

THE SOMERSET RECORD OFFICE  
MAIN MANUSCRIPT ACCESSIONS

JULY 1970 — JUNE 1971

FAMILY AND ESTATE:

PRETOR-PINNEY OF SOMERTON: deeds, etc., of Somerton, 1355, 1567-1903, representing estates acquired by successive generations of the family in the 19th century; estate rentals for Somerton Erleigh and Burton Pynsent in Curry Rivel, 1885-1914; gardeners' wages and accounts book, 1842; 1st ed. 25" O.S. sheets, with estate plotted; plans and specifications for alterations at Somerton Police Station and for building a court room there, 1878, and (printed) testimonials of candidates for the post of Chief Constable, 1884.

CHUBB, BERESFORD AND WYATT (SOLICITORS) OF WELLS: deeds and leases of Wells, including the manor of St. John and property held of the manor, 1441, 1588-1887; rentals, 1732-1784, and survey, c.1735, with additions, also of the manor of St. John; deeds, etc., of Chewton Mendip, 1682-1904, North Wootton, Pilton and West Pennard, 1638-1845, Meare, 1795-1918, Somerton, 1815-1907, Evercreech, 1766-1865, and Westbury, 1804-1896; litigation papers, including breach of enclosures at Priors Hill, Wells, 1732-1736; wills, settlements, etc., of Sherston, Selway and Jenkins families, 18th and 19th cents.

RECORDS OF THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS (*additional deposit*): court roll for the hundred of Wells and the manor of Wells Borough, 1362; ministers' accounts for numerous bishopric manors, 1521-1522; architectural files relating to 15 former parsonage houses in the diocese, 1850-1946.

CHATSWORTH SETTLEMENT TRUSTEES: court books, 1671-1885, and surveys, 1687-1838, for the manor of Long Sutton; court books, 1745-1839, surveys, 1687-1801, and maps, 1814, 1815, for the manor of Pitney and Wearne.

MISCELLANEOUS ESTATE DEPOSITS: deeds of the manors of Norton St. Philip and Hinton Charterhouse, 1732-1920, and of Glastonbury, 1771-1907; court book for the manors of Chard, Allowenshay in Kingstone, Crewkerne, Hinton St. George and Lopen and for Marshwood and the hundred of Whitchurch in Dorset, 1679; customs of the manor of Wiveliscombe and Fitzhead, 1687; maps of Weston Zoyland (enclosure), 1801, Churchstanton (enclosure), 1802, Lympsham, 1803, North Petherton, 1816, Taunton, 1821-1885, Bickenhall, 1823, Chard, 1841, and Bath, 1852; papers, log books, etc., relating to the naval career of George Kenyon, 1824-1849, including reference to the suppression of the slave trade.

PARISH: West Bagborough: registers, 1564-1679, 1701-1933 b(burials), 1558-1870 c(christenings), 1565-1837 m(marriages); banns, 1754-1798, 1853-1952; churchwardens' accounts, 1801-1931; vestry minutes, 1858-1939; overseers' accounts, 1716-1802, with rates to 1749; valuation, 1823; school managers' minutes, 1903-1948; inclosure award and map, 1810. Bishops Lydeard (*additional*): vestry minutes and churchwardens' accounts, 1814-1916; overseers' accounts and rates, 1741-1768; settlement, bastardy and apprenticeship papers, 1591-1805; faculties, estimates, etc., relating to church and church repairs, 1885-1934; school committee (subsequently managers') minutes, 1871-1949; papers relating to the school, 1871-1916, including specification for building, 1871. Brompton Ralph: registers 1558-1914b, 1858c, 1841m; churchwardens' accounts, 1767-

1889; vestry, including Select Vestry, minutes, 1829-1886; overseers' accounts, 1795-1836, and rates, 1844-1845; settlement papers, 1794-1844; apprenticeship indentures, registers and rules for binding out, 1760-1835; land and window tax assessments, 1779-1787, 1839. Donyatt: small bundles of churchwardens', constables' and overseers' vouchers, 1750-1830, settlement papers, including references to potters, 1676-1833, and apprenticeship indentures, 1689-1826. Durston: registers, 1755-1946m, 1813-1906c; churchwardens' accounts, 1633-1719; Select Vestry minutes, 1821-1828; vestry minutes, 1839-1879; overseers' accounts, 1797-1836, with rates, 1805-1833; overseers' rates, 1867-1870; surveyors' accounts, 1848-1853; school managers' minutes, 1883-1903, and school accounts, 1872-1903. West Harptree: registers, 1661-1887b, 1656-1854c, 1655-1951m; service registers, 1903-1947; churchwardens' accounts, 1812-1868; churchwardens' rates, 1851-1867; vestry minutes, 1781-1907; overseers' accounts, 1717-1826, with isolated rates to 1752, notes on variations in rating between 1666 and 1752, and note about parish boundaries upon the Forest of Mendip; overseers' rates, 1826-1860; apprenticeship indentures, 1806-1893; sale of parish workhouse, 1839; surveyors' accounts, 1759-1853; charity accounts, 1826-1897; enclosure act, 1787, and award, 1790; tithe map and award, 1841; perambulation, 1829. Hinton Charterhouse: registers, 1546-1883b, 1914c, 1950m; banns, 1872-1962; service registers, 1893-1959; churchwardens' accounts, 1760-1919; vestry minutes, 1830-1847; surveyors' rates, 1839-1856. Huish Episcopi: registers, 1698-1727b,c,m, 1758-1870b, 1854c, 1754-1953m; banns, 1754-1812, 1823-1919; service registers, 1840-1848; churchwardens' accounts and rates, 1717-1831; vestry minutes, 1791-1848; surveyors' accounts and rates, 1792-1830. Kingsdon: registers, 1538-1906b, 1863c, 1955m, including the original paper register, 1538-1593, and the parchment copy which dates from 1559; service registers, 1927-1962; churchwardens' accounts, 1605-1689, with occasional rates, and 1767-1946; churchwardens' rates, 1878-1891; minutes of Parochial Church Council, 1920-1938, and of Churchyard Committee, 1899-1904; report on church and plans, etc., for repair, 1899-1902; overseers' accounts, 1762-1827, with occasional rates; settlement and bastardy papers, 1727-1831; apprenticeship indentures, 1650-1805; school managers' minutes, 1903-1946; tithe apportionment map and award, 1839. Kingstone: registers, 1715-1808b, 1897c, 1854m; banns, 1848-1966; churchwardens' accounts, 1792-1915; overseers' accounts, 1804-1867. West Lydford: registers, 1750-1812b, 1733-1908c, 1779-1837m; churchwardens' accounts, 1792-1930; rental of charity lands, 1754-1884. Mells: registers, 1565-1807b,c, 1813m; overseers' accounts, 1703-1898, with rates to c.1824; overseers' rates, 1810, 1836-1896; settlement and bastardy papers, 1677-1860; apprenticeship indentures, 1713-1822; workhouse accounts, etc., 1782-1826; surveyors' accounts, 1776-1862, and rates, 1837-1858. Milverton (*additional*): registers, 1813-1860b, 1889-1942m. West Monkton (*additional*): almshouse charity accounts, minutes, etc., 1879-1953. Oake: registers, 1630-1812b,c, 1835m; churchwardens' accounts, 1740-1825, with rates, 1822-1828; overseers' accounts, 1796-1836, and rates, 1806-1836; surveyors' accounts, 1768-1830. West Pennard (*additional*): deeds of school site, 1851, 1854. Pitney: registers, 1623-1812b, 1880c, 1957m; banns, 1823-1888; service registers, 1909-1953; churchwardens' accounts, 1851-1898; vestry minutes, 1841-1898; P.C.C. minutes, 1930-1954; overseers' accounts and rates, 1700-1734; overseers' rates, 1869; school managers' minutes, 1903-1962; deed of school site, 1875; newspaper cuttings, 1880-1883; minutes of Ilchester Deanery Teachers'

Association, 1887-1899. Shepton Beauchamp (*additional*): tithe apportionment map and award, 1839. Somerton: churchwardens' accounts, 1581-1890; overseers' accounts and rates, 1737-1869; settlement, bastardy and apprenticeship papers, 1665-1833; minutes and accounts of trustees of Somerton Charities, 1850-1927. Staplegrove: registers, 1558-1904b, 1888c, 1838m; banns, 1824-1904; service books, 1901-1920; Sunday School registers, 1847-1881; churchwardens' accounts, 1634-1640, 1751-1921, with rates, 1748-1864; vestry minutes, 1802-1922; P.C.C. minutes, 1921-1939; overseers' accounts, 1741-1848, with rates to 1822; overseers' rates, 1845-1863; settlement papers, 1666-1861; apprenticeship indentures, 1635, 1636, 1684-1820; surveyors' accounts and rates, 1836-1863; correspondence, accounts, etc., relating to the building of the school, appointment of mistress, etc., 1842-1855, 1875-1876.

Exford Parish Council: minutes, 1894-1952; accounts, 1927-1949. Farrington Gurney Parish Council: accounts, 1899-1966; correspondence, 1896-1920.

NONCONFORMIST: Hatch Beauchamp Baptist Church: minutes of church meetings, 1742-1912, and of deacons' meetings, 1913-1938; accounts, 1748-1867. Ile Abbots Baptist Church: registers of births and deaths, 1777-1864; correspondence about sale of manse, 1950-1951, with copy deed, 1857, and correspondence about land purchased, 1946-1967; notes on history of church, 1808-1915; (parish) waywardens' accounts, 1847-1863. Paul's Meeting, Taunton: trust deed, 1739; pew rents, etc., 1868-1920; church membership books, 1843-1929; minutes of church meetings, 1830-1955; accounts, 1732-1881; treasurers' ledgers, 1750-1937; correspondence, including references to establishment of church in North Street (1843), 1795-1843.

OFFICIAL: log books, etc., of schools (now closed), in Crewkerne, Exmoor, Fivehead, Holcombe, Priston, Shepton Mallet, and Withypool, from 1875.

Crew lists, seamen's agreements, log books and related papers for ships registered in the port of Bridgwater, including Minehead and Watchet Harbours, 1863-1913.

MISCELLANEOUS: minutes of the Taunton Ruridecanal Chapter, 1871-1939 (with gaps); six sheets of the 1:500 O.S. sheets for Taunton, 1888; 200 photographic prints of Somerset views, c.1890-1940 for Allerford (2), Bath (16), Bridgwater (13), Burnham (6), Chard (6), Cheddar (3), Clevedon (6), Dulverton (4), Frome (5), Glastonbury/Street (9), Ilminster (5), Minehead/Dunster (33), Porlock (9), Nether Stowey (2), Taunton (29), Watchet/Williton (20), Wellington (17), Wells (1), Weston-super-Mare (6), Yeovil (8).

Somerton school and charity records: Somerton Free School: deeds, 1833-1844, correspondence, 1839-1891, and accounts, 1856-1936; West Street Infants (Board) School: lease of premises, 1875, correspondence, 1875-1889, rough minutes and accounts, 1889-1903; Monteclefe Girls' and C.E. Boys' Schools: managers' minutes, 1903-1962, accounts and vouchers, 1903-1936. Somerton charities: deeds and trust settlements, 1667-1924, litigation papers, 1750-1827, correspondence, schemes, etc., 1815-1958, accounts, 1770-1957. Church Lands Estate: leases, etc., 1697-1940, correspondence, schemes, etc., 1887-1961, letter books, 1899-1930, accounts and rentals, 1886-1942. Hext's almshouses: correspondence, schemes, etc., 1882-1921, letter books, 1889-1929. REPRODUCTIONS OF RECORDS ELSEWHERE: map of estate in Glastonbury, 1609; maps of Kilmersdon, 1821, 1829; print of Parrett Works, Martock, c.1860.

## II. SUMMARIES OF CATALOGUES OF MS. HOLDINGS

These summaries are intended to give more detail of MS. holdings for which catalogues exist in the Somerset Record Office.

### PHELIPS OF MONTACUTE MSS.

This collection consists of two elements: a traditional accumulation of estate and family records, dating from the early 17th century, and a series of papers, bound (often haphazardly) into volumes about 100 years ago, relating partly to national and public local, and partly to the family's domestic and personal, affairs. The records of wider significance belong largely to the career of Sir Robert Phelps, M.P. (d.1638), and many of those relating to national events and persons were listed in the *Appendix* to the *Third Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission* (1872), pp. 281-287. The remaining papers in the bound volumes, not listed in the 1872 *Report*, have been calendared (i.e. the individual documents have been separately numbered and described) in the office's summary catalogue of the collection.

In the face of such a collection, it is perhaps churlish to regret that which does not survive, but it is disappointing that both elements of the collection begin one generation too late. Thus, there is little for the political career of Sir Robert's father, Sir Edward Phelps, sometime Speaker and Master of the Rolls, among the public papers, and nothing at all to throw any light upon the building of Montacute House, traditionally assigned to the same Sir Edward, or the establishment of the family's position there among the estate papers.

As a tail piece to the office catalogue and to this present report, details have been noted of the distinct group of more recent estate management records deposited independently through the family's solicitor.

*Deeds, etc.*: settlements, etc., of the main family estate, including the manors of Montacute and Yeovil and Montacute House, 1632-1740; deeds of the rectory and advowson of Montacute, 1549-1786, other Montacute properties, 1479-1830, Odcombe, 1654-1844, Yeovil, including the rectory and advowson, 1601-1832, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, 1601-1770, Sock Dennis, 1538-1781, manor and capital messuage of West Newton in North Petherton, 1512-1807, Muchelney, 1562-1630, including a crown grant of the site of the Abbey, 1614, Chilthorne Domer, 1592-1776, manor of Shepton Montague, 1553-1657, and other properties in Shepton Montague, 1610-1808, manors and advowsons of Stoke Trister and Cucklington, 1559-1813, Cheriton Farm in North Cheriton, 1554-1827, Cannington and Stogursey, 1587-1792, Ilchester and Northover, 1556-1792, manor of Limington, etc., 1586-1749, Bewley Farm in Tintinhull, 1612-1717, and manor of Yeovilton, etc., 1557-1721; deeds of Cattistock (Dorset), 1656-1830, and Rockbourne (Hants.), 1313-1391; leases for years and lives, etc., for Montacute, 1595-1884, Shepton Montague, 1582-1858, and Stoke Trister, Bayford and Cucklington, 1653-1857.

*Litigation*: Phelps family interests generally, 1612-1748; title to Limington estate, c.1707-1710; Yeovil affairs, including fairs and markets, choice of portreeve, and the rights of the lord of the manor in the borough, 1619-1802; diversion of watercourses at Thurloxton and North Petherton, 1639-1656.

*Manorial records*: Montacute, court papers, 1734-1740, rentals, 1705-1804, and surveys, 1608, 1615, c.1700; Stoke Trister, Bayford and Cucklington, court papers,

1708-1764, and rentals, 1799-1878; Shepton Montague, rentals, 1780-1880, and surveys, 1589, c.1690, 1701; Muchelney, surveys, 1553, c.1615; Yeovilton, survey, 1619; manor of Stocklinch Magdalen, bailiff's accounts, 1529-1547.

*Estate management records:* map and book of reference for manor of Cucklington, 1782, books of reference to [missing] maps of Shepton Montague, West Newton, Montacute, Stoke Trister and Bayford, 1782, and North Cheriton, Shepton Montague, Stoke Trister, Bayford and Cucklington, c.1810, and to map† of Odcombe, 1825; reports on and particulars of Montacute estates, 1558-c.1670, including letters upon Sir Robert's entry on his inheritance, 1614; leasing of quarries on Ham Hill, 1650-1744; estate vouchers for Woolston Farm in Stogursey, West Newton, Cannington, Shepton Montague, Stoke Trister, Bayford and Cucklington and North Cheriton, 1765-1804; sale catalogues of Montacute House, its furniture, books, pictures, etc., 1834-1930.

*Official functions and personal interests:* testamentary records, inquisitions, etc., 1588-1835; diaries of Edward Phelips, 1761, 1778; shrievalty papers of Sir Robert Phelips, 1625-1627; notes of sermons, lectures, etc., 17th and 18th centuries, some at least preached by John Oliver, minister at Montacute, 1658, until ejected in 1661, and commonplace book kept by the same, 1646-1667; ordinances for the government of the Dorchester almshouse, 1637, and draft bill for the incorporation of a body of guardians of the poor in Dorchester, c.1702; sections A-F of the printed investigation of the Jacobite plot, 1722.

*National affairs:* (a) bound volume of papers listed or noted in the *H.M.C. Report* on the subjects of the States General, 1588-1592, gunpowder plot, 1605, and associated examinations of witnesses in proceedings of 1613, the Spanish Match, including diary of Sir Robert Phelips, 1619-1623, the Palatinate, 1619-1637, proceedings against Bacon, 1620-1621, the impeachment of the Earl of Bristol, 1624-1626, diary of proceedings in Parliament, 1629, Oates' plot, 1678, proceedings against the Bishop of London, 1686, letters addressed to Sir Edward Phelips in his capacities as Speaker or Master of the Rolls, 1607-1613, and to Sir Robert, including references to Spanish affairs, petitions to the House of Commons, etc., 1616-1637, and pamphlets relating to the kingdom of Bohemia [in latin], ?c.1619, considerations touching a war with Spain, ?1624, and William Hakewill's examination of precedents for the King's right to impose new customs without consent of Parliament, ?1610.

(b) bound volumes of papers not listed in the *H.M.C. Report*, including the subjects of the prospects of navigation to the east around America, ?c.1612, Sir Robert's imprisonment in the Tower, 1622, the business of the House of Commons, 16-23 October 1678, Parliamentary papers, copy speeches, addresses, etc., from the time of Sir Edward Phelips, c.1606-c.1610, and Sir Robert, c.1616-c.1628, further papers relating to the States General, 1589-1590, petitions to the House of Commons, *post* 1615-1625, including the renewal of the glass patent, ?1621, copies of state letters, safe conducts, etc., issued in the King's name, 1603-1607, and a dialogue between a councillor of state and a country gentleman who served in the last assembly (1621), ?1622.

*Public local affairs:* (a) bound volumes of papers listed or noted in the *H.M.C. Report* on the subjects of the Forest of Neroche, 1610-c.1630, the suppression of churchales and revels, 1632-1633, shipmoney, 1635-1637, disputes involving the borough of Ilchester,

†Already in Somerset Record Office, see *Proc. S.A.S.* 114 (1970), 111.

1635-1638, and Monmouth's rebellion, 1685; copy record book of Sir Francis Hastings as a deputy lieutenant, 1585-1600.

(b) bound volumes of papers not listed in the *H.M.C. Report* on the subjects of the parliamentary election for Somerset, 1614, Sir Robert's papers as a deputy lieutenant, with particular reference to musters and his quarrel with Lord Poulett, 1616-1667, the dearth of grain, 1622-1623, 1629-1631, the Beckington riots, 1637, the fire at Yeovil, 1640, candidates for the county and borough constituencies, 1679, copy of bailiff's accounts for Ilchester, 1662-1685, and journal and accounts of William Phelps as bailiff, 1686, further papers relating to the Forest of Neroche and ship money, as in (a), and portion of a lay subsidy roll for parts of the hundreds of Houndsborough and Somerton, c.1625.

*Personal papers:* bound volumes of papers not listed in the *H.M.C. Report*, including inventories of Montacute, 1638, 1651, 1665, 1700, 1729, 1834, bills for children's clothes, 1628-1632, personal, family, legal and estate correspondence, 1587-1791, Huish charity affairs, 1624-1637, the funeral arrangements for Edward Phelps, 1679, and the autobiography of Edward Phelps, (d.1797), compiled c.1791.

*Estate and legal papers:* bound volumes of papers not listed in the *H.M.C. Report*, including surveys of Montacute, c.1625, c.1640, 1666, 1705, and of Stoke-sub-Hamdon, c.1614; bailiff's accounts for manors of Montacute; papers relating to title to manor of Odcombe, 1562-1633, prepared c.1678, and to Eastham in Crewkerne, 1694; reasons for the enclosure of King's Sedgemoor, c.1628.

*Deposit of the family's solicitor:* deeds of Montacute and Odcombe, 1704-1899; leases of same, 1811-1909, with correspondence about surrender of tenancies and identification of 'lives' [some emigrants]; papers relating to sale of estates in Montacute, Cucklington and Shepton Montague, 1889-1914; correspondence about tenancy matters, 1884-1904, and about leases of Montacute House, 1911-1915; map of manor of Shepton Montague, with reference book, 1770, book of reference to missing map of Montacute and Odcombe, 1834; rent ledgers and estate, wages, gardens and house accounts, 1886-1932.

#### GIBBS MSS.

This collection falls naturally into two sections: a limited number of late records relating to the Barrow Court estate purchased by Antony Gibbs in 1881; and a larger holding of records of the Gore family, owners of the estate to 1855. The latter were not inherited by the Gibbs family upon their purchase, but are believed to have been disposed of in or soon after 1855 and were subsequently presented to H. M. Gibbs, a later owner of the estate. The documents were catalogued by the Bristol historian, John Latimer (1824-1904) and many of the smaller documents were guarded and bound in nine volumes, arranged chronologically under four general subject headings.

#### GIBBS:

Deeds, etc., of Barrow Gurney, including the manor, rectory and advowson and Barrow Court, and references to several mills and the school house, 1740-1931, and Flax Bourton, 1834-1899; extracts and references to Barrow Minchin and Barrow Gurney and their owners, taken from classes of public records.

#### GORE:

Deeds, etc., of Barrow Gurney, 1547-1780, including the manor and the rectory, 1600-1662, Backwell, 1597-1736, Charterhouse Hydon, 1581-1718, and Flax Bourton. House-

hold accounts for Barrow Court, 1666-1688, for Mary Gore at Reading, 1740-1744, and Jane Gore at Flax Bourton, 1750-1782. Personal accounts of Sir Thomas Gore, 1662-1663, and his will, inventory and executorship accounts, 1675-1686; personal accounts of William Gore, 1749-1769, and Edward Gore, 1799-1800. Shrievalty papers of Sir Thomas Gore, 1670-1672. Accounts of the bailiff to John Maye of Charterhouse Hydon, 1592-1614; rental of Barrow Gurney and Charterhouse Hydon, 1675.

Bound volumes of Gore family papers, 1521-1799, consisting mainly of letters, bonds, deeds and executorship papers, including correspondence, etc., from Samuel Travell relating to transactions in Danzig, etc., involving William Gore of London, merchant, 1650-1667, litigation papers relating to Barrow Gurney tithes, c.1675, and medical and culinary recipes.

Bound volumes of Gore family accounts, 1653-1788, including business accounts of William Gore, 1659-1660, and his executorship accounts, c.1662-1673, rents received at Flax Bourton, Barrow Gurney and Charterhouse Hydon, 1743-1744, and receipted bills for domestic expenditure, work done and goods supplied, 1711-1773.

#### PARISH

*Exton*: registers, 1559-1812b, 1863c, 1839m; tithe map and award, 1842; churchwardens' accounts, 1813-1841; vestry minutes, 1843-1894; overseers' accounts, 1802-1843, with rates to 1826; overseers' rates, 1848-1859; register of apprentices, 1791-1831; surveyors' accounts, 1798-1849, and rates, 1820-1843.

*Fitzhead*: registers, 1558-1812b, 1913c, 1860m; banns, 1762-1808; churchwardens' accounts, 1707-1849; overseers' accounts, 1693-1823; settlement and bastardy papers, 1684-1849; apprenticeship indentures, 1689-1815; tithe map and award, 1841.

*Fivehead*: churchwardens' accounts, 1692-1832; trust deeds of church house, 1581-1801; faculty for restoration of church, 1864, and report on its condition, 1845; vestry minutes, 1762-1856; overseers' accounts and rates, 1697-1813; survey for new rate, 1835; settlement and bastardy papers, 1694-1863; apprenticeship indentures, 1704-1813; surveyors' accounts, 1768-1856.

*West Hatch*: churchwardens' accounts and rates, 1703-1858; overseers' accounts and rates, 1714-1836; North Curry, Stoke St. Gregory and West Hatch enclosure map and award, 1800.

*Horsington*: overseers' accounts, 1761-1832, with rates to 1821; settlement and bastardy papers, 1665-1858; apprenticeship indentures, 1704-1810; surveyors' accounts and rates, 1775-1846; census form completed, 1831.

*Ilchester*: overseers' rates, 1839-1842, 1858-1916; small numbers of settlement and bastardy papers and apprenticeship indentures, 1729-1796; surveyors' rates, 1846-1860; managers' minutes for the Ilchester C.E. School, 1904-1962, and the Limington C.E. School, 1903-1936.