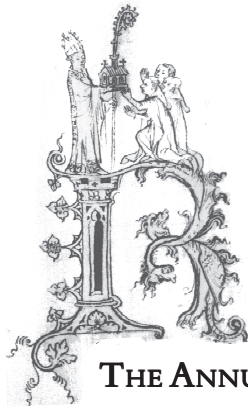


THE RECORDER



THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WILTSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

EDITORIAL

This year, for reasons beyond our control, the annual volume was not published on time; but it is hoped that by the time this Newsletter reaches our membership, it will either have been distributed or will be very soon. There are several volumes in the pipeline, all of them interesting projects and the next few years should produce some very good volumes indeed.

Our AGM was a great success and a happy occasion for everyone, I think. I have included a short report of this further on in the Newsletter.

Our saddest occasion this year was to learn of the death of Lorelei Williams on 11 November. This was a blow to us all; Lorelei was a much valued colleague and a good and amusing friend to many. She, and the expertise she offered, will be sadly missed. John Chandler and I plan to complete the Marlborough Inventories project, on which Lorelei was engaged at the time of her death. She had almost completed it and we feel we owe it to her memory to produce this book as soon as we can. There was another large-scale project with which Lorelei was involved, the Wiltshire Hearth Tax, and we hope that this also will be brought to completion in due course.

I am sure that the WRS membership will join the Committee in extending our heartfelt condolences to Alan and his family.

At the time of going to press, news has just come in of the death of Bob Henley, editor of WRS vol 51 (*The Apprentice Registers of the Wiltshire Society*) over the weekend of January 15/16. We extend our sympathy to all his family.

Sally Thomson (Editor)

LORELEI WILLIAMS

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Lorelei Williams on 11 November 2004 after a short illness. Lorelei was a most active member of the Wiltshire local and family history scene. Despite having a scientific background (she had a degree in engineering) Lorelei's love was history and she had done much research in Essex before she came to Wiltshire. She was the archivist of the Merchant's House Museum, Marlborough and served on the committees of the Wiltshire Local History Forum and Wiltshire Record Society.

She had almost completed an edition of Marlborough Probate Inventories which it is planned to publish in 2006.

She transcribed the registers of baptism and burial of Salisbury Cathedral, and 16th-century Easter books of Salisbury St Thomas and Wilton. She had an article on North Wiltshire Demography 1676-1700 published in *Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Magazine* vol. 90 (1997). She had begun research into Wiltshire Hearth Tax returns with a view to publication and it is hoped that someone will take up the challenge and bring this project to fruition.

Steven Hobbs

NAUTICALIA

A member of the transcribing team of Wiltshire Family History Society sought assistance recently when he came across a Latin phrase that the vicar of Box had added to a baptismal entry for 2 December 1599. Translated, it read literally

On the same day we were in dispute with John Bolwell and on the Sabbath going out with an armed guard.

Such an enigmatic note was crying for some explanation, much of which came from *Church Courts, Sex and Marriage in England, 1570-1640* by Martin Ingram. The vicar, John Coren, was a fiery character who had been accused of sexual impropriety, drunkenness and blasphemy. He was deeply in debt and was accompanied by a bodyguard for fear of being issued with writs. A footnote in the book led to a deposition in a church court case for drunkenness in 1615, which includes what must be a Wiltshire version of the nautical phrase 'three sheets to the wind'. A witness described his state as 'three sheepe skinned to the wind'.

Steven Hobbs

AGM 2004

The AGM took place on Saturday 12 June 2004 at Great Chalfield Manor, by kind permission of Mr Robert Floyd. In making the recce beforehand, I met Robert for the first time and was immediately struck by his incredibly good humour and willingness to help us in whatever way he could. He and I thrashed out logistic details and he took me on a tour of the manor, pointing out historical details and suggesting places where we would have our meeting, partake of tea and have our talk. Added to this, he very kindly volunteered to give the talk himself, with slides, which relieved the Editor of the task of finding a speaker for this meeting!

The day in question was warm and sunny and my husband and I arrived late morning to help Robert and his son to set up the great hall, clearing out beautiful furniture and priceless vases to safer havens, and installing some sixty chairs. My other half and I ate a picnic lunch in the rose garden and soon after 2.00 p.m., members began to arrive. We had a full house and our meeting, as usual, was businesslike and brief, followed by Robert's excellent talk on the origins of the manor and an insight into Thomas Tropenell's character, which seems to have had a somewhat humorous side to it. We were also privileged to have with us Dr. Tom Driver, an expert on Tropenell, who came down from the North especially to attend our meeting.

The house itself dates from about 1480 and was built on the site of a ruined fortified house. It was much altered in the mid-16th century and some domestic buildings have since disappeared, but there remains much that is of great historic interest and, of course, the setting is beautiful, with adjoining farm buildings and a large lake, with gardens to die for! If you didn't manage to get to the AGM, do try to visit the gardens this summer.

Huge pots of tea then refreshed everyone, along with generous plates of sandwiches and cakes and groups were then conducted around the house to see the wonderful nooks and crannies of this medieval gem, together with many anecdotes, of which Robert seems to have an unending supply.

A stalwart team of washer- and drier-uppers rounded off the day in the Butler's Pantry and many thanks are due to them for a marvellous effort.

Sally Thomson

TO SEE OURSELVES AS OTHERS SEE US

This was found in the review of a biography, in which the reviewer felt that there was too much description of the way the biographer had carried out her research:

... degenerates into a gushy heritage tour around mellow-stoned rectories, country houses and ancient seats of learning (she never seems to need to visit a local record office, those grim aeroplane hangars on the outskirts of minor county towns where historians mostly ply their craft).

Lorelei Williams

EARLY MARRIAGE ALLEGATIONS

I have recently indexed early marriage allegations for publication by Wiltshire Family History Society. Although primarily a genealogical source, they have a wider interest as I hope this note will reveal.

Between 1597 and 1604 more stringent regulations were issued to prevent clandestine marriages. In order to obtain a marriage licence it was necessary for a sworn statement or allegation to be made before a public notary that the consent of parents, guardians or even friends was given that there was no impediment of the marriage and that requirements of Canon law had been complied with.

The earliest allegations in the archives of the bishop of Salisbury and the dean of Salisbury were recorded in the act books and visitation books and they cover the years 1598-1615 and 1598-1639 respectively. Because the recording of allegations was a new development the clerks took time to establish a settled formulaic style. Consequently they often have additional details which are revealing about the customs associated with marriage.

Several allegations mention that neither party are bound by any other contracts of marriage.

Such contracts would have been effected by a betrothal ceremony at which the couple plighted their troth before witnesses and gifts or tokens were exchanged or even substantial settlements were put into effect.

Thus Bartholemew Gale of Chippenham alleged on 28 May 1610 that he and Mary Scott were already contracted 'according to the words conteyned In the booke of Common prair before divers credible person present thereat insomuch that they cannot in conscience forgoe eche other'. Furthermore Francis Webbe of Manningford Bohun alleged on 14 March 1615 that he and Margaret South of Salisbury St Thomas 'were contracted together & are man & wife before God marriage in the church only excepted'.

These examples illustrate the practice whereby betrothal established a union which the church wedding merely consummated. Further evidence can be gleaned from breach of promise cases in diocesan act books in betrothal ceremonies are described.

Martin Ingram, a member of this society, in his seminal work, *Church Courts, Sex and Marriage in England, 1570-1640*, states that pre-eminence of betrothal ceremonies had become by the late 16th century seriously challenged by church wedding recorded in the parish register and that its continuance was more due to inertia of social custom.

Several allegations reveal squabbles and greed as parents and relatives seek to arrange or discourage unions. One though throws light on the munificence of lady Anne Sharington of Lacock Abbey who on hearing of the intended marriage of her servant Roger Crabbott and Joan Hulbard, a widow, bestowed a copyhold estate on Joan and her son for the term of their lives, as Richard Woodlands alleged on 21 November 1598.

The allegations provide a grain of information into the religious climate in a Wiltshire parish which might be of some significance. One of the most established traditions of Wiltshire nonconformity concerns Horningsham chapel which it is claimed was built in 1566 by Presbyterian workmen brought from Scotland by Sir John Thynne to build Longleat House, making it the oldest standing nonconformist chapel in the country. No documentary evidence has been found to elevate this to historical fact. By 1669, however, the village had the largest group meeting of nonconformists in the county with a number between 400 and 500 in a local barn. Marjorie Reeves in her account of Protestant Nonconformity in *Wilts VCH* vol 3 suggested that such a flourishing congregation must have been the result of long term nurturing rather than a recent surge of enthusiasm but concluded its beginnings were a mystery.

In making an allegation or sworn statement on 16 May 1604 of the propriety of his intended marriage to Martha Woods of Horningsham, Nicholas Fiteshue of Corsley said that Martha's parents had long since gone to Amsterdam and that he believed that they fled 'for religion'. Amsterdam was a Calvinist stronghold in a country which adopted the Protestantism as the established religion in 1622 from where some of the puritans left for America in the early 17th century.

While it is not possible to assess fully the religious temperature of a parish from the actions of one couple whose beliefs led the to flee to a Protestant centre in Europe it nevertheless indicates the presence of a religious radicalism which might have been at one end of a spectrum that included more whose Protestantism was less radical and were content to remain in Horningsham and swell the congregation of its protestant congregation there.

Steven Hobbs

TYBURN TICKETS

In the current debate about how far a householder can reasonably act in defence of his property from burglars, no-one has, so far as I know, mooted the idea of actually rewarding those who do so successfully. In 1699 was passed an Act for the better apprehending, prosecuting, and punishing of felons that commit burglary, housebreaking, or robbery in shops, warehouses, coach-houses or stables, or that steal horses (10 & 11 Wm. III c.23). Under this, anyone who took any person committing such a crime and prosecuted him or her to conviction was entitled to a certificate, issued either by the judge or justices concerned, which entitled the taker to exemption from serving any parish office in the place where the crime was committed. As this would not be of much value to a person who, because of age or status, would be unlikely to be chosen to serve such an office, the Act allowed the certificate to be assigned, once only, to a third party.

These certificates became known as Tyburn Tickets, from the place of execution of felons near London, presumably because the usual sentence for felony was death. In fact, of the 42 Wiltshire certificates known to have been issued from 1800 to 1818, only two were for crimes followed by executions, one for a large theft of cloth from a factory and one for horse stealing. If all were followed up from newspaper reports of trials it would probably be found that most, if not all, of those convicted were sentenced to death but reprieved.

An example of a Tyburn Ticket is transcribed in WRS vol. 6, *The Trowbridge Woollen Industry*. It was issued to John Rawlings of Trowbridge, cloth dresser (my 3 x great grandfather) for apprehending John White. White, who had come down from Yorkshire looking for work, broke into Rawlings's workshop and stole two pieces of cloth worth £20. Within two weeks Rawlings, who was certainly of a status to serve parish offices, assigned the ticket to John Clark, clothier; perhaps he thought that at the age of about 67 he was unlikely to be called on.

Two other original tickets are in the Record Office, and details of 47 more are entered in a register kept by the Clerk of the Peace. This enrolment was laid down in the Act, but the register only includes tickets from 1773 onwards, and the two originals, one of 1785 inserted loose in the register and the other of 1809 in WSRO 2153, are not entered. Of the 49 known tickets, 33 are for theft at the premises of the recipient, and 3 more at houses of persons of the same surname. Six more were for stealing horses. All the tickets were issued after trial at the Assizes.

It would be an intriguing piece of research to follow up the tickets in newspaper accounts of the trials to see if they revealed whether the criminals were caught red-handed, or after 'detective work'. A ticket of 1817 was for the apprehension of a man who dashed his hand through the window of a baker's shop in Trowbridge and stole two small loaves worth 7d. He was taken while eating the bread, his hand still bleeding, and 'acknowledged the crime without hesitation'. I suppose he was starving. On the other hand, the man who stole Rawlings's cloth was taken in London (he was brought to the Assizes by habeas corpus from Newgate) so either Rawlings followed him or, more likely, sent a description of the cloth to the factors in London. The men who carried out a very large theft of cloth from a factory at Westbury in 1810 were traced with a cart to a place near Axbridge, and a 'chain of evidence' was produced at their trial, which lasted all day. For this the factory owner received two tickets, one for each criminal, the only example of this. The majority of the tickets were assigned, many immediately after issue, but some after several years. The value varied

widely. The three highest sums paid for a ticket all relate to Trowbridge – £41, £33, and £31 los. Other considerable sums were for Westbury, £30 and £25, Bradford, £26, and Warminster, £16. The office of overseer in such places was clearly one to be avoided. Villages came cheaper, though £20 for Lydiard Tregoze seems expensive.

The Act was repealed in 1818. Looking into the details of Tyburn Tickets revealed a curious error in a standard reference book, *The Chronological Table and Index to the Statutes*. The old edition in the Record Office and the much newer edition in the Trowbridge Reference Library both completely omit all the Acts passed in the session 10 & 11 William III, though they are all detailed in *The Statutes of the Realm*.

Kenneth Rogers

PRISONER BOXES

I have recently been researching the Wiltshire Reformatory for Boys at Warminster and this has necessitated some wider background reading on Victorian prisons and penal reform. The subject of crime and punishment has been much written about but one aspect seems to have been overlooked – the accommodation in court houses for prisoners awaiting trial at the Assizes and Quarter Sessions.

A national inquiry into this was undertaken by Inspector of Prisons in 1886 and his report includes details about Devizes, Marlborough, Salisbury and Warminster. In general the report records quite appalling conditions and lists Marlborough and Warminster as being amongst the worst 15 in the country. The general arrangement was a room, often in the basement of the court house, fitted out with rows of wooden 'boxes' each measuring about 2ft 6in by 2ft 6in and 6ft high with inside a small seat and an iron grill on the top. A prisoner would have to wait in one of these boxes for several hours or even all day until his case was heard. The inspectors described the boxes as 'cupboards too small for a lady's dress or for a well-kept dog.'

At Devizes the room measured 16ft by 10ft and contained 16 boxes, 8 each side with a 5ft passage between them. Each box measured 2ft 4in by 2ft. Marlborough similarly had 18 boxes each 2ft by 2ft 6in. Salisbury was slightly better with the boxes measuring 3ft by 2ft 6in. At Warminster there were no boxes but they used a cellar with a damp stone floor and lit only by candlelight. Accommodation for females was usually in a separate room and boxes were not used. At Marlborough they were housed in the attic which was well lit by a skylight and heated by a stove.

The sanitary arrangements were equally bad. At Marlborough there was simply a tub in one of the boxes and sawdust was provided to cover the excreta. The stench was described as being at times very bad. Warminster had a closet for males and one for females and water had to be constantly poured down these by the warders in order to keep down the smell. Almost all the rooms were very dark and heating came from a gas jet which was kept burning.

The Inspector Prisons demanded improvements and tried to set a minimum standard, for example the boxes should be at least 8ft 6in by 6ft. As usual the magistrates put up some resistance arguing that there were only a few prisoners and asking who would meet the cost.

I am sure this topic merits some follow up, including some field work, to identify the court houses and to see whether there is any residual evidence of the original arrangements. I do not plan to do this but I hope that some reader of the *Recorder* will feel inspired to do so.

Ivor Slocombe

MEDIEVAL PAGEANT AT LACOCK ABBEY

SEPTEMBER 1932 AND JUNE 1933

Brian Banks owns some beautiful sepia postcards of the 1932 Lacock Pageant, which inspired him to research the spectacle in great detail. He has a personal interest in it, as the Banks family were Stonemasons in Lacock. A good example of postcards as documentary evidence.

Ed.

Most, if not all, readers have visited Lacock Abbey or at least are aware of its history. Nevertheless, a reminder and summary of foundation records may be in order, as they determine the date of the 1932 Pageant:

In the year 1222: this Year the first Nuns of Lacock took the veil.¹

In the year 1223: this year was founded the Monastery of Lacock. Ella, a Noble Relict of William Longespe, Earl of Sarum, built a Monastery of Nuns in her Manor of Lacock.²

She founded the Priory of Henton [Hinton] of the Order of Carthusians; on the same day she founded two Monasteries, that is to say, early in the morning on the 16 April in the Year of our Lord 1232 the Monastery of Lacock . . .³

. . . these Nuns were Canonesses of St. Augustin . . . their Monastery was founded in the Year 1229 . . .⁴

According to *The Book of Lacock* Ella laid the foundation stone on the 16 April 1232. Dates in these accounts conflict; however, the organisers of the Pageant settled for 1229 as the year the foundation stone was laid and that in the summer of 1232, the Abbey was solemnly hallowed by the Bishop of Salisbury. It was made clear that the aim of the Pageant was not to produce, in a series of episodes, the various events which have taken place at Lacock throughout the centuries, but to re-enact, as far as possible, the one single day in the summer of 1232 – a 700th Anniversary.

Participants in displays/ tableaux were all Lacock people and friends and residents of Bowden Hill. The Bishop of Southampton took the part of the Bishop of Salisbury. Sir Harold Brakspear FSA, eminent ecclesiastical architect, advised on the arrangement of Church and ceremony. Help was given by antiquarians, professors of history and students of Medieval times. The event was recorded not only by written word, but also by a series of postcards (of which the writer has a set).

The work of constructing displays/ tableaux was undertaken by Lacock skilled craftsmen. Harold Wiltshire, carpenter, builder and undertaker, was one such. Extracts from his accounts for the pageant:

June 23	Weaver's Loom, 3 Elm Collars	3s od
July 5	6 Bobbins for Weaver, 1 Glasspaper	2d
July 20	Stools, 3 Oak Stools to Mrs Scott @ 4/6 each (Mrs Scott played the part of a chair seater)	3s 6d
June 30	Sheds, Martin, Self & J.B.	£12 4s 6d
July 14	Bridge	2 4s od
July 14	2 Dining Stools. J.B. 9 hrs J.B. 12 hrs. (no price inserted)	
July 22	3 Ash Rods ex Ferris prepared for Pikemen	16s od
July 27	3 Staffs. 3 Pins for Spinning	6s od

A major constructor for the Pageant, he advertised: *All Thatched Buildings Erected By Us.*

J.S. Ring, farrier, smith, engineer and plumber, of The Forge, Lacock, was another craftsman. The blacksmith's forge was exactly copied by him from a 13th-century drawing and the stone trough, bellows and anvil were stated to be of considerable antiquity and had long been in his family. He took the part of Smithy and the trough can be seen in the postcard.

The *Wiltshire News* reported:

Another instance of the fact that the World's essential work has not progressed in rural areas since the Middle Ages, was to be found in the blacksmith's shop. Clang, clang, on the



The blacksmith's forge, built and operated by J.S. Ring, the local farrier.



Matilda Talbot in the part of Ella Countess of Salisbury

anvil; sparks flying from the beaten red-hot ploughshares; the deep sigh of bellows and the hissing hot iron being plunged into water. Blacksmiths of 1232 at the same tasks and in the same way as the blacksmith of 1932.

The Postcards: there are 32 displays/ tableaux set out by numbers in the Courtyard and outer yard of the Abbey on a key plan and the key to that plan gives the titles. Most are to be seen on a collection of 48 postcards and others, not itemized, are also included: Bailiff, Bear & Leader, Constable, Draught Players, Chess Players, Stilt Walkers, Ploughman, Tything Man, The Stocks, Jurymen, Village Girls. There are three different cards of the Goose Girl.

Matilda Theresa Talbot, who gave Lacock village to the National Trust in 1944, took the part of Ella Countess of Salisbury. There are two cards of Ella in the collection.

The Spectacle was held again on Wed., Thurs., and Fri. May 31, June 1 and June 2, 1933. A poster for the event included a programme:

Troop of Jongleurs Dancing on the South Front	3, 5 & 7 p.m.
Part Singing on the West Front	3 p.m.
Medieval Cooking on the East Front	3, 5 & 7 p.m.
Medieval Dancing on the East Front.	3.30, 5.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Threshing	4, 6 & 8 p.m.
Distaff Spinning & Hand Weaving	3 & 6 p.m.
Alewives' Booth	4, 6 & 8 p.m.
Miscreants in the Stocks	3, 5 & 7.30 p.m.

Brian Howell Banks

¹ Dugdale, (Sir) William, *Monasticon*, vol 11 p.341

² Leland, John, *Collectanea* (1715 ed.), vol.2, 305

³ BL Cotton Ms Vit. A.VIII: Register of Lacock

⁴ Stevens, *Nunnery of the Order of St. Augustine in Wiltshire*. n.d.

NOTES FROM THE GENERAL EDITOR

I have now completed (apart from the indexes) the rather unexpectedly complicated task of typesetting Dr Joseph Bettey's edition of **Farming in Wiltshire during the Seventeenth Century**, which will be the Society's next volume (57). It is a remarkably wide-ranging survey, drawing on documents from all over Wiltshire and covering all kinds of farming practices and agrarian regimes of the period. It will, I feel sure, generate great interest in a subject which Dr Bettey has made very much his own, and will be cited as a standard work far beyond our county boundary. It dovetails neatly with our preceding volume, Steven Hobbs's edition of *Wiltshire Glebe Terriers*, so that together they represent an enormous advance in our knowledge of the county's agricultural history.

In complete contrast of subject Ian Hicks has completed the proof-reading of his edition of **Early Vehicle Registration in Wiltshire, 1903-1914**, and that is now on my desk for correction. This will be our volume 58, and should appear later this year. This will be only the second time that our publications have strayed into the twentieth century (volume 51 spanned 1817-1922), and this time we hope to include photographs of some of the subjects alongside the entries to which they relate.

When John Kirby died in 2003 he had nearly completed work on editing the second (or Hobhouse) cartulary of the Hungerford family (the first, or Radnor, cartulary was published as our volume 49). Unfortunately, the paper copy of his text was incomplete and only in draft print, and had been prepared on a long-obsolete word processor. The accompanying disks were unreadable by normal computers. So, thanks to the generosity of Heather Kirby, John's widow, I have been able to work from the original word processor to explore the contents of the disks, and to make as high a quality print of everything as the machine could achieve. I have now completed this process and scanned the entire text into my computer, which should mean that in due course **The Hungerford Cartulary, vol. 2**, can be completed and published.

Lorelei's very sad and untimely death (reported elsewhere) has presented a slightly similar problem, as the laptop computer on which she was working in hospital is password protected, and no-one has been found so far who knows or is able to guess the password. We suspect that the machine contains more recent versions of files than those which we have on disk, so we are endeavouring to access it. Sally Thomson is currently evaluating what remains to be done in order to bring Lorelei's edition of **Marlborough Probate Inventories** to publication.

In addition to the various editions which are actively being worked on, and will appear as volumes in due course, a reprint of volume 8, **Andrews and Dury's Map of Wiltshire, 1773**, is also (I hope) imminent. This has been out of print for several years, and there is a steady demand for copies. The physical make-up and use of colour in previous editions have presented problems which we think we can now overcome, making a reprint economical.

John Chandler

YOBBISH BEHAVIOUR AT CROCKERTON

Readers of *The Diaries of Jeffery Whitaker* (WRS vol. 44) will remember the sad little episode in which Jeffery courted Mary Adlam of Bull Mill, Crockerton, at first with high hopes of success, but eventually to be cast off in favour of T. Fricker. This was in 1741. The entries refer to Samuel Adlam, probably Mary's brother, who is also probably

the Mr. Adlam referred to in this entry from the *Salisbury Journal* of 24 May 1743:

On Saturday the 14th instant in the Evening, Mr. Rebeck, a malster of Hill-Deverell, and some other Farmers of the Neighbourhood, being drinking at the Marlborough's Head at Crockerton near Warminster; about 9 o'clock, Mr. Adlam, a Clothier of the same place, came to the House, whom they invited to sit down in Company with them. When they had drank together in an amicable Manner about an Hour, the Reckoning was called for; and Mr. Adlam offering to pay an equal Share with the rest, some of the Company objected to it, and said, as he had been with them so little while, they would excuse him for one Pint. Upon this Mr Rebeck starts up, and said, in a very surly manner, I don't know why he should not pay as much as the rest. Mr Rebeck, says Mr. Adlam coolly, you saw I was ready to do it: but however, as the Company are not pleased to insist upon it, for all your huffing, I'll pay but my Pint. Mr. Rebeck immediately in a great Passion throws a Guinea upon the Table, and challenged to fight any Man of the Company. Take up your Guinea, Mr. Rebeck, says Mr. Adlam: There's no body here has a Mind to fight with you. After some little Space, Mr. Rebeck being not at all pacified, and repeating his Challenges with much Noise and Disturbance, Why, Mr Rebeck; says Mr. Adlam, if you won't be quiet, we must be forced to put you out of the Room. Who's Man enough to do it? says Mr. Rebeck. I believe I'm Man enough for that, says Mr. Adlam; and presently gets up, and began to push him towards the Door: Whereupon Mr. Rebeck strikes him in the Face; Mr. Adlam returns the Blow, and a Skuffle ensues. After a Turn or two, Mr. Adlam's Coat and Shirt being very much torn, and the Company parting them a little, he strips them off; and Mr. Rebeck coming at him again with great Fury, Mr. Adlam meets him with a full Blow in the Face, and strikes him down backward: never once touching him any more. After he had lain a Moment or two on his Back, one of the Farmers said, Look look Rebeck, why do'st lie there? why dostn't get up? But as he made no Reply, or Motion, they came about him, and to their infinite Surprize, found him dead.

On Sunday last the Coroner's Inquest sat on the Body, and brought in their Verdict, Manslaughter.

No more has been found about the incident. Adlam does not appear in the Quarter Sessions Calendars of Prisoners, and the later issues of the *Salisbury Journal* for that year are not in the Record Office's series. He is probably to be

identified with the Samuel Adlam, clothier, who was bankrupt in 1756, and who, in the same year, was married at Somerton, Somerset. He died in possession of Bull Mill in 1768. Later in the century the mill was held by Thomas Fricker, the successful suitor, whose household goods there were put up for sale after his death in 1792.

Kenneth Rogers

A2A

There will be a free one day conference celebrating the end of the South West Access to Archives (A2A) project, considering archives, A2A, local sources and the future, on Friday May 20th 2005 at the IoD Hub, Castlemead, Bristol. The conference will include talks on garden history, maritime history, the medical history of the South West and the future of archives and electronic resources. Limited tickets available, which include lunch and refreshments. For tickets, programmes and further information contact: A2A Project Team, Cornwall Record Office, County Hall, Truro TR1 3AY, telephone 01736 757396.

ANNUAL MEETING 2005

This year's annual general meeting and lecture will be held in Codford at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday 4 June. Details to be announced.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

May I remind members that subscriptions (remaining at £15) were due on 1 January. I am most grateful to those who have already paid including the very many who now pay through a Banker's Order. If you have still to pay, I shall be very pleased to receive your cheque made payable to the Wiltshire Record Society.

Ivor Slocombe

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