

The
HISTORY
FLAX BOURTON

BY

THE REV. GEORGE S. MASTER, M.A.

Edited by Robert J Evered



Nailsea and District Local History Society thanks Robert J Evered for offering this transcription of *Master's History of Flax Bourton*. Although the parish is just outside our normal area of interest it seems churlish not to make it available to those whose interests occasionally wander beyond parish boundaries.

Peter Wright
Editor and Publisher
N&DLHS

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FLAX BOURTON

Occupying the centre of a fertile valley, which extends from the river Avon at Bristol on the East to the Bristol Channel between Clevedon and Weston-Super-Mare on the West, and bounded on the North and South by picturesque well-wooded ranges of mountain limestone resting upon red sandstone, the Parish of Flax Bourton, notwithstanding its insignificance in size and importance, as compared with its adjoining neighbours, is rich in natural advantages. I note with approval the colour of its soil, and recal the satisfactory testimony to its value of no less an authority than Dr. Buckland, who, speaking to our Society in 1849, assured his audience that "let the soil be red and the soil will never be bad; let gentlemen buy their estates, and not sell them, upon the red soil."¹

The area of the Parish, comprising only 590 acres,² includes the beautiful limestone gorge known as Bourton Combe, with its grey precipices on either side, indigenous yew and elder trees growing out of the crannies of the stone, while from the summit is an extensive prospect, the city of Bristol, with the ranges of Dundry and Lansdown, the Bristol Channel, and the mountains of Wales, the slopes of Clevedon and Ashton, and the hanging woods of nearer Tyntesfield. A nameless rivulet taking its rise at Barrow, flows westward to the Severn sea at Clevedon, and is joined at irregular periods, by an intermittent stream springing out of the limestone of the Combe, and thence called 'Stan' or Stone 'combe.' The high road from Bristol to Weston-super-Mare, and the main line of the Great Western Railway to Exeter, bisect the Parish from East to West.

Its name is no doubt correctly explained as a 'ton' or village protected by a 'burgh,' or fence, at a period when the adjoining country was unenclosed, and as there is no evidence of any special cultivation of flax, to account for the prefix of that syllable, we may accept the assurance of the Historians of the County that it was appended to distinguish that amongst several Bourtons in which the Cistercian Abbey of Flaxley in Gloucestershire possessed territorial interest,³ having obtained, in exchange for other lands at Regil, in the Parish of Winford, a farm still known as the 'Priory Farm,' and containing at that time about one hundred acres. A recent privately-printed history of Flaxley Abbey, the careful work of Sir Thomas Crawley--Boevey, Bart., its present possessor, makes no addition to this scanty notice, with which we must therefore be contented. The farm is now the property of Antony Gibbs, of Tyntesfield, Esq. There is nothing about the existing buildings to indicate any connection with a Religious House.

There were some distinguished persons named 'de Bourton' more or less connected with the neighbouring city of Bristol, as, for instance Simon de Bourton, Senesehal, in 1290, Mayor in 1291, 1294, 1302, 1304, and 1305, and Founder of the Eastern portion and Tower of the Church Mary Redcliffe⁴: John Burtone, Bailiff of Bristol, 1391, Sheriff 1418, Mayor 1423, 1429, 1448, 1450; and William Burton, penultimate Abbot of the Monastery of S. Augustine, 1534-7, whose 'rebus,' a 'bur' issuing out of a 'tun,' is carved upon the reredos of the Cathedral, and may without impropriety be taken as significant of the locality from which, not impossibly, his surname was derived.

Flax Bourton has absolutely no manorial history, having been a 'member' only of the important Manor of Wraxall, and having shared the vicissitudes and changes of ownership of its manorial head, through the families of de Wrockshale, Morville, Gorges, Codrington, Bampfylde, &c., Sir Greville Smyth, Bart., and William Gibbs, of Tyntesfield, Esq., being later representatives of its more important land owners. Unmentioned in Domesday, it is styled in subsequent documents 'Hamleta de Burton,' and in the 'Nomina Villarum' of Edward 11., 1315-16, 'Bratton.'

From 'the Exchequer Lay Subsidies' of I Edward I. Edward 111., 1327-8, we obtain the following list of its inhabitants and their assessments at that date⁵:

BORYTON.

Surname, forename,	Shillings ^(s.) & pence ^(d.)
Atte Mulle Walterus	xij ^{d.}
Atte Mulle Johannes	xij ^{d.}
Atte Welle Adamus	ij ^{s.}
Berd Robertus	xij ^{d.}
Chark Willelmus	vj ^{d.}
French Robertus le	xij ^{d.}
Galopyn Richardus	xij ^{d.}
Huidiche Rogerus	xij ^{d.}
Hurdwyche Willelmus	xij ^{d.}
Jacob Johannes	xij ^{d.}
Nel Thomas	xviiij ^{d.}
Pech, Johannes	vj ^{s.} vijj ^{d.}
Smoddyng Johannes	vj ^{d.}
Smythe, Willelmus le	xviiij ^{d.}
Uphulle Thomas	ij ^{s.}
Vrench Johannes le	iiij ^{s.}
Summa xx ^e villate predicte	Total: xxv ^{s.} vijj ^{d.}

In 1532, John Blanche, of Burtown, bequeaths to the chappell of Burtown a bushel of whete, and the same to the churches of Wraxall and Barow.⁶

In 1533, William Jenyns, of Burton, gives to “his gostly (ghostly) father Sir William Webster” (Chaplain of Bourton) iij^{d.} and ij drays of wood.

In 1644 Bourton had to contribute £6. 5^{s.} 0^{d.} towards £121 levied on the Hundred of Portbury for the maintenance of the King’s garrisons at Bristol, Bath, and elsewhere in the West.

In 1813 an Act was passed for enclosing waste lands in Wraxall, Nailsea, and Bourton (53 George III., Cap. 60). There were at that time in Bourton 67 acres of common or waste lands.

The population of Bourton in 1821 was 192, in 1831 219. In 1881 it was 175, and in 1891 211. There has been little variation therefore in the present century.

The field names⁷, which are sometimes suggestive, are in our case of little interest, ‘Linterns,’ ‘Burgums,’ ‘Chard’s,’ and ‘Filer’s,’ being probably those of former tenails, ‘Pigsfoot’⁸ inexplicable, and ‘Bubble Ground’ the source of one of the intermittent springs common in limestone districts.

Among the landowners, the family of Tynte, whose principal seats were at Chelvey and Wraxall, were, at an early period, proprietors and residents here. In 1542, John Tynte, of Wraxall, Franklin,⁹ and in 1577, Edmund Tynte, of Backwell, yeoman, left small bequests to the Church of Bourton. In 1550, John Tynte, of Long Ashton, appointed his cousin William Tynte, of Bourton, guardian to his daughter. In 1570, Edmund Tinte, of Wraxall, yeoman, bequeathed to his son William Tinte, lands at Bourton. In 1616, John Tynte of the Middle Temple, Esq., left a legacy to his cousin, William Tynte, of Bourton.¹⁰ The Arms of Tynte were ‘Gules, a lion couchant between six crosses crosslet argent.’ Crest, on a mount vert a unicorn azure sejant, crined and unguled or.’

Connected with the Tyntes by marriage was the family of Cockes or Coxe, of whom Robert was of Bourton in 1550; John, described as of Borton, yeoman, in his will 1594, mentioned his sons Robert, John, and George, and, his brother, Robert Coxe, of Winscomb, Another John Coxe, of Over Langford, in the Parish of Churchill, who married Mary, daughter of John Tuxwell, of Spaxton, and relict of Rattle, by his will 1628 directed that his eldest son Francis should enjoy the lands assured in jointure to his mother at Flax Bourton. And the same Francis, or a namesake of his, described as of Sidcott in Winscombe, gent, by his will, 1687, devised an annuity out of lands at Bourton, to his grandson, Francis Redman. In 1656, Letters of Administration were granted to Ann, relict of Matthew Cox, of Bourton. There were two contemporary William Coxes, one of Fayland (Will 1678), the other of Long Ashton (Will 1651).¹¹ This last, whose wife's name was Hester, purchased Gatcombe Manor from Sir Nicholes Halswell, in 1623,¹² and left it to his eldest son, Francis Cox, gent, who by his wife Sarah, daughter of Mr. Sergeant Clowes (Will 1653), had an only child, Francis Cox, of Long Ashton, gent, to whom it descended on his father's death, in 1646.¹³ This second Francis married Joan, and had two daughters and co-heiresses. Sarah the elder inherited Gatcombe Court, and died in 1704,¹⁴ having married Richard Cooke, their son Joseph Cooke afterwards alienating his mother's property, which passed by subsequent re-sale to Francis Sparrow, Esq., whose son James Sparrow, Esq., of Bourton, married Rachel Cox, the younger sister, and became possessed in her right of the second moiety of Gatcombe Manor, which was thus re-united in the Sparrow family. It is likely that the Coxe family above mentioned was the same as that of Cockes of Chelworth, the old name of Chelwood in this county, a pedigree of whom is in the Visitation of Somerset, 1623.¹⁵ The Arms of the two are identical, 'Gules a spur leather and buckle or, on a chief argent three cock's heads erased of the field combed and wattled or.'

The Sparrows do not seem to have been a Somersetshire family, although the name occurs occasionally, one John Sparowe appearing as early as 1460 as one of the jurors at an inquisition respecting the Manor of Bairow Gurney.¹⁶ They came very probably from Essex, in the Visitations of which County their pedigrees occur.¹⁷ Their Arms were 'Argent, three roses gules seeded and barbed vert, a chief of the second.'¹⁸ Their crest 'Out of a mural crown or a unicorn's head argent, armed and crined or.' The Bourton branch deriving their property from the Coxes may perhaps be styled the Coxe-Sparrows. There is another, of Bishton, in Staffordshire, known as the Brown-Sparrows. The first of whom I have any information as connected with Bourton, is Francis Sparrow, Esq., already mentioned, with whose eldest son, James Sparrow, Esq., described as of Bourton, we are now concerned. He it was who married Rachel Cox, as aforesaid, and by her, — who was buried at Bourton, 1734¹⁹ — had issue, two sons and four daughters, by his will, 1723²⁰ (he was buried 1724)²¹ he left to his wife Rachel "a tenement called the Bell Inn, and lands in Bourton for life, remainders to his sons John and Francis, and to his daughters Sarah and Joane." To John he left "his share of the Manor of Gatecombe," and to Francis "the mill in Bourton and Wraxall." Of John, I have no further information, nor of the eldest daughter, of whose name I am ignorant. Sarah, the second, was buried at Long Ashton, 1750, æt 61. Rachel, the third, married at Bourton, 1711, Isaac Martindale, of Wraxall, gent, and had issue a daughter, 'Sparrow' (who married at Bourton, 1743, the Rev. Giles Hill, Rector of Heminton), and a son, James. She was buried at Wraxall, 1743.²³ Joane, the 4th daughter, was buried at Long Ashton, 1745, æ 48. Francis Sparrow, the surviving son, married in 1730, Sarah Smith, of London (who died 1758), and by her had seven children, who died in infancy, and one surviving son, James Sparrow, Esq. He married Letitia, only daughter of Thomas Popham, Esq., of West Bagborough, Somerset (who died 1838 æt 92, and was buried at Long Ashton), and deceased in 1804, æt 62, having had two sons and eight daughters. Of the latter Sarah was baptized at Bourton 1765, and buried here 1844 æt 79; Letitia baptized here 1767 and died 1828 æt 61; Henrietta, baptized here 1771, buried here 1853 æt 82; Lucey, baptized here 1775; Louisa, baptized here 1779, married here 1818 to Joseph Fisher, Esq.; Charlotte, baptized here 1783, died 1803, æt 25; Caroline, baptized here 1784, buried here 1853, æt 69; Frances Harriet, baptized here, 1785, married here 1812 to the Rev. Charles Mordaunt, buried here 1866 æt 80. Of the sons, Francis Sparrow, baptized at Bourton, 1781, died in infancy; while James the survivor, baptized here 1768, was in Holy Orders, Chaplain of Barrow Gurney 1802—29, and dying in 1829, was buried at Long Ashton. By Frances Maria, his wife, daughter of Colonel Latterback, of the Danish Army, (who died 1798 æt 29 and was buried at Long

Ashton) he had issue Letitia Winifred, baptized at Bourton 1796, buried here 1879 æt 83; and James, only son, baptized here 1798, buried here s.p. 1863 æt 67.²²

Thus the Sparrows of Flax Bourton came to an end. They were large proprietors both in the Parish and neighbourhood, owning Bourton Combe, where still remain the boundary stones between their lands and those of the Gores, 'the Castle,' at which they resided, Backwell House, Gatcombe Court, and Ashton Hill. The three last mentioned were sold by Mr. Sparrow, and the Bourton property passed under his will, after the decease in 1879 of his sister, Miss Letitia Sparrow, to the children of the Rev. John Matthew and Charlotte Letitia, his wife, the latter youngest child and only daughter of the Rev. Charles Mordaunt, by Frances Harriet, his wife, youngest daughter of James Sparrow, Esq., as already stated.

I am indebted to Dr. Mordaunt Matthew for the following particulars of his family, which was of Devon, descended from David Matthew, standard-bearer to Edward IV. William Matthew, of Exeter, 1661, was father of the Rev. Nathaniel Matthew, Vicar of Holbeton, Devon, whose wife was Mary Pierce. Their son, Philip Matthew, of Chudleigh, in the same county, married Margaret Hugo, and had issue, the Rev. John Matthew, Rector of Kilve, in the county of Somerset, who by his wife, Mary Codrington, had issue, the Rev. John Matthew, Rector of Chelvey. The Arms of Matthew are 'Sable a lion rampant argent armed and langued gules.' Crest, 'a moorcock ppr.' Some branches bear 'an escallop shell' as crest. The Matthew family did not remain here long. They resided for a short time at 'the Castle,' which, after her husband's death, Mrs. Matthew, with the concurrence of her children, sold, together with the rest of the Sparrow property, to Antony Gibbs, of Tyntesfield, Esq, its present proprietor. The children were: (1) Charles Mordaunt Matthew, baptized at Chelvey, Feb. 9th, 1840, M.D., residing at Tooting. (2) Caroline Frances Winifred Matthew, baptized at Chelvey, May 3rd, 1844, (3) Henry Mordaunt Matthew, baptized at Chelvey, March 2nd, 1854, 5th Fusiliers, married Victoria Seymour, but died s.p. (4) Margaret Mice Matthew, baptized at Chelvey, July 28th, 1856, married a son of the Rev. Glover. (5) Lucy Anne Matthew, married at Chelvey, April 13th, 1841, the Rev. Samuel Francis Cumberlege, Rector of St. Paul's, Covent Garden.²⁴

The Rev. Charles Mordaunt, above mentioned, was Rector of Badgworth, in this County, and only son of the Rev. Charles Mordaunt, Rector of Massingham, Norfolk, second son of Sir Charles Mordaunt, sixth Bart., by Sophia, his second wife, only daughter of Sir John Wodehouse, Bart. The Rev. Charles Mordaunt married in 1774 Charlotte, daughter of Sir Philip Musgrave, Bart., and died in 1820, leaving an only son, the Rev. Charles Mordaunt, Rector of Badgworth, as aforesaid, who died 1828, æt 47.²⁵ By his wife, Frances Harriet, née Sparrow, he had four sons and one daughter. The former were: (1) Charles, in Holy Orders, who succeeded his father in the Rectory of Badgworth, and died s.p. in 1861. (2) John, of whom presently. (3) Henry, Lieut. 46th Regt., died at Barbados, s.p. 1842. (4) James died young, buried at Long Ashton, 1828. The daughter, Charlotte Letitia, married at Flax Bourton, 1839, the Rev. John Matthew, Rector of Chelvey, 1831-86, and left issue, as already stated. John Mordaunt, second and only surviving son, baptized at Backwell, 1814, in the 17th Lancers, J.P. for the County of Somerset, married 1843, at Heath, in the County of Bedford, Harriet Maria, daughter of Captain John Cumberlege, and by her (who died 1849, and was buried at Long Ashton)²⁵ had issue: (1) James Sparrow Mordaunt, of whom presently. (2) Francis Lionel Mordaunt, late 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, married at Pelham, New York, 1889, Sara Elliott Marshall, and has issue, Elizabeth Morris. (3), John Mordaunt, late R.N. 4, Mildred Mordaunt, married at flax Bourton, 1868, " the Rev. George Henry Gibbs, Rector of Hutton, Somerset, and has issue. James Sparrow Mordaunt, the eldest son, born. 1843, Lieut.-Col. late Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment, married 1872, at Clifton Hampden, in the county of Oxon, Harriet Theresa, daughter of the Rev. Joseph Gibbs, of Belmont, in the Parish of Wraxall, Somerset, and Rector of Clifton Hampden, and has issue: (1) John Francis Cumberlege Mordaunt, born 1881. (2) Charles Stanley Mordaunt, born 1886. (3) Harriet Emily Mordaunt. (4) Mildred Dorothea Mordaunt. (5) Helan Mary Mordaunt. John Mordaunt, 17th Lancers, married secondly at Hockliffe, in the county of Bedford, Isabella, daughter of F. N. Balmain, Esq., Madras Cavalry, and by her had issue: (1) Harry Mordaunt, married 1875, at Thorney, in the county of Cambridge, Annie, daughter of the Rev. Joshua Cautley, Rector of that parish, and has issue, Osbert, born 1876, Guy, John, Henry Cumberlege, Julian Musgrave,

Penelope Katherine. (2) Charles Mordaunt. (3) Philip Mordaunt. (4) Harriet Isabel Mordaunt, married 1886 at Barnstaple, W. Foord Kelcey, Esq. Barrister at Law, and has issue. (5) Katherine Mordaunt. John Mordaunt died at Norton Fitzwarren, in the county of Somerset, 1881. The Arms of the family are 'Argent, a chevron between three estoiles sable.' Their crest, 'A blackamoor's head a fronté coupé at the shoulders ppr. banded with a wreath round the temples or and gules, and ribands of the same.'

I purposely refrain from attempting to trace the pedigree of the Gores, because, although they were landowners at Bourton, their principal seat and property were in the adjoining parish of Barrow Gurney, under which head they will be properly be included.

There are two old houses in the village, possibly of Elizabethan date, the hostelry, which stands opposite to the Church, and derives its sign of "The Angel" from the dedication thereof, and the gabled farmhouse occupied by Mr. Hiatt, to which may perhaps be added the adjoining cottage.

The three largest residences in the village, 'Bourton Court,' 'Bourton Grange,' and 'The Castle,' are unfortunate in their designations, which may possibly be misleading, the first suggesting a Court leet, which could not have been held where no Manor existed the second a monastic homestead, although at no time connected with a religious house; the third possessing an appellation of which no intelligent explanation can be given. But as it would now be productive of confusion to interfere with or to alter names, which employed in deeds and maps are, to some extent stereotyped by usage, it may suffice to add that none of the existing owners or occupiers are in any way responsible for them. All the three houses are substantial structures built of the local limestone, which containing an intermixture of sand-stone, is warm and picturesque in coloring.

"Bourton Court" was at one time the residence of the Gore family, proprietors of the adjoining property of Barrow Court, affording a warmer and more sheltered winter residence than their larger mansion on the hill above. The origin of the title 'Court,' although of some antiquity, is unknown. It would seem at first sight that the Coat of Arms over the entrance doorway would indicate at once its builder and its date, but the style of architecture is hardly compatible with this conclusion, for the shield is that of Colonel William Gore, M.P. for Somerset, who married in 1783 the daughter and heiress of Joseph Langton, of Newton Park, Esq., and on that occasion assumed by royal permission the surname and arms of Langton. He was not then the owner, but the occupier of the house, which belonged to his father, and may have signalized his marriage by the erection of the shield. He was not an adept at heraldry, or he would have placed the arms of his wife, as those of an heiress, upon an inescutcheon of pretence, instead of simply impaling them with his own. The coat is this '(Gules) a fess between three crosses crosslet fitchéé (or) 'Gore' impaling 'Per pale' (argent and or) three chevronels (gules) 'Langton.' These last are not the arms at present borne by the family of Newton Park, now represented by Earl Temple, but those in use by the Irish and Lancashire branches and of earlier date. The Crest is 'an heraldic' tiger saliant (argent) collared (gules).' The shield is protected by a concave projection supported by boldly carved oaken brackets. The house occupies the site of a smaller one of Elizabethan character, portions of which, including some mullioned windows, remain in the offices. I should place the date of the present structure at about the time of one of the earlier Georges, certainly not so late as the year above mentioned; Its north front contains a double row of large round-headed sash windows, lighting lofty rooms panelled in wood. The staircase, in the centre of the house, is particularly handsome with its characteristic ceiling of ornamental plaster, and oaken balustrades of much elegance and variety. Upon a massive nail-studded door, at present affording access to one of the rooms in the older part of the house, but presumably at one time an external entrance, are carved the date 1667 and the initials R.M., as to the ownership of which I can hazard no opinion. There are pleasant lawns and good walled kitchen gardens, the latter approached through a fine pair of hammered iron gates, formerly those of the entrance to the grounds.

I am not able to trace the acquisition of the property by the Gores, nor can I find from whom they obtained it. Edward Gore, of Flax Bourton, Esq., by his will, 1741, left to his wife Arabella, for her life,

'his house at Bourton,' remains to his sons John and Edward. John resided here, and is so mentioned in his mother's will 1746. William Gore, of Barrow Court (will 1768) bequeathed to the same John 'of Flax Bourton' his mansion, &c., at Barrow, remains to his sons in succession, and to his brother Edward.²⁷ Edward Gore, of Barrow Court, Esq., by his will 1799 gave to his second son, the Rev. Charles Gore 'his mansion house at Bourton,' and fifteen acres. Some of the adjoining land was sold in 1805 by the Rev. Charles Gore, then of Basing Park, Hants, to John Keedwell, of Barrow, timber merchant, afterwards Alderman of Bristol, who in 1817 mortgaged it to Thomas Lyddon Edwards, 'of Bourton House,' Esq. In 1827 it was the property and residence of Mrs. Molly Harvey,²⁸ whose trustees sold it in 1852 to Col. Barrowes, Knight of Hanover, from whose representatives it passed in 1881 to Mr. John White, but was almost immediately re-purchased by W. E. Perham¹ Esq., its present owner and occupier.

Bourton Grange is a commodious and handsome gabled residence of good elevation, with north, south, and east fronts, standing in well-shrubbed ornamental grounds, in which are some fine yew and other trees. It was erected in 1866 by John Mordaunt, Esq., upon the site of a smaller house, then known as 'the Yews,' previously for a short *time* as 'Bourton Villa,' more anciently as 'Bayliffe's Place.' Inhabited very probably by the bailiff of the Manor of Wraxall, of which it formed part, it may have received its designation from that circumstance. In 1621, Sir Edward Gorges, of Wraxall, Knight, and Sir Robert Gorges, Knight, his son and heir, concurred in conveying it, with 37 acres of land, to Charles Tynte, of Wrington, gentleman; whose brother and heir, Edmond Tynte, of Rosemarket, in the county of Pembroke, gentleman, sold it in 1652 to William Crabbe, Alderman of Bristol; upon the division of whose estate in 1716, it fell to his granddaughter, Margaret Crumpe; and from her passed to her sister Elizabeth, the wife of William Long, of Stratton-on-the-Foss, Esq.; who alienated it to the Rev. Samuel Coopey, Rector of Wraxall; at whose death, in 1749, it became the property of his eldest son Charles Brent Coopey; who, having assumed the surname of Brent, devised it to his wife, Martha Brent. She devised it to her nephew, Thomas Smith, of Lower Court, Long Ashton; who by his will 1839, gave it to his nephews, George and John Smith. They sold it in 1843 to Mrs. Frances Harriet Mordaunt, of Gatecombe Court, widow of the Rev. Charles Mordaunt; whose son John Mordaunt, Esq., with Isabella, his second wife, erected the present residence; which, after her husband's death in 1881, she sold to the trustees of William Miller, of Whitehaven, Esq.; by whom it was conveyed in 1886, to its present owner, the Rev. George Streynsham Master. In the drawing room are four panels of fine Flemish Tapestry, and in the other rooms some good family and other portraits.

'The Castle,' a commodious square house with little projections upon its corners, and probably of early Georgian date, has east and west fronts pierced with three stories of rather narrow sash windows, those on the west giving light at irregular elevations to its handsome oaken staircase. Its walls are thick, and in the dining room is some carving attributed to Grinling Gibbons. Its entrance porch, a recent addition, is adroitly placed against the south.east angle of the house, which is surrounded by spacious and productive gardens. The property and residence of the Sparrow family, it passed in 1879 to that of Matthew, and subsequently by purchase to Antony Gibbs, of Tyntesfield, Esq., whose tenants therein are the Misses Downall.

A smaller residence hard by, known as 'The Cottage,' was owned and inhabited by a Quaker family named Naish or Nash, who had a tannery here, and who enclosed with a high stone wall a small portion of their garden as a family Burial place. It contains about a dozen small footstones, the earliest bearing initials and the date 1812. Upon a single stone of ordinary dimensions, recording the deaths of two of the family in 1827 and 1844, is inscribed, "This Graveyard belongs to the Society of Friends, County of Somerset, 1865; and upon a stone let in to the wall on the east, "Friend's Burial Ground, 1846."

A short distance from the village upon the road to Bristol, is 'Eastfield,' formerly the property and residence of the Rev. Jacob Nash, sometime Curate of Tickenham (buried here 1844) whose widow (buried here 1866) sold it to the Rev. E. T. Cardale, Incumbent of Bourton, from whom, after considerable enlargement and improvement, it was purchased in 1860, by R. J. Crook, Esq., whose widow sold it in 1888, to E. A. Hingston, Esq.

Upon the opposite side of the road is ‘Westbrook,’ converted by Mrs. Crook from a cottage to a pleasant domicile, and occupied by herself.

The Parish, previously independent for secular purposes, was ecclesiastically, until 1811, a chapelry within the Parish of Wraxall, from which, together with its sister chapel of Nailsea, it was separated in that year by Act of Parliament, the two together forming a new Rectory. In 1,844 it was severed from Nailsea, and constituted a Perpetual Curacy by Order in Council, and in 1866 a Rectory by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.²⁹ Its patronage, vested in 1844 in the Rectors of Nailsea, was transferred in 1879 to Antony Gibbs, of Tynesfield, Esq., in consideration of his benefaction of a house and five acres, valued at £1800, for a Rectory,³⁰ a subsequent benefaction by the same gentlernan of 3¼ acres of orchard being met by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners by an annual grant of £16. 13s. 4d. in augmentation of the endowment of the Benefice.³¹ The tithes, great and small, commuted in 1839 at £95 per annum, are payable to the Rector.

The Rectory is a pleasant residence, and was in 1839 the property of Joseph Lucas Lovell, Esq., and subsequently of Richard Burroughs Esq., Barrister at Law, from whose representatives it was purchased. By Mr. Gibbs. It has a south frontage, and stands near the high road to Bristol, a little distance east of the village.

The Chaplains or Curates, who served the Chapelry prior to its severance from Wraxall, being nominees of its Rector, and requiring no institution by the Bishop, are absent from the Diocesan records, and their names have fallen into oblivion. Accidental reference enables me to record that in 1446, ‘Johannes’ (he had no surname) was ‘presbyter parochus’ here,³² and amongst the Wells Wills is that of Sir³³ William Webster, Chaplain of Barton, 1535,³⁴ which is so curious, and so quaintly descriptive of the scanty property and chattels of a parish clergyman at that period, that I transcribe it at length:

“to be buryd in Church of Wraxall—same ch. iij^s. iiij^d. chapell of Borton xij^d my brother my horse, my brydell, my botts, my spurres, and if he dye, then to the children of my brothers and sisters—Johne the daughter of my brother John—Wm. Blanche my godson, xij^d—Wm. Taylor, my servt. Margaret, Mawd my sister—my brother Henrye, Persyvell Tayler, Margt. tennell mynchyn,³⁵ of Barrow my coffer and a payre of bedes of whytte evory—Sir Mich. Harneyge my porteyse³⁶ my hatte, my sleppers, and my 3rd tache³⁷ to Gregory xij^d. and his childⁿ—Sir John Wyld vicar (of) Crapwell,³⁸ my best cuppe and my 2nd tache—to Sir Wm. Wodward, parson of Brygeforth,³⁹ my best tache—Sir Rob. Dyrand, V. of Bakkewell, my forthe tache – Gregory’s wyf ij^s. Rob. herres of bakkewell my 3rd hatte and a chyrkyn—my sister Maude a payre of bedes of bonne⁴⁰ and another of tynne with a ryng—to Sir John of Barrow my best chyrkyn—to the mynchyns of barrow vj^s. viij dame Elizabeth Cogen suni tyme prioress of B. iij^s. iiij^d. —Rob Cookes a payre of wayzhtes to way gold—no other goods.

Overseers: Rob. Coxe, Joh. Parsons.

Witn.: Sir Mich. harneyge, Will. blanche.

Prob. in eccl. de Keynsham, 3 Feb. 1535 Samma liij^s.”

Within the cover of the Register of Banns of Marriage commencing 1759, is a Catalogue of ‘the Rectors of Bourton’ as they are there styled, as follows. The four first are Rectors of Wraxall.

1758 William Batt.

1780 James Cumming.

1790 R. Simpkinson.

1801 James Vaughan.

The five others are Rectors of Nailsea cum Flax Bourton.

- 1811 Peter Guillieband.
- 1834 John Noble Shipton, B.D. and Vicar of Othery.
- 1836 Thomas Lamplugh Wolley, B.A.
- 1838 John Langdon, B.A.
- 1839 Frederick Brown, M.A.

During this period the following names appear in the Registers as 'Curates of Bourton.'

- 1762 John Phelps.
- 1771 Thomas Goddard.
- 1779 William Williams.
- 1790 John Fallowfield.
- 1805 John Hensman.
- 1829 John Betts.
- 1834 R. Llewellyn Caley.
- 1837 James Shackleton.
- 1838 Frederick Brown.
- 1839 J. H. Howard.

Then come the Perpetual Curates or Incumbents:

1844-8 Thomas Fryer Jennings, Wadham Coll. Oxford, B.A., 1816; MA., 1819.

1848-51 Thomas George Smith, Trin. Hall, Cambridge, B.A. 1845, M.A. 1850.

1851-4 George Law Harkness, S. John's Coll. Cambridge, B.A. 1847, M.A. 1851. Rector of S. James', Shaftesbury, 1859.

1854-60 Edward Thomas Cardale, Member of Hon. Soc. of Gray's Inn; Rector of Uckfield, Sussex, 1863; died there Feb. 12th, 1893, æt 82.

1860 William Annesley, Univ. Coll. Oxford, B.A. 1827, M.A.
1830; Vicar of Abbots Leigh, 1861.

1862 Oliver Sumner, Hatfield Rail, Durham, B.A. 1851; Curate of All Saints, Bristol, 1878-83 of Weeting, 1886.

1864 Edward Robert King Cummins, Trin. Coll. Dublin, B.A. 1852.

And lastly, the Rectors:

YEAR	RECTORS OF FLAX BOURTON
1866	J. North Green Armytage, S. John's Coll. Cambridge, BA. 1862; MA. 1874.
1870 - 2	Thomas Walter Huthwaite, Univ. Coll. Durham, B.A. 1857.
1872 - 9	Lawrence Eyre.
1879	Richard Nicholson Wood, Jesus Coll. Cambridge, B.A. 1841, M.A. 1844
1889	Edward John Eyre, Emmanuel Coll. Cambridge, B.A. 1875. *

1892	John Francis Browne, Lond. Coll. of Div. B.D. by Archbishop of Canterbury, and Archdeacon of Madra , 1884.
1894	William A. Woodward M.A.
1909	Edward Morgan
1913	Frederick Tracy M.A.
1919	James B. Johnson M.D.
1920	William Rock M.A.
1924	Wilfred Noel Kempe M.A.
1933	Samuel Thomas Stringer
1935	E. D. T. Tilson Morgan B.A. & 1 Th
1947	Percival Esmond Danurth Th 1
1960	A. J. Talbot
1965	James Alan Shaw M.A.
1980	Peter R. W. Tomlinson
1984	Peter Wills M.A.
1992	John Baylis Bishop M.A.
1999	Alfred Hadwin
2001	Ann Sargent B.A.

From 1889 to 2001 The names are taken from the Rectors List in the Church

The Church, dedicated in honor of S. Michael the Archangel, is described by Collinson as “a very small structure of one pace sixty-four feet in length and twenty-two in breadth, with a tower at the west end, thirty feet high.” This is hardly a satisfactory description. Its ground plan comprises a chancel, with an organ-chamber on the north, a nave with southern porch, a north aisle, and a western tower. The most interesting portions of the building are its Norman features, dating from about 1140, and comprising its chancel arch, southern doorway, and font. From the size and position of the two first, we may conclude, I think, that the original dimensions of the were identical with those of the existing chancel and nave, which then constituted the whole, the other portions being subsequent ad It is pleasant to be assured that in the little insignificant ‘hamleta de Bourton,’ the population of which in this overcrowded nineteenth century is only 211, and must have been seven centuries ago very much smaller, there was erected at that early period a House of God of adequate capacity, and of substantial and even ornate character, demonstrating the continuity of the Church, and telling us its story to-day. The chancel arch is of double construction, its plain massive arches having square unchamfered edges, and is other ornament than a roll-moulding upon its upper extremity supported by circular attached pillars, two on either side, their capitals carved with shallow.cut upright conventional foliage, their columns bound with roll and cable mouldings. A doubled-down fern leaf and an animal’s or bird’s head, like that of an owl, ornament capital on the south. The latter may perhaps be meant for one of the beak-heads, which are characteristic of Norman work, but are not usually represented, as in this case, alone. Upon the bevelled upper edges of the capitals is a string of serpents, some of them reversed as though vanquished and wounded, writhing themselves into the zig zag forms which appertain to the Norman style, and while illustrating the defeat of the evil one, contributing in their discomfiture to the embellishment of the Church. The character of the work is such as to indicate its execution by local artificers, the diagonal tooling of their axes being still visible upon the piers.

The south doorway, doubly recessed, a lithograph of which forms the frontispiece to ‘Rutter’s Additional Illustrations of his North-West Somerset,’ is loftier than we should have expected at the entrance of so small a Church. Its inner archway is plain, corresponding with those of the chancel arch, but its outer one is rather richly ornamented with a double chevron moulding resting upon square impostos, supported by engaged circular twisted columns, with carved capitals. There is an outer moulding of serpent-like ribbons, interspersed with small 3, 4, and 5 leaved flowers.

Above the doorway is a rude but interesting sculpture of the Patron Saint, grotesque, but not without a certain dignity. Clad in a vestment, the lines of which are not unlike those of a chasuble, wearing a mitre, and carrying a sword in his outstretched right hand, and a crozier in his left, with its pointed end he transfixes the demon open-mouthed and writhing beneath his feet. There is a quasi-Archiepiscopal character about the whole, — an attempt to realize the spiritual power of the Prince of the Angelic host. It is not unlikely that the figure may be considerably older than any part of the existing Church, a surviving relic perhaps of an earlier Saxon edifice, the rudeness of the workmanship and design favoring such a conjecture.

The font, of contemporary date with the Church, is a good typical specimen of plain Norman work, and is similar to that in S. Philip's Church, Bristol.⁴¹ The bowl is square within and without, lined with lead and furnished with a drain. It has been notched on three of its four sides with oblong holes (since filled in with stone) for the reception, perhaps, of the supports of a pyramidal wooden cover. Its lower edges are scalloped and its circular pedestal with roll mouldings rests upon a square base.

The rest of the Church is of late 14th and 15th century work, the nave windows and one of those in the chancel being subsequent insertions. It was visited by our Society in 1881, and described by Mr. Ferrey, the architect of its then recent restoration, as affording "a simple plain type of one of the smaller Somerset Perpendicular Churches."⁴²

The chancel is sadly cramped, and hardly contains its small complement of surpliced men and boys, and the same may be said of its northern lean-to annexe, entered through an archway, an enlargement of a former vestry, and now burdened with additional duty as an organ-chamber. The organ, a sweet-toned little instrument by Vowles, of Bristol, was erected by subscription in 1886. The oaken roof of the chancel, of low pitch and almost flat, is panelled in small rectangular compartments, its beams brought down to plain stone corbels in the walls below. The eastern window, of three trefoiled lights, is unusually small and low, and is filled with stained glass by Messrs. Lavers, Barraud, & Westlake, representing the Ascension. Upon a brass plate against the south wall is the following explanatory inscription: "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Richard Jefferd Crook, who entered into rest Feb. 19th, 1879, the east window in this Church was erected by his widow, Dec. 1880." Between the two square-headed two-light windows on the south is a low blocked priest's door, not visible from within. Mr. Ferrey, on the occasion above mentioned, called attention to the grotesque animals forming terminations to the outside labels of the chancel windows, but one only has any such terminations and those insignificant, a rabbit perhaps and a dog, the latter mutilated and headless. The gable crosses are of awkward and unpleasing design, their upper limbs ungracefully shortened. The encaustic terra-cotta reredos with border of glass mosaic, and representation in outline of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper," was the gift in 1882 of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hill Budgett, of Gatcombe Court. The pendant brass lamps, by Singer, of Frome, are pleasantly suggestive of those, which are familiar to us in pictures of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. The altar and choir seats are of oak.

Of the nave there is but little to be said. The coved roof is the ancient one, but boards have been substituted for the lath and plaster, which filled the spaces between the ribs, themselves, with their central bosses and embattled wall plate, original. In the south wall are two square-headed three-light windows. The northern arcade of three arches upon clustered columns, which with the adjoining aisle, was erected by Mr. Ferrey in 1881, and is of First-pointed character, is not in accord with the rest of the Church, and cannot be considered, as far as style is concerned, a satisfactory addition. It has three two-light windows, and a lean-to roof of pine. The seats throughout the Church are of the same material. The lectern and pulpit are of carved oak, the latter upon a stone base.

The western tower, entered beneath a lofty arch, which rises to the apex of the roof of the nave, and has its mouldings continued to the floor, has a three-light western window of good design, with a moulded door beneath, a small one in the north-east corner giving access to the circular stone staircase, externally square at its base and semi-octagonal above, which rises to the summit. The bell windows are

of two lights with quatre foils in their heads. The embattled parapet has lost its pinnacles. From the stringcourse project as gargoyles eight winged heads of monsters, one of them a horse. The angle buttresses are of six stages, the tower of three, and of good proportion and design. Of its peal of three bells, two of which had fallen to the ground from the decay of their framework at an unascertained date, and were lying in fragments at the bottom of the tower, until in 1826 they were sold by the Churchwardens for £23, and the proceeds expended in building a vestry, the survivor is still in use, and bears the date 1718, with the names of the Churchwarden of that period, W. Hedges, and of the founder Edward Bilbie, one of a noted family of bell makers of Chew Stoke.⁴³ Whether the small or “ting tang” bell beside it, is that which hung previously in the destroyed sauct-bell cot on the west gable of the nave, is uncertain, since it has no inscription or indication of antiquity.

The destruction of this last mentioned local feature is particularly to be deplored, for though not uncommon in the neighbourhood, being found at Backwell, Tickenham, Wraxall, and Weston-in-Gordano, and even reproduced in the modern Church of Bedminster, it is rare in other parts of England. Mentioned by Collinson in 1741, and by Rutter as standing “until lately” in 1829, it is probable that it fell a victim to parochial ignorance or economy in 1825 or 1826, in which years, repairs and alterations to the Church are recorded in the rate-book. Its arched covering is still in the Churchyard, and it is not too much to hope that it may some day be replaced, together with the churchyard cross, of which the socket remains ‘in situ,’ beneath the shade of an old yew tree, and is pronounced by Mr. Pooley to be of late 14th century date, measuring 1ft. 11in. in height and 2ft. 5in. square at its base. There is a woodcut of it in Mr. Pooley’s book.⁴⁴

There were no burials here prior to the Act of Parliament in 1811, which separated the Chapelries of Nailsea and Bourton from their mother church of Wraxall, the inhabitants having before that date the right of interment in the Churchyard of that Parish. As a matter of fact, it was not unusual for the dead to be carried to any of the adjoining parishes—Backwell, Long Ashton, Barrow Gurney, and even to Winford. The very limited area, surrounding the Church was consecrated in 1812, and under the sanction of the Act, was accepted by the parishioners, with singular imprudence and want of foresight, (it contains only 24 perches, including the site of the Church) as a sufficient burial ground for their use for ever. It was not to be wondered at therefore that in 1889, as many as two hundred and fifty burials having taken place in the interval, a crucial emergency was imminent, and was only averted by the opportune interposition of the patron, Mr. Antony Gibbs, who generously provided at his own cost, a detached cemetery (consecrated June 1889, for the use of the Church of England) defraying the charges of fencing, conveyance, consecration, and the erection of a lych gate.

The single benefaction belonging to the Parish is thus recorded upon a board on the south wall of the tower:

Benefaction to this Parish.

Copy of a clause in the will of Mr. Edward Powell, dated August 29,
A.D. 1767.

“I give and bequeath unto the Minister and Churchwardens for the time being of the said Parish of Flax Bourton, the sum of Fifty Pounds of lawful British money, in trust to put and place out the same at interest, upon the best security that can be gotten for the same, and the growing interest thereof from time to time to pay annually unto the Trustees, Treasurer or Treasurers of the Infirmary in Maudlin Lane in the Parish of St. James in the said city of Bristol, as long as the said Infirmary shall remain such, in order and for the especial intent and purpose to enable the overseers of the poor of the said Parish of Flax Bourton for the time being to recommend and put into the said Infirmary such poor person or persons that shall belong to the said Parish, who shall be a proper object or objects of relief there, and shall be willing and desirous of being sent as an in or out patient to such Infirmary.”

“About fourscore years ago,” writes Collinson,* *i.e.* at the beginning of the 18th century “John Doughton left ten shillings per annum, for a sermon to be preached in this Church in commemoration of a narrow escape from death by the fall of a tree.” How long the bequest has lapsed cannot be ascertained.

There are two memorial tablets in the Church, one to the memory of Lucy, wife of Henry Watts, of Backwell, 1824, the other of the Rev. Jacob Nash, of Flax Bourton, 1844.

The Communion plate, of which I can obtain no more detailed description, than that it consisted of a plain bell-shaped silver cup with flanged lip, and a silver paten, the latter bearing a coat of arms, (of Sparrow perhaps, or Gore), was sent in 1881 to be re-cast by Messrs. Singer, of Frome, and is now represented by a silver chalice gilt inside, and bearing the inscription, "This is My Blood," and a small paten, the work of that firm. However much to be appreciated are the motives which led to this substitution, and however appropriate and convenient the modern vessels, the loss of those which preceded them, and of the record of their pious donor is much to be deplored.

The registers commence in 1701. The earliest, a small thin folio of vellum in leather cover, contains baptisms from 1702 to 1812; marriages, 1707 to 1758; and burials, 1701 to 1812, all separately recorded. There are no entries of burials between 1794 and 1811. The other registers of baptisms and burials are those now employed. There have been intermediate ones of banns and of marriages, in accordance with short-lived variations of forms ordered by Parliament, each containing a small number of entries, the three latest re-copied into the oblong duplicate books commencing 1838, at present in use.

"1748, Nov. 6. This day was baptized Hugh the son of a travelling woman, who came to the inn, and was delivered soon after she came in."

"1870, Sept. 13. Elizabeth Jones, having laid out Jane Burgess, died a few hours afterwards." Both were buried on the same day, and at the same age, 65.

From the Rate and Parish Books commencing in 1800, it appears that from that date until about 1850, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered four times a year, at Christmas, Easter, Whitsuntide, and Michaelmas, a charge of 4/- to 7/- (shillings) being recorded at those seasons for bread and wine. From 1850 to 1880 the celebrations were twelve in the year; after the latter year they were fortnightly, and on all Holy Days; until in 1890 they became weekly, and so continue.

The following repairs and alterations are recorded:

1825 Sittings in the Church repaired.	£8. 10 ^s . 0 ^d .
1803 Churchyard wall built	£4. 8 ^s . 10 ^d .
1805. Tiling and roof repairs	£4. 10 ^s . 6 ^d .

Oct. 24. The Churchyard was consecrated.

1825. The Churchyard wall from west to south built; the Chancel and Nave flagged with stone; the Tower pointed. These repairs ordered by the Bishop 1826. £25. 0^s. 0^d.

1826. The fragments of two broken bells fallen from the tower belfry fifty or sixty years before, sold for £23, and a new Vestry erected at the cost of. £27. 0^s. 0^d.

1833. Chancel and Nave slated £62. 0^s. 0^d.

1843. Gallery re-erected and Tower repaired £42. 0^s. 0^d.

1846. Vestry floored with wood £3. 1^s. 6^d.

1849 Vestry slated £3. 14^s. 2^d.

1852 Church restored; eleven square pews replaced by twenty-two narrow ones; new pulpit and reading desk; stage for children at west end; north wall of nave re-built; mortar removed from exterior walls, which were pointed £153. 4^s. 8½^d.

1854. Altar piece erected £13. 10^s. 0^d.

1870. Harmonium presented.

1881. Church restored by subscription (Faculty dated June 8th, 1880, in the Parish Chest) and enlarged by the erection of a north aisle, organ chamber and vestry, by E. B. Ferrey, Esq., architect; Meyrick, of Glastonbuty, contractor. Antony Gibbs, Esq. contributed £736, the Rector, the Rev. R. W. Wood. and his friends re-roofing and restoring the Chancel £1160. 0^s. 0^d.

Memorial Eastern Window of stained glass, by Lavers & Barraud, presented by Mrs. Crook.

1882. Encaustic Reredos in terra cotta, with border of glass mosaic, "The Last Supper," after Leonardo da Vinci, presented by Mr. And Mrs. William Hill Budgett, of Gatcombe Court.

1886. New Organ, by Vowle, of Bristol, erected by
subscription £150. 0^s. 0^d

New Burial Ground, presented, fenced, and laid out by Antony Gibbs, Esq., with lych gate at its entrance; consecrated in June.

A puerile anecdote, related by Collinson, and repeated by Rutter, to the effect that sermons were preached from a pinnacle of the town, followed by the explanation that one having fallen, had been utilized as a support for the floor of the pulpit, is transferred by Mr. Nicholls, of Bristol, to Backwell, which is quite welcome to it.⁴⁵

The 'Parish or Poor's Book,' commencing 1803, contains the Overseers and Churchwardens Accounts from that year to 1838 at one end, and the Minutes of Vestry, 1821 to 1886 at the other. From 1804 to 1836 the overseers accounts were verified on oath before two magistrates, and counter-signed by them. The autographs of A. Elton, John Shipton, George Penrose Seymour, G. C. Greville, H. Elton, D. Durbin, Gabriel Goldney, J. Lewis, C. Wilkins, James Vaughan, Thomas Kington, J. Whetham, C. A. Elton, and Henry Mirehouse, are here preserved. In 1821, a select Vestry was appointed under 59, George III. In the same year the old Poorhouse (now occupied by Mrs. Sambourne, No.64 on the Tithe Map) was exchanged with the Rev. James Sparrow, for 'half an acre of Lower Mead with the messuage thereon, recently erected,' (No.213 on Tithe Map). The conveyance of the latter for £170, to the Overseers, is in the Parish Chest. It consists of a row of four two-roomed cottages on one floor, which are let by the parish officers, and the rents carried to the credit of the rates.

In 1851, Mrs. Smyth, of Long Ashton Court, gave a site for a School, and in 1858 it was exchanged for another. The conveyance of 35 perches to the Rector and Churchwardens from Sir John Henry Greville Smyth, Bart., in 1858, is in the Parish Chest. The School was built at his sole expense, the first stone being laid by Lord Auckland, Bishop of Bath and Wells, on April 14th, 1859. It is a substantial stone-built structure, with accommodation for some 60 children, of which number, however, a considerable proportion comes from adjoining parishes.

This imperfect notice of the Parish of Flax Bourton must not be concluded without brief mention of a pathetic incident of which it was the scene. In the latter part of the 18th century, a young girl* of refined and elegant appearance and manners, forlorn and demented, took shelter beneath an old haystack, and made it her home for four years, refusing to exchange it for any other abode. She declined all assistance beyond the barest necessities of life, nor would she communicate her antecedents to anyone. She became at length an inmate of an Asylum at Bitton, from whence she was transferred by the kindness of Miss Hannah More, to a similar institution in London, where she died in 1800, and her sad story with her.

An attempt to elucidate it was made by the Rev. G. H. Glasse, Rector of Hanwell, in a little work entitled "Louisa, the lady of the hay-stack,"⁴⁶ "in which it was sought to identify her with the subject of a French story printed in 1785, 'L' Inconnue, histoire veritable," who was supposed to have been a natural daughter of the Emperor Francis I. of Austria, discarded by his relatives after his death, and abandoned to her destiny. If this be so, her insanity was the inevitable sequel of her privations and reverses. Her portrait painted by W. Palmer, and engraved by P. W. Tomkins, a pupil of Bartolozzi, is here reproduced from a photograph by the Rev. A. Wadmore.⁴⁷

* Louisa, was also known as the "mad maid of the haystack". Another source records that she was found living in a haystack at Wraxall. It was said that she was very beautiful. She was known to decorate the bushes around the haystack with her trinkets. She resisted all attempts to help her, but Hannah is said to have gained her confidence and when she was taken to be cared for, Hannah paid for her keep, as recorded above.

FLAX BOURTON NOTES

- ¹ Somerset Archæological Society's Journal I.1.16.
- ² Called 540 in census of 1841. Somerset Record Society, 111.p. 330.
- ³ Collinson's Somerset 111., 161. Rutter's N.W. Somerset, 16.
- ⁴ Barrett's Bristol, pp. 673, 677, 680.
- ⁵ This was a tax of a twentieth of all movable property upon those whose goods were worth 10/- or more. Somerset Record Society, 111. pp. 236-7.
- ⁶ Weaver's Wells Wills, p. 10.
- ⁷ Tythe Award, 1838.
- ⁸ Possibly from 'pigh' an obsolete Celtic term for 'small,' suitable to the field yo which it is attached. In Ducange's Glossary, the latinized 'pightellum' is explained to mean 'a small parcel of land enclosed with a hedge.' Wilts Archæological Journal, Vol. xiv., p. 264.
- ⁹ Freeholder.
- ¹⁰ Somerset Wills abstracted by the Rev. Fred Brown, M.A., F.S.A., vi., pp. 90-92.
- ¹¹ Somerset Wills abstracted by the Rev. Fred Brown, M.A., F.S.A., vi. P.92. ii. 66, 67, 76.
- ¹² Collinson's Somerset, ii. P. 302.
- ¹³ Somerset Wills, ii. P. 75.
- ¹⁴ Monument in Long Ashton Church.
- ¹⁵ Harlean Society, Visitation of Somerset, p. 24.
- ¹⁶ Somerset Archæological Society's Journal, xii. p. 84.
- ¹⁷ Harlean Society, Visitation of Essex, pp. 492, 714.
- ¹⁸ The same shield, slightly differenced, was that of Dr Anthony Sparrow, Bishop of Exeter, 1667-76, of Norwich, 1676-85, the well-known author of the 'Rationale of the Book of Common Prayer.'
- ¹⁹ Bourton Parish Register.
- ²⁰ Somerset Wills, v. p. 14.
- ²¹ Bourton Parish Register.
- ²² Bourton Parish Register. Monument in Long Ashton Church.
- ²³ Somerset Wills, v. p. 14.
- ²⁴ Chelvey Registers
- ²⁵ Monument Tablets in Long Ashton Church.
- ²⁶ Flax Bourton Parish Register.
- ²⁷ Somerset Wills, v. p. 874.
- ²⁸ Tythe Commutation Award, 1839
- ²⁹ London Gazette, Aug. 10th, 1866, p. 4490.
- ³⁰ Ditto, Dec. 5th, 1879, p. 7208.
- ³¹ Ditto, Feb. 3rd, 1882, p. 437.
- ³² Weaver's Somerset Incumbents, p. 244
- ³³ Sir was the usual designation of a clergyman, equivalent to Rev.
- ³⁴ Weaver's Wells Wills, p. 10.
- ³⁵ Nun.
- ³⁶ Portiforium or breviary.
- ³⁷ Clasp or Buckle.
- ³⁸ Cropwell, Notts.
- ³⁹ Bridgeford, Notts.
- ⁴⁰ Bone.
- ⁴¹ Paley's Illustrations of Baptismal Fonts.
- ⁴² Somerset Archæological Society's Journal, xxvii. p.48.
- ⁴³ Ellacombe's Church Bells of Somerset, p. 71.
- ⁴⁴ Pooley's Stone Crosses of Somerset, p. 71
- ⁴⁵ Pleasant Trips out of Bristol, p. 91.
- ⁴⁶ Louisa, a narrative of facts, by the Rev. G. H. Glass, 1801.

⁴⁷ The original four plates were missing from the book. Two substitutes were made (1) An early modern photograph of Flax Bourton church and (2) A photograph of a painting by Frances Reynolds of Hannah More.