years the community moved to Stanley on the south bank of the River Marden and Loxwell became a grange. But why was Loxwell chosen in the first place? As well as having the necessary resources for a successful settlement there was also potential religious symbolism, which is alluded to in the place-name.

Loxwell was clearly a significant, recognisable area in the mid-twelfth century since it was actually named and described as being 'a singular and romantic spring on the summit of a hill in Pewsham forest'.<sup>2</sup> In the early documentation the site was variously described as being at *Lockheswellam*, *Drogonus fiunte* or *Drownfont*. From a charter dating to about 1151 Matilda and her son, Henry Duke of Normandy, granted 'to God and St Mary of Drogo's spring [ . . . ]'.<sup>3</sup> Another charter of about the same date confirmed a gift 'to the monks of *Drownfont*'.<sup>4</sup>

1 Cronne H. A. and Davis R. H. C. 1968. *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum 1066-1154* vol. 3, p. 125

2 Chettle H. F. and Kirby J. L. 1956. 'Abbey of Stanley' in R. B. Pugh and E. Crittall (eds.). *The Victoria History of the County of Wiltshire*. London: Oxford University Press 3: pp. 269-275, p. 269

3 (Wiltshire and Swindon Archive) WSA: 1213/1

4 Dugdale W. 1825. *Monasticon Anglicanum*. vol. 5 London: Longman, p. 563

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Also, when Jocelin de Bohun, Bishop of Salisbury, confirmed gifts at Loxwell and other places he used the name *Drogonisfonte* and *Locheswellam*.<sup>5</sup>

The significance of these names is that all the second elements are either 'spring' or 'fountain' names. The first element in *Locheswellam* may be a personal name, but the second element, *wellam*, is an Old English name for a spring or stream,<sup>6</sup> either would suit Loxwell since there are several springs and a stream in the vicinity. The more significant name, however, is *Drogonus funte*. Here the first element is again a personal name, presumably named after Drogo although this seems rather unusual, but the second element derives from a Latin word 'fons' or 'funta'. Gelling suggests that this word is quite rare and was different from normal spring names and was used to describe a spring 'which was characterised by a Roman building work'.<sup>7</sup> She also suggests that it was unlikely that the Anglo-Saxons used a word of Latin origin for an ordinary spring. In Wiltshire there are only three other examples of *funta* place-names: Urchfont, Teffont and Fovant, all of which are in the south or centre of the county.<sup>8</sup> Given the archaeological evidence of Romano-British activity in the region and that north-west Wiltshire, which included what later became known as Chippenham Forest, was possibly an extensive British territory until the seventh century,<sup>9</sup> it is conceivable that the spring at Loxwell was formerly a pagan or early Christian holy well, and is perhaps emphasised by its evocative description as being 'romantic'.

In 1214 an aqueduct, about 2.3km long, was completed along the contours from Loxwell to the abbey site at Stanley.<sup>10</sup> Despite there being other sources of water closer to the abbey, why was Loxwell specifically chosen? Could it be that it was seen as perpetuating the sacredness of the spring and therefore used in ceremonies in the conventual church as well as providing clean water? A possible parallel can be seen at another Cistercian monastery, at Louth Park Abbey (Lincs) where the monks constructed a conduit, known as Monk's Dyke,

from St. Helen's well to their precinct.<sup>11</sup> Similarly at Strata Florida Abbey, one source of water to the precinct was from a holy well at Dyffryn Tawel ('Valley of Silence') where there are also the remains of a large building, which has been interpreted as a small retreat or hermitage for the monks.<sup>12</sup> It is also conceivable that these 'holy' wells may have been given that status because the monks found that the water flowed consistently and strongly, which means that there was both a practical and religious reason for using them as a water supply. The construction of the aqueduct from Loxwell was clearly a major undertaking:

In this year [1214] was the aqueduct, from Loxwelle towards the Abbey of Stanley in Wilts, completed by the Master Thomas of Colestune, abbot of the same house. This work he had begun in fear and trembling, but God and our Lord Jesus Christ and good St. John the Evangelist helping him, he completed it well and excellently, of whom may it be an everlasting memorial of thanksgiving.<sup>13</sup>

Holy wells, as well as holy trees and other natural places, were important elements in pagan and early and late medieval Christian religious practice throughout Europe and it is not uncommon for monasteries and churches to be sited at such places; however, the symbolism of such a plantation can only be surmised but perhaps it can be seen in some cases as a conscious effort to further Christianise the landscape. This perhaps follows Pope Gregory's (590-604) instructions to St Augustine before arriving in England to: 'purify the temples and then turn them into churches, to adapt pagan festivals as celebrations of Christian mysteries and Christian saints, to emphasise continuities rather than confrontation'.<sup>14</sup> These sites perpetuate the notion of sacredness and therefore a place of religious significance such as at Wells (Som.) where a holy well formed the eastern end of the Anglo-Saxon minster.<sup>15</sup> The large quantity of worked flint and pottery recovered from the area also attest to prehistoric activity here. In the words of Rodwell, 'it [the springs] was a place where the forces of the

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5 *Cal Anc Deeds* vol. 4, A8890; Kemp B. R. 1999. *English Episcopal Acta 18: Salisbury 1078-1217*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 142

6 Gelling M. 1984. *Place-Names in the Landscape*. 1993 edition. London: Dent, p. 30

7 Gelling 1984. p. 22

8 Gelling M. 1978. *Signposts to the Past*, London: Book Club Associates. pp. 83-6

9 Eagles B. 2001. 'Anglo-Saxon presence and culture in Wiltshire' in P. Ellis (ed.). *Roman Wiltshire and After: Papers in Honour of Ken Annable*. Devizes: Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, pp. 199-233

10 Bodl. mss Digby 11, f. 178; Bowles Rev. W. L. 1828. *The Parochial History of Bremhill in the County of Wilts*. London: John Murray. p. 119

11 Gurnham R. 2007. *A History of Louth*. Chichester: Phillimore, p. 25; White J. W. n.d. *Notes on Louth*. Louth Public Library. p. 143

12 Austin D. 2004. 'Strata Florida and its landscape'. *Archaeol Cambrensis* 153: pp. 192-201, p. 197

13 Translation in Marsh A. E. W. 1903. *A History of the Borough and Town of Calne*. London: Castle, Lamb and Storr, p. 235 of Bodl. mss Digby 11, f. 178

14 Duffy E. 2011. *Ten Popes who Shook the World*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, p. 57

15 Rodwell W. 2001. *The Archaeology of Wells Cathedral: Excavations and Structural Studies 1978-93*. London: English Heritage, p. 85

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underworld were made manifest, and where a local religious focus could most naturally emerge'.<sup>16</sup>

The Cistercians were also not averse to site their monasteries near or on previously sacred places. Examples include Roche Abbey, which was founded on an existing chapel, and a chapel and springs were in the area of Fountains Abbey. Names of abbeys such as Kirkstead may also suggest either a place with a church or an ecclesiastical estate.<sup>17</sup> Further afield, in Italy, one of the early Cistercian foundations along the Po valley was the abbey of San Bernardo di Fontevivo, which was established in 1142. The place-name is suggestive of the former landscape with the first element *fonte*, meaning spring, and the second, *vivo*, meaning living – a living spring.

Stanley Abbey is relatively poorly documented when compared to some other monasteries, but that aside, documents only tell part of the story of any settlement and other forms of evidence such as the archaeological, architectural, topographical, place-names and the landscape itself should be rigorously investigated so that a more 'holistic' understanding of a settlement can be made.

Graham Brown

## OLD WILTSHIRE FARMS: DECLINE AND CHANGE OF USE

A full account of the complexity of decline, not appropriate here, is to be found fully in *VCH Wiltshire* vol. 4, 1959, pp.92-114, 'Agriculture since 1870', available online at [www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk). An addition to that account summarises the severe depression from 1870-1914 as caused by a succession of cold Springs and Summers and poor harvests. Wet seasons produced a foot rot which ravaged sheep flocks. Decline in corn acreage reduced the number of sheep required for folding. These years of poor crops coincided with a dramatic drop in corn prices, following the introduction of cheap corn from America. Between 1870 and 1890 the average corn on chalklands shrank by over 25% as more arable land was laid down to grass.

*Change of use: An up-to-date instance:*

BBC News 23 July 2012. Plans to turn disused land near Devizes into a Community Farm. The land is own by the Devizes Council, but has not been used as farm land for eleven years. It was originally part of Marsh Farm, sited between Devizes and Potterne.

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16 *ibid*, 53

17 Everson P. and Stocker D. 2008. 'Masters of Kirkstead: Hunting for Salvation' in J. McNeill (ed.). *King's Lynn and the Fens*. The British Archaeological Association Conference Transactions 31: pp. 83-111, p. 89; Robinson D. (ed.). 1998. *The Cistercian Abbeys of Britain: Far from the Concourse of Men*. London: Batsford, 2002 edition, p. 159



*Marsh Farm (Interestingly, the upper right window is false)*

A Community Farm is to grow produce and keep livestock, to teach young children and young adults about agriculture. A son of the last farmer there lives in the old farm house, now reduced to a cottage. He and his wife are leaders of the Project. He said, 'We want to put it back to how it was and to give everybody a chance to see the beauty of the countryside and farming'.

In the 1861 Census, Marsh Farm was recorded as follows:

138 acres.

Head, aged 39, with wife and five children, three labourers and two boys.

In the 1871 Census:

Eldest son aged 24, daughters 21 and 18. Niece 25.

*An objection to change?*

An occupant of Marsh Farm reports seeing a 'ghost' on two occasions. On the first, he was downstairs and a figure walked past him across the room. The second was in the Cheese Room.

An extract from the *Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette* discloses the following little story, concerning the author's Great Grandfather, George Banks, and his wife Jane:

As Mr Banks of Marsh Farm, near Caen Hill, was returning home from Devizes last Thursday evening, the horse he was driving was frightened by the sudden glare of a candle from a cottage, the door of which had just been opened, near the Military Stores, and the animal swerves into the middle of the road. Messrs Sainsbury's dray happened to be passing at the moment and a collision ensued, which threw Mr Banks and his wife out of the vehicle violently to the ground. Mr Banks received severe injury of the head and face, but is, we are glad to hear, going on well. Mrs Banks escaped unhurt, with the exception of a thorough shake up. (3 Feb 1870)

## PARTICULARS.

LOT 1.  
(Coloured Pink on Plan).

### The Valuable Freehold Dairy and Grazing Farm,

KNOWN AS

### “MARSH FARM,”

Caen Hill, Devizes, is situate just outside of the Municipal Borough Boundary, and is in the Parish of Potterne. It comprises an area of about

97a. 2r. 29p.

Of Rich Meadow Land.



*Sale particulars of Marsh Farm*

#### *Court Hill Farm, Potterne*

A 17th-century farmhouse, with old oak panelling and one room dating back to 1320.

Sale document (date not known) 32a 3r 28p.

Another: Court Hill House for sale: 2a 3r 24p. The house is now a Bed and Breakfast, with visitors from all over the world who seek our heritage. Australian visitors reported a ‘ghost’, a lady in a long skirt, seen appearing through an old panelled doorway. Another said an apparition was seen in the bedroom and did not want to continue sleeping there. The owner, a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel, (not given to falsification by discipline) saw an apparition in the dining room, once the butchery.

#### *Byde Farm, Stert*

A Catalogue of Important Sale. 1927. ‘The Whole of the Valuable Live and Dead FARMING STOCK. Exceptionally Grand Herd of 40 SHORTHORN CATTLE’.

The cows are named – Dainty, Mollie...Dinky, Dauntless, Gentle, Beauty,...etc.

35 STORE PIGS, 40 HEAD OF POULTRY, IMPLEMENTS, MACHINERY, HARNESS, etc.

This sale suggests that those who avoided early decline, may have been part of the national difficulties of the 1920s and early ’30s.

## BYDE FARM, STERT.

About 2½ miles from Devizes.

*Catalogue of Important Sale of*

**The Whole of the Valuable Live and Dead**

### **Farming Stock,**

COMPRISING

EXCEPTIONALLY GRAND HERD OF

### 40 SHORTHORN CATTLE,

VIZ.:

31 Dairy Cows, 4 Barren Stirk Heifers,  
3 Yearling Heifers, 1 Weanling Bull Calf,  
A Pedigree Blood-Red Stock Bull,

35 STORE PIGS, 40 HEAD OF POULTRY,

TOGETHER WITH THE MODERN

IMPLEMENTS, MACHINERY, HARNESS, ETC.,

WHICH

**Messrs. LAVINGTON & HOOPER**

(A. E. HOOPER, F.S.I., F.A.I.)

Are favoured with instructions from Mr. S. J. Ball, who is retiring from farming, to Sell by Auction, on the premises, as above,

**ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th, 1927,**

Commencing at 11 o'clock.

Refreshments will be provided at Moderate Charges.

Auction Offices, Marlborough and Devizes.

GAZETTE PRINTING WORKS, DEVIZES

*Sale particulars of Byde Farm*

The distress and hardship of old farming families cannot be over-emphasised. The wife of one farmer wrote: ‘He has no employment and is not likely to obtain a situation on account of age. We are much distressed. Four children quite young. It is very hard to face poverty at our age, near fifty. All our friends have forsaken us, except those who are utterly destitute’.

*Brian Howells Banks*

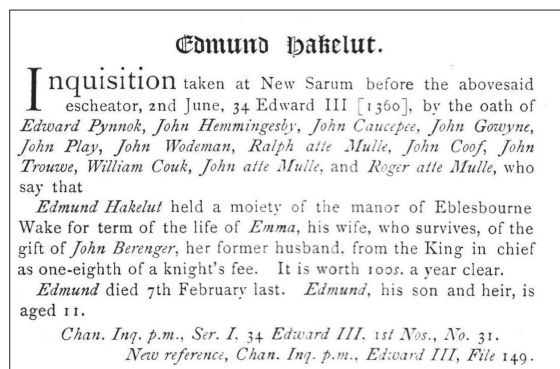
#### USE OF IPMS

For some time now I have been transcribing and translating (with varying degrees of success and completion) a number of medieval IPMs (Inquisitiones Post Mortem) for a colleague in America, who is studying and researching into the Newburgh family, of which she believes she is a descendant. This has involved the use of scans of some twenty IPMs, which have revealed details about the family, relationships, land and other factors.

Although many IPMs have been calendared and are available in printed form, these often do not supply the intricate detail needed when studying a family and it has been an interesting exercise translating from the original (and good for my Latin practice!).

The documents have come to me in the form of electronic scans, some from TNA, acquired by my colleague, while others have been photographed at the Dorset Record Office by a mutual friend and sent to me as scans. Our own county abstracts of IPMs are to be found in three volumes, two of which cover the reigns of Henry III, Edward I, Edward II and Edward III; the third covers the reign of Charles I [*Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitiones Post Mortem returned into the Court of Chancery*: vol.1 1242-1326, ed. E. Fry, pub. British Record Society Ltd, London, 1908; vol.2 1327-1377, ed. E. Stokes, printed for WANHS, 1914; vol.3, 1625-1649, ed. G. & E. Fry, printed for WANHS, 1901]. These abstracts are, in fact, quite full, more so than some other calendared publications.

The accompanying picture is of one of the shorter abstracts from the reign of Edward III. This shows all the main facts and gives the date of death of the deceased and the name and age of his heir, one of the most useful pieces of information in IPMs



From: *Abstracts of the Inquisitions Post Mortem relating to Wiltshire from the Reign of King Edward III: Part IV; WANHS; December 1912.*

Using scans of original documents is usually a very satisfactory way of transcribing these days. Digital cameras and scanning equipment can produce very high quality results, as I have found with most of the scans I have used. However, ancient documents being what they are, there is nothing more frustrating than finding a fold in the original parchment; when the document is there in front of you in the Record Office, the folds can usually, with extreme care, be

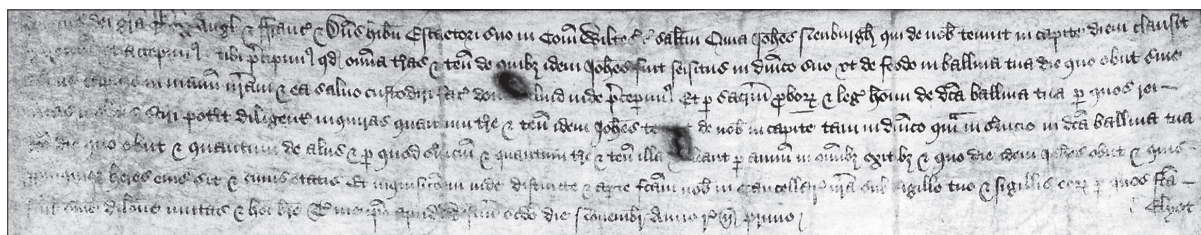
teased out sufficiently to work out the hidden words. On a scan, there is no chance of doing this. I have had to look at originals at the Dorset Record Office as a result of severe folds in the document.

But once through the practicalities of ancient manuscripts, highly abbreviated Latin and sometimes crabbed script, the information can be very enlightening. The family I have been researching is one of those unimaginative families who called every son and heir 'John'; sometimes there were two sons called John. As genealogists know full well, this is not uncommon; it was usually done to ensure that at least one child might survive carrying the father's name. Sometimes the mother died, the father remarried and named his next son after him, despite his having a son of that name already. This has caused us some real headaches, but the IPMs can often help here, defining the age (and thus the year of birth) of the heir.

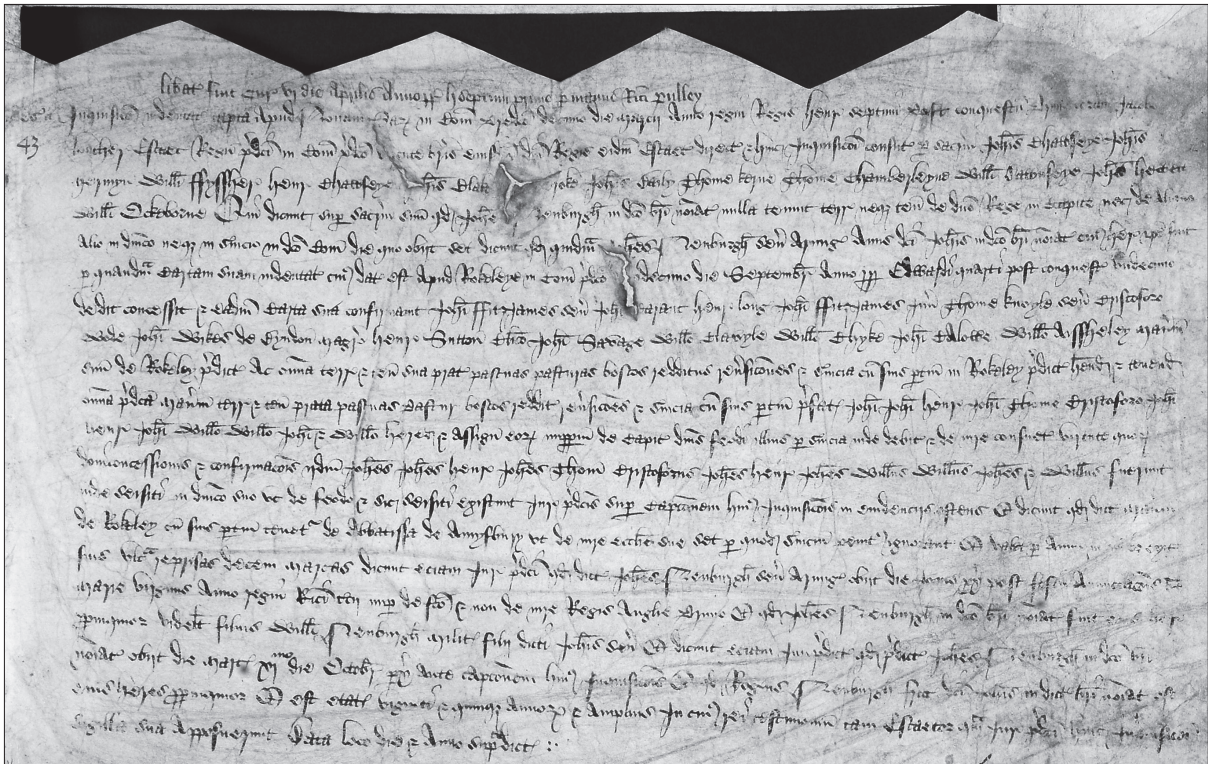
IPMs consist of two documents, the first a Writ, (a Writ of *Diem Clausit Extremum*) in which the Inquisition is initiated and the County Escheator, (a Crown official who collected the revenue from the reversion of an estate to its lord) and a jury of trustworthy men are tasked with finding out all they can about the lands and property owned by the deceased and on what day he or she died and who the heir is. In most of the cases I have looked at, the writ has survived, but sometimes this is lost. If it exists, it gives us our first introduction to the deceased, their marital status and their seat or main holding. The following is the Writ issued for John Newburgh, in November 1485, to the Escheator of Wiltshire.

Writ for John Newburgh 1485 Ref: C142-1-43

Henry, by the grace of God, King of England & France & lord of Ireland, to his Escheator in the County of Wiltshire, greeting. Because John Neuburgh, who held of us in chief, has died, as we understand, we order you that, without delay, you take into our hand all the lands & tenements in your jurisdiction, of which the same John was seised in his demesne as of fee on the day of his death, and cause them to be safely kept until we shall have ordered otherwise therein. And carefully inquire, by the oath of honest and law-worthy men of your said jurisdiction, through whom the truth of



Writ for John Newburgh 1485 Ref: C142-1-43



IPM for John Newburgh 1485 Ref: C142-1-43

the matter may best be known, what quantity of lands & tenements the same John held of us in chief, in demesne and in service in your said jurisdiction on the day that he died & what quantity [he held] of others & by what service & how much the lands & tenements are worth yearly in all issues & what day the same John died & who may be his next heir & of what age; And without delay send the inquisition, taken clearly & openly, to us in our chancery under your seal and the seals of those by whom it was done, and [send with it] this writ. Witness myself at Westminster, the eighth day of November, in the first year of our reign.  
Elyot.

The second part of the IPM is the Inquisition itself, the answer to the Writ, which details all the answers, if found, to the questions put forward in the Writ. The following is the IPM taken in Salisbury in April 1485 for John Newburgh, whose seat was in Winfrith Newburgh, Dorset, but whose ancestor held lands in Wiltshire, in particular, at Rockley on the Marlborough Downs.

IPM for John Newburgh 1485 Ref: C142-1-43  
Delivered to court the 6 day of April in the first year of the reign of king Henry the seventh [1486] by the hand of Richard Pulley

Indented Inquisition taken at New Sarum in the aforesaid County the tenth day of March in the [first] year of the reign of king Henry the seventh of England after the Conquest, before James ?Leather, Escheator

of the king aforesaid in the County aforesaid by virtue of a writ of the said lord king, directed to the same Escheator, & sewn to this Inquisition, by the oath of John Chawseye, John Hermyn, William Fysshier, Henry Chawseye, John Clak[ ] [ ] roke, John Baily, Thomas Kerne, Thomas Chamberleyne, William Dawnseye, John Hect' and William Ockeborne; who say upon their oath that John Neuburgh, named in the said writ, held no lands or tenements of the lord king in chief, nor of any other, neither in demesne nor in service in the said County, on the day that he died, but they say that a certain John Neuburgh senior, Esquire, grandfather of the said John named in the said writ, of whom he was the heir, by his certain indented Charter, which was given at Rokeleye in the aforesaid County, the twelfth day of September in the eleventh year of the reign of Edward the fourth [1471] after the Conquest, gave, granted & by the same Charter confirmed to John FitzJames senior, John Carent, Henry Long, John FitzJames junior, Thomas Knoyle senior, Christopher Wode, John Wikes of Byndon, Master Henry Sutton, cleric, John Savage, William Clavyle, William Chyke, John Callowe, William Aisseley his Manor of Rokeley aforesaid, and all its lands & tenements, meadows, pastures, grazing, woods, rents, reversions & services with their appurtenances in Rokeley aforesaid, to have & to hold all the aforesaid Manor, lands & tenements, meadows, pastures, grazing, woods, rents, reversions & services, with their appurtenances, to the said John, John, Henry, John, Thomas, Christopher, John, Henry, John, William, William, John & William, the heirs &

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assigns of them for ever, of the chief lords of that fee, by services thereof owing & of right accustomed, by virtue of which demesne, grant & confirmation the same John, John, Henry, John, Thomas, Christopher, John, Henry, John, William, William, John & William were seised thereof in their demesne as of fee, and being thus seised by right aforesaid the taking of this Inquisition is evidence; And they say that the said Manor of Rokeley, with its appurtenances, was held of the Abbess of Amysbury [Amesbury] as of by right of her Church, but by what service they are wholly ignorant; And the value yearly in all its profits beyond the outgoings, ten marks; furthermore the jurors aforesaid say that the said John Neuburgh senior, Esquire, died the Thursday next after the Feast of the Annunciation of Saint Mary the Virgin, in the first year of the reign of king Richard the third, lately made & not by right king of England; And that John Neuburgh, named in the said writ, was his heir, that is to say, the son of William Neuburgh, knight, the son of the said John senior; And the Jurors aforesaid furthermore say that the aforesaid John Neuburgh, named in the said writ, died on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> day of October last before the taking of this Inquisition; And that Roger Neuburgh, brother of the said John, named in the said writ, is his heir; and is aged twenty five years and more. In witness of which, both the Escheator and the Jurors aforesaid to this Inquisition have affixed their seals. Given in the place, day & year abovesaid.

*Sally Thomson*

## A MANORIAL MIX UP

One of the pleasures of working as an archivist in a busy local authority archive service is the serendipitous nature of unprompted deposits of archives. Material ranges between records on which, figuratively, the ink is barely dry and those of a much older vintage. A nice example of the latter arrived on my desk in early January. Colleagues in the Shropshire Archive Service sent down photocopies of accounts of the manor of Keevil between 1335 and 1347, with the results of a local Medieval Latin Group which had first transcribed the rolls and then translated their work from the medieval Latin in which the accounts were written. The originals, headed Kyvelegh, had been wrongly attributed to the Shropshire manor of Kinnerley, a manor also held by the earl of Arundel. They were transferred by the British Records Association, which acted as an archival clearing house for records, to Shrewsbury Public Library before the last war. Confusingly the same fate did not befall the account roll for 1341-1342, which bears the same BRA number as those in Shrewsbury, but was directed correctly to the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society in Devizes, and is now

in the society's archive at Chippenham. Our letter of thanks for the copies has been sent with a request that the originals might be transferred and we await answer with a keen sense of anticipation and some degree of optimism.

The accounts are revealing about the manor: Farming was mixed, predominantly corn and barley, but also beans and apples from which cider was produced. Windfalls apples (Graslings) were not wasted but sold. Wax and honey from the garden was sold. Payments for ploughmen and on the upkeep of the ploughs, and labourers for threshing, weeding and harvesting, regularly feature. Customary dayworks appear to have ceased and paid labour was relied upon, the cost supplemented in part by the commutation of the obligations. In 1336-7 payments were made to scare crows and pigeons after the fields had been sown. The accounts do not reveal much about livestock, although sheep seem to predominate. The largest source of income was from rents. There were two mills in the manor, Wadeford and Bulkington, and the details of the expenditure on their upkeep are found each year. In 1335-6 Bulkington mill had a new iron pole and shaft, while at Wadeford the mill house was reroofed, and the tail race was lengthened. In 1338-9 repairs were made to the chest in which the toll from Bulkington Mill was stored. Timber from North wood was used for repairs in 1342-3, while in 1346-7 a new mill wheel was purchased for Wadeford at a cost of 13s with 5s paid for transporting it from la Penne. Rents from the mills and toll corn for the lord were an important part of the income of the manor. Capitage, a customary payment paid by landless residents who had no tenurial obligations to the lord, was paid each year, although in 1346-7 the reeve reported that in future this would decline since many who used to pay have gone away or died as per list attached to court roll.

The accounts are revealing about buildings and structures within the manor. We learn that the manor house (although it is never referred to as a whole) comprised a hall and seven chambers named as the great chamber, high chamber, south chamber with other chambers for the lord, earl, countess and knight. This corresponds with the seven listed in an inquisition taken on 1397, published in *Chaucer's World* by Edith Richert (Columbia University Press, 1948).

In 1338-9 part of the roof of the great chamber was repaired as a result of storm damage, and wattle and daubing of the walls of the hall, great chamber, countess's chamber and other rooms with lime was carried out. The effects of strong winds required attention in 1335-6 as well. In 1346-7 further work on the hall and several chambers was carried out and 400 tiles were purchased. In 1335-6 repairs were made to windows in hall and chamber requiring hinges spindles and staples; similar work was carried

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out on the windows in the lord's chamber in 1340-1, and the high chamber in 1341-2. These rooms were not always used for their original purpose; in 1335-6 a lock was provided for the knight's chamber as the lord's corn was kept there. The 1397 survey mentions a long house called 'kyghtenchambre' which presumably was put to more agricultural uses than its name suggested. In 1335-6 a window in the chapel was mended. In 1397 it was described as having cellars below.

The courtyard outside the hall included a stable which was re-thatched in 1336-7, and kitchen and bakehouse. In the same year and the previous year moss was collected in conjunction for work on a mill house at Wadeford and the out buildings in the courtyard. It was used as an insulating material to plug gaps between roof tiles and under the eaves. In the same account an 'oveslathen' was strengthened, which may refer to an overhanging roof or porch supported by posts. In 1338-9 new wall plates (resenes) were put in the kitchen and stable: A dovecote, leased out for 6s 8d per year and also referred to both in the maintenance and produce accounts, was probably located in the courtyard. Although the work and the techniques are typical of their time, payment for putting up a shelf in the kitchen in 1338-9 provides a familiar note that will surely resonate with some readers. The stocks 'for putting evil doers in' which required repair in 1346-7 was probably located in a prominent position in the village.

A park ran up to the courtyard and work on the hedges separating it from the court and garden and scouring the ditches which formed its boundary away from the buildings was carried out in 1338-9, in which year reference was made to a south door and south gate of the court. In 1346-7 repairs to the paling of the park by West Wood and the garden were carried out, all of which helps in understanding its location. In 1335-6 a ditch was dug between the park and fishpool in order to clear the watercourse to the fishpool.

Expenses for work beyond the bounds of the manor, such as collecting and delivering letters and goods on behalf of the lord, are also accounted for. In 1338-9 this included the carriage of 30 bows bought in Bristol and 20 in Bulkington.

The accounts are an excellent example of the level of detail such records can provide about agriculture in our county on the eve of the Black Death, and we should be most grateful to the Medieval Latin Group in Shropshire for making these records accessible. (WSA X3/142)

*Steven Hobbs*

## **BRADFORD-ON-AVON: FIRST WORLD WAR MILITARY TRIBUNAL**

When conscription was introduced in 1916 during the First World War provision was made for men to be able to appeal against their call up. The appeals would be heard by new, locally established Military Tribunals in each District Council area with membership drawn mostly from the local councillors. It has always been rather difficult to obtain much information on these tribunals as, although many meetings were reported in the press, the government in 1921 ordered all the records to be destroyed except for a few sample ones to be retained in the Public Record Office.

But some while ago we discovered that in Wiltshire some documents had escaped the cull. The complete records for the Calne rural area survived simply because the R.D.C. never threw anything away! Then another, larger, set turned up for Pewsey. In this case the council contracted out its legal work to a local firm of solicitors who, consequently, also administered the tribunal. The records got stored in their strong room and presumably the government order never reached them. The publicity we managed to give to these finds seems to have sparked off a national interest and pockets of such documents have been turning up across the country but, so far, none have been as complete as the two Wiltshire sets. More recently a record of the Bradford-on-Avon tribunal has been discovered in the Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office (WSA G13/226/1). In this case it is only the register of cases rather than all the supporting papers. But the register does contain a great deal of information: the appellant's name and address, his occupation, whether he personally or his employer was appealing on his behalf and the decision in each case.

The importance of these tribunal records is that they throw fresh light on the accepted 'text-book' statements about aspects of the war. At Calne, it is estimated that at least 30% of those who received call-up papers appealed for exemption. The Bradford figures are not as precise but 137 men appealed. If one considers that about 700 of the town's men actually served in the armed forces, it looks as if the Bradford figure is not substantially different from that at Calne. This apparent growing reluctance to serve is in contrast with the impression often given of mass volunteering.

An analysis of these Wiltshire records also shows that no more than 5% of the appellants were conscientious objectors. In fact the majority of appeals came from employers who said that the particular men were essential to their business. Of the individuals appealing, most were from the self-employed small traders and business men.



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In Bradford 78 of the appeals were by employers and 59 from individuals. The range of trades and businesses was wide: grocers, bakers, ironmongers, coalmen, plumbers, a cycle mechanic, a hairdresser and boot makers. It is also surprising how many got exemption, if only temporary, which was often renewed. Only 32 appeals were refused outright. The others got temporary exemptions for varying periods of time but it is not certain how many of these, in the end, did have to serve. A good example is John Dixon, a carter, who was appealed for by his employer in May 1916. He first got temporary exemption to September 1916 and this was renewed five times until March 1918.

The absence of the supporting papers prevents us from knowing the more personal details about the appellant or his work. But this can be picked up in those cases which were well reported in the local press. Mr. Uncles, for example, who ran an iron foundry, appealed for his son Nelson. He said he was indispensable as a fitter and turner and, in particular, had considerable expert knowledge of agricultural machinery. Dr Fleming, a local doctor and medical officer, got exemption for his chauffeur, explaining the current strain on the medical profession and saying that a lady driver would not be suitable.

The essential issue which emerges is the conflicting priorities of meeting the huge demands for men for the armed forces against the need to keep local industries active, especially those involved in food production and distribution, and to maintain an infrastructure of small businesses which would be needed after the end of the war.

It is certain that the tribunal records are important to any historian studying the home front during the First World War and further analysis of all the records which are coming to light nationally may well lead to a revision of accepted opinion on a range of aspects of life during the First World War.

*Ivor Slocombe*

## WILTSHIRE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY APPEAL TRUST

Two dates for your diary 2013

*Saturday 27 April Roman Day.*

An all-day conference at St Laurence School, Bradford-on-Avon on aspects of the Romans in Wiltshire. Speakers will include Mark Corney on the Bradford-on-Avon and Box Villas, Bryn Walters on the three Roman towns in North Wiltshire, Mike Stone on Roman building materials and, possibly, someone from the British Museum on Roman coins from Wiltshire.

*Wednesday 5 June Evening Reception at Bradley House.*

The annual reception will be held this year at Bradley House, Maiden Bradley. This is the home of the Duke of Somerset and is not normally open to the public.

Further information on both events may be obtained from John Hurley, 21 Elizabeth Drive, Devizes SN10 3SB

### AGM

At the time of going to press, the Annual General Meeting of the WRS is scheduled to be held on Saturday 8th June at Longbridge Deverill Village Hall, with the meeting beginning at 2.30 p.m. It is hoped to be able to visit one or more interesting buildings in the village and details will be confirmed nearer the time. A speaker is also to be confirmed.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are respectfully reminded that subscriptions to the Society are now due. Please send subscriptions to: Ivor Slocombe, 11 Belcombe Place, Bradford on Avon, Wilts. BA15 1NA, cheques made payable to Wiltshire Record Society. The subscription remains at £15 annually.

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