

TRADING AT SAINT WHITE DOWN FAIR, 1637 - 1649

BY J. H. HAMER

One of the great roads of the 17th century and earlier between London and the south west followed much of the line of the road now identified as A.30. Running by way of Shaftesbury, Sherborne, Yeovil and Crewkerne, it then followed the Windwhistle ridge to Cricket St. Thomas. Here at Saint White Down it turned southward following the Fosse Way to Axminster and beyond. The Fosse Way to Ilchester and the north and the road to Chard and the west met the major road in the same area. Thus on an open down not rising above 700 feet and within a distance of a few hundred yards there met roads giving access to Exeter, Honiton, Chard, Crewkerne, London; Winsham, west Dorset, Bridport, Dorchester; east Devon, Axminster; Ilchester and places on the northern line of the Fosse Way. It is difficult to imagine a more appropriate and natural gathering place than Saint White Down and it is not surprising that a fair became established there. The true name of the Down has been reduced to "Whitedown" and in the pronunciation of local people "Whydown". To the people of Chard, Crewkerne, Axminster and the villages nearby, "Whydown Fair" has still some significance as a name but little is known of its form.

The Rev. N. F. Hulbert gives details of the early history of the fair,¹ assigning the date 1361 to its first charter, and quoting from the charter of 1467, which extended the period of holding the fair from two days to four. Stephen Preston, king's serjeant, lord of the manor of Cricket St. Thomas, gained the extension by a charter of 7 May of that year which referred to the fair as having been held at Saint White Down 'from time immemorial'.²

It is the aim of this paper to consider a manuscript volume consisting of 47 pages of rough paper measuring $11\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ inches sewn within part of a conveyance of 1613, which was deposited in the Somerset Record Office in 1957 (ref. DD/HI). This is a trade record of Saint White Down Fair in the years 1637 to 1642 and 1646 to 1649 which throws light on the day to day business of the fair immediately before and immediately after the Civil War.

The date of the first entry is only four years after Gerard had referred to the fair as "a greate faire in Whitsonday weeke"³ and the document shows that the fair at this time was one of importance, including a sale of sheep and a major sale of cattle and leather. The record is a rare find in Somerset and of great interest not only on account of the information recorded but also because of the period upon which it is set.

Why the record was made is not clear. Legislation of the time⁴ required owners of fairs to appoint toll-takers or book keepers to be responsible to list and give account of horses sold. This requirement was aimed at preventing the overt sale of stolen horses but was not extended to include other animals. It is probable therefore that the record was an administrative one designed to ensure lawful trading and to keep a proper account of the levies made on the transactions. Markings, figures and totals in the margins of

¹ "A Survey of Somerset Fairs", *Proc. S.A.S.*, **82**, 129-130.

² *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, Vol. **6**, 216.

³ *Somerset Record Society*, **15**, 69.

⁴ 2 & 3 Philip and Mary c. 7; 31 Elizabeth c. 12.

the records of the fairs of 1637 and 1641 show a levy of 2*d.* on each sale. In these years the total sums collected were:

1637			1641		
		<i>s d</i>			<i>s d</i>
Cattle	41 lots	6 10	Cattle	28 lots	4 8
Horses	1 lot	2			
Leather	34 lots	5 8	Leather	10 lots	1 8
Sheep	9 lots	1 6	Sheep	7 lots	1 2
		<hr/>			<hr/>
		14 2			7 6
		<hr/>			<hr/>

On the same basis — although the markings do not appear again — the levies on the remaining years should have been:

1638	1639	1640	1642	1646	1647	1648	1649
11 <i>s</i> 8 <i>d</i>	10 <i>s</i> 0 <i>d</i>	6 <i>s</i> 8 <i>d</i>	3 <i>s</i> 8 <i>d</i>	15 <i>s</i> 0 <i>d</i>	15 <i>s</i> 8 <i>d</i>	10 <i>s</i> 0 <i>d</i>	23 <i>s</i> 8 <i>d</i> .

The record gives no indication of other tolls or levies but it is probable the Manor received some benefit from 'stallage', 'piccage' and sales of commodities not included in this record.

Each year's entry opens with a dating clause and is divided into separate sections for cattle, sheep and leather. Included in each item are the names of the seller and buyer, a brief description of the animal or the amount of leather sold and usually the price. In many instances the parishes of origin and destination are given. The entries vary from the simplicity of "John Deane sold two steers to Richard Turner £8.0.0." to the greater detail of "Henry Watts of Sidbury in Devon sold one black cow top cut in the neare eare to John Gardner of Martick in Somerset £04.05.00" or "Richard Beere of Misterne in Somerset sold two gales black to one he cannot nominate but liveth at Maypowder £10.5.0."

The handwriting differs in successive years but in some instances pages have been prepared in so neat a manner as to leave no doubt that the work was done in the quiet of an office, not during the 'hurly burly' of the fair. This suggests the possibility that the whole record for each fair may have been written as a neat copy by a clerk from notes made by himself or some other person. The suggestion is strengthened by lack of detail in parts of the record and the occasional writing of a name in accordance with its pronunciation, as if the writer was unfamiliar with the true place name, e.g. Zepherton Mare for Seavington St. Mary and Abbots Soyle for Ile Abbots.

A noticeable change in the amount of detail provided by the record becomes apparent as the years pass. This can be best described by example and for this purpose portions of the cattle sales records of the first, fifth and last years are shown.

1637		<i>£ s. d.</i>
Henry Whitty sold to Antony Hull a cow		3. 8. 0
John Baker sold to Stephen Bowditch a steer		4. 2. 0
Richard Miller sold to John Parson a heifer and calf		4. 8. 0
Thomas Lygh sold one ox to Thomas Osman		5. 3. 4
John Pynny sold two oxen to Thomas Hart		9. 3. 0
Thomas Humphry sold to Mr. Marshall two oxen		11. 10. 0

	£	s.	d.
Nicholas Hawkins of Whitelackington sold to Thomas Wacle of Whitchurch a heifer and calf	3.	18.	3
Mathew Paul of Crock Street sold to Gyles Fifet of Stanton Drue [not shown — possibly two oxen]	10.	10.	0
John Bowditch of Axminster sold to Gyles Fifet of Stanton Dru one steer			[blank]
1641			
William Brook sold a bull to Anthony Raws	02.	12.	00
Richard Belringer of Thornfalcon sold two black oxen to Anthony Mathew of Sherborne	09.	13.	04
William Leace of St. Mary Otree sold two oxen to Henry Quantock of Norton under Hamdon	10.	13.	04
Samuel Tucker sold to Richard Hillery two heifers and calves	06.	07.	00
Nicholas Bearnese sold to John Rabence one bullock	04.	05.	00
John Norton of North Curry sold to Henry James two oxen	11.	00.	00
John Keevell sold to Peter Fuller two heifers	06.	00.	00
Roger Bank sold to Peter Fuller one heifer	02.	07.	00
1649			
John Austine of Wistanton sold one black bull with a white face to Nathaniell Gundry of South Petherton	02.	02.	00
William Treseare of Ilminster sold one red heifer to Edmond Single of the same	03.	03.	04
Edward Butler of Comer in Dorset sold two black heifers to John Haymond of Pensford in Somerset	07.	00.	00
Addam Morley of Dunard in Somerset sold one red wanded steer to Thomas Budge of Horsford in Dorset	04.	06.	08
Richard Shepwick of Mashood in Dorset sold one motley heifer to Richard Skinner of Trull in Somerset	03.	09.	00
Will Symes of Chard sold one black sparked cow to Gyles Studley of Broadwindsor, Dorset	04.	00.	00
Edward Smith of Yarcombe sold one brown cow top cut in both ears and one black calf to Gyles Studley of Broadwindsor in Dorset	15.	11.	08
Swyfin Bond of Marshut in Dorset sold one black sparked heifer and calf to Robert Glasse of Rysom in Somerset	04.	02.	00
John Butson of Hemyock in Devon sold one black brinded steer and one vallow steer to John Beck of Merriott in Somerset	11.	00.	00

Throughout the ten fairs recorded the strength of the cattle sales lay in draft oxen. Next in importance in the early years were steers, cows and calves, and heifers and calves, but it was noticeable that from 1646 cows and heifers without calves were regularly available. The smallness of the sales in 1642, the fact that in that year no oxen were available, and the unrecorded years of 1643-45 are of national significance. These years saw the very considerable disturbance of west country life, the armies of the King and Parliament ranging widely over the whole area. The broad pattern of sales, however, does not change from year to year. It has, therefore, been possible to prepare a simple schedule of numbers and average prices obtained (Table A).

TABLE A

SCHEDULE OF ROTHER⁵ CATTLE — NUMBERS AND PRICES

Description	1637		1638		1639		1640		1641		1642		1646		1647		1648		1649	
	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.
Oxen	49	£ 5 9 9	13	£ 5 7 1	32	£ 5 11 8	17	£ 5 0 6	21	£ 5 5 8		£ s d	31	£ 5 8 1	40	£ 5 17 9	24	£ 5 11 0	54	£ 5 14 1
Steers	6	£ 4 0 5	15	£ 4 3 1	14	£ 4 7 7	12	£ 3 7 3	10	£ 4 11 3	5	£ 3 8 9	22	£ 4 7 8	16	£ 4 15 3	8	£ 3 19 3	30	£ 5 1 2
Cows													22	£ 2 16 9	15	£ 3 3 1	7	£ 4 7 1	13	£ 4 5 3
Cow & Calf	4	£ 4 7 3	5	£ 4 0 8	2	£ 4 16 4	3	£ 3 1 6	2	£ 3 2 6			14	£ 4 17 3	7	£ 5 1 2	4	£ 4 19 7	6	£ 4 4 4
Heifer									8	£ 3 0 9	1	£ 3 5 0	18	£ 2 15 8	19	£ 3 19 5	16	£ 2 17 5	35	£ 3 5 2
Heifer & Calf	5	£ 3 19 5	10	£ 3 13 4	12	£ 3 13 3	4	£ 3 13 5	4	£ 3 5 8	6	£ 3 8 3	7	£ 3 14 7	4	£ 4 9 0	4	£ 4 1 0	12	£ 3 18 10
Bull			2	£ 2 6 6			1	not priced	1	£ 2 12 10	1	£ 2 5 0	3	£ 2 4 3	1	hog 2 3 0	3	£ 2 6 8	5	£ 2 18 9
Bullock									1	£ 4 5 0	11	£ 2 14 5	16	£ 2 8 2	15	£ 3 6 11			4	£ 3 10 0
Yearling													11	£ 2 0 0	8	£ 1 15 4	4	£ 1 13 11	2	£ 2 11 6

There were also recorded during the above period, 52 cattle in mixed lots of two to four beasts and including 4 "Gales", 1 "Beazer" and 1 "Gelt". These have not been brought into the assessment.

TABLE B

SHEEP — NUMBERS AND PRICES

Description	1637		1638		1639		1640		1641		1642		1646		1647		1648		1649	
	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.	No.	Price Av.
Sheep	144	£ 12 0	10	£ 7 9	20	£ 8 4	104	£ 10 4	25	£ 8 11	4	£ 5 6		£ s d	46	£ 12 3		£ s d	22	£ 11 7
Weathers	10	£ 10 4			20	£ 14 0			10	£ 7 6	39	£ 10 9	37	£ 12 0	20	£ 12 1	30	£ 10 3		
Hoggs																			45	£ 11 2
'Pur' Hoggs			20	£ 7 11																
Weather Hoggs										10	£ 8 1						20	£ 13 3	10	£ 10 4
Ewes									48	£ 10 3	18	£ 6 0					14	£ 9 0	8	£ 7 0
Couples			10	£ 10 6	10	£ 9 2			8	£ 8 4					8	£ 18 9			5	£ 13 0
Lambs	20	£ 6 0							20	£ 5 8							10	£ 6 0		

Mixed Lots

21 ewes 19 lambs

11 0 0

12 couples 1 hog

6 7 0

7 couples 3 weathers

5 0 0

20 sheep 10 lambs

17 5 0

8 sheep 20 lambs

9 10 6

6 sheep 4 lambs

3 5 0

⁵ "An Animal of the Ox Kind", *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*.

A significant feature of the cattle sales is the occasional availability of Welsh beasts, 8 being recorded in 1642, 13 in 1646 and 23 in 1647. The place of origin is usually recorded as Glamorgan but in one case it is shown as Lanquat Major. From the situation of the two counties it appears certain that the animals were carried across the Bristol Channel and that traffic in cattle across the channel was not an uncommon feature of the time. Much of the Somerset coast, Bridgwater and the river Parrett could have provided landing facilities convenient to Saint White Down and other fairs. It seems probable that Welsh cattle were driven from fair to fair until sold. The situation and timing of other fairs in the vicinity of Saint White Down would have allowed this without very great difficulty or inconvenience.

Sheep were available only in small numbers at each fair and the record of these sales does not contain detail comparable with that shown in the cattle sales. The prices recorded were irregular and the small amount of information available does not support the making of a reasonable assessment. In no sense does the sheep sale at this time show itself to be of the same importance as either the cattle sale or leather sale.

Numbers and mean prices have been extracted and are shown in Table B.

On a small number of occasions sheep were sold under a warranty. A 1639 entry records "Nicholas Turner of Chardstocke sold to Thomas Fry 21 yeawse and 19 lambs warranted sound from the cough". In the 1647 record there appears "Will Hooper of Muntekue sold to George Heiffield 10 sheep warranted sound from water core", and in 1649 "John Doleman of Bedcombe in Dorset sold 10 hoggs to John Weare of South Petherton and warranteth them sound till a fortnight after midsomer".

Horse sales within the fair during this period were infrequent. Only nine were recorded in ten fairs and of these, five were in 1647. In that year there is an interesting reference to a challenge recorded as, "Christopher Milverton of Ilminster parish challengeth a mare—Hugh Gatchell and Edward Raw testes". It is not clear whether Gatchell and Raw were witnesses of the challenge or of the condition or ownership of the animal. No decision is recorded. At the same fair the following prices were obtained — one mare and colt (£5.1.0*d*), one 'guelding' 4 years old (£8.0.0*d*), one colt (£6.13.4*d*) and one dim nag (£4.15.0*d*).

As a leather sale the fair must have been of a high standing. At five fairs the quantity sold was in excess of 100 hides, indeed in 1637 the figure was 368 and at the 1638 fair it was 349. Hides were usually sold in "dicker"⁶ or "half dicker" lots but some were sold in numbers other than the accepted unit. An assessment of the price per hide in these instances produces a figure surprisingly close to the annual average for the main quantities indicative of careful observation on the part of both buyers and sellers.

On two occasions reference is made to "skins" and it should perhaps be accepted that the term referred to lighter weight leather such as that produced from calf skin. In 1638 Thomas Wale of Broadway sold "5 quire of skins" and the 1642 record included one lot of 7 hides and 12 skins, but in neither case is the price shown.

⁶ "The number of ten; being the customary unit of exchange especially in hides or skins" . . . *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*.

Amounts and prices in the ten fairs reviewed were:

TABLE C

Year	....	....	....	....	1637	1638	1639	1640	1641
Amount	....	....	....	....	368 hides	349 hides	197 hides	99 hides	100 hides
Average price per Dicker	....	....	....	....	£7. 1. 1	£7. 10. 7	£8. 1. 9	£8. 1. 1	£9. 6. 6
Year	....	....	....	....	1642	1646	1647	1648	1649
Amount	....	....	....	....	52 hides	115 hides	170 hides	30 hides	185 hides
Average price per Dicker	....	....	....	....	£7. 13. 1	£8. 11. 10	£8. 2. 9	£8. 2. 0	£10. 7. 3

Place names of origin indicate that Somerset produced four out of every five sellers of leather and Dorset one. The record does not show any seller from a Devon parish, but amongst the buyers, East Devon is strongly represented throughout.

It is a reasonable presumption that tanning took place in all parishes named by sellers of leather and the following men who sold regularly at the fair must have been well established tanners: Henry Foster (Batcombe and Wells), John Locke (Beaminster), Simon Moore (Broadway), John Palfray (Broadway), Thomas Wale (Broadway and Buckland St. Mary), Stephen Hitchcock (Clapton), Blase Brook (Milborne Port), Simon Reepe (North Petherton), John Bennett (Shaftesbury), William Coggin (South Chard) and Thomas Foster (Wells). The full list of the parishes of origin of dealers selling leather is: Ashill, Batcombe, Beaminster, Broadway, Broomfield, Bruton, Buckland St. Mary, Chard, Clapton, Coker, Enmore, Forton, Glastonbury, Hardington, Horsington, Ilminster, Ilton, Kingstone, Lyng, Melbury, Milborne Port, Montacute, Netherbury, North Petherton, Odcombe, Pendomer, Pilton, Pitminster, Queen Camel, Shaftesbury, Somerton, South Chard, Stocklinch, Symonds bury, Wells, Weymouth, Yetminster.

Amongst the regular buyers of large quantities of leather were: Robert Bragg (Axminster), Richard Bragg (Axminster), Simon Way (Chard), William Roch (Honiton), Henry Bond (Ilminster), Thomas Marshall (Ilminster), Thomas Way (Lyme) and Henry Sanders (Ottery St. Mary). The full list of the parishes of origin of buyers is: Axminster, Axmouth, Beaminster, Bridford, Bridport, Chard, Colyton, Combe St. Nicholas, Crewkerne, Honiton, Ilminster, Kingstone, Langport, Lopen, Lyme, Ottery St. Mary, Shepton Beauchamp, South Petherton, Stoke Abbott, Taunton, Thorncombe, Upottery, Wellington and Winsham.

How far did a fair such as that at Saint White Down extend its trading influence? The trading record under discussion does not completely answer this question; for although in every case the names of the buyers and sellers are recorded, place-names are omitted from nearly 10 per cent of the entries.

The names of all the parishes in the immediate vicinity of Saint White Down appear with regularity and this holds good to a radius of approximately eight miles. Between

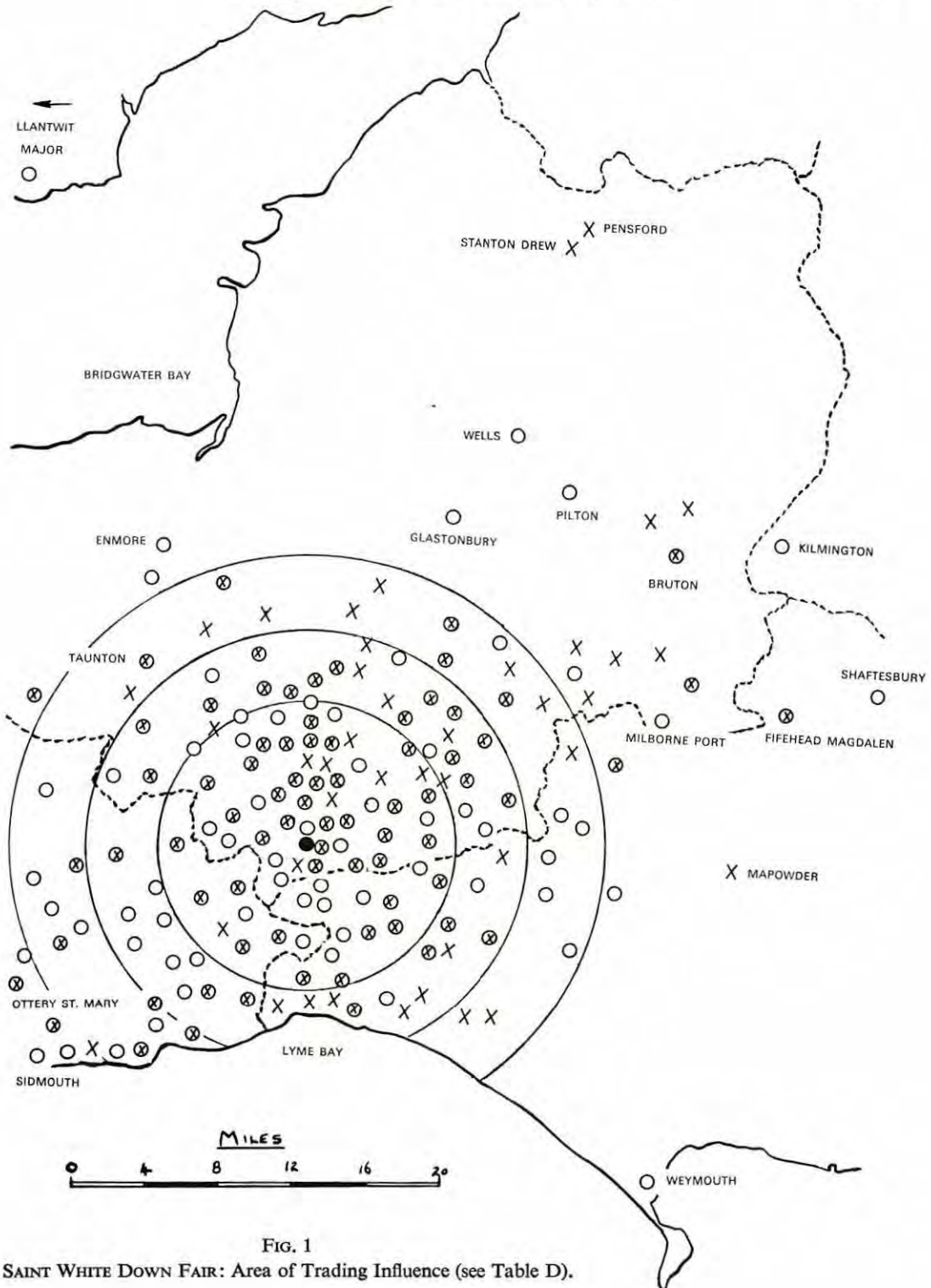


FIG. 1
SAINT WHITE DOWN FAIR: Area of Trading Influence (see Table D).

eight and sixteen miles from the Fair support was still very strong and there are only a few parishes lying within this second circle which are not named in the record. The main area of interest was bounded by Sidmouth, Honiton, Taunton, Somerton, Milborne Port, Beaminster and Bridport but occasionally a place name appears at a much greater distance.

The place names have been extracted and are shown in the following lists which also indicate whether the interest was buying or selling. Frequently a place was named more than once at the same fair but no attempt has been made in the lists to show this fact.

TABLE D

IDENTIFIED PLACE NAMES

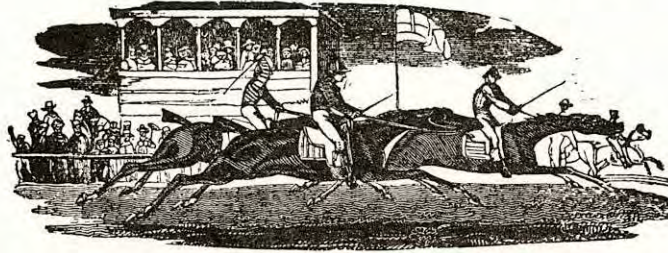
o = Selling x = Buying ox = Both
(See Fig. 1)

Alford	x	Chiselborough	x	Horsington	o
Aller	x	Churchstanton	o	Huish	ox
Allington	o	Coker (East)	ox	Ile Abbots	ox
Allowenshay	x	Colyford	o	Ile Brewers	o
Askerswell	x	Colyton	ox	Ilminster	ox
Ashill	ox	Combe St. Nicholas	ox	Ilton	ox
Ashwell	x	Compton	x	Kilminster	ox
Awliscombe	o	Corscombe	o	Kingsbury Episcopi	x
Axminster	ox	Cotleigh	o	Kingstone	ox
Axmouth	ox	Cotlington	x	Knole	ox
Barrington	x	Crewkerne	ox	Lambards Castle	o
Batcombe	o	Cricket	ox	Langport	x
Beaminster	ox	Crock Street	o	Leweston	x
Beer	ox	Cudworth	ox	Limington	ox
Beercrocombe	o	Curland	o	Luppitt	ox
Bickenhall	x	Curry Mallet	ox	Lydmarsh	o
Bidiscombe	x	Curry Rivel	ox	Lyme	x
Bradpole	x	Dalwood	o	Lyng	o
Branscombe	o	Donyatt	ox	Loders	x
Bridport	x	Dowlish Wake	ox	Lopen	x
Broadway	ox	Drayton	x	Maperton	x
Broadhembury	o	East Stoke	x	Mapowder	x
Broadwindsor	ox	Enmore	o	Marshwood	o
Broomfield	o	Evershot	o	Martock	ox
Bruton	ox	Fifehead Magdalen	ox	Maudlin	o
Buckland St. Mary	ox	Fivehead	ox	Melbury	o
Burstock	o	Forton	o	Membury	ox
Cattistock	o	Gittisham	ox	Merriott	ox
Chaffcombe	ox	Glastonbury	o	Milborne Port	o
Chalkway	x	Halstock	x	Milton Clevedon	x
Chard	ox	Hambridge	o	Misterton	ox
Chardstock	ox	Hardington	o	Montacute	ox
Charlton Adam	o	Haselbury	o	Musbury	ox
Charmouth	x	Hatch Beauchamp	o	Netherbury	ox
Chedington	ox	Hawkchurch	ox	Nethercompton	x
Chelson	o	Hemyock	o	North Cricket	o
Chideock	ox	High Ham	x	North Curry	ox
Chillington	ox	Hinton St. George	o	North Perrott	ox
Chilthorne Domer	ox	Holditch	o	North Petherton	ox
Chilton	x	Honiton	ox	Norton Sub Hamdon	x
Chinnoek	ox	Hooke	x	Odcombe	ox

Otterford	ox	Smallridge	x	Uplyme	ox
Ottery St. Mary	ox	Somerton	ox	Upottery	ox
Pendomer	o	South Cadbury	x	Wambrook	o
Pensford	x	South Perrott	o	Wayford	ox
Pilsdon	ox	South Petherton	ox	Wellington	ox
Pilton	o	Sparkford	x	Wells	o
Pitminster	ox	Stewley	o	West Hatch	ox
Podimore Milton	x	Stanton Drew	x	West Monkton	x
Puckington	ox	Stockland	o	Weston	x
Queen Camel	o	Stocklinch	ox	Weymouth	o
Riseton	x	Stoke Abbott	ox	Whitchurch	ox
Rimpton	x	Stoke Under Hamdon	o	Whitelackington	ox
Ryme	x	Street	o	Whitestaunton	o
Seaton	o	Swell	ox	Whitford	o
Seavington St. Mary	x	Symondsburly	o	Widworthy	o
Shaftesbury	o	Taunton	ox	Winsham	ox
Shepton Beauchamp	o	Thorncombe	o	Witcombe	x
Sherborne	ox	Thornfalcon	o	Wootton Fitzpaine	ox
Shute	o	Tintinhull	ox	Yarcombe	ox
Sidbury	ox	Trull	x	Yetminster	o
Sidmouth	o	Tytherleigh	o		

The small deposited fragment of the administrative record of the Fair has provided almost the whole of the material included in this paper. To this has been added a personal study of the site and conversation with people living in the district. That the Fair was held on Whitedown is common knowledge among these people but I received no information from them of its later form or when it was last held. It does however seem probable that by the early years of the 19th century the gathering had become largely one for entertainment rather than trade. In *Proc. S.A.S.* 28, 143-145, B. W. Greenfield writes "At the present time [1882] a horse fair takes place on the first day and one of livestock on the second when a good number of gypsy horses, cattle and sheep are collected there ———— wrestling, cudgel playing and single stick prevailed there until a comparatively late date." The late Mr. R. W. Quick (a former schoolmaster of Taunton), whose forebears for many generations lived in Chard, used to speak of his grandfather's regular appearances there as a wrestler in the mid-nineteenth century.

A poster of 1845 in the Arthur Hull Collection (Somerset Record Office DD/SAS) is reproduced overleaf (Fig. 2). The programme of the Fair was evidently much the same in 1845 as it was 40 years later in Greenfield's day. The bill gives prominence to the "White Down Diversions", but also indicates that to some extent the pattern of 17th century trading continued. The horse sale, which filled Whit Monday, appears to have grown in importance since the period covered by the trade record described above, but the other sales were presumably no longer of such great account; for it seems improbable that serious trading would have gone on after the start of the diversions — "precisely at two" — on the Tuesday. The duration of the Fair, which had been extended from two to four days in 1467 (p. 61), is shown in 1845 to have been reduced once again to two days. What its duration was in the 17th century cannot be deduced from the trading record, the only day mentioned for each year being Whit Monday.



WHITE DOWN FAIR

WILL BE HELD AS USUAL,

On WHIT-MONDAY & TUESDAY,
The 12th & 13th of MAY, 1845.

**The First Day will be for the Sale of HORSES, &c. &c.,
and the Second for Sheep, Bullocks, and all other kind of
Cattle.**

WHITE DOWN DIVERSIONS

WILL COMMENCE ON TUESDAY, IN A FIELD ADJOINING THE ROAD, WITH

A HURDLE RACE, FOR A SPLENDID SILVER CUP,

**For Horses not thorough bred, and never having won a prize, and in the possession
since the Sixth of April, of persons residing within nine miles of the Down. 12st. each. Heats, twice round the course.
Over three flights of Hurdles. Entrance, Ten shillings each. To start at the Distance.**

A SWEEPSTAKES

**Of Ten Shillings each, with Three Sovereigns added, for Horses of all denominations, in the possession, since
the 6th of April, of Tradesmen and Persons residing within the towns and parishes of Chard, Crewkerne, Ilminster, and Axminster. 10st. each. Heats, twice round the Course; to start at the distance.**

A Splendid Bridle & Saddle,

**For Ponies not exceeding 13 hands high, that never won a prize. Catch weights. Entrance 2s. 6d. each. Heats, twice
round the Course. To start at the Winning Post.**

A FOOT HURDLE RACE,

**for Five shillings, will take place on the Down, immediately after the Horse Racing. Distance about a quarter of a mile.
Six Leaps. Various other Diversions to finish the Day's amusement.**

Horses and Ponies intending to run, must be produced to, and entered with Mr. CHICK, at the Fair Booth, at or before One o'clock on Tuesday.
The Start precisely at Two. Three to start for each Prize, or no race. Disputes to be settled by an impartial Committee. *An Ordinary each
Day at Mr. Stone's Booth, at Twelve o'clock.* Hay and Corn provided at the Booth. The Winner of the Silver Cup to pay Ten
Shillings extra. The Sweepstakes 5s. The Pony Race 5s.

Dated May 5th, 1845.—FOWLER, PRINTER, CHARD.