

THE SOMERSET RECORD OFFICE

I. MAIN MANUSCRIPT ACCESSIONS

JULY 1962 — JUNE 1963

FAMILY AND ESTATE:

STRACHEY OF SUTTON COURT This accumulation may be broadly divided into four sections: (1) estate management records; (2) papers of John Strachey, the 18th century county historian and mapmaker; (3) the Indian papers of Sir Henry, the first baronet, and his sons, including papers accumulated by Sir Henry, first as private secretary to Clive in India and ultimately as one of his executors; and (4) family papers and correspondence, mainly inherited by Lady Strachie, wife of the first baron, from her aunt, Frances Countess Waldegrave, and her grandfather, John Braham, the singer and theatrical manager. Of these, section (2) was deposited in the Record Office in 1949, sections (2) and (3) comprise the bulk of the report on the Strachey MSS which appeared in the *Appendix to the Sixth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts* (1877), and section (4) has been listed in detail by the National Register of Archives and reported in the latter's *Bulletin No. 12* (1963). The Kirkpatrick papers and the papers of Sir Henry Strachey relating to American affairs and the Treaty of Paris (listed in the *1877 Report*) are not now with the collection and were missing before 1943. Papers in section (4) have been used for O. W. Hewett's *Strawberry Fair* (1956) and *And Mr. Fortescue* (1958) and for Lady Strachie's *Letters of Edward Lear* (1907) and *Later Letters of Edward Lear* (1911).

Estate management: deeds, etc., of Buckland Dinham, from c. 1200, Weare, from at least 1350, Chew Magna including Bishop Sutton, Stowey and Stanton Drew, from at least 1639, and Elm, from at least 1591; manorial records for Buckland Dinham, 1657-1726, and Elm, 1677-99; surveys of Buckland Dinham and Elm, 1718-1814; maps of Buckland Dinham, 1737, 1813, Elm, 1813, Stowey and Chew Magna, 1793, 1832, and Stowey tithe map and award, 1840; county maps of Somerset by Strachey, 1736, Day and Masters, 1782, and Greenwood, 1822; Woolley gunpowder mills, agreements, correspondence and accounts, 1733-1809.

Indian papers: folios and packets of private, official and political letters to Sir Henry Strachey, 1764-77, copy letters from him, 1765-85; papers, memoranda and correspondence of Lord Clive, 1754-75; letters received and letter book of General Carnac, 1758-67;

papers of second Lord Clive as governor of Madras, 1801-03; papers of Edward Strachey of the Bengal Civil Service, including reports, etc., on magisterial matters, 1800-20, and private memoranda and travel journals, 1801-06; journal of expedition to Nepal, 1767; copy reports, etc., concerning charges against Major-General Sir John Burgoyne, bt., 1783-84.

Family papers: Braham personal and professional correspondence, accounts, etc., from *c.* 1816; Waldegrave correspondence, accounts, etc., from *c.* 1833; Fortescue (Carlingford) correspondence, including a long series from Edward Lear, from *c.* 1836.

HOWARD OF CREECH ST. MICHAEL: deeds, etc., of the manor of Creech St. Michael, 1763-1834; surveys, 1761 and 1767, and rentals and presentments, 1754-1918.

ARNEY OF BATCOMBE: deeds, etc., of Draycott in Rodney Stoke and Cheddar, 1633-1756, Badgworth, 1646-1821, Weare, 1651-1842, Mark and South Brent [Brent Knoll], 1749-1863; Arney wills and executorship and genealogical papers, from 1730; notebooks with personal accounts, farming memoranda and some parish accounts, 1809-40.

GILLING-LAX: deeds, etc., of Wells (mainly in East and West Horrington), 1731-1919, Cheddar, 1663-1879, Wedmore, 1659-1812; wills, settlements, executorship papers for Lax of Wells and Gilling of Cheddar, from 1766; paper manufacturers' partnership deed, 1813.

GORDON OF NAISH HOUSE: deeds, etc., of the Naish House Estate in Wraxall, Nailsea and Clapton, 1687-1829, manor, etc., of Easton-in-Gordano, 1599-1880, manor of North Weston, etc., 1648-1845, hundred of Portbury and manors of Portbury and Portishead, etc., 1720-1846, Tickenham, 1608-1829; maps of the manors of North Weston, 1741, 1840, and Easton-in-Gordano, 1824, 1828; surveys, etc., of the manor of Portbury, 1723-84.

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S COLLECTION: maps of Luxborough Common and Croydon Hill, *c.* 1625, and Nether Stowey (2), *c.* 1775; survey of the manor of Creech St. Michael, *c.* 1675; diary of John Cannon, schoolmaster, of Meare, 1684-1742.

DEEDS, ETC.: Wells, including the manors of Wells Subchantry and St. John and other property of the Sherston family of Stoberry

Hill, 1658-1871; Bagbury in Evercreech, 1679-1843; Godney Farm, etc., in Meare, 1640-1817; survey of the manor of Cothelstone, etc., *c.* 1741.

PARISH: Maperton: registers, 1559-1837, churchwardens' accounts, 1819-1936, vestry book, 1852-95, overseers' accounts and rates, 1784-1854, school managers' minutes, 1903-21.

OFFICIAL: log books, etc., of schools (now closed) in North Wootton, West Quantoxhead, Compton Pauncefoot, Corton Denham, North Barrow, Fitzhead, Thorn Falcon, North Curry and Taunton, various dates, from 1868.

MISCELLANEOUS: deed of settlement of Wellington Market Co., with plans and elevations, 1832; records of the Conservators of the River Tone, including memoranda, minute and order books, 1699-1947, some accounts, 1698-1719, 1810-30, agreements for repairs, etc., copy petitions for and against the Conservators, plans and sketches, litigation papers, from 1707.

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

WARRE OF HESTERCOMBE:

Deeds, leases, etc., of the Hestercombe Estate, including the manors of West Monkton and Overton and the demesne lands and rectory of Creech, in Kingston St. Mary, Cheddon Fitzpaine, West Monkton, Broomfield, Creech St. Michael and Ruishton, 1552-1819, the manor of Middlezoy, 1619-1770, Guilden Sutton, Chester, etc. (co. Chester), 1681-1768, Bristol (Farell, Jones and Bearpacker families), 1603-1788, and Almondsbury and Olveston (co. Gloucs.), 1609-1788; rentals of the manor of West Monkton, 1714-1811; surveys of West Monkton, 1736-61, Middlezoy, *c.* 1745-81, Creech St. Michael, 1731 - *c.* 1740, and Ruishton, 1733; perambulations of West Monkton, 1790, and Middlezoy, 1792; maps of West Monkton, *c.* 1775, Middlezoy, 1787, and Creech St. Michael, *c.* 1755; household bills and vouchers, *c.* 1840-70; inventories of Hestercombe, 1791-1819; letters from Christopher Anstey to Coplestone Warre Bampfylde, 1776-88.

CHANNER AND CHANNER (SOLICITORS) OF TAUNTON

FAMILY RECORDS:

Dodington of Horsington: deeds, etc., of Horsington, Henstridge and Stowell, 1666-1879, Camberwell and Southwark (co. Surrey), 1625-1846; survey and rentals of the manor of Stowell, 1743-58; records of the manor of Cheddar Parsonage, including leases, custumals, surveys, etc., correspondence about farm management and parish affairs and litigation papers, 1651-1838.

Carew of Crowcombe: deeds, litigation papers, etc., relating to partition of former Pyncombe estates between the Pyncombe Charity Trustees and the Carew family, 1814-71; survey and rentals, 1756-1841; rentals of Carew estates generally in Somerset, Pembroke and Salop, 1842-84.

Jefferys Allen: deeds, etc., of Aller, Fivehead and Hambridge, etc., in Curry Rivel, 1566-1787, Bridgwater, Bawdrip, Stawell, Wembdon and Pawlett, 1615-1872, Burnham, Mark, etc., 1706-1897; Bawdrip rentals and surveys, 1650-1780; Bawdrip inclosure awards and maps, 1797, 1798; rental of the manor of Bridgwater Castle, 1736, 1737.

Popham of West Bagborough: deeds, etc., of West Bagborough, 1698-1853, Lydeard St. Lawrence, 1658-1826, and Bishop's Lydeard and Spaxton, 1703-1826.

MISCELLANEOUS DEEDS, ETC.:

Taunton St. James, including the Elms Estate (Young family), 1810-73; Taunton St. Mary, 1707-1843, and Taunton St. James, including part of the former New Meeting House (Robert Parsons, currier), 1827-54; builder's accounts, 1849-75, and development of building sites in Taunton (John Spiller, builder), 1865-94; Cheddon Fitzpaine, 1601-1837; West Monkton, 1611-1816; Milverton, 1581-1862; Pyleigh in Lydeard St. Lawrence and Ash Priors, 1567-1760; Heathfield, 1754-1872, including abstract of title to the manor, from 1702, valuation with state of cultivation, 1809, and book of reference to [missing] map of the manor, 1811; papers relating to sale or exchange of property in Brompton Regis, Dulverton and Bishop's Lydeard (Lucas family), 1821-26; Taunton St. Mary and Taunton St. James, 1670-1888; Churchstanton, 1784-1863; map of the manor of Tolland, 1768.

THE BEASTS OF BOTREAUX

BY G. D. SQUIBB, Q.C., F.S.A.
Norfolk Herald Extraordinary

We owe the modern revival of the word "Beast" in its heraldic sense to the late Mr. H. Stanford London, Norfolk Herald Extraordinary. It was he who taught us to look at carvings of animals on ancient buildings in a new light. They might be no more than ornaments, but on closer inspection and consideration they might turn out to be heraldic Beasts.¹ The series of Queen's Beasts outside the annexe of Westminster Abbey at the Coronation in 1953 was founded upon his learning and research.

Animals are found in heraldry as badges, crests, charges on shields, and supporters. A Beast may be derived from any of them. Sometimes a Beast is found supporting a banner or a shield. Its heraldic character is then obvious, but that is not always so obvious when the Beast is not in such a context. A single animal is particularly difficult to recognise as a Beast, unless it happens to be in some way unusual. Fortunately Beasts often appear on buildings in series and it is then easier to identify them as Beasts. When assorted animals are found on a medieval or Tudor building it is always worth considering whether they are in truth a set of Beasts rather than mere ornaments chosen at the whim of the carver.

The late A. W. Vivian-Neal initiated the sport of Beast-hunting in Somerset by identifying the creatures carved on the eight corbels below the parapet of the tower of Staple Fitzpaine Church as Beasts of the house of Percy.² After reading Mr. Vivian-Neal's paper, Lord Hylton felt convinced that the carvings of animals on the outer wall of the north aisle of Kilmersdon Church were of heraldic significance. He therefore suggested that certain members of the Society should visit the Church with him, and the writer was invited to make one of the party.

The north aisle was added to Kilmersdon Church in the fifteenth century, almost certainly by William, the last Lord Botreaux (d. 1462)³, and the animal carvings have every appearance of being of this period.

¹ H. S. London, *Royal Beasts* (East Knoyle, 1956), pp. 3-8.

² A. W. Vivian-Neal, 'Livery Badges and Personal Badges in Early Tudor Work at Cheddon Fitzpaine and Staple Fitzpaine', in *Proc. S.A.S.*, 105 (1961), 77-86.

³ Hylton, *Notes on the History of the Parish of Kilmersdon* (Taunton, 1910), pp. 10, 64.

Fortunately for our present purpose the heraldic zoology of the Botreaux family includes a creature which is very rare in heraldry—the toad. *Argent, three toads erect sable* was borne by Botreaux from early times, and was formerly to be seen on the tomb of Lord Botreaux in North Cadbury Church.⁴ We owe to Thomas Gerard of Trent the information that this was a canting coat, for he states that he had seen ‘in an old manuscript booke of Blason the elder kings of France to bear D’or a trois botreaux de Sab. which was as many toads’.⁵ Although very few English families are credited with the toad as a charge, the three toads of Botreaux appear as a familiar quartering in many representations of the arms of their Hungerford and Hastings descendants, e.g. in the many-quartered shields on the fine tomb of Francis, second Earl of Huntingdon at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire.⁶

It is therefore no surprise to find that the westernmost animal of the series at Kilmersdon is a toad. This can be identified as a Beast without hesitation. We do not have to look far for another Beast, for next to the toad eastwards is a griffin. The Botreaux family was unusual in having three coats of arms, though, like Thomas Gerard, ‘I know not the reason of it’ and the cause ‘I leave to those more skilful in heraldry than myselfe to shoue’. Suffice it to say that one of the three coats was *Argent, a griffin segreant gules, armed azure*. A griffin statant also appeared as a crest on the seal of Lord Botreaux appended to the contract made on the occasion of the marriage of his daughter Anne to Sir John Stafford in 1426.⁷

Here we clearly have another Beast; but the other Botreaux coat was *Checky or and gules, on a chevron azure three horseshoes argent* and so cannot have been the source of any more Beasts.

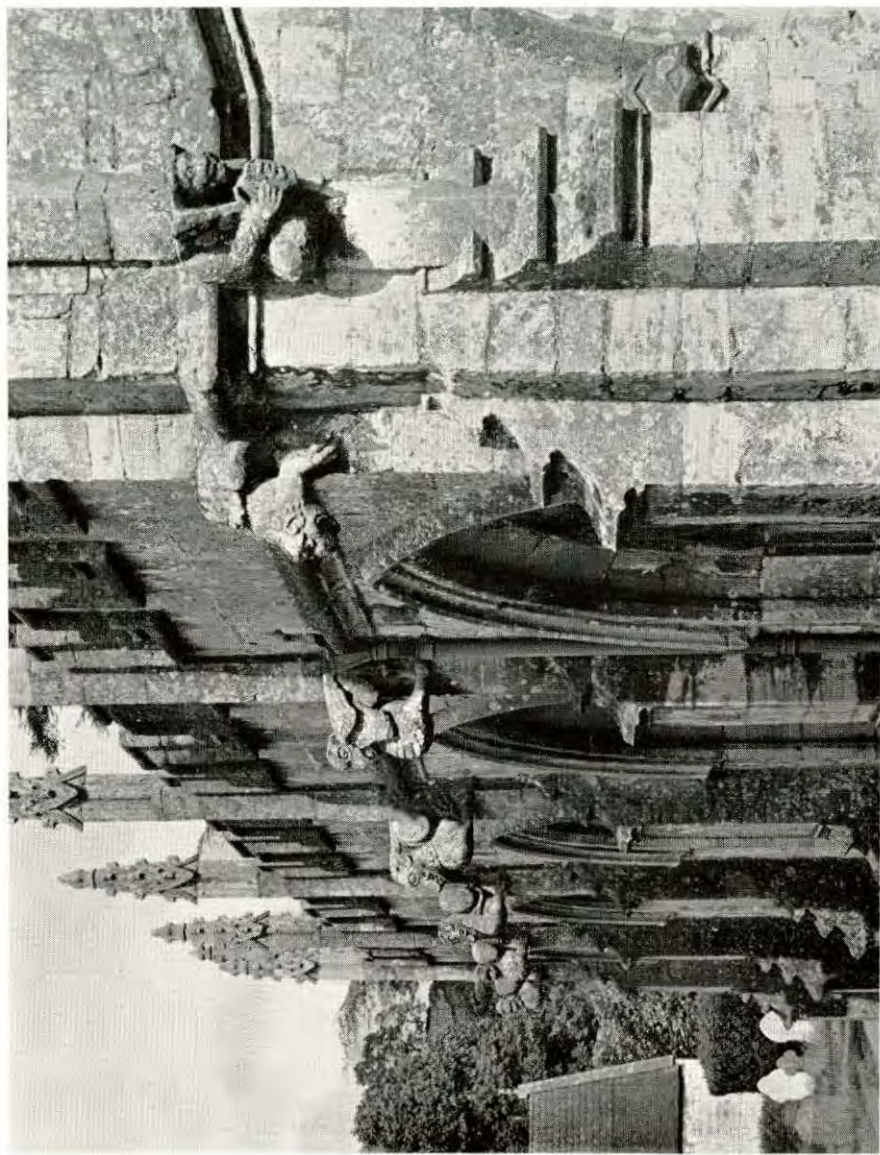
Continuing eastwards, the next carving to the griffin is an antelope. This is clearly heraldic, for it is gorged with a ‘ducal’ coronet and chained. Although it is devoid of colour, it seems to be

⁴ T. Gerard, *Particular Description of the County of Somerset* (Som. Rec. Soc. 15, 1900), p. 190.

⁵ Gerard, *loc. cit.*

⁶ The toads can be seen in each of the shields on this tomb illustrated in K. A. Esdaile, *English Church Monuments 1510 to 1840* (1946), pl. 51, opp. p. 58. A less obvious field for heraldic toad-hunting is in the Poole Municipal Offices where the windows of the modern Council Chamber contain some of the dismembered fragments of what must once have been a magnificent achievement of the arms of Henry, third Earl of Huntingdon.

⁷ *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, iv (1837), 255.



KILMERSDON CHURCH: EXTERIOR OF N. AISLE

(All photographs in this paper by G. A. Moorhouse, Midsomer Norton)

PLATE V



KILMERSDON CHURCH: TOAD

PLATE VI



KILMERSDON CHURCH: GRIFFIN

PLATE VII



KILMERSDON CHURCH: ANTELOPE

PLATE VIII



KILMERSDON CHURCH: TYGER (?)

PLATE IX



KILMERSDON CHURCH: LION

intended as a silver antelope, the well-known badge of the Bohuns, which is also to be seen on the corbel at the south-west corner of the tower at Staple Fitzpaine. If that is the correct identification, the reason for the appearance of the antelope at Kilmersdon is no doubt the marriage already mentioned of Anne Botreaux to Sir John Stafford; for the silver antelope passed to the Stafford family through the marriage of Eleanor Bohun, the elder daughter of Humphrey, Earl of Hereford, to Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, and the marriage of their daughter Anne to Edmund, Earl of Stafford.

The fourth Beast, for we may now regard the carvings as a series of Beasts, presents some difficulty. In general appearance it is like the antelope, but it has no collar or chain and it is also without horns, though these may have disappeared. However, it is clearly not intended to be another antelope, for its feet have claws instead of cloven hoofs. The prominent tusks and the form of the feet point to the heraldic tyger (which does not at all resemble the tiger of the jungle); for there seems to be no other creature in the heraldic bestiary which combines these features. If it is a tyger, there seems to be no obvious reason why Lord Botreaux should have included it among his Beasts. He had another son-in-law, Robert Hungerford, who is not otherwise represented in the Kilmersdon series of Beasts, but I know of no heraldic association between tygers and the Hungerford family.

The fifth and sixth Beasts are both lions. One of them we may take to be a golden lion from the arms (*Azure, semy of fleurs-de-lis, a lion rampant or*) of John, fourth Lord Beaumont, whose daughter Elizabeth was the first wife of Lord Botreaux. Since it is unlikely that two Beasts would be duplicated in so short a series, it is probable that the other lion was intended to represent one of a different colour appertaining to some other family. This other family may have been that of Everingham, which bore *Gules, a lion rampant vair*, for Elizabeth Beaumont's mother was Catherine, daughter and heiress of Thomas Everingham.

This completes the tale of the Beasts on the north wall of the aisle. On the east wall there is a much weathered creature, which appears to be another lion, though it has no trace of a mane. Whether this creature has any heraldic significance is doubtful, for in the corresponding position on the west wall is a representation of a bagpiper, which can only be ornamental.

NOTES

A TRADITIONAL WELSH TYPE PIGSTY IN BERROW VILLAGE

The photograph accompanying this note shows a beehive-shaped structure of grey stone situated in a field belonging to Barton Farm on the west side of Barton Road in Berrow village. Little or nothing could be learned locally about its history or purpose, and advantage was therefore taken of a visit by Mr. C. A. Raleigh Radford to Burnham-on-Sea in October 1961 to get him to inspect it. Mr. Radford immediately identified it as a traditional Welsh type pigsty, of the kind described by Dr. Iorwerth C. Peate, Curator of the Welsh Folk Museum at St. Fagan's, Glamorgan, in his book *The Welsh House* (Brython Press Ltd.). Mr. Radford assessed the age of the structure as not less than one hundred, and not more than three hundred, years.

The structure is a substantial one, well built and with a solid corbelled-in roof. The photograph shows it as it was at the time of Mr. Radford's inspection, when it was more or less intact, though the finial which originally crowned the roof had fallen off and the lintel over the opening was already broken. Unfortunately the structure has since suffered further dilapidation and its restoration has become a matter of immediate urgency. Thanks to the generosity of the Somerset County Council and of Axbridge Rural District Council, which have made grants from their funds, and to the interest and co-operation of Mr. A. G. Harris, the owner of Barton Farm, and of the officers of the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate of H.M. Ministry of Works, this restoration has been made possible and is about to be put in hand.

Dr. Peate discusses the pigsties of this type in Wales on pages 42-44 of his book referred to above and (page 42) lists 29 sites on which one or more can, or could formerly,¹ be found. These sites are distributed as follows: Monmouthshire 4, Glamorgan 16, Carmarthenshire 6, Brecknockshire 1, Cardiganshire 2. His discussion of the subject is illustrated by six plates, Nos. 2-7. It would seem from these illustrations that the Berrow pigsty is, in design and construction, a good example of the type.

¹ In a letter with which Dr. Peate has been so kind as to favour me, he says, "35 actual examples were known of which 31 survived when I wrote my book but there are probably less now". Dr. Peate's book was first published in 1940.

PLATE X



THE BARTON FARM, BERROW, PIGSTY
with Mrs. A. G. Harris standing beside it.
(*Photograph by Samuel Wyatt (N. L. Lewis), Esplanade Studio, Burnham-on-Sea*)



SCULPTURED ROMAN RELIEF FROM BATHFORD

A question which arises, and which has not yet found an answer, is how a pigsty of this type came to be built on the Somerset side of the Bristol Channel.

Since local interest in the structure has been aroused, it has been discovered that one at least of the older residents in the village can remember its being used for its specific purpose of a 'farrowing house'.

R. B. NAISH.

ROMAN RELIEF FROM BATHFORD, BATH

BY M. B. OWEN

In October 1961, a sculptured relief of Oolitic limestone was discovered during ploughing operations on the farm land of Mr. J. Farrant¹ on the site of a known Roman building, where formerly a stone capital was found.² The field, known as Mompas Mead, is just above the flood plain of the river Avon (N.G.R. ST 785658).

The relief is complete in itself with a definite border. Its size is 29.5 inches long and 21 inches high, with a varying thickness of not less than 5 inches. The back has been left rough, which suggests that the stone was attached to a building.

The relief portrays on the left a huntsman holding a hound straining at the leash. The hound is leaping at a hare, which is bounding into the air over a tree on the right. The tree presumably represents parkland.

This relief has a symbolic meaning: the hare is a man's soul escaping from the body into the next world. There may be connections with the hunting god SILVANUS or his native equivalent. This relief may have been placed over the entrance of a tomb.³

¹ I record with sincere thanks, the gift of the relief to the Roman Baths Museum, by Mr. J. Farrant.

² Scarth. Rev. H. M. *Aquae Solis* p. 119.

³ I am indebted to Prof. J. M. C. Toynbee for her help in the interpretation of this relief.

BOOK NOTICES

Bristol and the Slave Trade by C. M. MacInnes. Pp. 19, 4 plates, 2s. 6d. Issued by the Bristol Branch of the Historical Association.

We are pleased to draw the attention of members to a series of pamphlets on local history issued by the Bristol Branch of the Historical Association. Though primarily concerned with the history of Bristol, these pamphlets have an interest which extends well beyond the boundaries of the city.

The latest in the series, No. 7, is by Dr. C. M. MacInnes, formerly Professor of Commonwealth History in the University of Bristol. In it he examines the origin, growth and ultimate decline of a trade which has played an important part in the history of Bristol. He discusses and illustrates from contemporary sources the way in which the business was organised, the fitting out of slave ships, the purchase of negroes in Africa and their sale in the plantations. A brief but excellent contribution to West Country history.

NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS

The following articles or short reports dealing with archaeological or historical work in Somerset have appeared in *Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset*, Vol. XXVIII, parts 276 and 277.

1. Prison Schooling in Somerset, 1823-54.
2. Excavations at Clevedon Court, 1961.
3. The Granger of Glastonbury Abbey, 1361-62.
4. The Price of Corn and Rent Abatement, 1819.
5. Three Men's Morris (Charlton Mackrell).
6. Excavations at Castle Neroche, 1962.
7. Funeral of Colonel Edward Phelps, 1679/80.
8. Longevity in a Pitminster Family (Oaten).
9. Excavations at Glastonbury Abbey, 1962.