

THE SOMERSET RECORD OFFICE

LIST OF MAIN MANUSCRIPT ACCESSIONS 1959-60

WITH A SURVEY OF EXISTING HOLDINGS AND RESOURCES

The records under the immediate care of the County Archivist in the Somerset Record Office occupy some 1½ miles of shelving and probably amount to at least as many million documents. They can be divided broadly into two categories: the official records of past and present county authorities; and records deposited from both public and private sources, principally during the thirty years since the designation of the Office by the Master of the Rolls as a suitable repository under the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1924. In this period, more than seventeen hundred gifts and deposits of documents have been made by private owners and custodians of records who, by taking advantage of the facilities for care and preservation which the Record Office provides, have rendered great service to historical research.

In the past, information on the year's accessions has been available nationally, formerly in the *Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research*, and now in the *List of Accessions to Repositories* published annually by the National Register of Archives. The following report is an attempt to improve local circulation of this information. The report contains a list of accessions from January 1959 to June 1960, and also brief notes about existing holdings of both official and the major pre-1959 deposited records and other resources of the Record Office. It is hoped that future reports will contain the accessions of one complete year, July — June, and more detailed reports on accumulations of records catalogued in the meantime.

It is manifestly impossible in a report of this size to give adequate representation to all subjects and places covered, and no attempt has been made to provide anything more than a brief outline of the principal accumulations. As neither the mass of smaller deposits nor the detail from the groups reported can be included in this survey, direct enquiries to the County Archivist on specific subjects will still be needed. Experience has shown that, although the quantity of records surviving for a given place depends on two variable factors, the hazard of survival and the act of deposit, few parishes have gone entirely unrecorded.

The facilities of the Record Office are available, without charge, to all *bona fide* searchers; and special accommodation, the Orchard Wyndham Room, has been assigned for the consultation of printed books and records under appropriate regulations. Intending visitors, particularly those who have not visited the Record Office previously, are asked to write beforehand to the County Archivist, Somerset Record Office, Obridge Road, Taunton, to make themselves known, and to explain the nature of their enquiry.

I. MAIN MANUSCRIPT ACCESSIONS

JANUARY 1959 — JUNE 1960

FAMILY AND ESTATE:

EARL WALDEGRAVE: estate records, including surveys, leases, books of grants and accounts, from 1647, for Chewton Mendip and Radstock, and also Edington, Preston Plucknett, Wheathill, Raddington, Wellesley in Wells, Purifichet in Wembdon, Spaxton, Aley in Over Stowey, Sheverton in Stogursey, Lodhuish in Nettlecombe, Yard in Combe Florey, Littleton in Compton Dundon, Harnham in Oake, and East Harptree; manorial records for the hundred, manor and minery of Chewton, 1493-1605¹, 1743-1824, East Lydford, 1397-1400, Radstock, 1734-1824, Edington, 1811-52, East Harptree, 1741-1824, Pinhoe (co. Devon), 1457-1603, Borley (co. Essex), 1422-60; Mendip mining records for the Chewton and Harptree Liberties, *c.* 1620-1871; maps, including Chewton Mendip, 1740-1839, Radstock, 1759-1867, Edington, 1770-?1825, and East Harptree, ?1809, *post* 1817.

POPHAM OF HUNSTRETE (ADDITIONAL): deeds, etc. of the Littlecote, Hunstrete and Wellington estates, 16th-19th cents.; manorial records of Wellington Borough and Landside, Bridgwater and Timsbury, 1654-70, and Madford and Churchstanton, Clayhidon, Upottery and Rawridge (co. Devon), 1625-67; manorial accounts relating to the Wellington and Littlecote audits, 1706-43.

MEDLYCOTT OF MILBORNE PORT: deeds, etc. of Toomer in Henstridge, 1307-90, Milborne Port and Henstridge, 1517-1861, and Shalford in Wincanton and Charlton Musgrove, 1656-1860; surveys, rentals, etc. for Milborne Port, 1689-1833; papers and accounts for

¹ Include courts for Radstock and other manors as above (excluding East Harptree), from *c.* 1580, and Kingston Seymour, from *c.* 1530.

estates in Wincanton, Charlton Musgrove, Doultling and Croscombe belonging to the Paget and allied Bradford families, 1781-1835; Milborne Port poll book and land and window tax, 1774.

THRING OF ALFORD: deeds, etc. of Alford, Hornblotton, Lovington, Charlton Adam, East Pennard and Castle Cary, 1637-1876.

LORD DE MAULEY: deeds, etc. of Pawlett and Cannington, 1685-1905.

WEBBER OF BROMPTON REGIS: deeds, etc. of Brompton Regis and Exton, 1450-1901.

DEEDS, ETC.: Mark, 1743-1833; West Pennard, 1652-1839, including five maps of Colston estates in West Pennard and neighbouring parishes, 1837; Wellow, 1658-1888; surveys of West Lydford, 1747, and Pylle, 1571.

DIOCESAN: the records of the diocese of Bath and Wells and of the archdeaconries of Bath, Taunton and Wells, including act books, from *c.* 1460, court records, from *c.* 1530, visitation records, from *c.* 1530, parish register transcripts, from *c.* 1572, marriage licence bonds and registers, from 1645, glebe terriers, from 1571, and some testamentary records, from *c.* 1543, excepting the Bishop's Registers and Clergy Subscription Books, which are to remain at the Diocesan Registry in Wells. (*Transfer in progress*, 1959-60).

PARISH: Bathealton: registers, 1712-1837, churchwardens' accounts, 1672-1930, overseers' accounts, 1693-1753; Beckington: overseers' accounts and rates, 1745-1863, surveyors' accounts and rates, 1792-1861; Berkley: accounts of the men's and women's clubs, 1832-75 (*additional deposit*); Corton Denham: register, 1538-1812, overseers' accounts, 1746-73; Hemington: churchwardens' accounts, 1683-1821, overseers' accounts, 1768-1841, tithe books, 1768-1814; Kittisford: registers, 1694-1837; Pitminster: vestry, including select vestry minutes, 1791-1856, churchwardens' accounts, 1668-1851, overseers' accounts and rates, 1589-1883, tithe book, 1672-1709; Poyntington: register, 1618-1712; Stawley: registers, 1653-1834, churchwardens' accounts, 1697-1780, overseers' accounts, 1702-1804, surveyors' accounts, 1767-92; Stocklinch Magdalen: registers, 1712-1812, churchwardens' accounts, 1765-1862; Stocklinch Ottersey: registers, 1558-1812, churchwardens' accounts, 1736-1878.

BOROUGH: Taunton: minutes, etc. of Market Trustees, 1769-1926, minutes of Local Board of Health and Committees, 1849-77.

PETTY SESSIONS: Ilminster Division: court registers and registers of licences, 1872-92, settlement and bastardy papers, from *c.* 1759, poor law orders for sale of parish property, *c.* 1836-40.

TURNPIKE: Yeovil Trust: minutes, accounts, papers, etc. 1753-1875.

OFFICIAL: Logbooks, etc. for over 80 former public elementary schools, now closed, from 1863; papers relating to schools taken over by the County Education Committee under the Education Act, 1902.

MISCELLANEOUS: the Arthur Hull collection of material relating to Chard, mainly 19th cent. but including churchwardens' accounts of Combe St. Nicholas, 1803-34; brewery records of Messrs. Arnold and Hancock: accounts, minute and letter books, etc. for Norton, Crewkerne and Rowbarton Breweries, from 1832, deeds of inns, including Crewkerne, from 1805; parliamentary election papers (candidature of Wm. Miles), 1832, 1834; a small group of records of the Merchant Guild and Commonalty of Milborne Port, including deeds, 1382-1555, accounts of the stewards of the Commonalty, 1565-82, and inquisition concerning the property of the Commonalty, 1571.

II. MANUSCRIPT HOLDINGS PRIOR TO 1959

(a) Official and other records covering the whole county:

(i) RECORDS OF THE COURT OF QUARTER SESSIONS, from *c.* 1600 with some few earlier survivals; all classes are listed and briefly described in the *Interim Handlist of Somerset Quarter Sessions Documents* (1947); these include enclosure maps and awards and deposited plans of public schemes.

(ii) RECORDS OF THE BOARDS OF GUARDIANS, from 1836; see *Handlist of the Records of the Boards of Guardians in the County of Somerset* (1949). Both *Handlists* are now out of print but it should be possible for them to be consulted or borrowed through the normal library system.

(iii) DIOCESAN RECORDS: 477 tithe apportionment maps and awards, prepared mainly between 1838 and 1844 for almost all parishes in the diocese of Bath and Wells, the boundaries of which were virtually the same as those of the ancient county.

(b) Records of particular administrations, corporations, persons etc. not covering the whole county:

(i) BOROUGH RECORDS: Langport, from 1616; Chard, from 1601.

(ii) PETTY SESSIONS: Wincanton Division, from 1854; Long Ashton Division, from 1859.

(iii) TURNPIKE TRUSTS: Bath Trust, from 1757; Taunton Trust, from 1752; Shepton Mallet Trust, from 1776; Bruton Trust, from 1793; Ilminster Trust, from 1759.

(iv) PARISH RECORDS: Ansford, Banwell, Batcombe, Berkley, Bicknoller, Bruton, Buckland Dinham, Chard, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Chew Magna, Chilton Polden, Churchstanton, East and West Coker, Combe St. Nicholas, Creech St. Michael, Dinder, Exton, Fitzhead, Fivehead, Frome, West Hatch, Horsington, Huntspill, Ilchester, Ilton, Lyng, Martock, Meare, Merriott, Milverton, Misterton, Monksilver, Norton-sub-Hamdon, Paulton, North Perrott, St. Decuman's, Seaborough, Shepton Mallet, Stogursey, Taunton St. James, Taunton St. Mary Magdalene, Trull, Walton, Wellington, Wilton, Winsford, Woolavington, Worle and Wrington.

Single volumes or small groups of parish records have been received from at least 20 more parishes.

(v) ESTATE, FAMILY AND PERSONAL RECORDS:

Only the major deposits of records received from families or local solicitors which occupy at least 25 feet of shelving have been noted below; of these the Luttrell and Wyndham MSS each occupy more than 200 feet, while the remainder are generally within the range of 25-60 feet. In addition smaller accessions from the single document upwards account for a further 800 feet of shelving.

An indication of the types of record likely to be found in estate and family accumulations is given in *Somerset in Manuscript*², pp. 20-1. For present purposes it may be generally assumed that the term 'deeds, etc.' embraces a wider range of estate and manorial records than simple title deeds, and that the period covered will be between the 17th and 19th centuries; only exceptions to either content or period have been noted.

ASHBURTON (BARING) MSS: deeds, etc. of Wiveliscombe, Fitzhead and Milverton, etc.

² A small supply of copies of this publication (price 2/-) of 1959, which gives a selection from the records, with notes on the main archive groups in the Somerset Record Office, is still available.

DICKINSON OF KINGWESTON: deeds, etc. of Kingweston, Baltonsborough, Barton St. David, Berrow, South Brent, Charlton Adam, Charlton Mackrell, Lympsham, etc.; Bristol trade and shipping accounts, letter books, etc. of Prankard and Dickinson families, 18th cent.; Bridgwater and Minehead trade and shipping accounts, late 17th cent.; many bundles of correspondence, 18th cent. including references to the Flat Holm lighthouse.

FRAUNCEIS OF COMBE FLOREY: manorial records, etc. of Bradford, Combe Florey and Devon manors, from 14th cent.

GRENVILLE OF BUTLEIGH: deeds, etc. of Butleigh, Glastonbury, etc.; manorial records of Butleigh and the hundred of Whitley; a few documents relating to Inigo Jones and his pupil and executor, John Webb, 1626-60.

HELYAR OF EAST COKER: deeds, etc. of East Coker, from c. 1250, Bruton, from 1351, Lattiford, from 1355, Pendermer, from 1373; manorial records of East Coker, from 1392; correspondence, including 17th cent. letters about estates in Jamaica; deeds, etc. of Bathampton, Batheaston, Bathford and Twerton, from c. 1150 (*Button family*).

HIPPISLEY OF STON EASTON: deeds, etc. of Ston Easton, Cameley, Emborough, etc., from 13th cent.; and for Cricket St. Thomas, etc., from 15th cent. (*Preston family*).

LUTTRELL OF DUNSTER: a very large accumulation with a strong medieval content, including deeds from 13th cent. of Dunster, Minehead, Carhampton, East Quantoxhead, Kilton, Watchet, Williton, Withycombe, etc.; manorial records from 14th cent. for Dunster, Minehead, Carhampton, hundred of Carhampton, East Quantoxhead, Kilton, Withycombe, Williton, etc.; and Minehead Harbour and Election papers, 18th - 19th cents.

MILDMAY OF QUEEN CAMEL: deeds, etc. of Queen Camel and Nether Ham; public office papers, including Jewel House papers, 1582-1667.

PHELIPS OF MONTACUTE: deeds, etc. of Montacute, Odcombe, Shepton Montague, etc.; bound volumes of papers and letters of local and national interest, mainly 16th and 17th cents., as described in the *Appendix to the Third Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission* (1872).

POPHAM OF HUNSTRETE: deeds, etc. for the Hunstrete, Nyland, Wellington and Littlecote (cos. Wilts and Berks) estates.

PORTMAN OF ORCHARD PORTMAN: deeds, etc. of East Pennard, Pylle, Downhead, North Petherton, Evercreech, Orchard Portman, Staple Fitzpaine, Thurlbear, etc., from 15th cent.; Neroche Forest papers, from 17th cent.

POULETT OF HINTON ST. GEORGE: deeds, etc. of Yatton, Kenn, and other N. Somerset parishes, Hinton St. George, Chard, Crewkerne, Chaffcombe, Dinnington, Lopen, etc., from 15th cent.

SANFORD OF NYNEHEAD: deeds, etc. of Nynehead and other neighbouring parishes in both Somerset and Devon, from 15th cent.; estate and domestic accounts and correspondence of the Clarke family of Chipley, from 17th cent.

HUGH SEXEY'S HOSPITAL: deeds and estate management records of Bruton and Blackford, from 17th cent.; documents concerning Hugh Sexey's possessions; Blackford enclosure papers, 1781-2; manorial records of Bulstone hundred, 1488-93.

SKRINE OF WARLEIGH: deeds, etc. of Bathford.

TREVELYAN OF NETTLECOMBE: deeds, etc. of Nettlecombe, Stogumber, etc., from 12th cent.; estates in Devon and Cornwall formerly of Raleigh, Whalesborough and Willoughby families; Nettlecombe churchwardens' accounts, early 16th cent.; Trevelyan and Willoughby correspondence, 16th and 17th cents.

WHARTON (KEMEYS-TYNTE) OF HALSWELL: deeds, etc. of Goat-hurst, Othery, Bridgwater, Broomfield, North Petherton, Chilton Polden, and Chew Magna and other neighbouring N. Somerset parishes, from 16th cent.

WYNDHAM OF ORCHARD WYNDHAM: a large accumulation, almost entirely *post* medieval; deeds, etc. of Williton, Watchet, Beerercombe, Hardington Mandeville, Ilton, etc.; Watchet Harbour papers, from early 18th cent.; many maps of estates in Somerset, Devon and Wiltshire.

SHEPPARD MSS: court, administrative and financial records of the manor of Taunton Deane, from 15th cent. Photostats have also been obtained of the surviving Taunton sections of the 'Pipe' rolls [accounts] of the Bishop of Winchester, 1208-1559. Taunton Archdeaonry papers, including 2,500 inventories, 1610-1756.

STRACHEY MSS: literary papers of John Strachey, 18th cent.

SOLICITORS' DEPOSITS: from offices in Chard, Taunton, Wells, South Petherton and Bristol.

BRITISH RECORDS ASSOCIATION (RECORDS PRESERVATION SECTION): documents received from London offices of solicitors relating to Somerset estates and families.

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY: a large collection of manuscripts, including maps, presented to the Society over many years for all parts of the county, too diverse for concise treatment here.

III. RECORD OFFICE LIBRARY

The Record Office houses a small library of general works of reference useful for the interpretation and better understanding of records. It has not attempted to duplicate the local history collections available either in the Society's own library or through the Public Library service.

The contents of the library may be summarised as follows:

(i) Standard county histories, etc., and certain general reference books on topography, genealogy, etc.

(ii) Technical books on archive administration and law, dictionaries, statutes, etc.

(iii) Printed calendars of public records (Patent and Close Rolls, Inquisitions, State Papers, Acts of Privy Council, publications of the Record Commissioners, including Statutes of the Realm, etc.), deposited by the Society; subsequent additions to complete or extend series are being made.

(iv) Subscriptions to *Bulletin of Institute of Historical Research**, *Economic History Review*, *Selden Society*, *Harleian Society**, *Somerset Record Society**, *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries**, *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological Society**, and the *Pipe Roll Society** (latter subscription taken over from the Somerset Archaeological Society), and *English Historical Documents* (in course of publication). Complete series are held for all marked with *.

(v) Genealogical aids: *Phillimore*, *Somerset Parish Registers*, *Marriages*, *Dwelly*, *Parish Records* [Bishop's transcripts; printed and MS volumes], and *Humphreys*, *Somersetshire Parishes*, with manuscript indexes to all three.

ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE MANORIAL SYSTEM

Proceedings, 1958-9, vol. 103

p. 33, line 30. For *feudal* read *military*.

p. 36. The following charter of the mid-thirteenth century throws light on local circumstances in the neighbourhood of Kingsdon. (*Harl. Char.*, 49, G. 26).

Charter of Brian de Gouvis, lord of Kingsdon, yielding to Henry de la Brook and Nicholea his wife for twenty-three marks seven and a half acres of meadow in Ilchester, rendering therefor annually one pair of white gloves and twelve pence of the farm of the town of Ilchester which is called landgabulum.

Witnesses: John de Bello Campo, William de Giveltun, Richard de Cantiluppo, knights; Adam de Kary, William Tessun, Adam de Waltham, Richard Fromund, Thomas de Engelbi, William dicto Caretario.

Henry de Brook and his wife, Nicholea de Gouvis, were progenitors of the house of Brook, lord Cobham.

p. 47, line 3. For *St. Martin* read *St. Mark*.

pp. 45-49. A grant given in *A Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, II*, 416, provides evidence that in 1363 a certain 'John Gouys', then living, was kinsman and heir of Roger Turtle. If 'John Gouys' may be identified with John de Gouvis, son of Brian de Gouvis V, we may conclude that his mother, Margaret, was closely related to Roger Turtle, the Bristol merchant who had hounded his father to death. It may be noted that the Turtles were not a family of long standing in Bristol: Clement Turtle is referred to in a document of 1284 as 'Stephen of Paris, known in Bristol as Tourtle'. (*Bristol Record Society, XXI, p. xxxvii*).

The names Brian de Gouvis and John de Gouvis occur frequently in records of the fourteenth century, but there is difficulty in some cases in establishing to which Brian and to which John reference is made. For instance, the Brian and John of the *Nomina Villarum* of 1315-16 and of the *Exchequer Lay Subsidies* of 1327 (*S.R.S., III*, 58, 201.) may have been sons of Brian the son of Mabilla. The Brian and John, however, who 'long before' 1335 had held rent charges of 10*l.* each yearly on Kingsdon are specifically mentioned as sons of Brian V. (*Cal. of Inquis., X*, 89, 90). A 'Brian de Govytz', who was of Kingsdon in 1347, seems to have been senior representative of Brian son of Mabilla at that date, and 'Edith, who was the wife of John Govytz', and her son, Reynold, were, perhaps, then the representatives of the John de Gouvis of the *Nomina Villarum* and the *Exchequer Lay Subsidies*, but no definitive pedigree of this junior branch can be constructed without additional evidence. (*B.R., No. 352, Mich. 21 Edw. III; cf. B.R., No. 301, Hilary, 9 Edw. III*). Even at the end of the fourteenth century, there was confusion between Brian IV, generally known as 'Brian junior', and Brian the son of Mabilla. (*B.R., No. 550, Trinity 21-22 Richard II*). In accepting the conclusion that they were half-brothers, and not one and the same person under different designations, the writer has considered all evidence available to him.

p. 53, line 21. The Glastonbury manor of Downhead was at no time a member of the Glastonbury manor of Mells.

pp. 50-54. A paper on the career of sir Guy de Bryan, K.G. was read by Mr. R. Stanes at the last Annual Meeting of the Devonshire Association. This will appear in that Association's *Transactions* (Vol. 92), which are to be published shortly.

A.W.V-N.

CORRIGENDA

The writer regrets that a number of errors appeared in her article on *Somerset Piscinas* in volume 101-102, pp. 108-125. A list of these follows:

pp.109/10, to list of places where piscinas may be found add:

(f) near nave altars.

p. 112, para. 2, add:

There are also fine Norman piscinas at Maperton and St. Cuthbert, Wells, and a typical ornamental pillar piscina, now covered by a later slab, disguising the bowl, at Brent Knoll.

p. 113, line 27, the sentence beginning "At Wells Cathedral . . ." to read:

At Wells Cathedral all piscinas are of the 14th century, except one Early English example and three contained in chantry chapels of Perpendicular date.

p. 113, line 32, delete: "Bishop" (Sugar).

p. 113, line 34, before "choir aisle" insert: south.

p. 113, line 36, seqq., add:

For a second piscina in Holy Cross Chapel, see also *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, XXVII, 247.

p. 114, line 23, for "in 1324" read:

about 1220.

p. 118, *Axbridge*, delete sentence beginning "Base of niche . . ."

p. 119, *Christon*, substitute:

The church is of the 12th century, with a later medieval chancel, the whole heavily restored. No piscina.

p. 120, *Wedmore* 2, for "Tudor rose" read: quatrefoil.

for "credence behind shelf" read: wooden credence shelf.

for "14th c." read: 15th c.

p. 120, *Wedmore* 3, substitute:

In the east jamb of the inserted window of c. 1500 in south wall of south chancel chapel is the base of an older piscina with fluted bowl and drain, set back from the front of the recess. Probably 14th c., contemporary with the

chapel. The head of the arch is elliptical, of a different coloured stone. Probably c. 1500, contemporary with the window.

p. 120, *Wedmore* 4, for "14th c." read: 15th c.

p. 120, *Westbury, Wells*, for "14th c." read: early 16th c.

p. 120, *Wookey* 1, delete "which is built into a pillar".

p. 120, *Wookey* 4, substitute:

In south chancel chapel of early 16th c. is a piscina with elliptical head to recess and slightly hollowed chamfer continued down the sides, the whole set back from the modern plastered face of the wall. Early 16th c.

pp. 121/2, *Bleadon*, delete "The chief interest . . . 14th c. (?)" and substitute:

The arrangement dates from c. 1800, when the chancel was shortened. The north side was chosen for the re-insertion of the piscina as the east end of the south wall was already occupied by a fine mid-14th c. tomb recess. Piscina probably 15th c.

p. 122, *Brent Knoll*, add:

There is a fine Norman pillar piscina reset by the altar at the east end of the north aisle. Mid-12th c.

p.122, *East Brent*, for "13th c." read:

A modern reconstruction incorporating an old basal slab with drain *in situ*, probably 15th c.

p. 123, *Banwell*, for "1380" read: c. 1480.

p. 124, *Congresbury* 1, between "late 13th c." and "piscina" insert: double.

p. 124, *Kewstoke*, delete "attached to base of low-side window, between it and east wall".

pp. 124/5, *Puxton* with *Hewish St. Anne* and *Wick St. Lawrence*, substitute:

Puxton. A late medieval church, little restored, with many original fittings. No piscina.

Hewish St. Anne. Modern, No piscina.

Wick St. Lawrence. A late medieval church with much restored piscina, originally with square bowl, in south wall of chancel. 15th c.

p. 125, *Uphill*, substitute:

Parish church of St. Nicholas. Modern. No piscina.

Old parish church of St. Nicholas. Medieval, partly ruined. No piscina.

p. 125, *Winscombe*, delete "14th c." and add:

15th c. in rebuilt chancel.

Plates after p. 125, for "St. Benjamin's, Glastonbury" read:

St. Benedict's (St. Benignus), Glastonbury.

E.C.