

THE HISTORY OF A MEDIAEVAL VILLAGE

Gathered from Ancient Sources.

BY THE

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In the history of a village, beyond the church, manor house, the green, or some particular tree or stone, there would be thought, generally speaking, nothing more demanding more than ordinary attention. In the following account, however, I hope to show that as sometimes in a piece of stone we may happen to light upon, there are to be found particles of fossils, carrying the mind back to distant ages, so in connection with this village there are to be seen indications and fragments of custom and life, which afford proof and example of interesting and bygone periods.

The village of Tintinhull, which forms the subject of this paper, is just over two miles from the ancient town of Ilchester. The Fosse-way runs from one end of the parish to the other. At Stoke-sub-Hamdon, where the parish begins, there was an outpost of the Romans to guard the ford; and at Ilchester, where the parish ends, there were entrenchments of the Roman camp. Midway, almost, between these extremes, at a juncture where the Roman road crosses that from Yeovil, there still lingers the significant name of Tintinhull Forts. The Fosse-way, which takes its rise from Moridinum (Seaton), and goes on through Bath to Lincolnshire, with another ancient way leading from Leodgarsburgh (Montacute) to Ivelcastra (Ilchester), and water-courses, constitute the chief boundaries of the parish. In the lower parts of the parish, towards the moors, are still the Chester Meads (Castra), and not far from these, a few years since, were found the evident remains of a Roman villa. The village itself is situated between the hill camp of the Romans on Hamdon Hill, and the entrenched camp at Ilchester. As the Romans followed the ancient Britons to their fastnesses and possessions, we may from the foregoing facts naturally assume that our forefathers were located here; and especially as the place is on the shores of what in Roman times must have been an inland sea, stretching from Tintinhull and Ilchester to the Bristol Channel. And it is easily to be understood that these waters and wooded shores, while supplying abundance of food in the shape of fish and game, would at the same time afford almost perfect immunity from the attack of foes.

The derivation of the name Tintinhull is difficult, indeed, to trace out correctly. It has been derived from the Poenician, the Keltic, the Saxon, and a mixture of Keltic and Saxon. The name is found to be spelt in a variety of ways: thus, in 1084 it is Tintehilla and Tintinella; in 1086 it is Tintehalle; in 1219, Tintehull; in the time of Edward I, Tintenule; Edward III, Tintinelle; Henry IV, Tyntenhulle and Tynternhelle; Edward IV, Tyncnell and Tyntinhull; and now Tintinhull. The spelling of the above in 1084 and 1086, the first recorded instances, have been rendered as "The Hill of Tinta" and "The Hall of Tinta." Tintin or Tinten would represent the genitive singular of Tinta, and so the orthography of the Exon Domesday would favour the rendering "Tinta's Hill," while that of Domesday taking "Halle" as meaning house or hall, would make it "Tinta's Hall." Whether "Tinta" be the name of a person or a place, or whatever else, it is difficult to determine. All the obscurity seems to centre in the first syllable of the name. The last syllable, except in the Domesday spelling, in every case favours the rendering of it as Hill. One correspondent thought whether "Tin tin" might not be taken as "Don don," quoting the pronunciation of Tintagel, which is sometimes called "Dondagel," as an example; in which case it would mean a fortified place. The rendering of the name, however, to which I most incline is the taking of "Tin tin" to be the same as "Ten ten." Hence "ten ten," or "ten

times ten,” equalling one hundred; and so the place would be the Hundred Hill, or the place where the Hundred met. Many solutions have been kindly offered, but after considering them all, I am disposed to think that this last solution agrees mostly with the known facts and features connected with the place. As a rule, the derivation of the name of any spot is to be traced to a connexion with some person, incident, or feature in the locality; and as the Church, Church House, Manor House and the Green (and on the Green are still to be seen the stocks and a magnificent elm, which bears the name of the Cross Tree) as these are all in the centre of the place, it seems to be most highly probable that from these and their many associations the present name of Tintinhull, or the Hundred Hill, took its rise. “The word ‘Green,’” says a learned professor, “takes us back to the Danes. Every Scandinavian settlement having attached to it a ‘Green’ or place of assembly, surrounding a Thingmote or hill on which the elders or chiefs took their seats, and from whence the laws and determinations of the assembled freemen were proclaimed.”

That a former name, however, may have been applied to the place is to be gathered, I think, from the fact that an ancient brass in the church gives the name of the place as ‘Tyncnell,’ and this spelling agrees best with the general pronunciation of the people of the district. The brass runs as follows:-

Hic iacet magist Johes beth Canonicus Sar’
 Rector de Tyncnell ? Chiselbourgh q’ obist iiii die
 Ffebra dni m cccc lriiii cui’ aie ppiciet De’ amen
 Testis sis Ipe q’ non iacet hic lapis aste
 Corpus ut ornetur set spiritus ut memoretur.

“Here lies Master John Ieth Canon of Salisbury Rector of Tyncnell and Chiselbourgh who died the 4th day of Febr. A.D. 1464. On whose soul have mercy. Amen. Be thou witness O Christ that this stone does not lie here that the body shall be adorned but that the spirit should be remembered.”

As this Canon was unquestionably a great man in his day, and his memory was though worthy of a massive stone from the Isle of Purbeck, with a brass bearing his effigy and such an inscription, I am induced to believe that the correct spelling of the place must there be given. Favouring such a change of name, we have a very apposite parallel in the case of Montacute – which may in the first instance have been ‘Mons Acutis,’ afterwards Leodgaresburgh, then Biscopstone, and finally Montague. Assuming such a change as probable, the rendering would under these circumstances be ‘Tyn,’ meaning ‘Water,’ and ‘Cnell,’ the same as ‘Knoll,’ meaning hill, and so the place would be called Water Hill. Should it be asked whether there be any justification for the name of the place as ‘Water Hill,’ I would call attention to that considerable portion of the parish which would form a very prominent knoll or hill rising from the waters, as seen from Ilchester, and over which the Fosse-way runs, and from whence can be clearly seen the hill camp at Hamdon and the entrenched camp at Ivelchester, and the still further camp at Cadbury. In fact, so clearly are these places to be seen from this spot, that signals could easily be made from one and all at the same time. I know of no spot which more favours Collinson’s solution; he says that “Tintinhull had its name from an eminence anciently called ‘Tutenelle.’ The name being derived from the Saxon ‘totan,’ which signifies ‘to examine.’ The name being applied to conspicuous elevations, where, in the time of war, survey was wont to be taken of distant parts in order to (*give*) a defence against an approaching enemy.” Although I have given these remarks of Collinson, I am aware that his derivation of the name from ‘totan’ is open to grave objection. Whether the signification of the name may have been ‘Water Hill,’ in the first instance, and afterwards ‘The Hundred Hill,’ or not, we know for a fact that the place was deemed of sufficient importance to become the *caput* as well as the designation of one of the Hundreds. In the Exon Codex (1084) mention is made of the Hundred of Tintinhull being included in that of Givela (Yeovil). It was one of the three Hundreds (Tintinhull, Stone, and Houndsborough), which existed long before the Inquisition of A.D. 1084, was yet combined in that assessment, to help form the Hundred of Givela. The

arrangement, formed probably for the behoof of the Comte de Moretaine, was, nevertheless, of short duration, as it was resolved into its original elements in the time of Henry I. In Saxon times Tintinhull manor was a possession of Glastonbury Abbey. The Comte de Moretaine (half brother of William the Conqueror) obtained it by an exchange. It seems that the Abbot of Glastonbury had held and lost Camerton (in the Frome Hundred) before the Conquest; for William, in giving the estate to the Comte de Moretaine, disseized, not the Abbot, but Edmeratorius and his tenant, Ailwin. The Abbot, however, in turn, recovered the estate for his church, but only by giving in exchange Tintinhull, a manor of seven and a quarter hides.

The account of Tintinhull which we have in Domesday is as follows:-

Tintehalle. “Ipse comes tenet, ecclesia Glastonburiensis tenuit tempore Regis Edwardi. Ibi sunt vii hidae j virgate terrae, sed pro v hidis geldebat. Terra est x carucatae. De ea sunt in dominio iiii hidae. Ibi ij carrucae v servi xix villani ix bordarii cum viij carrucis. Ibi molinus reddit xxx denarios lx acrae prati, cc acrae pasturae lvii acrae silvae, valet xvi librae. Drogo tenet de comite j virgatamde ipsa terra et unum villanum, et valet j markam argenti.”

“The Earl himself holds it. Glastonbury Church held it in the time of Edward the Confessor. There were 7 hides 1 virgate of land, but he paid for 5 hides only. The land is 10 ploughs; 4 hides were in the demesne. There were 2 ploughs, 5 servants, 19 villains, 9 cottagers with 8 ploughs. There a mill pays 30^d 60 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture, 57 acres of wood. It is worth £16. Drogo holds of the Earl 1 virgate of the land itself, and one villain, and it is worth 1 silver mark.”

From this we see that there were about 1517 acres altogether. At present the parochial acreage is 1828 acres. Drogo who is here mentioned, was the first castellan of the Castle which Earl Moretain had at Montacute. He is also called Drogo de Montacute. An incidental proof of the existence of the Castle is found in an account on a fly leaf, and pinned into the Church books, to which it may not be out of place here to refer. It is as follows:-

“Custos Muri a parte orientali cimiterii. Anno Dmi MDXV

	s,	d.
For 100 foot of coping stone	20	0
Making of the Wall	19	0
Stuff for making of the ‘Stonying’ door ...	8	0
Lime for same work	4	8
Making of the Hatch	2	3
8 Load of stone from the Hill		16
2 Load from the “Castell”		12
Total paid out by the Rector, and allowed to him by the wardens ... 57s 9d”		

As this ‘Stonying Door@ was erected by the Prior of Montacute, who was Rector of Tintinhull at this time, it seems highly probable that these stones came from the ruins of the Castle which Earl Moreton had at Montacute. This ‘Stonying Door,’ which for many years was an archaeological enigma, seems now to be a relic which the Prior was anxious to preserve, and which, if the surmise indulged in above be correct, contains portions of Earl Moreton’s Castle.

The ‘Stonying Door’ stands now at the western entrance to the church-yard. It has inscribed on it, on the ‘Parson’s Close’ side:-

“In domii dmi letantes huie.”

“Let us go into the house of God rejoicing.”

On the churchyard side-

“Vere locus (iste) sanctus est.”

“Truly, this is a holy place.”

This block of stone-work bears a strong resemblance to the door cases in the Vicars’ Close at Wells.

The Church of Glastonbury held the manor in the time of Edward the Confessor, and here is the first recorded instance of ownership; and, without doubt, ample provision was then provided by this ecclesiastical body for the ministrations of religion. By what means the manor became the possession of Glastonbury is a matter only of conjecture.

In a verdict on an Inquisition held before the Justices Itinerant sitting at Ilchester, 5th March, 2nd Henry III (A.D.1219), between Walerand, Parson of Givela (Yeovil) and John Mautravers, Knight, among the clerks and knights sworn, there is one Richard, Clerk of Tintinhull. This is the first mention of a cleric I have been able to gather. But that a church existed at Tintinhull from very early times may be readily inferred from a variety of considerations. To cite a few examples, we may notice the composition of parts of the walls of the chancel of the church, where the masonry was of the most primitive kind possible, consisting, as it did, of of daub and conglomerate of mud and stones, plastered inside and outside; and in addition to this the windows of the chancel have Norman arches within the church, and Early English without the church; and here and there are to be seen gargoyles with tracery, seemingly out of character with the features of the different periods of architecture.

The next mention of a cleric occurs in the time of Edward I; the precise date is unknown. It is a deed where Philip Luvell, Parson on Tintinhull, appears as a witness. I give the document and two others, which have been copied from the "Ilchester Almshouse Deeds," as being likely to interest, referring, as they do, to persons and places still known in the locality. The documents are as follows:-

"Notum sit omnibus presentas literas inspecturis quod Ego Christina filia Eustagii Carpentarii dedi et concessi et hac carta mea confirmavi Luce de la More et heridibus suis pro humagio et servicio suo totum jus meum quod habui in una virgata terre in Tintenelle quam predictus Eustagius pater meus et antecessores ejus et ergo jure hereditario tenuimus Ten. Et Hab. De me et heredibus meis Sibi et heredibus suis Libere et quiete cum omnibus liberis apendiciis suis ubicumque fuerint Reddendo mihi et heredibus meis annuatim Unum Par Cirotecarumde precio unius denarii pro omni servicio Salvo servicio Regali et Prior et Conventui Montis Acuti servicium quod antea solvebatur Pro hac autem donatione et concessione dedit mihi sepe dictus Lucas Unam Markam argenti de garsume Ut igitur hec mea donation et concession firma permaneat in posterum Illam Sigillo meo roboravi Iiis Testibus Osberto de Stoke, filippo Luvello Persona de Tintenelle, Amiano Persona de Crihg, Ricardo clerico de Tintinelle, Eustagio de Weleham, Rudolfo de la More, Et multis aliis."

"Christina daughter of Eustace the Carpenter, to Luke de la More, all her right in one vigata (40 acres) of land in Tintenelle; 'By rendering one pair of gloves of the price of one penny, in lieu of all service except the King's service, and the service which was heretofore customarily rendered to the Prior and Convent of Mont Acute.' Luke pays to Christina a fine (garsume) of one Mark in Silver. Witnesses – Osbert of Stoke, Philip Luvel Parson of Tintenelle; Amianus Parson of Crick; Richard, clerk, of Tintinulle; Eustace of Weleham.* Ralph de la more. * There is a mill, about half way between Tintinhull and Stoke, which still goes by the name of Welham's Mill."

"Edw. III. 1365. The second Sunday after Easter.

"Omn Xti Fid. Ad quos pres. Scr. Perven. Walterus de Cloptone filius et heres Johannis de Cloptone Sal. In Dno. Noveritus me dimisisse Willielmo Phelpys et Margarete uxori ejusdem Unum mesuagium cum curtillo et clauso adjacenti et decem acris terre arabilis et tribus acris prati et suis pertis quibus cunque Que michi jure hereditario inperp. Descendebant post mortem Johannis de Cloptone Fratris mei senioris in Tyntenhulle Quod quidem mesuagium situm ibidem inter messuagium Nicholai Phelpys ex parte una et mesuagium Johanne Dorsetes ex parte altera Concessi insuper cisdem Will^o et Margarete omnia terras et tenia mea redditus et servicia cum omnibus et singulis suis pert^s quibuscumque que adquisivi mihi her'bus et assign. Meis de Edmundo Dummere Milite in Tyntenhulle predicta tota vita Isabelle Mascalys Hab. Et Ten cum curtill^o clauso adjacenti . . . In cujus rei testi. Tam ego pred. Walterus quam pred. Willielmus et Margareta sigil. Nost. Alternatim apposuimus Hiis Test Joh^e Bondman, Nich^o

Trut, Will^o Broke, Rob^{to} Atte Yerde, Rob^{to} le Bour, et Multis aliis. Datum apud Tyntenhulle Die Domin. Prox. Post Fest. Clausi Pascha ann. Reg. Reg. Edwardi Tercii post conq^m tricesimo nono.

“Endorsed Tynternhelle.”

“Walter de Clopton son and heir of John de Clopton, to William Phelpys (Phelyps) and Margaret his wife; a messuage, with Curtilage and a close of ground adjoining, and ten acres of arable land, and three acres of meadow, and all appurtenances – which descended to me by hereditary right, for ever, after the death of John de Clopton my elder brother; in Tyntenhull. The messuage is situate in that village between property of Nicholas Phelpys (Phelyps) on one side, and of Johanna Dorsotes on the other. Moreover, I have given up to the same William and Margaret, all my lands and tenements, rents, services, &c., acquired by me from Edward Dummer, knight, in Tyntenhull aforesaid, for the natural life of Isabella Mascallys Witn. Robert Atte Yard, and others. Given at Tyntenhull on the Lord’s Day next after the Feast of the close of Easter (i.e. on the second Sunday after Easter); in the 39th year of Edw.III.”

“ Henry VI. 1424. May 9.

“Sci. pres. Et fut. Quod ego Johannes Abbot consanguineus et heres Thome Cole de Yewelchestre dedi Alexandro de la lynde Will^o Walkdene Ric^o Cerle Henrico Havegod Joh’ Glainville David Hawys Thome Dapere Thome Saymour Joh’ Chepman et Joh’ Deneman her’bus et assign. suis Unam placeam terre cum suis pert^s in Yewelchestre jacentem in fine Venelle vocate Abbey Lanc ex opposite modo Domui Fratrem Predicatorum ejusdem ville Que placea continet in longitudine sexaginta et sex pedes Et in latitudine viginti et duos pedes Dedi etiam prefatis Alexandro Will^o &c., toftum et curtil’um unius burgagii in eadem villa jacentis inter predictam placeam et tenuram quam Thomas Broune de Tyntenhulle de me tenet Et que Joh^{es} Worme de prefato Thoma Cole dum vixit aliquando tenuit Hab. Et Ten Hiis Test. Nich^o Coker Joh^e Mascalle Will^o Trut Roberto Pypere Joh^e Smythe de Northovere Joh^e Lemman Henrico Gryndelle qui cartam istam scripsit Data nono die Mensis Maii ann. Reg. Henrici Sexti post conq^m secundo.”

“ John Abbot, cousin and heir of Thomas Cole of Yewelchester, to Alexander de la Lynde and others – a plot of ground with appurtenants, in Yewelchester; lying at the end of Venella, called Abbey Lane, nearly opposite to the House of the Preaching Friars in the same town. The plot 66 feet long, and 22 feet wide. Also to the same Alexander and others, a site and curtil. of a burgage in the same town, situate between the aforesaid plot and the tenem^t which Thomas Broune of Tyntenhulle held of him (Abbot) Nich^{as} Coker, Henry Gryndelle who wrote this deed – and others. May 9. 2nd rear, Hen. VI.”

Among the Fabric Rolls of Wells Cathedral there occurs the name of John de Tyntenhull, and who was certainly officially connected to the Cathedral. The roll to which attention is invited bears date A.D.1390. John Bonyngton was then Master of the Fabric. Under the head ‘Oblations’ this John Bonyngton answers for £4 16s. 72d., received from the box of Sir Ralph Ergham, late Bishop, as set forth by Indenture between John Tyntenhul and John Bonyngton, made thereon. Under the head ‘Sales,’ the accountant answers for many sums, among others, “For 17s. 4d., received from John Tyntenhulle for free stone sold to him.” Under the head ‘Legacies,’ “For 3s. 4d., left by Christina Hobekyne of Croscombe, by the hands of John Tyntenhulle: For 12d., left by two men of Weston, by the hands of John Tyntenhulle.”

Evidently this individual was either of Tintinhull or in some way connected with this place, and I cannot help connecting him with a John Stone whose ancient brass still is to be seen in the church. The inscription is as follows:-

“Hic jacet Johes Stone quondam Rector huius rectie qui obit xxiv die mense Octobris Anno Dmi MCCCCXIV. Cuius *ale ppietur ds* (?). Amen.”

“Here lies John Stone, sometime Rector of this Rectory, who died the 24th October, 1414. On whose spirit may God have mercy. Amen.”

If it be objected that the name Stone does not appear on the Fabric Roll, it is to be observed that persons were very often spoken of as being of such and such a place, though, when at home their proper surname would be given; and the dates, 1390 and 1414, are certainly near enough to admit of the reference being to the same person.

From this time there is no need to go further than the Church books themselves for information about the parish, as from the date 1432 we go on in unbroken sequence. The Churchwardens’ Accounts are bound in two volumes; they were put into this form by one Thomas Napper, in the year 1723, and he tells us that the cost for the new binding was 4s. These books enlighten us on many subjects – such as the fabric of the Church, the ornaments of the Church, the property, the servants, the customs, and many things of interesting detail. The comparative value of these accounts may be gathered by placing them beside others which have been brought to light. Thus, St Michael’s, Bath, extends from 1349 to 1575; Yatton, from 1445 to 1601; Bishop’s Stortford, from 1431 to 1440, and then from 1482 to 1582; While Tintinhull extends from 1432 to 1678.

The growth and alteration of the Church of Tintinhull is very interesting to trace out, but I will not go further into this than to give as examples one or two changes, as recorded in the Church books, and these will enable any one to form a general idea as to its character and antiquity. The windows are, seemingly, all insertions, except one. The beautiful west window is clearly such, as we see that it was carried out in the time of Edward IV, 1464. In 1446, three alabaster slabs, for three separate altars were purchased, and in 1452 the old rood loft was taken down and a new one put in its place; and in 1511 we have the payment to the carpenter, for making those boldly executed bench ends, still to be seen in the Church. As in these early times restoration and repair was so greatly needed, we can form an idea somewhat of the centuries through which it has passed. The Manor House adjoins the churchyard, the buildings which formed the Church-house are still to be seen. Wherefore, bearing these things in mind, it will be no difficult task to fill in what may be wanting in this, necessarily, skeleton form. The quotations from the Church books which I submit, will come, perhaps, with greater acceptance if left to their own native force and character.

Copy of one of the headings

“The account of William Streache and John Aste, keepers of the goods of the Church of Tyntenhell. From the feast of Easter in the reign of Henry VI the XI year to the same feast in the year following XII.”

1433-1461.

	Collection for wax light	...	...	...	...	iijs ^s	v ^d
	Profit of Wm Streache’s brewing	...	...	...	...	vjs ^s	viijs ^d
Spent-	In the wax light	...	...	...	...	iijs ^s	x ^d
	In the visitation	...	...	...	...	vjs ^s	
	In binding an ordinal	...	...	...	...		x ^d
	In washing the veils	...	...	...	...		j ^d
	In oil j cord	...	...	...	...		viijs ^d
	In a laten box for placing the Corpus X ^{ri}	...	...	...	...	x ^s	
	Paid to John the Chaplain for celebrating						
	For the souls of benefactors	...	...	...	...		viijs ^d
	A brewing – a gift	...	...	...	...	xx ^s	
	Gifts of wheat, oats, and malted bras	...	...	...	...	xxx ^s	ij ^d
	Sale of a bullock	...	...	...	...		xij ^d
	A lente cloth	...	...	...	...	xiv ^s	ij ^d
Receipts-	Fine from some Martock men for trespass						

in the Marsh done to tenants of Tintinhull...	iijs	iiij ^d
For a bullock delivered to Jno. Helyar ...	ij ^s	
For a cow delivered to Jno. Smyth of Ashe ...	ij ^s	
Do. Do. To Jno. Gylle		xx ^d
Expenses-		
Mowing 1/2 acre of wheat		vj ^d
For oil and clouting lether		ij ^d
For hemmying altar cloth		
For a capon		iiij ^d
A chalice xxx ^s ; a cross of copper gilt xxj ^s ; as appears by oath "per sacram computi."		
For washing altar cloths and kerchiefs of the images		
To the Lord Prior John for chief rent of bakehouse (John Bennett)		vij ^d
Hire of a cow ij ^d ; and from her hide when dead		xij ^d
Two bullocks bought this year (1438) Pro stauo Eccl ^{ae} x ^d each.		
Sale of a calf	ij ^s	vj ^d
IX bushels of wheat "bo't ad valeciaui Eccl ^{ae} " xij ^d per bush.		
John Bokebynder of Martock for binding A missal and a portiforium	ij ^s	
Legacy from Sir Jno. Hody, K ^t	vj ^s	viiij ^d
Gift of a red bull, value	vj ^s	viiij ^d
From a sale of the corn crop in the moor by consent of the Lord and tenants of the Manor for the support of the Church	x ^s	
In stock, bull, and ewe.		
The fleece of the ewe		iiij ^d
100 ^{lbs} of lead sold to the 'procurator' of the Brotherhood of St. Mary of Tyntenhill		
A gift of a girdle (zona) of green silk, silvered, value	x ^s	
The ewe sold for	j ^s	iiij ^d
Gift of a girdle, harnessed with silver, and a brazen pot	ix ^s	vij ^d
An alabaster slab sold to Rob ^t Sherane		xij ^d
The bull (<i>i.e.</i> his flesh) sold to divers	v ^s	
Bread and beer for the laundresses who gave their services		
Bequest from Friar Bartholemew of Ilchester	iijs	iv ^d
Sale in detail of material of old Rood loft From 5 parishioners, profit of a Christmas play	vj ^s	viiij ^d
From J. Gylle; collector of the King's XV th		
For 40 new Judaces, ligna ad portanda huminaria stantia coram alta cruce		x ^d
A slab of alabaster	ij ^s	ix ^d

	The shrouding of the bakehouse garden						
	Trees sold for...	...	...	...		viiij ^d	
	Hyve of bees (a legacy)	...	...	...		iiij ^d	
	The clerk called the 'Aquaе bajulus'	...	...	...
	Painting Rood loft. Repairs to Vestments						
	Debtors' names posted up	...	...	...
1462-1482							
	'De hogelers' light'	...	...	...	j ^s	x ^d	
	A pax iiij ^d 'Wekeyurne' (wick-yarn) and 'acsmigia' (some kind of greese for oiling the clock)...	...	...	...
	The profits of bakehouse farmed at	...	...	...	x ^s		
	Dinner for the auditor	...	...	...		ij ^d	
	2 zones bo't for the Chaplain	...	...	...
	J ^d for making the Prycatts burning in the Church	...	...	...
	A citula for Holy water	...	...	...
	Linen cloth for hanging before the High cross	...	...	...	ij ^s	vj ^d	
	To the Tything Men of Yeovil	...	...	...
	j Cophino for carrying the Holy loaf	...	...	...		iiij ^d	
	A surplice for the Priest	...	...	...	ix ^s	viiij ^d	
	For the Clerk	...	...	...	ij ^s	iiij ^d	
	3 for . . . . .	...	...	...
	Wintering and summering the Church						
	Cowe	...	...	...		ij ^d	
	Keeping of Calfe from mid winter to after Easter	...	...	...		vj ^d	
	Received for Church ale	...	...	...	vij ^s		
	For 'Church lofe'	...	...	...	v ^s	vj ^d	
	The oven let for private bakings	...	...	...	viiij ^s		
	In stock, a cowe, viij ^s ; a gown, and a crock.						
Expenses –							
	'Bedrowyll' (Beadroll) to the Priest at iiij tymes	...	...	...		xij ^d	
	Making of ye owven (oven) and all that langeth thereto	...	...	...	viiij ^s	viiij ^d	
	Diriges and Masses for the founders	...	...	...
	5 Rings in stock	...	...	...
1483-1497.							
	(The scribe here is altogether puzzled about his dates; And all through the time of Richard III)						
	The winter keep of the cow	...	...	...	j ^s	iiij ^d	
	'Pro le wyllyng of the walete	...	...	...		iiij ^d	
	Pro syling (ceiling) ecc ^{la}	...	...	...
	'Scafet' (scaffold) for painting high cross	...	...	...	vj ^s	viiij ^d	
	Painting one 'mappe'	...	...	...	ij ^s	iiij ^d	
1497	Cow and calf sold for	...	...	...	ix ^s	iiij ^d	
	From private brewing	...	...	...	iiij ^s	iiij ^d	
	A sakering belle	...	...	...		ij ^d	
	The 'olde bakehouse' is let for a rent of iiij ^s yearly	...	...	...

	The new one 'padoxatorium,' with its brewing gear, brings profits from private brewings	vj ^s	viiij ^d
	Baking of the Holy Loaf, "Panis Eccliasi- asticus		
	In Emendand 1 Cowle stockes		v ^d
	Visitations and carrying the banner		
1498	In stock 3 rings 1 silver do.	x ^s	
	5 Silver pieces		
	2 Flammers, 1 Silver-gilt ring, 1 Garuyah of pewter vessel, ring with silver buckle, No live stock		
	Expenses—		
	Incense, anniversaries, care of clock, wax lights		
	A book	xiv ^s	iiij ^d
	Sale of 4 bushels of wheat (a gift)		
	Loan of a dozen 'pattela'		
	The Holy loaf (constantly mentioned) Thomas, Prior of Montacute, and Rector For the Bailiffs' brewing in 'domo pan- doxatorii		
	Rent from Agnes Cokke for her chamber In the 'padoxatorio'		
	(A fly-leaf, with particulars of the cost of the old porch.)		
	Thomas Prydyll		
Item-	For ij loades off stope stonys	ij ^s	iiij ^d
	For ye helying stonys fett (fetched) at Hardyngton for ye porch	v ^s	iiij ^d
	For makyne ye bartine wall	v ^s	viiij ^d
	For costyge (custagia) at vysytatyone		xx ^d
	For borde naylys		ij ^d
	For beryg off ye banner		ij ^d
	For frankysens		
	For ye pascall taper	ij ^s	iiij ^d
	For one bawdry		xiiij ^d
		xviiij ^s	xj ^d
Item-	Payd to plumr for mendyg off ye lede Of Chyrche	vij ^s	
	Payd to the helyer for ye covering of ye porche	v ^s	
	For lyme		xi ^d
	For bell ropys	iiij ^s	
	For wax for ye trendyll		vij ^d
	Sope		iiij ^d
	For lathys to cov ^r ye porche		x ^d
	For lathy nayls		v ^d
	Summa hujus billae ...	xxxiiij ^s	x ^d

Remaineth in stock of the Church iij Rings
 and v lytell peses of silver and in peyse
 money ij^s vij^d et unum annulum argenti
 iij ex legato Edith Hogge, et unum
 andfyld (anvii) ex legatione W^m Smyth.

Pair of vestments xvij^s iij^d
 A gift from Thomas Solubrensis¹

(1). Thomas Solubrensis was a bishop *in partibus*, bearing that title. He was Abbot of Montacute, and held (with William, Bishop of Megara, who was the Abbot of Bruton and Vicar of South Petherton) the office of co-suffragen to John Clerk, Bishop of Bath and Wells, during his protracted absences on the continent, from 1523 to 1527, whilst engaged in confidential missions from King Henry VIII and Cardinal Wolsey. – Cassan's *Lives of the Bishops of Bath and Wells*, pp. 443-447.

	The said accomptant axsit	...	...	...
	Allowances for one new clocke this year					
	Bought	...	...	...	xxxij ^s	iiij ^d
	Wyre for the same; for men with meat and drink to sette her uppe	...	...	...
	For half the price of the Bible this year bought	...	...	...	vj ^s	v ^d
1547	Paid to the Vicar for the 'grate Dirige' From Margarett Crotte for her knell to be rougge	...	...	...		xij ^d
	Chaynets for the Bible	...	...	...		iiij ^d
						ij ^d

From the first year of Edward VI to the last year of Elizabeth, the books of churchwardens' accounts are used for irregular and imperfect entries. For a time it seems to have been used as a Vestry Book, recording the names of wardens elected, and the inventories of the goods transferred from warden to warden.

	An old tyninge (tinnen) bottle, exchanged For pewter standing pott for wine.					
1614	Item. Paid for a bible for the said church, from one Mr. Holme, in London, 48 ^s ; and paid for a Communion book at the same time, vij ^s					
	Also paid for the carriage of the said books and a packcloth to paicke them for saving of them in carriage from London to us, and for the carriage of letters from us to the said Mr. Holme	...	...	...	iiij ^s	vij ^d
1615	Received of Tho ^s Brown for the old Church Bible, sold by consent of the parishioners	...	...	...	xij ^s	iiij ^d
1619	For nailes to amend the great bell and little bell when Thomas Tucker was married	...	...	...
	Item. For a book for the 5 th November					vj ^d
1613	To Thomas Gilbert, for singing	...	...	...		vj ^d
	Item. Paid to John Mabbard for timber and workmanship about the seat for the Vicar to read prayer in, xxvij ^s ; and for					

	nailes and ‘Jemmeys,’	...	...	...	ij ^s	
1614	The first rate made, 1 ^d the acre	...	...	...
	For carrying cripples from tything to tything	...	...	...
	Churchwardens excommunicated.					
	For a pound of gunpowder	...	...	...		xvj ^d
	To Peter Tucker, for whipping the dogs out of Church	...	...	...
	Laid out for new making the silver cup	...	...	...	iiij ^s	vj ^d
1629	2 ¹ / ₂ quarts of wine at xvj ^d a quart, and one penny loaf, against Whitsunday	...	...	...
	A rate for bread and wine made and collected	...	...	...
	Churchwarden excommunicated again.					
	Setting up of the King’s arms and sentences of scripture, xl ^s (A.D.1634.)					
1639	Relief given to a minister that travelled				j ^s	vj ^d
	An impotent woman; a cripple, to buy salve					
	Two surplices the troopers did take them out of the Church and cut them in pieces, and the poor of the parish had the pieces.”					

The above was the last entry of Adam Farnham, Vicar. Many more entries of an interesting character might be given, but perhaps sufficient have been quoted for the purpose with which I started. I have endeavoured in the foregoing selection to give only what may be regarded as illustrative or peculiar. The gifts from offerings in kind to offerings in money; from voluntary gifts to general rates; the monopoly of the brewing by the Churchwardens; the administration of relief, and the local as well as national reflex of custom, law, and life, are matters all more or less touched upon, and deserving of thought and comparison.

Among the papers which came to light with the ancient Church books, is a copy of Abstract of Title to the Rectory of Tintinhull:-

“The Title of the Parsonage and Rectory of Tintinhull”

“Henry VIII 20th of his reign

Granted a Licence to the said Prior of Montacute and Convent to appropriate the Parsonage of Tintinhull to their own use.

“4th Sept^r Henry VIII 21st of his reign,

John, then Bishop of Bath and Wells at the instance and petition of the said Prior and Convent, etc., bearing date the 4th Sep., 21 Henry VIII, by virtue of the said License, with the consent of the said Prior and Convent and Chapter of Bath, and with the consent of the Dean and Chapter of Wells, and the Archdeacon of Wells, and all others having interest, did appoint all the said Parsonage and all the Tithes and Oblations and Profits whatsoever, to the use of the said Prior and Convent and their successors for ever, and made a Vicarage, with an House, Orchard, Garden, and Close, and one acre of Meadow in New Mead, and £10 yearly to be paid out of the said Parsonage.

“Per letters Patent in the Record in the Treasury of the Cathedral of Exeter.

“Confirmed by the Chapter of Bath, and confirmed by the Dean and Chapter, 3rd Jan., 27th Henry VII.

“N. The said Parsonage was appropriated but 8 years 5 months and odd days before the surrender thereof, which was 20th March, 30th Henry VIII, and was dissolved by Act of Parliament in June following, the said King charging his Right in April 31st.

“24th July, 36th Henry VIII.

The said King granted the said Parsonage to Sir W^m Petre for 21 years for the rent of £7 8^s 10^d; and the said W^m to pay the Vicar £10 0^s 0^d: and unto the Bishop of Bath and Wells and his successors yearly, 6^s 8^d.

“37th Henry VIII.

Granted the Fee Simple to George Ackworth and Edward Butler.

“16th Jan., 37th Henry VIII

Ackworth and Butler alienate to Elizabeth Darrell, Francis her son, and John Mason, for the use of Elizabeth Darrell for her life, and at her decease to the use of the said Francis, and to his heirs lawfully begotten; and for want of such issue, to the use of Sir Thomas Wyatt.

“N. Elizabeth died and Francis her son, without issue; by whose deaths the Parsonage came to Sir Thomas Wyatt, who in the first year of Mary, was attainted of treason.

“20th March, 37th Henry VIII.

Sir W^m Petre assigns the term of 21 years to Edward Napper of Oxford, Brother of Nicholas Napper.

“N. Upon the attainder of the said Sir Thomas Wyatt the reversion of the Parsonage came to Queen Mary, and afterwards to Queen Elizabeth.

“12th April, 2^{do} Reign Queen Elizabeth.

The said Parsonage, by Letters Patent, was granted to Thomas Reve and George Evely, by way of License for sale for serving charges, as was apprehended because Nicholas Napper, the Purchaser, paid his purchase money to the Queen.

“Reve and Evelyn release Thomas Napper.

“Nicholas Napper grants the said Parsonage to James and Lancelot. Lancelot grants his moiety of the Parsonage to Robert Napper of the Middle Temple.

“Robert Lancelot and James grant the said Parsonage to Thomas Napper, eldest son and heir of Nicholas Napper”

The abstract of title to the Rectory and Parsonage of Tintinhull here closes. But it will be seen that the Nappers hereby became owners of the Fee Simple as well as holders of the original lease for twenty-one years, granted by Henry VIII. From this period the ownership of the impropriation went on in one unbroken line, till it passed into the possession of the Arbuthnotts' in the beginning of this century. The brasses and monuments to the memory of various members of the Napper or Napier family furnish us with a very full and interesting record of the succession of the property; first of the Rectory of Tintinhull, and afterwards of the Manor. The dates and inscriptions take us from 1579 to 1781. I believe I am right in saying that the Nappers here mentioned form the most ancient branch of the Napiers. In fact I am informed that Somersetshire was the cradle of this noble family.

Between the lines of these ancient abstracts there are glimpses to be had of the piety, customs, and usages of our forefathers. In looking at them, we are, as it were, beholding a photograph, taken under unfavourable circumstances: there is wanting, light here and sharpness there; but sufficient features of distinctness, however, are present, to enable us to trace out the original, and institute comparisons between the past and the present.

I should fail in this short notice, did I not mention the deep obligations I am under to several Members of the Somersetshire Archaeological Society for help given in culling the foregoing extracts and ideas, and I avail myself of this opportunity to here tender my humble and grateful acknowledgements.