

Notes on Somerton Churchwardens' Accounts, 1641-1747.

BY THE REV. DOUGLAS L. HAYWARD.

THE earliest existing parish book of Somerton consists of six-hundred and thirty-eight pages, containing the churchwardens' accounts from 1641 to 1747.

The sources whence funds for church purposes were derived seem to have been the rents of certain church property situated in Somerton, which brought in annually about seven guineas. Occasionally a church rate was levied¹, and an annual collection was made on Low Sunday for the expenses of the bread and wine used at the Holy Communion. Other sources of income were the fees received for burial within the church, and also the rents for space for the erection of pews or seats within the church.

At the end of the volume the church property is set forth in detail, and it may be of interest to record it briefly here, with its annual value in 1698.

- i. A chamber adjoining the school house, with right of entry through the school house wall, let at an annual chief rent of 13s. 4d.
- ii. A malthouse, situated on the east side of the Pound Pool, let at 2s. 8d.
- iii. A house and four acres of land, in West End, near "Lampport (*i.e.* Langport) Way," let for 3s.

(1) In the years 1641, '42, '43, '44, '58, '61, '63, '64, '65, '66, '72, '73, '74, '75, '78, 1701, '19, '20, '32, '34.

- iv. A small plot of land on which a wall stood, adjoining the above, let for one penny.
- v. A tenement, the situation of which is not defined, but which must have been of considerable size, as the chief rent of it was £3 10s. 0d.
- vi. A house in Langport Lane, beyond the Pound, let for 2s. 8d.
- vii. A house, situation uncertain, let for 2s.
- viii. Seven houses in West Street, let for £3 1s. 1½d.
- ix. Two houses in New Street, let for 8s.

This property was let for a term of three lives, and when one life dropped, a new one was put in its place on the payment of a fine, the fines of course proving a substantial source of income to the church.

The letting took place on Easter Tuesday at the annual vestry, and payment was made to the churchwardens half-yearly.

Beyond the school house, also church property, on the south side of it, was situated a gate house, and adjoining this was an inn called the Nag's Head.

The usual charge for burial in the church was 6s. 8d. This was paid, not to the vicar, but to the churchwardens, and entered in their accounts.

In the minutes of a vestry held on April 2nd, 1700, it was ordered that "noe corps shall be bury'd under any the paved alleys in the churchyard without paying 5s. for the same to the churchwardens for the time being and laying downe the pavement againe, and making it good and sufficient as before, and the sexton is to take notice hereof to see it pformed."

Space in the church was allotted to any parishioner who chose to pay for it, for the purpose of erecting a pew or seat. This was done at the annual vestry, and the space so allotted was reserved for a term of one life. Sometimes a small sum was paid annually for the use of a seat by those who had not a lifehold right. The price of a pew or seat varied, of course,

according to position and amount of space allotted, but a *sitting* could be rented from sixpence to half-a-crown a year.

1652. "Upon this day of accompt came Henry Pate and nominated Joan his wife and Mary his daughter to bee the persons by whose lives hee will hold the seate he bought of ye parish ye last yeare, being ye seate next above the vicars wives seate."

1659. "It. received of Honor Collens for setting up of a little board against a seate for to sitt uppon for terme of her life, 6d."

1696. "Henry Penny buyeth as much ground as to make two seates joyning to the font and payeth 5s. for one life."

From what we may gather from the accounts given of the sale of seats, the north alley or aisle was reserved for women, the south aisle, gallery, and organ loft for men, but this cannot be decided with certainty.

There was an organ in 1641; and the organist received £5 a year for his services. In that year there are two entries relating to it:—

"Itm. to Mr. Squier for amending the draughts of the organe, 1s. 7d."

"Itm. to Mr. Hayward of Bath for making the organe musicall, £1 10s 0d."

Beyond another payment for "amending" it in 1643, no further mention of organ or organist occurs. The use of it evidently ceased in 1643, but what became of it, or the reason for its sudden disuse, is not stated. Perhaps the people thought it an expensive luxury and had it removed; perhaps Puritanism might have had something to do with it; whatever the reason, it disappeared about the time of the outbreak of the Civil War, and its place was filled with seats. Frequent mention is made of the letting of seats "in the organe," *i.e.*, of course the organ loft. If it was sold, it seems strange that no entry was made of the money received for it. That it was an organ with pipes is proved by an entry in 1642, when a

“seate under the stairs of the organe pipes” is let to one Thomas Masters for 2s. 8d.

The charges for bread and wine for the Holy Communion vary very considerably. As a general rule there were celebrations four times a year. Low Sunday seems, strangely enough, to have been one occasion. On that day (called “Low Easter”) a collection was made to defray the expenses of the bread and wine for the whole year, but the amount collected seldom reached a larger sum than 10s. This custom lasted only till 1652.

The amount expended on wine seems enormous, especially in the earlier years. In 1643 and 1644 it was more than £8, and as the number of celebrations in those years did not exceed four per annum, it seems incredible that such a quantity could have been consumed at the sacrament. It is, however, very probable that the wine was not all used for consecration, but that it was distributed to the sick poor by the parson as occasion required. In 1649 the amount expended was £4 5s. 11d.; in 1654 it fell to £1 5s. 0d., and remained steadily at this amount till after the Restoration, when in 1662 it rose to £7 14s. 10d., but as it again immediately fell to the normal amount, this was probably a year of great sickness, when much wine was given away to the sick poor.

As to the frequency of celebrations we cannot gain much accurate information from this book. In 1646 there were certainly only four communions. In 1706 there were eleven. In 1745 the communions had fallen to two per annum—at Easter and at Christmas.

The wine used was tent or claret. In 1706 a pint of tent cost 1s. 6d., and a pint of claret cost 1s.

The bells cost an enormous amount. There seem to have been five bells in 1641, and these were constantly being taken down and re-hung. The woodwork appears to have required constant renewing, and the amount expended every year on bell-ropes forms a considerable item in these accounts.

Besides these minor alterations and renovations there are several re-castings recorded. The third bell was re-cast in 1642 by Austen (?), of Bristol. In 1650 this bell was again re-cast, together with the second bell, the money required being given by one hundred and eighty-nine subscribers, whose names are recorded in the book.

The "little bell" (*i.e.*, the present second bell) was cast at Compton Dundon in 1661, and bears the initials of E(dward) M(artin) and I(ohn) C(oxe), churchwardens of that year.

The fourth bell was re-cast by the well-known T. Bilbie, at Chewstoke, in 1733. The tenor bell, re-cast in 1714 by the same founder, bears the following inscription :—

"FRIND: WROTH: AND: NIGHT: FOR: ALL: YOUR: SPITE:

"OULD: EDW: BILBIE: HAD: ME: RUND:

"PULL: ME: ROUND: AND: HEARE: ME: SOUND:

"FRIND: SUCH: WORK: YOU: NEVER: DON:"

In 1658 there is a minute relating to the ringers :—"Whosoever shall in ringing of our bells overturne any of our bells shall forfeit and pay for ye said offence ye sum of 1s. (?) and ye sexton is to take notice hereof and see it put in execution and give an accompt hereof upō ye penalty of loosing his wages."

After the Restoration the bells were always rung on the 29th May, the sovereign's birthday, the 5th November, and on the occasion of a visitation.

We find from these records that, except during the Commonwealth, visitations were held twice or three times in the year, generally at Somerton or Ilchester, and occasionally at Montacute (1642) and Yeovil (1702). In 1685 there were four visitations, and the sum of £1 14s. 0d. was allowed for expenses thereat. The parish allowed the "parson" on such occasions half-a-crown for his dinner, and the other officials, churchwardens and sidesmen, had their expenses allowed.

Presentments were of annual occurrence; sometimes there

were three or four a year, but they fall off during the later years. A person who plays an important part in visitations is the "Paritor."

The bishop often visited or passed through Somerton. In 1648 two shillings were paid to the ringers "upon ye report of my Lord Bishopp's goeing through the towne," and in 1685 the bells welcomed Bishop Ken, who visited Somerton again in 1687, 1693, and 1696.

The custom of "perambulating" the bounds of the parish is mentioned two or three times. Thus in 1643 the sum of 2s. 6d. is paid for "Mr. Jaffray and the Clearke's dinner at perambulatiō." Mr. Jaffray, or Jeffrey, was probably a schoolmaster in Holy Orders. He is once mentioned as "Curate of Somerton," and he received from the parish the sum of £5 for "reading Morning Prayer," but whether on Sundays or week-days is not stated. He received a small amount every year for "keeping our Booke," *i.e.*, of course the parish accounts.²

All traces of the books ordered by Convocation to be placed in churches have now disappeared from Somerton, except, of course, Bibles and Prayer Books.

We frequently come across items connected with them, such as the following :—

1657. "To Joseph Moone for a lock and chayn for ye Booke of Martyrs, 1s. 2d."

1669. "For mending the Book of Martyrs, 2s. 6d."

The Book of Homilies was bought in 1685, possibly as a result of the bishop's visitation in that year, and another copy was bought in 1739.

In 1686 is the following :

"To the Paritor for bringing the Katikise booke, 1s."

The Bible was often patched and mended. It was possibly

(2) In 1620 one Antony Jeffery was appointed to Ashington, but he resigned the living in the following year, and moved elsewhere. Possibly he might eventually have found his way to Somerton.

a chained book, or at least it had clasps, as a "happs" was bought for it. It was rebound in 1686 at a cost of 12s. 6d., and in 1731 a new Bible was bought for £2 16s. 0d. A new Prayer Book was bought in 1726 at a cost of £3 16s. 0d., but no mention is made of the purchase of the Revised Prayer Book of 1662.

Almost every year contains some entry of the payment to the "Paritor" of a small sum, varying from sixpence to five shillings, for some special form of prayer, or proclamation for fast or thanksgiving. Some examples may be of interest:—

1665. "ffor three books brought by the Paritor and to him, 1s. 10d."

[Thanksgiving ordered to be used in the country on July 4th for the naval victory over the Dutch at Lowestoft in June.³]

1666. "It. To an officer from the Archbishop concerning some church business and to the Paritor for two bookes, 3s."

[These books were probably the special prayers for the thanksgiving ordered by the king to be observed on August 23rd for the victory over the Dutch; and for the fast of October 10th for the great fire of London.]

1685. "It. A booke of Thanksgiving and to the Paritor, 1s. 6d."

[For the victory of Sedgmoor.]

"It. A prayer book and a Proclamation with a booke, 2s. 0d."

[Probably containing the revised office for January 30th, and also for the king's accession on February 6th.]

1689. "For severall Books to ye Paritor, 4s."

[For fast on June 19th on declaration of war against France.]

1691. "For Prayer books and proclamations, 2s. 6d."

[November 26th. Thanksgiving for victory in Ireland.]

(3) The bells were rung on June 19th.

1694. "ffor prayer books, 4s."

[Thanksgiving for success of the army in Flanders, issued by Tillotson. Observed on December 2nd and 16th.]

1695. "ffor foure Common prayer books and two proclamations, 5s."

[i. April 16th. Thanksgiving for the discovery of a "Horrid and Barbarous Conspiracy of Papists," and for the delivery of the kingdom from a French invasion.]

ii. May 23rd. Fast, when William attacked Namur.

iii. September 8th and 22nd. Thanksgiving when Namur capitulated.

iv. December 11th and 18th. Fast, for blessing on "the Consultation of the present Parliament."]

1701. "For two Prayer books, 2s."

[One was probably for the fast observed on April 4th "for the preservation of the Protestant religion and of the Public Peace."]

Among entries of payment for church furniture are the following :—

1680. "Item. for three locks and henges for a chest in ye chansell."

1680. "Item. For a new choffer to hold ye writings of ye church."

1682. "Two joyning stooles, 6s."

1690. "Item. For mending ye King's armes."

A "sounding boarde" for the pulpit was bought in 1727. Other entries relating to the pulpit and reading desk are

1652. "For Tafata and mending ye pulpit chusion, 1s. 10d."

1667. "It. A chussion for the seate of the Ministers Pewe, 3s. 8d."

The pulpit cloth of either Somerton or Charlton (it is not easy to see which) must have been of special beauty, as it was lent for extraordinary occasions.

1743. "Paid Robert Withy for carrying back Charlton Pulpit cloth for the use of the Arch-Deacon."

1745. "Paid the Clarke for fetching the pulpit cloth from Charlton."

The surplice appears to have been used during the whole time of the Commonwealth, as there is a yearly charge for washing and mending it. There is also an entry in the earlier years of a small payment for mending the "Hood."

That there was a bier belonging to the church, as well as a pall for public use, is proved by many notices:—

1652 (and 1663). "For mending the beare."

1703. "for a cradle for the beire."

1687. "It. ffor a Herse cloath and making, £1 19s. 4d."

1729. "Paid to Thos. Bennett for the Church black cloth, £3 7s. 6d."

Mention is often made of a "Horologue" called once a "horoscope."

1652. "Itm. for oyle and nayles for ye horrologue."

1655. "Mending ye bell wheels and horoscope."

1663. "ffor taking down the old horologue in beare, 1s."

Also in "charges for a new one, £3 7s. 0d."

1691. "ffor mending of ye dyall."

1700. "For a new Horologue and taking down ye olde, £4 5s. 2d."

A considerable sum is spent every year in keeping the "clocke and cheams" in repair. The chimes require a great deal of "wyre and oyle" and repairs generally; *e.g.*

1659. "laid out to ffrancis Squier for wier for the chimes and for making newe the iron work that was wanting and for amending the olde."

"laid out to doudney for his labour and for leather to sette them going."

1661. "ffor wyer for ye cheimes and setting them goeing."

"for a Rope for the cheimes."

In 1726 a new clock with chimes was bought for £25, and

for a time these constantly recurring charges for repairs cease.

Besides the bells and clock chimes, a serious item of expense is the cost of "glassing the windows." Hardly a year passes but the windows of the church and school house require mending. Sometimes the sums expended are very large. In 1687 £2 5s. 0d. was spent; in 1697 £3 1s. 9d.; and in 1685 £6 15s. 7d. Possibly a local custom prevailed here, as in neighbouring parishes, of ball playing against the walls of the church.⁴

A table for the church porch was bought in 1682 for £1 3s. 0d. Here the churchwardens would distribute benefactions and doles, and carry on certain parish business. The church lands and benefactions were vested in four feofees and the two churchwardens. The feofees were elected for life; the churchwardens on Easter Tuesday.⁵

In 1641 William Collins is sexton at a yearly wage of £3. His duties are defined in 1644 as "keeping of the clocke and chimes and cleansing the church." In 1647, on the appointment of Jas. Doudney, the wages are lowered to £2 10s. 0d., and the duties more clearly set forth—"to keepe the Church cleane and keep the belles and clocke and chimes in order and to ring the bell at five a clocke in the morning and the same at night." James Doudney appears to have held office till 1676, after which the yearly entry always reads "the Saxons wages, £2 10s. 0d."

In 1700 it was resolved that "from henceforth the overseers of the poore for the time being shall pay to the Sexton every year fifty shillings for his wages and sallary for keeping the clocke and chimes and ringing the bell and that he shall not henceforth require ye same from ye churchwardens."

(4) An old man living at Pitney (near Somerton) told me he could remember when it was the custom of the lads and young men of the village to play ball against the church tower *during the time of Divine service.*

(5) See Appendix A.

The custom of ringing curfew seems to have been neglected, as the following entry proves :—

“April 2nd. At this Ct. it is ordered that the Sexton shall ring curfew every night throughout ye yeare at nine of the clocke at night. And shall from henceforth ring the fourthe Bell about a Quarter of an houre, and likewise ring the fourthe bell in like manner at five of the clocke in morning.”

The prices paid for the sexton's necessities in those days seem very low. A wheelbarrow is bought in 1663 for 9s., and in 1687 for 4s. 6d. A new ladder is bought in 1663 for 2s. 6d., and another in 1681 for 2s.

In 1651 2s. 6d. is paid for stripping the ivy from the tower, and again in 1677 a shilling is paid for the same work.

In 1666 an entry records the “ffetching a young elm from Hurcott and setting it up in the pines (?) place behind Church.”

Somerton claims a “Sanctuary knocker,” and the iron ring on the south door seems intended for a knocker. Can the following item in 1660 refer to it?

“ffor nailing on ye ring of ye church doore, 1d.”

Some entries of payments relating to the sanctuary follow:—

1688. “It. ffor 4 matts for the Communion Table, 1s. 6d.”

1693. “ffor holland for a Napkin for ye Communion Table, 4s. 10d.”

1696. “ffor two formes to kneele upon at ye Communion Table and at ye Font, 9s.

1697. “For worke about ye communion Balesters.”

An inventory of the church plate is given yearly from 1710. It consisted of “one large Silver Dish, one Silver Canister, one Silver Bowle, one Silver Salver, one small Silver Bowle with a cover to the same, and one small Silver Bread Plate, all being Sacramental Plate.” In 1736 “one Tin Plate” is

added, and in 1744 the "Canister" is described "with a Cross belonging."

Ecclesiastical terms were not widely understood in the eighteenth century, or the flagon would hardly have been described as a "canister," nor the chalice as a "bowle."

In 1646 one shilling is paid "for washing the ornament of the church." Could this refer to the recumbent effigy in the south transept?

When we consider that in 1671 the wages of an ordinary labourer was 1s. 4d. a day, and of a skilled workman 2s. to 2s. 6d. a day, the amount collected for charitable purposes seem large.

One item occurs annually till 1677—"Hospital Money," which appears to have been levied in the form of a rate, and to have been paid to the constables of the Hundred. It was invariably £1 19s. 6d. till 1662, after which the amount varied. In 1663 it was £4 10s. 1d., but it afterwards fell to 15s. 5d.

In the accounts for 1666 the "Paritor" is paid 9d. for "carrying in the money collected for the poore of London"—no doubt in accordance with the order of the Archbishop of Canterbury, that each Bishop should send a monthly report of money collected in each parish for the relief of the poor of London during the plague year.⁶

In the following year 3s. is paid to "an officer from the Arch Bishopp concerning some church businesse."

This refers to the order of the Privy Council that the Archbishop should send (through the Bishops) a notice to each parish to make collections "for those who have been undone by the late dreadful Fire in London."⁷

The entries for 1659 contain the following:—

"Laid oute for a messenger for carriing in the money to the

(6) Registers of Archbishop Sheldon, August 1st, 1665.

(7) Registers of Archbishop Sheldon, November 7th, 1666.

Sherife that was collected for the poore protestants that were driven out of Bohemia and Holland, 9d."

"Laid out for the bareing of a letter to London to certifie Sir Thomas Viner of what was collected for the afore-said protestants in our towne, 2d."

"Laid out for a messenger to carrie in the money to the Shrieve that was collected for St. Marie Blandford, 9d."

A considerable amount of money was given away to those people who travelled from place to place with "briefs," *e.g.*:—
1688. "It. to A poore woman whose house was Burned at Langport being formerly of ye towne one Mary Glover."

1670. "It. Given towards the Reliefe of some hurted by fire at South Petherton and North Petherton."

1674. "To Poore Travellers, £3 2s. 8d."

In 1680 began a curious but common payment. One shilling was given for every fox brought to the churchwardens, and fourpence each for every polecat, stoat, or hedgehog. In 1686 no fewer than 51 hedgehogs and polecats were paid for; in 1687 the number was 45, and in the following year 43 hedgehogs and 10 polecats were paid for.

No doubt it became quite a trade. To this day in the neighbouring parish of Pitney a mole-catcher is regularly appointed at the annual vestry, and his services paid for out of the parish funds.

As an index of political feeling, or as throwing light on historical events, these old accounts are disappointing. Incidentally, however (as in the case of special forms of prayer mentioned above), we find hints of historic occurrences. Scarcely a year passes between 1641 and 1660 but relief is given to "poore souldiers." In 1644 an unnamed soldier is buried in the church.

Oliver Cromwell died in 1658, and in that year the bells were rung for "the proclamation of ye Lorde Protector" (*i.e.*, his son Richard). The ringers could not have shown much

enthusiasm, as they only received one shilling for their trouble.

There was evidently great rejoicing at the Restoration. In that year £8 was spent "in drinke and for the King's setting uppe." The bells were put in thorough repair, and the church seems to have been generally overhauled. The Bible was mended, and in the following year a new "sirplus" was bought for £4 3s. 10d. The expenses at visitations, discontinued during the Commonwealth, again appear, and church life in Somerton receives a new impetus.

Frequent mention is made of the wars in the early part of the eighteenth century. The victories were received with joy, and the bells were rung on many occasions, *e.g.*:—

1703. "At ye taking of ye flecte."

1706. "On account of forcing ye ffrench lines."

1714. "When ye peace was proclaimed."

In 1741 a hogshead of cider was bought for £2 5s. 0d. to celebrate the taking of "Carter China" (*i.e.*, Carthagena, in Spain), a rather premature subject of rejoicing, as Carthagena was *not* taken, but on the contrary our fleet was repulsed with great loss.

A few other entries may be noticed.

1655. "It. for a new Register booke, 13s. 4d."

1658. "ffor the Acte for observing ye Lordes day."

1666. "ffor a new purse, 4s."

1666. "It. laid out to Mr. Sherwood⁸ for takeing of Amercians (?) on the high waies belonging to the pish of Somerton, £1 4s."

1671. "For drawing up a certificate for poore people to be excused hearth-money."

1680. "For ye advt. for Burials in woollen."

1704. "ffor ringing upon ye day when ye Queene came to her crowne, 6s. 8d."

Two other entries require some little explanation:—

1645. "Item to minister the 3 of Septem."

(8) High Sheriff.

1665. "Paid for exhibiting of a Petition to Judge Arthur on behalf of ye parish, 6s."

As this volume contains a full list of the ratepayers' names for every rate, it is a mine of information concerning local names.⁹ From these rates the following list of inns, with the date of their first appearance, has been compiled:—

RED LION: 1654. "Mrs. Glover for the Red Lyon, 1s. 6d."

1658. "Item of the Redd Lyon, 7s. 6d."

BELL: 1665. "John Coxe for the Bell, 9d."

1719. "Mr. Dickinson for ye Bell."

SWAN: 1665. "Roger Long for the Swanne, 4d."

(Does not appear after 1672.)

THREE CUPS: 1664. "Mrs. Glover for the Three Cupps, 1s."

(Appears in the 1672 rate as in arrears, but not afterwards.)

THE INN: 1663. "Geo. Godsell for the Inne, 1s. 10d."

1719. "Joane Stroude for ye Inne."

NAG'S HEAD: 1674. "John Paty at Naggs heade, 1s 6d."

(Called in 1701, "ye little Naggs head.")

ANGEL: 1664. "George Crane for the Angell, 6d."

ROYAL OAK: 1734. "Wm. Martin for the Royal Oak, 4d."

BEARS: 1732. "Jonathan Williams for ye Bears Inn, 3s."

DOG: 1732. "For Mrs. Knights called the Dog, 1s. 6d."

WHITE HART: 1732. "For the Whitehart, 1s. 9d."

(? an inn) THE CROSS HOUSE: 1665. "Alex. Connant for the Crosse House, 2d."

In 1734 the "Meeting House" is rated at 3d., but this is apparently an error, as in the 1732 rate it is "the house adjoining the meeting house" that is rated, probably the minister's residence.

On page 59, under date 1649, is an entry relating to the boarding out of a pauper. The bond itself is in Latin, but the conditions of it are explained in English.

"The condition of this obligation is this: That if the above bounden Anthonie Brice his heires executo^{rs} administrators or

(9) See Appendix B.

assignes or any or either of them shall well and sufficiently keepe and maintaine withe meate drinke and clothing washinge and lodginge Anne Elmes daughter unto John Elmes late deceased soe that the said Anne Elmes never become chargeable unto any parish and specially to the parish of Somerton either for meate drinke clothing washing or lodginge : Then this obligation to voide and of none effect or else to remaine and bee in full force power and virtue.”

The seals and signatures of the vicar and churchwardens are appended to this document.

APPENDIX A.

CHURCHWARDENS of Somerton from 1641–1740, with year of appointment :—

1641.	Rich. Newcourt : Thos. Rosdell.
1642.	Rich. Adams : Phil. Masters.
1643.	Phil. Masters : Geo. Gilbert.
1644.	Ed. Cooke : Wm. Churchill.
1645.	Geo. Peddle : Jas. Patey.
1646.	Jno. Biggs : Jno. Bishop.
1647.	Jno. Pitman : Jno. Horwood.
1648.	Ed. Chard : Hum. Peddle.
1649.	Jno. Crane : Jno. Calloe.
1650.	Alex. Connant : Rob. Peddle.
1651.	Ed. Horsey : Thos. Biggs.
1652 & 3.	Jerom. Churchey : Ed. Sindercom.
1654.	Jno. Crane : Wm. Horsey.
1655.	Fra. Crane : Bar. Stevens.
1656.	Hen. Fisher : Jas. Hurd.
1657.	Jno. Rosdell : Jno. Cooke.
1658.	Jno. Biggs : Geo. Pedwell. ¹⁰
1659.	Jno. Fisher : Thos. Chipper.

(10) Did not serve the office.

1660. Ed. Martin : Jno. Cox.
1661 & 2. Rob. Bayley : Pet. Whitlock.
1663. Ed. Chard : Pet. Whitlock.
1664. Jno. Stocker, gent. ; Jas. Peddle.
1665. Hen. Pavey : Wm. Bartlett.
1666. Thos. Callow : Hum. Peddle, senr.
1667 & 8. Fra. Crane : Jno. Patey.
1669. Geo. Adams : Jerom. Churchey.
1670. Tho. Cook : Hum. Churchill.
1671. Jno. Adams : Hen. Crane.
1672. Rob. Collins : Hum. Peddle.
1673. Jno. Horsey : Hum. Peddle.
1674. Rob. Marsh : Will. Deacon.
1675. Ri. Skrine : Tho. Hodges.
1676. Rob. Bartlett : Jno. Biggs.
1677. Jerard Newcourt : G. Horwood.
1678 & 9. Nic. Sheirs : Jsph. Knight.
1680. Rob. Cure, senr. : Will. Pitman.
1681. Jno. Peddle : Rob. Horsy.
1682. Nic. Paty : Will. Pickford.
1683 & 4. Jam. Peddle : Rob. Philips.
1685. Hen. Crane : Hen. Penny.
1686. Jno. Board : Jno. Peddle.
1687-9. Jno. Fisher : Sam. Hazzard.
1690 & 1. Tho. Arnold : P. Whitlock, junr.
1692 & 3. S. Horler : Jno. Hodges.
1694. Llewelin Griffith : B. Hodges.
1695-9. Pet. Whitlock, senr. : Jno. Griffin.
1700-2. Thos. Flemming : Hum. Peddle.
1703-5. Israch Rowden : Alex. Cure.
1706-10. Joshua Beech : Daniel Yates.
1711-13. John Deacon : John Knight.
1714. Wm. Stevens¹¹ : Rob. Peddle.
1715-19. Rob. Peddle : Thos. Gooden.

(11) Died in office.

- 1720–22. Wm. Strode : Thos. Dickenson.
 1723–26. Hon. Thos. Strangways :* Wm. Warman.
 1727. Wm. Warman : Thos. Arnold.
 1728 & 9. Thos. Chipper : John Horsey.
 1730 & 1. John Board : John Horsey.¹²
 1732–5. Ric. Guppy : Edw. Peddle.
 1736–8. John Squire : Thos. Haggett.
 1739. Chas. Board : Saml. Bernard.
 1740. Hugh Bartlett : Wm. Hacker.

APPENDIX B.

A LIST of all the ratepayers whose names appear in the 1641 rate.¹³

I. Those who pay one shilling or more :—

Sir John Stawell, knight, ¹⁴ 6s.	Peter Hurd, 1s. 2d.
Baldwyn Harrys, gent., 2s.	Widdowe Salmon, 1s. 3d.
John Tailor, gent., 2s. 6d.	Thomas Baker, 1s. 2d.
John Horsey, ffarmer, 5s.	John Tinteny, 1s.
John Applyn, senr., 4s. 6d.	William Churchill, 1s.
Antony Cooke, 4s. 6d.	Robert Whitehead, 1s.
Thomas Rosdell, 4s. 6d.	William Paty, 1s.
Jerom Churchill, 4s.	Francis Pester, 1s.
John Crane, 3s.	James Coggan, 1s.

* The Strangways family is omitted from the 1641 list of ratepayers, but Sir John Strangways occurs in 1642, and the name is met with in every succeeding rate. In 1732, Thomas Strangways Horner is rated for St. Cleers.

(12) “ We do appoint John Horsey and John Board Churchwardens for ye year ensuing, but that John Board is not to intermeddle with glassing ye Church windows.” March 31st, 1730.

(13) The amount of the Rate in the £ not being given, the ratable value cannot be determined.

(14) M.P. Probably a king’s man, as he disappears after the outbreak of the Civil War. After the Restoration Geo. Stawell and Ralph Stawell, Esqs., appear (1663), but the name is not found in the 1701 rate, nor afterwards.

Wm. Chipper, 3s.	Widdowe Deacon, 1s.
Richard Baker, 3s. 4d.	John Cooke, 1s.
Thomas Harbin, 2s. 8d.	John Horsey, 1s.
William Stuckey, 2s. 6d.	John Rose, 1s.
Peter Horsey, 2s. 6d.	John Gibbs, 1s.
Robert Baker, 2s. 3d.	
Andrew Hurd, 2s. 3d.	NETHER SOMERTON (1664,
Richard Adams, 2s.	SOMERTON EARLY) :
Jas. Martyn's Widdowe, 2s.	Thomas Still, Esq., 15s.
John Martyn, senr., 2s.	James ffisher, 10s.
Noble Walter & Toby Brayne, 2s.	Geo. Crane, senr., 6s 10d.
Geo. Martyn's Widdowe, 2s.	John ffisher, senr., 5s.
Widdowe Brooke, 2s.	John Crane, ffarm, 4s. 6d.
Rich. Hurd, 1s. 11d.	Widdowe ffisher, 3s. 9d.
Hugh Bartlett, 1s. 11d.	Widdowe Cooke, 2s.
Geo. Glover, 1s. 9d.	Humphrey Gover, 1s. 6d.
Richard Pollett, 1s. 8d.	John Horsey, of Dundon, 1s. 3d.
William Chipper, 1s. 9d.	Allene Preenne, 1s.
John Pitman, 1s. 8d.	HURCOTT :
Widdowe Peddle, 1s. 8d.	John Cooke, 3s.
Humfrey Peddle, 1s. 8d.	James Baker, 3s.
Noble Bennet, 1s. 6d.	Widdowe Strowde, 3s.
Henry Newman, 1s. 6d.	John Bishop, 2s. 6d.
Wm. Hagggett, 1s. 6d.	Philip Masters, 2s. 3d.
Thos. Ham, 1s. 6d.	John Masters, 2s. 3d.
Widdowe Horsey, 1s. 6d.	Thomas Salmon, 2s. 3d.
Edward Chard, 1s. 6d.	Widdowe Callowe, 2s.
Peter Horsey, 1s. 6d.	Widdowe Ouseley, 2s.
Thomas Thorne, 1s. 6d.	Widdowe Bartlett, 1s. 6d.
Joseph Applyn, 1s. 6d.	Widdowe Peddell, 1s. 5d.
Thos. Challoner, 1s. 4d.	John Horwood, 1s. 3d.
Wm. Browne, 1s. 3d.	Widdowe Crane, of Compton, 1s. 3d.
Henry Hilborne, 1s. 4d.	Widdowe Horwood, 1s. 3d.
John Bryges, 1s. 3d.	
Richard Newcourt, 1s. 3d.	

II. Those who pay less than one shilling:—

John Seward, gent.

Henry Jaques, gent.

Applyn.	Hodges.	Sherstone.
Bryant.	Hilborne.	
Brymell.	Hewett.	NETHER SOMERTON :
Crane.	Hooper.	Brayne.
Churchill.	Ham.	Bigges.
Clarke.	Knyght.	Bartlett.
Clothier.	Lawner.	Baker.
Deacon (2).	Masters.	ffisher (2).
Elme.	Martyn (3).	Hobbes.
Beavell.	Newale.	Parker.
Biggs.	Oadhame.	Peacocke.
Browning.	Pedell (2).	Rogers.
Cornish.	Peddle (4).	Robyns.
Connant.	Prewe.	Symmes.
Crosse.	Pitman.	Stocke.
Cooke.	Paty (2).	Shepheard.
ffisher.	Pickford.	
Gibbes.	Phillips.	HURCOTT :
Glover.	Petty.	Page, als. Crosse.
Gilbert.	Pavie.	Reynolds.
Gee.	Robyns.	Tucker.
Harvey.	Salway.	
Horsey (3).	Squier (6).	

A few other names may be appended :—

John Brent, Esq., 1658.	Geo. Clarke, gent.	} 1666
John Newton, Esq., 1663.	Gregory Gibbs, gent.	
Geo. Raymond, gent.	Richard Adams, gent.	
John Storker, gent.	Mr. Howes (Somerton Early)	} 1664
John Pine, gent.	1674.	
Thos. Sherwood, gent.	Wm. Howe, Esq. (Somerton	} 1701.
Mr. Eastmont.	Early)	