

## BOOK REVIEWS

**WELLS CATHEDRAL WEST FRONT: Construction, Sculpture and Conservation**, by Jerry Sampson (Sutton Publishing, 1998, £45.00) ISBN 0-7509-1450-5

It was a great day when Jerry Sampson, the author of this book, was appointed archaeological recorder of the work on the West Front of Wells Cathedral. Sadly, there had been no such provision during the first part of the great programme of conservation which ran from 1974 to 1986, so that he had to deduce from incomplete records the evidence concerning the east and north faces of the north-west tower, which contain some of the best-preserved sculpture. However, he succeeded brilliantly in reconstructing the earlier phase and went on to observe and record in full detail the last six years of the project. His persistence and humility won through the initial reserve of certain experts about admitting an archaeologist on the scaffolding. He became a walking encyclopaedia on all aspects of the work, such as the dating of the various mortars used at different dates, and people of all disciplines came to consult him and refer to his reports and coloured plans and photographic records. The total archive now includes 20,000 slides and 300 reports. Since the physical work was completed in 1986, Jerry has patiently written up the history of the whole programme, and his meticulous labours have at last borne fruit in the publication of *Wells West Front*, which is certain to remain the standard work of reference on the subject.

A considerable team was involved in the work under the Dean and Chapter, who were advised by the West Front Specialist Committee. The team included the staff of the Masons' Yard under the Master Mason (Bert Wheeler and afterwards Peter Cooley), the Architects (Alban Caroe, followed by his son Martin Caroe), the consultant Archaeologist (Dr. Warwick Rodwell), the Conservators (under Professor Robert Baker), the Cathedral Archivist (Linzee Colchester), the Appeal organization (under the late Lord Waldegrave) and the continuing Preservation Trust (headed by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, who has written the Foreword for this book). Various people lectured about the enterprise throughout this country and in America; and the achievement on the West Front of Wells influenced work on as widely scattered cathedrals as Lincoln, Exeter, Salisbury and Strasbourg.

Today it is hard to appreciate the scale of the enterprise at Wells, because there have been so many appeals for major projects at other cathedrals, such as Ely and Salisbury; but when the Appeal for Wells was launched, the only appeal for a comparable sum had been for York Minster.

As a structure, the West Front is deceptive. Unlike the fronts at Lichfield or Exeter, there is no single viewpoint from which the whole design can be seen. The west elevation measures 147 feet across because the west towers are set beyond the aisles instead of above them; and this also means that the West Front has faces to all four points of the compass, since sculpture is arrayed on the front and sides of the buttresses and continues round the side and back of the north-west tower. Altogether there are 49 facets, which presented a challenge to the Architect in his planning of the progressive phases of scaffolding. Visitors

standing on the Green cannot believe that there are nearly 300 original mediaeval statues on the West Front today. It is only by walking slowly round the structure that one can see the massed groups of figures in sections between the mighty buttresses which divide up the composition. Clearly the original theological scheme of the thirteenth century carefully arranged phalanxes of figures; examples are groups of knights, bishops or martyrs. We might compare the groupings of saints and angels in Van Eyck's great painting of the Adoration of the Lamb on the altarpiece in Ghent.

Sampson's book summarises a long history of previous repairs and restorations. It is wrong to imagine that previous centuries did nothing to care for the fabric. Even the seventeenth century, which saw damage during the Civil War and the Monmouth Rebellion, also saw major restoration under Dean Creighton. Between 1827 and 1868 treatment to the West Front was done piecemeal, usually following alarms about falling fragments, from small scaffolds in restricted areas. Full repairs were undertaken in 1870–74, in 1903 and in 1925–31. Photographs from the two longer of these campaigns reveal the extent and methods of restoration. Bases, shafts and capitals were freely replaced; but fortunately the figure—sculpture received restrained attention (partly because Gilbert Scott had recommended that they were of such quality and importance that they should not be replaced: otherwise Wells might have suffered the fate of Lichfield, where the West Front has had two successive sets of replacements for the mediaeval figures, which have not survived).

The methods adopted in 1974–86 were totally fresh. With the help of a grant, technical tests were carried out in 1973. A variety of techniques for stone-conservation had been tried elsewhere: for example, silanes had proved successful on marble in Venice and elsewhere; but, after tests, it was not thought safe to use silane—impregnation on the local limestone remaining on the Front.

Alban Caroe used these wise words in addressing the Preservation Trust in 1976: "We are not only dealing with the largest single display of original thirteenth-century sculpture still in existence in Western Europe; we are also coping with problems of stone preservation which lie on the very horizon of current scientific knowledge, at a time when that horizon is expanding rapidly. New methods of preserving decaying stone are being invented almost every year, but at least twenty years must be allowed to elapse before we can safely assume from factual experience that these methods will not do more harm than good."

In the end, the lime-treatment pioneered by Professor Robert Baker was chosen, and he was appointed Chief Conservator of the figure-sculpture remaining on the Front. He developed his system of lime-poulticing which was basically a holding operation and would not do anything irreversible, in case superior techniques might evolve in the future. He trained successive bands of conservators to work each season, because it was only between April and October that it was safe to work outside on the figures owing to the risk of frost. (Later, frost-proof cabins were erected on the scaffolding to protect the statues, so that work could proceed more quickly.)

Not everyone accepted Baker's claims for the deep and lasting effects of his technique at the heart of the Doulting and Dundry limestones; but the results, after shelter-coating, were convincing. The whole Front, which had been blackened for years with pollution, came to life. Unsuspected details of carving emerged. The quality of the mediaeval sculpture impressed all who saw it. M. Bertrand Monet of the *Monuments Historiques de France*, who was architect for Strasbourg Cathedral and *Les Invalides* in Paris, confessed that his whole view of English sculpture had been changed as the result of a visit to the scaffolding at Wells.

Sampson's book investigates the origins of the Wells workshop in the late twelfth century and the thirteenth century. The roots may lie in Bristol. The sculptural techniques are also explored. Blocks of stone were roughly trimmed with axes at the quarry. Outlines were drawn on the blocks. Flat chisels of various sizes were used; and in some cases clearly

drilling was used. There was carefully regulated teamwork involving apprentices, trainees, bankers and carvers, painters and gilders. There were many routine jobs such as hollowing out the backs of the figures and polishing the surfaces in preparation for painting. Statues were carved lying on their backs, with the head-end raised on a trestle, so that the sculptors could simulate the angle of view for a figure placed high overhead on the Front. For the higher tiers, the trestle would be raised still further. This technique accords with mediaeval illustrations of sculptors at work.

The evidence for polychrome at Wells is tantalizing. Clearly the colour was very rich round the central doorway, where the Virgin and Child and the Coronation of the Virgin were the central subjects. In this area there was some evidence of early re-painting. Fixings were found for gold stars, a crescent moon and a sunburst. In the main tiers of figures, the backs of the niches were red. Hems and borders of garments were carefully decorated. Plain surfaces were often powdered with small features. The maniple and stole of a bishop or priest would have the embroidery represented. Apparels of albs and amices are decorated. Opinions may differ about the actual shades of each colour when they were fresh. Was the green as hard as suggested in the reconstructions, for instance? The late Professor Robert Baker told the present writer that, in his opinion, the colours were very soft "like the palette of Simone Martini".

Perhaps the most exciting sections of the book are concerned with the liturgical background and the underlying theology. Jerry Sampson has read widely and used great insight and imagination. The Sarum Liturgy, broadly followed at Wells in the thirteenth century, is a prime source—particularly in the ceremonial for Palm Sunday.

Choristers used a hidden gallery in the West Front for singing to greet the processions returning across the Green. This is paralleled at Salisbury, Lichfield and Kilkenny, where the architecture has a similar hidden gallery. Voices would have appeared to come from the quatrefoil niches containing brightly-painted demi-angels. In addition, there are at Wells eight circular holes immediately above the nine Orders of Angels in the high gable: these were probably used for straight trumpets heralding the Judgment. Extra significance would have been given by the fact that the trumpet-holes were above the tier of Resurrection—figures, and the lay cemetery was below on what is now the Green. Symbolism is the key to understanding the mediaeval mind.

The meaning of the total composition is so complex that the different strands can be understood in many ways. The theology must have been dictated by a member of the Chapter and translated into architectural design by the Master Mason (probably Thomas Norreys). Norreys would have worked out the sacred proportions which underlie the coherence of the building: such ideas were part of a long tradition handed down. Sampson's section entitled "the Geometer's Meaning" will seem to some readers far-fetched; but certainly the proportions at Wells were intended to have inner meaning, and they have resulted in a wonderful harmony.

This book is a masterpiece which will repay many hours of study. Production and design are exemplary. Illustrations are, with very few exceptions, clearly reproduced. Indexing is full, and the references are scrupulously accurate.

Above all, Jerry Sampson's great work should inspire many readers to stand again in front of the West Front of Wells Cathedral in silent wonder and renewed faith.

Patrick Mitchell,  
Dean of Wells 1973-89.

**Mendip's Past —A Shared Inheritance** by Penny Stokes, (Mendip District Council, 1999, place of publication not stated), ISBN 0 861834 95 X. Price £9.99, 84pp, 71 monochrome illustrations, 14 colour plates.

In the last part of this century, there have been major attempts by archaeologists, historians and others to bridge the gap between academic writings and popular publications which are too sketchy to be useful. This book is a good example of what is needed: informed, readable, accurate and attractive to handle. This is an introduction to the history, archaeology and monuments of the area concerned, for the intelligent reader; but with plenty of signposts to further reading for those who wish to delve deeper. Whether one is a watcher of *Time Team*, or a student in adult education, this book will be a very useful start.

The chapters are conventionally in chronological order, from the earliest human presence in the area down to 'Yesterday's Mendip'. The text is enlivened by well-drawn maps and drawings, and photographs, including an insert section of excellent colour plates. In each chapter, there are little boxes to draw the reader to the most important books to refer to, and other information about the best places to see the best earthworks and buildings.

The book is not specifically about archaeology: more about that dreaded concept known as 'heritage'. But there are no out-dated or inaccurate archaeological facts, though one would not now refer to 'Celtic culture'!

Penny Stokes ends with two unusual features: 'Caring for Mendip's Past' is about the importance of taking an active role in keeping what we have inherited, encouraging people to 'feel a personal sense of commitment and responsibility': helping in local conservation projects, becoming involved in survey; 'don't tidy up' bumps and hollows, don't damage archaeological sites by excavation or surface collection. Even more innovative is a section of short quotations from residents about what they especially value in their heritage. These range from milestones to areas of landscape, from the prison at Wells to the original canopy of the town's Palace Theatre. My favourite quote was 'in the Glastonbury area, sacred sites . . . to Celtic deities which cannot be archaeologically proved. . .'

Detailed references are avoided in the text, but there is an ample reading list for each period, and a list of all scheduled monuments by parish with six-figure NGR references. Useful though these are, the lists are in such tiny print as to need a magnifying lens.

The book is well-produced; there is some uncertainty about imperial or metric dimensions, and a sideways title for the photograph of the west front of Wells Cathedral—an upright view if there ever was one!

My major worry is, however, the misleading title, and the area covered. This is not about the Mendip Hills as one might expect; but the area in the care of the Mendip District Council. The northern part of this does include Priddy, and the southern fringes of Mendip, from Rodney Stoke to Wells; but extends much more widely, from Meare in the west to Norton St Philip and Frome in the east. The main parts of the upland area are thus excluded, including Cheddar, the western end of Mendip, and all its northern parts.

The reason for this is clear. This is an admirable attempt by a local government body to make its inheritance available to its residents, but this does not have a viable geographical unity. I suppose this is inevitable; only the resources of a major RDC could produce such a book. One hopes, nevertheless, that all other Districts of Somerset will follow the example of Mendip, and use the same format; then we will have a useful survey set of every area, to supplement the excellent county reviews of Somerset. Meanwhile we must congratulate Penny Stokes and her RDC on an attractive volume, at a price which everyone can afford.

**Mark: A Somerset Moorland Village**, by Pamela M. Slocombe, Belcombe Books, 1999. 480 pp. numerous maps and plates. £10.00. ISBN 0 9537353 0 3.

Pam Slocombe is well qualified to write a History of Mark on several counts, for in addition to her sound understanding of local history as a subject and her experience in the fields of archaeology and vernacular architecture (she is, for instance, the author of *Medieval Houses of Wiltshire*), her paternal ancestors have lived in Mark for several generations and she herself was born in Mark in 1943 and spent her childhood there. The writing of this substantial volume has clearly been an immense labour of love in which she has drawn upon not only a wide range of documentary sources but also her own recollections and those of her father (John Sheppard, former village baker, whose recollections she has been gathering as oral history for a quarter of a century) and other inhabitants.

The book is divided into five parts. Part 1 is a chronological survey ranging from the prehistoric and Roman periods to the 20th century, including preparations in 1999 to celebrate the millennium. According to the author, the place-name Mark is first referred to in the late Saxon period, the meaning *boundary* perhaps referring to that of the Saxon royal manor of Wedmore which extended from the Isle of Wedmore into the adjacent levels to include the hamlet of Mark. By 1086 Wedmore was held by bishop Giso. Mark remained part of this estate, but Slocombe argues that West Mark, which was known in the medieval period as Moor, was under the control of Glastonbury abbey which created the 'Moorditch' or Pilrow Cut (Mark Yeo) which separates East and West Mark. Within West Mark the Causeway was constructed and a series of parallel crofts on the north side of the Causeway suggests a planned settlement, perhaps created in the 13th century as suggested by the finds during an archaeological excavation which the author herself carried out at Toleman's Croft in 1959. Moor in due course was transferred to Wells, but in 1547 the dean surrendered the manors of Mark and Moor to the Crown. It would perhaps have been helpful if a general map of Mark and the surrounding area had been included at the beginning of this Part, or references made to maps which are placed later in the book, for the author has a familiarity with this part of Somerset which may not be shared by all her readers.

Part 2 (the longest section of the book) is entitled 'Aspects of village life' and includes chapters on field-systems, transport, the parish church, Nonconformity, education, farming, inns, markets and fairs, welfare and a wide range of trades and occupations: the latter including iron founding, brickmaking, tanning and cart and wagon building in addition to the expected range of skills and services in a rural community in the past. This Part also includes an interesting chapter on local dialect and sayings, and a chapter on literary associations which *inter alia* refers to the fact that in 1992 Jeffery Archer took the title of 'Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and Mark'. Weston was then in the 'new' county of Avon and Archer apparently wished to include a reference to Somerset in his title, although his connection with Mark seems to have been confined to living for two years as a young child at Packhorse Farm where his parents acted as caretakers during the owners' absence. Another chapter, on the buildings of Mark, is rather disappointing (in view of the author's undoubted expertise in this field), partly because few early structures seem to have survived in the parish but also because the author has not included any plans, sections or drawings, although there are several photographs.

Part 3 lists successive owners or occupiers of the houses and farms in Mark, principally in the 19th and 20th centuries, as identified in census returns, the 1841 tithe award, directories and other sources. Part 4 contains brief accounts of several archaeological excavations which the writer carried out in 1959-60, together with descriptions of archaeological finds made by others in later years; and Part 5 consists of a number of family trees, including the Sheppard family. The book is then rounded off with an extensive list of primary and secondary sources and separate indexes to Parts 1 and 2.

One of the most striking features of this study of a single rural parish is its length (480 pages, mainly of closely-printed text), and related to this is what might be described as a structural problem. In the Introduction the author herself, having mentioned that she has not been able to investigate every source (including dean and chapter records) which might contain information about the village, continues, 'but it seems useful *to make available at this stage whatever I can* [reviewer's italics] so that like-minded people can have a glimpse into Mark's past...' Thus although some passages of her text contain interesting analysis and description, there is also a great deal of exhaustively detailed information which could have been digested more thoroughly or accommodated in some other way. Two court cases concerning titles and rights of common in 1583 and 1590, for example, are recorded in great detail covering several pages in each case; and a long untabulated list of the numerous customary tenants drawn from a court book of 1591-4 is included in the body of the text when it might have been more appropriate to put this information in an appendix. Parish Council minutes are another example of a source which has frequently been adhered to very closely: in 1907, for example, it was proposed that notices be erected to deter gypsies and other travellers from camping on the droves (an interesting example of a problem which persists today on the levels), but it is questionable whether the reader needs to know that the notice boards were to be 16 inches by 12 inches on posts four inches square and 12 feet long and that the letters were to be black on two coats of white paint (p. 96).

The title of this book does not make its purpose entirely clear. In the event it may be thought that it falls between a *History* of Mark and a *collection of materials* for such a History. Historical writing is a selective process and excessive factual detail can prevent the text from achieving the cohesion and momentum which maintains the reader's interest. It would be inappropriate, however, to end this review on a critical note. The book is well-written and well-produced (there seems to be few misprints, for example) and the plates include some interesting 'archive' photographs. More importantly, the author has shown a good understanding of her extensive sources and has been able to make use of her personal experience and contacts and her knowledge of archaeology and traditional buildings. She has dedicated the book to the residents of Mark, and those of long-standing, or with ancestors formerly living in the village, should find much to interest them in, for instance, the information about the many individuals from recent generations, together with their family relationships, referred to in the text. For local historians who are less familiar with Mark but wish to find out more about this part of Somerset, the book should perhaps be viewed as a useful work of reference.

Mark McDermott

**The Place of the Rural Blacksmith in Parish Life, 1500-1900** Marcia Evans (Somerset & Dorset Family Hist. Soc., 1998, pp. 122, illus., £8.75).

This text formed the dissertation for a Master's degree in local history, and those who have undertaken original research by using a range of different documents may fully appreciate the task which this author set herself. One could easily think of other, less demanding studies for such a degree, because this one involved all the documentary evidence for family reconstruction and agricultural practice, together with supporting material on the working practices and technical development of the smith and the farrier, population movement, and economic change over several centuries. The range of material which she might have had to consult was daunting, and an added difficulty was that the work of the blacksmith might

have been a part-time occupation for many labourers, so any assessment of numbers and distribution would be almost impossible to plot.

Although it is a dissertation, it is mercifully free of the dreaded postgraduate afflictions of turgid footnotes and obscure references embedded in 'academic' prose. It reads well, largely, I suspect, because she made it a labour of love and enjoyed it. Her previous long experience in genealogical work as an author, editor, and lecturer, stood her in good stead when dealing with the reconstruction of families, and the tradition within families of handing down the experience to the younger generation. Where that stands among her strengths, it must be admitted that the early part of the dissertation could stand some revision. Although it does not play a significant part in her overall thesis, the short introductory section is a little sketchy. It would have been a kindness if the University tutor who released this for publication had first undertaken some revision in the short medieval introductory section. Gild records do not immediately come to mind when investigating a minor, widely scattered craft like blacksmithing, and it seemed strange that she thought that the origin of Gilds was obscure because records had been destroyed in the Fire of London. But that was a small section intended only as a background to her main work, and it does not seriously mar the text or distract the reader. She is a great deal stronger and more sure of herself when dealing with more recent records. Using material from the late eighteenth century onwards, the writing becomes more lively and confident in tone, and especially is this true when she reconstructs the families of various blacksmiths. Her strength certainly lies in the period from 1800 onwards.

The illustrations provide some interest for the reader, and certainly enliven the text. Methodically, she lists all blacksmiths in the Census records, Militia lists and Directories, and those names she has uncovered will undoubtedly prove of especial value to genealogists.

Glanville J Davies

**Saint Patrick's Somerset Birthplace** by Harry Jelley, Carp Valley Historical Publications, ISBN: 0-9535201-0-5, £7.50, 117pp.

St Patrick's birthplace, Bannaventa, has long been a subject of scholarly contention and the association of his name with Glastonbury has given credence to a Somerset location. Many other sites have been favoured and Professor Charles Thomas has provided formidable evidence which favours the area of Carlisle. A past president of the Somerset Archaeological Society, Abbot Aelred Watkin, in a letter to a younger monk of Downside who believed, largely on the evidence of a whimsical hunch, that Patrick was born at Stratton-on-the-Fosse, well-positioned as it was on the Fosse Way, on Glastonbury land before the Conquest and with archaeological evidence of occupation at the end of the Roman period. The letter included a document, in a Glastonbury hand, which purported to provide documentary proof for this hypothesis. The document was a humorous spoof and the opportunity to provide a modern Benedictine setting for the patron of Ireland (under the same roof as St Oliver Plunkett, enshrined at Downside) was lost.

Harry Jelley's book is not a spoof but like the Downside hypothesis it lacks conclusive evidence. Jelley suggests that Banwell can be identified with Bannaventa and provides substantial circumstantial material to back up his theory. He makes full use of place names in the area and some use of manuscripts while paying particular attention to the embanked earthwork known as the Banwell Cross often described previously as a rabbit warren. Jelley argues that it is the site of a lost memorial to Patrick. It is an attractive idea but remains a controversial one which seems to have no reflection in the historical literature of Patrick and the Patrician tradition nor in the medieval links with Ireland and the Seven monasteries.

'Proof is not an option, but the author suggests that he has put forward the best balanced argument yet' (p. 117).

Dom Aidan Bellenger

**The King's Peace: The Justice's Notebooks of Thomas Horner of Mells, 1770–1777**, ed. Michael McGarvie, with Michael and Sheila Morris. Frome Society for Local Study, 1997. 188 pp. Illustrated. £6.00. ISBN 948014 18 0

The notebooks upon which *The King's Peace* is based were found at Mells Manor in 1981 among the archives of the Earl of Oxford and Asquith. The rarity of the notebooks both in local and national terms was quickly recognised, and this edition of them, published by the far-sighted Frome Society for Local Study, is the welcome result.

The creator of the notebooks, Thomas Horner, was head of the family which has held the manor of Mells since 1543. He had a secure and respected place among the landed gentry of 18th century Somerset, and unlike the majority of such gentry is known to us in some detail through his many surviving papers. Michael McGarvie, in an excellent introduction to the volume, vividly evokes the man. He was born in 1737, and on the death of his father was made a ward of the gentleman architect Thomas Prowse. At the age of 17 he went to Christ Church, Oxford, and in 1759 married Elizabeth Paget following a determined courtship. The park at Mells, Michael McGarvie tells us, was his chief passion, and over a period of forty years he spent rather more than he could afford on landscape gardening and building. Plantations, follies and grottoes appeared; the mansion, Mells Park House, was extended; and the hothouses Horner built were said to be the largest in the country.

Through his private enthusiasms — which in addition to gardening included literature, letter-writing, hunting and travel — were evidently the true foundations of his life, he was too much the product of his class and times to escape from public duties. He served as High Sheriff in 1774, incurring enormous expense in the process, and was a justice of the peace for the Frome division from 1767. He was active both in and out of sessions, working closely with fellow justices such as James Wickham, a Frome attorney, the Revd Henry Harris, vicar of Norton St Philip, and Harry Edgell of Standerwick Court. It is in his role as a justice that he survives for us in the notebooks.

The six small notebooks were begun in Horner's own hand during May 1770, but were soon continued in the elegant copperplate of his clerk. They provide a detailed record of Horner's activities as a justice, and demonstrate the great volume of business, both administrative and criminal, that a country magistrate was expected to discharge. The first month's business recorded by the notebooks is typical. Presiding usually at the Bell Inn, Mells, Horner approved the accounts and rates of overseers from several parishes, issued numerous summonses and warrants, and took evidence from, amongst others, a man supposed to be a deserter. Cases relating to bastardy, settlement and maintenance of the highways are, unsurprisingly, among the chief contents of the notebooks as a whole, but petty crime was also endemic in the Frome division. Abraham French, for example, was accused of embezzling the County Stock money; four children were brought before the bench on suspicion of having set fire to Stockhill coalpit; and Jane Padfield of Holcombe complained that her husband had assaulted and beaten her. Horner mediated between husband and wife 'and on my recommendation she consented to forgive him'. The notebooks generally provide only a laconic record of the crimes and other matters which came before the magistrates, and in many cases it is likely that additional information survives in the sessions rolls and order books now preserved at the Somerset Record Office. But the notebooks have an



immediacy which the more formal records often lack, and allow us to enter the world of an 18th century Somerset justice to a remarkable degree.

The book has indexes of persons and places and reproduces two portraits of Horner as well as illustrations of Mells. Both Michael McGarvie and the Frome Society are to be congratulated for bringing the notebooks so successfully to publication and for making their evocative contents widely available.

Tom Mayberry

**South West Family Histories: Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire**, by Stuart A. Raymond. Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Ltd, 1998. 128 pp. Price not stated. ISBN 1 86006 073 0

The publication of this book makes available an extensive bibliography of published sources relating to families historically resident in the south-western counties. The main text gathers together, under an alphabetical sequence by family name, a vast amount of information about relevant books, articles and more ephemeral published material and covers families at all social levels from the Middle Ages to modern times. There are in addition indexes by author and place.

Stuart Raymond explains in his introduction the basis on which material has been selected for inclusion in the book — biographies and pedigree collections, for example, are omitted — and also provides the essential warning that not all the information published in the sources he cites is necessarily accurate. Within the limits he has set himself his own book appears to be admirably comprehensive and reliable. It will be of considerable use to researchers of many kinds and deserves to be widely consulted.

Tom Mayberry