

A History of Clayhanger

by

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Introduction

Clayhanger is a small parish of barely three square miles, yet it has always supported a thriving agricultural economy, with cattle, sheep, wheat, barley, oats, and orchards being the main part of the rural scene. It is set amongst quietly undulating hills, sandwiched between Bampton and Somerset. Apart from the main Taunton-Bampton-South Molton road which crosses the north of the parish, it is free of major roads, and is an ideal spot for walkers to enjoy the pleasures of the countryside, un-interrupted by the sound of passing traffic. It once had its own Inn, with another at adjoining Petton, but the nearest now is The Rock Inn at Waterrow just over the Somerset boundary. In 1790 the parish was described: "... it is enclosed by hedges made of banks of earth and wood planted in them for fence." The roads were "dreadfully bad and dangerous to travellers". The village consisted of two or three "inconsiderable" cottages near the church. One of these, the 17th century Church Cottage, was even more inconsiderable in that it was once a terrace of three, each with two rooms - one up and one down. Opposite this, is the 18th century Nutcombe Cottage, in use as the Parish Poor House during the 19th century.

Later housing includes a semi-detached Council House on the southern edge of the village centre, and a wooden home called The Cabin, which was originally an Army hut in use on Salisbury Plain during the Great War, and brought here four or five years after the war ended.

Pre-history

The early history of Clayhanger is tied up very closely with that of Bampton, but small as the parish is, it is not without its own history. Stone Age man seems to have been present, in that two flint tools of the middle Stone Age, or mesolithic, period have been found on the Roman fort. It was certainly known by the Celtic people of the Iron Age; the Combe element in such names as Brockescombe, Hilcombe, Nutcombe, and Bulcombe suggest that the Celts were settled at those sites. There are Iron Age Hillforts close to the parish, one south of Waterrow, one just west of Ashbrittle, and one south of Huntsham, each visible from the other. One use of the forts was to light fires on the tops to alert neighbouring ones of pending trouble. That they could be seen from each other was proved one night when a local resident, John Bone and his son, went out with experiment in mind, each armed with a torch and a 2-way radio to let each other know when they were in place. John drove to the one furthest from Waterrow whilst his son cycled to the next nearest, and each climbed to the top and shone a torch to each other. Both torches were clearly seen. The same result was had from the third hillfort.

The Romans

Following the Celts came the Romans who established a fort around the middle of the first century AD, a quite important one by its size and construction. It is large enough to house a cohort of 500 men, and seems to have been occupied for some time. The local Celts were no longer their own masters, and they found themselves working for foreign overlords, which at least gave them security and safety from further invasion. The area must have been quite industrious. Firstly, the fort had to be built, at first of wood. The finding of the flints may suggest that the Romans found a spot already pretty well cleared and in use by the Celts, a space originally cleared in Middle Stone Age times. The tree clearance needed for the provision of wood, not only for fort building, but for fuel, opened up land for the larger farming operation that then became necessary. Corn had to be grown, stored, ground, and made into bread. The land had to be fertilised - no chemicals in those days - with simply compost and manure. Wool had to be spun, dyed, and woven or knitted into clothes; cattle hides had to be turned into leather, which in turn had to be made into harnesses, footwear and the like. This in turn relied on a tanning industry, whose raw material was oak bark. In time, it seems, the buildings in and around the fort, or at least some of them, were replaced with structures of stone. There is a road running past the fort from beyond Ashbrittle, straight to the quarries at Bampton, which is typically Roman-straight. With all this industry, it is likely that the village of Clayhanger, or possibly nearby Huntsham, grew, and remain as silent testimony to the Roman settlers.

The Saxons

Once the Romans left our shores, there was no strong opposition to the invading Saxons, who made their way into these parts in around AD700. Their settlements can be identified by the element Hayes or Hayne, Worth

or Worthy, or Ton, in farm and place names. Whilst quite a few of these exist in Clayhanger, the Saxons did not make a major settlement out of it. This they did at Bampton. The Court Leet was held there, probably at Court Green, but in time the court moved indoors, latterly to either The White Horse Hotel or The Swan Hotel.

The Hundred of Bampton comprised 6½ of the present parishes: Bampton, Clayhanger, Hockworthy, Holcombe Rogus, Morebath, Uffculme, and part of Burlescombe. By the middle of the 19th century, the court was meeting annually, with two representatives of these parishes in attendance, under the chairmanship of the Lord of the Hundred and Manor of Bampton. By then their usefulness had evaporated, as local matters were being dealt with by the Local Board, later the Bampton Urban District Council. The last Court Leet took place in 1913.

King Ethelred of the West Saxons (866-871) granted land at Clayhanger to the monks of Sherborne Abbey, and the gift was confirmed by Ethelred's successor, Alfred (871-899). Which plot was granted is not known as its boundaries were not specified. Whether it was the church, allowing the abbey to take the tithes, or farms to allow it the rents cannot now be known. It was mentioned in the Charters of Sherborne, now lost, but fortunately the record was repeated elsewhere, and it is mentioned later, in the Sherborne Missal - 1396-1407. Clayhanger was obviously worth money even 1000+ years ago, for a gift by a king to an abbey would not have been a mere token gift.

In the days of King Alfred, the system of Hundreds for local government evolved and Clayhanger became part of the Hundred of Bampton. The Saxons had settled for nearly 300 years before the next interruption, that of the Danes, or Vikings. Whilst they had no lasting influence, their trade-marks nonetheless exist locally. Waterrow, the next settlement to Clayhanger, was in their hands. Its old name is Skirdle, the Sk- being the clue.

The Normans

The final invasion was that of the Normans in 1066, and it is thanks to them that a picture of the area in late Saxon times is known. The first thing the new king wanted to know was how much the country was worth to him, and he sent his men to every corner of England to list exactly who was where and what they owned. The result was the book commonly known as the Domesday Survey, published in 1086.

By this time Clayhanger (Clehangra) and Denscombe (Donicestona) were manors, that is, land owned by one person who had tenants within that land. Clayhanger was owned by Uctred, but he was displaced by the Norman, William de Mohun, who sub-let it to one Robert. There were 5 villagers who between them had two ploughs, 3 smallholders, and 2 slaves who may have been the remnants of the local Celtic population. The livestock consisted of 7 pigs and 65 sheep. There were 3 acres of coppice and 12 acres each of meadow and pasture. Unlike Bampton there was no woodland. Tax was assessed on 116¼ acres and the value to the king was £1.0.0., 10/-, less than it had been in 1068.

Sometime between the Norman Invasion of 1066 and the Domesday Survey, Denscombe had been annexed to Petton (Alwinestona). It was taken from the Saxon, Donin, or Dunning, after whom the manor was named, and was given to the Count of Mortain, who sub-let it to Mauger of Carteret. It had 12 villagers, 6 smallholders, and a quite important mill worth 7/6d per year. Other mills often paid as little as 8d. There were 36 sheep and the whole manor was worth £2.0.0. in both 1068 and 1086. It was taxed at 112½ acres.

The population at the time of the Survey has been estimated at 96 for Denscombe and 48 for Clayhanger, a total of 144 in the area of the present parish, with a further 38 at Petton, or Alwinestona.

In 1196 Sir William Briwere, lord of the Hundred and manor of Bampton, founded Torre Abbey in south Devon, to which he gave the manor of Denscombe.

Denscombe Chapel, The Knights Templar & Hospitaller

There was a chapel at Denscombe in 1107. It is mentioned in the Will of Walter de Douai, who became lord of the Hundred and Manor of Bampton just after the Invasion, and who gave Bampton church and its lands to the monks at Bath Abbey. This may have been a Saxon chapel built by someone like Donin for his own private use. Later, a chapel and hospital are known to have existed at Nutcombe, in the manor of Denscombe which by then seems to have been annexed to the manor of Clayhanger, possibly when ecclesiastical parish boundaries were formed in the early 1200's, when Denscombe went into Clayhanger parish. Robert de Perepont, lord of the manor of Clayhanger, gave the manor, and later the church, to the Knights Templar, who then became its corporate lord. The chapel/hospital complex was on a site of 10½ acres. There is a field at Denscombe, owned by Nutcombe Manor, a little over 11 acres and known as Chappel Close, and it is fair to assume that this is the site of the hospital and chapel. Some people have thought that Chappel Close was the site of the original Petton Chapel, which was completely re-built in 1848, but a map of 1809 shows that chapel on the same site as today. What kind of hospital it was is not known. The Knights Templar was not a nursing Order, but a fighting one; it may be that a small leper or cholera hospital was there. The Templars were causing a certain amount of unease, and their lands were eventually taken by the Crown, and the Order was brutally suppressed in 1312. Their lands were given to the Hospitallers, but so far as Clayhanger is concerned, not immediately. Kings Edward II, then Edward III, held it until 13th October 1333. In his capacity as lord of the manor, Edward II appointed a vicar, William de Mileford, on November 3rd 1311. On October 13th 1333 an order was given by the Crown to deliver the manor of Clayhanger to the Hospitallers. One William Martin, presumably a Hospitaller, had entered the manor but had been ejected by John de Mohun

After the reformation and the dissolution of the monasteries, the Hospitallers lost ownership of their lands, but were paying rent of 10/6d. per year to the Crown for their holding at Clayhanger. The advowson (the right to present a priest to the living of a parish) of Clayhanger "late of the preceptory of Buckland" (Somerset) and the manor of Clayhanger "late of Templecombe Preceptory, Somerset", were sold with other lands outside the parish on February 16th 1545 to Alexander Popham and William Halley jointly for £117.16.7½d.

The chapel at Denscombe was still there in 1233, when the bishop of Exeter ruled that the parson of Clayhanger was to supply a priest to say Mass at the chapel of Denscombe on three days a week. When the Bampton church lands were transferred from Bath Abbey to Buckland Abbey (Devon) in 1443, Denscombe chapel is not mentioned, suggesting that it had gone out of use by then.

Nutcombe "Manor"

Nutcombe Manor seems never to have been a manor in its own right, but the Barton to the manor of Denscombe, although it may at some point have been the Manor House for Denscombe. It was the seat of the Nutcombe family from the early 1300's until the middle of the 19th century. One owner, Richard Nutcombe, was Sheriff of Devon during 1715-1716. He is remembered in a memorial stone on the north wall of the church. The earliest references to members of the Nutcombe family in the church records are: a marriage on January 20th 1547 between Andrewe Stone and Thomazine Nutcombe; a marriage on February 14th 1548 between Andrewe Notkum and Agnes Farthinge; a baptism on 21st July 1549 of Elizabeth, daughter of Andrewe Notkcumb; a burial on 28th January 1551 of John, son of John Nutcumb. During the period of the Commonwealth, an Act was passed on 24th August 1653 (repealed in 1660) allowing civil marriages, i.e. couples could be married anywhere in the presence of a J.P., rather than by a priest in a church. One such marriage concerned Nutcombe. On 18th December 1656 Thomas Bonner of Waterleston, now Weston in Combe St. Nicholas, married Elizabeth Nutcombe at Venn in the house of James Whipple. Thomas Bonner was the son of a J.P. named Henry Bonner who solemnised dozens of marriages in Somerset over 1654 - early 1656, mostly at his own home in Waterleston, and who presided over his son's wedding.

The present house, Nutcombe Manor, was built around 1600 on the site of its predecessor, but it is only a part of the original building. A 160 feet long kitchen wing on the west side has vanished, as have a number of other outbuildings on the east. A painting made in the early 1700s shows the whole, enclosed by a stout stone wall and forming a quadrangle. Access to the house was then from the south, off the road which today serves

North Bulcombe, with another track leading to Clayhanger church. The painting left Nutcombe in 1809 on the death of John Gould of Cornwall, step-father of John Nutcombe Gould. It was returned to Nutcombe by Robin Grant in 1996, he having fortuitously heard of its impending sale at an auction. Another picture in the house is of the infamous Bamfylde Moore Carew, born in 1693 the problem-child of a vicar of Bickleigh, near Tiverton, who from an early age seems to have been destined for trouble. He was a pupil at Blundell's School at Tiverton until he ran away. With his friends and a local farmer, they enjoyed hunting. One day the farmer told them of a deer with a collar he had seen, and they went out after it, causing untold damage to the almost ripe corn in a number of farms over a large area. Once shot, the collar proved the deer to belong to Colonel Nutcombe of Clayhanger. The aggrieved farmers made their very strong feelings known to the master of Blundell's, William Rayner, who then sought out the ringleaders. One was Bamfylde Moore Carew. The boys, being under severe threats from Mr. Rayner, left the school, and repaired to The Brick Ale House, just north of Tiverton Town, where they joined with a group of Gypsies. Later he became known as the King of the Gypsies and was transported to Maryland in America.

One renowned character and owner of Nutcombe around the turn of the 20th century, was Billy Williams, who sold the farm to Mrs. Grant in 1941. He was a regular visitor to the weekly markets at Bampton, arriving in his pony and trap. He was also a regular visitor to The Swan Hotel, once he had finished his business. He invariably got so drunk that his friends loaded him into his trap, and the pony then quite happily trotted off home with him, along some six miles of tortuous lanes.

The Manor of Clayhanger

The Manor House of Clayhanger seems to have been the farmhouse called East Clayhanger, but by 1790 the ownership of the manor was in so many hands that it was impossible to know who the lord of the manor was, if indeed there still was one. Manors, or fractions of them, were used as security for loans and mortgages. One quarter of the manor was owned by Charles Webster of Hockworthy, and another quarter by the Rev. Nutcombe Nutcombe, Chancellor of the Diocese of Exeter. The rest had been sold in fragments, and nobody knew who owned them. Certainly, later Deeds refer to the "late manor of Clayhanger" whilst still referring to the manor of Denscombe. In the same way, the advowson of the rectory had been sold in fragments, almost to all and sundry, leaving no-one with the right to present a vicar, but in time the right found its way to Nutcombe, and was relinquished by Robin Grant to the diocese.

The Parish Church of St. Peter

The church in Clayhanger dates from the 14th century. The tower is from the early 14th, and part of the nave was built towards the end of that century, replacing an earlier building. The church was partially rebuilt and completely restored over the years 1879-1881, when a new chancel and vestry were built, although the original entrance door was kept. The whole work cost just on £1,000. It seats 120 people. The oldest feature of the church is the Norman font, dating to around 1200. A gallery was erected across the tower arch in the 16th century. When it was dismantled, the figures adorning it were saved and placed along the tower and south walls, but today they are kept in the vestry. A Rood Screen dating back to King James I (1603-1625) once separated the nave from the chancel, but it was removed in 1810. The Rood Loft stair turret has also gone, although evidence of its existence remains in the two blocked-in doorways in the north wall. Many of the bench ends were carved in the 16th century, some having been used on later benches and more being 19th century copies. The Royal Coat of Arms of King Charles II adorns the south wall, dated 1682. Set into the wall by the screen is a piscina (small drain), suggesting a second altar, possibly for the Lady Chapel. The lectern is Georgian, and until early in the 20th century, was covered by a velvet cloth bearing the date 1720. The church was lit by oil lamps until a more modern form of lighting was installed by the Womens' Institute, but only a few years later, in 1958, electricity was installed. From the introduction of ecclesiastical parish boundaries, Clayhanger had its own vicar until around 1968, when the benefice was amalgamated with that of Bampton, from where it is now served.

In 1553 there were three bells in the tower, but whilst there are still three, the old ones have gone. One was recast in 1611 by George Purdue and is inscribed with his initials and the date. The other two are inscribed:

B. Nutcombe Bluett Esq: Mr Richard Beadon Rector. Mr. Andrew Hawkins churchwarden. T. Bilbie 1740

B.N. Bluett Esq. Ed Beadon: Wm Evand cast me 1749. Wm Blackmore churchwarden

The Old Rectory house, once named Melrose, was built during the times of the Civil Wars, but was greatly altered and improved in 1823. Very little of the original building now exists. It is across the road from a garden known as Venn, which had a well at the roadside. One vicar, having evil designs on the well and casting aside any considerations he may have had of Christian charity, one day dug another on his side of the road, only a little deeper, causing the original to drain into his. Its remains are still to be seen. During the 1939/1945 war, the house was used for girls whose school had evacuated from Deal in Kent. The old Tithe Barn, the W.I. Hall since 1954, was used as the schoolroom.

The Annual Revel took place on the first Sunday in August, a month after the feast day of St. Peter, the Patron Saint of the church. It might have been held nearer the feast, but was held at a respectful distance from the Revel at neighbouring Ashbrittle - also dedicated to St. Peter - which was held on the Sunday immediately following the feast day. The Revel has been resurrected and takes place in alternate even years.

The Bible Christian chapel, built in 1882, eventually became a Methodist chapel and closed in 1971. It was converted into houses some 10 years later.

Clayworking

The name of the manor and village is taken from the extensive clay deposits within the boundary. Both yellow and 'blue' clay have been extensively extracted at Hearne, North Bulcombe, and Nutcombe. An ancient pond at nearby Zeal has been lined with the blue clay. Samples of blue and yellow have recently been prepared and fired and are of earthenware quality. This is mentioned because at North Bulcombe there were two fields called Higher and Lower Kiln Yards, since made into one, and as there is no lime kiln within sight, it suggests that either pottery or bricks and tiles may have been made on the site in the unknown (including Roman) past.

Education and Welfare of the Poor

A Charity School was opened in Clayhanger in 1747 by the gift of Hannah Nutcombe-Bluett. It adjoins Church Cottage almost under the tower of the church. Eventually a purpose-built school opened in 1886, opposite the old one, and closed in 1931, when the one at Shillingford was enlarged to cater for the Clayhanger children. It was a single room building which, towards the end of the 19th century had a very chequered history. It closed some half a dozen times, once for over two years, and many of the children learned next to nothing until a teacher arrived around the turn of the century and succeeded in making something out of it. In the space of 20 years or so before, it had 10 headmistresses.

Charities (Surveyed March 1911).

Mary Sayer's Gift.

Mrs. Mary Sayer by her Will dated 11th April 1699 and proved on 16th May 1701, gave a rent charge of 20s. [£1] per annum for ever, issuing out of half of Perry tenement, to bestow in bread to those people in the parish thought to be in want by the Trustees, within one week of the second day of February for ever. In 1899 the then owner of Perrys refused to pay up, and the Charity Commissioners applied to the Attorney General to institute Proceedings for the charge and arrears. Before matters had got too far however, the owner paid up and continued to do so. Perrys changed hands in 1906 and the charge was duly paid. One of the fields on which the charge is levied is called Perrys Long Meadow, containing 1a. 2r. 29p., and is No. 184 on the Tithe Map. It is situated near some old cottages and gardens. In 1820, Montague Baker Bere owned Perry tenement, and James Gamblen was the tenant. The bread was distributed on the Sunday following 2nd. February. No Trustees were known to exist. In 1909, seven families received 43 loaves of bread between them, the distribution taking place in March and November.

Hannah Nutcombe-Bluett's Gift.

Hannah Nutcombe Bluett, by her Deed enrolled in Chancery in 1747, left an annuity of £3 in Trust payable out of a half of West Clayhanger tenement, for teaching to read and buying books for as many of the poorest children of the parish as the £3 would allow. If the numbers of children were not sufficient to use all the £3, then any other children of any neighbouring parish were to have the benefit of the Charity. The last payment from this Charity was made in 1881. West Clayhanger had been sold without mention of the charge being made, and by the time the Charity Commissioners got round to chasing matters up, it was 1897, and they considered that with the length of time which had elapsed, the Charity should be considered lost.

John Norman & Buckland Nutcombe Bluett's Gift.

Buckland Nutcombe Bluett by his Will dated 26th April 1785 left £50 plus £3.15.0. accumulated interest which had been bequeathed to him and Rev. Mr. Beadon by John Norman of Tiverton, deceased, to teach the poor children of Clayhanger to read the bible, the origins of the Sunday School in Clayhanger. He added money of his own and invested £100 in 3% reduced stock. The Charity was to be administered by the rector and the principal ratepayer of Clayhanger. The gift was added to Hannah Nutcombe Bluett's gift of 1747.

A further £25 was added by Buckland Nutcombe Bluett for the poor of Clayhanger, so by 1820 the sum invested was £150 and being administered by Miss Nutcombe and others, but not by the rector. The dividends from the investment were raising £4.10.0. in September 1819, to which was added the annuity of £3 given by Mrs. Bluett, making a total of £7.10.0., increased by a further £1.10.0. to £9 by Miss Nutcombe and her sister, which was being paid to a schoolmistress who at the time was teaching around 30 children. By 1909 the money was being used in the form of cash prizes to children living in Clayhanger who had attended any private elementary school for at least two years, for good conduct, regularity in attendance, and learning prowess. At Christmas, 1909, 14 children received sums ranging from 2.6d. to 10/-. The wealth of their parents was not taken into account.

Population.

In 1772 there were 37 families living in Clayhanger, giving a total population of 125, little different from the time of the Domesday Survey. An idea of the numbers of families in the parish in the 1500's-1700's can be obtained from the Appendices below. Once, there were some 30 farms, mostly of 10 or 12 acres but by 1790 many had become incorporated into larger ones worked by 10 or 12 farmers. The situation was largely unaltered by 1850, when 10 farmers were listed. At that time also, there were 1 tailor, 2 shopkeepers, the New Inn (now a private house named Larcombe Green), and 2 shoemakers. The Population Act passed in the first year of the reign of King George IV produced a census in 1821 which showed that in the parish of Clayhanger there were 54 houses inhabited by 57 families, comprising 168 males and 174 females. No houses were in the process of being built, but there were two empty. There were 44 families employed in agriculture, 11 in trades and the manufacture of handicrafts, and 2 otherwise employed.

Mail came via Wiveliscombe. By 1850 there was a Post Office and shop in a thatched building of 16th century origin, and mail came on foot from Bampton. The postmen delivered to the Post Office, then spent their time in a Postman's Hut until 3.30 p.m., when they emptied the post box and trudged back to Bampton. Later, these times were changed. The nearest Money Order Office was at Bampton. By 1878 telegraphs could be received and sent from Bampton Post Office. Between around 1889 and 1902 these services moved first to Hockworthy, then Huntsham, then Ashbrittle, then back to Huntsham again. In July 1852, Clayhanger was franking its own mail, although the hand-stamp was not dated. It appeared on envelopes alongside the frank mark of the main Post Office, Bampton, and later, Tiverton.

In 1857 there were also 2 smiths and an Agricultural Machine Maker, John Hill. Crosses, Wardley, Venn and Bondhouse were all farmed by the same man, John Goddard. By 1883 the village was served by the railway from Venn Cross station, just into Somerset, on the north-east corner of the parish boundary. The 10 farmers had grown to 16 by 1893, and by 1923 the New Inn had been put up for sale and bought by a staunch

Methodist, Rowland Hill, who immediately closed it down. It was the northernmost building in the village, just past the church, but it had moved there from older premises, now Greenhouse Cottages, opposite the Post Office.

MISCELLENIA

Lords of the Manor

1303. Only HELE is mentioned, inhabited by Bartholomew de la Torre.

1316. Again, only HELE is mentioned, inhabited by Henry de Berneville.

1346. Again, only HELE is mentioned, inhabited by Thomas atte Thorne and Thomas Northele, and owned by Bartholomew de la Thorne. (This probably should be de la Torre [Abbey]).

1428. Again only HELE is mentioned. Inhabited by Alicia Southele.

From the Crown Pleas of the Devon Eyre 1258 (The King's Court).

Cristina de la Fenne's house was burgled. William de la Hirne is suspected of this and other thefts, so let him be exacted and outlawed. He was living on Templars' land at Clayhanger.

Eda de Cuddemore's house was burgled. It is not known by whom. No-one is suspected. Eda, attached by Philip de Cuddemore and the tithingman of Cudmore, does not come so they are in mercy. [Whilst this is not in Clayhanger, I have included it as it is on the doorstep.]

Adam de Cleiangre fell from a tree and died instantly. This happened on the Templars' land. No Englishry, so murder fine.

Notes on the above.

Exacted and Outlawed. If a suspected felon kept on avoiding appearing at the court, he would be Exacted and Outlawed, which meant that he no longer had the protection of the law, and was open to any action by any person, being murdered included, rather like the bounty hunters of the Westerns. In those days, a court could not try a case or pass sentence if the suspect was not in court.

In Mercy. If a town or parish authority failed to apprehend a suspect, or if the suspect failed to attend, they or he were placed In Mercy, which allowed the court to levy a cash fine on them. In the case of a suspect, this preceded the Exacting and Outlawing process.

The Tithingman. Towns and villages within the Hundred were sorted into groups of ten or so households, each member being corporately responsible for the good behaviour of the rest. A leader of the group, or Tithing, was appointed and called a Tithingman. The whole system was a mixture of today's village policeman and Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. In sparsely populated areas, a whole community was classed as one Tithing.

Englishry. The death penalty was imposed on anyone who murdered a Frenchman, but if an Englishman was the victim, that did not matter too much, and a fine was imposed, in the case above, on the community, as the suspect was not to hand.

FROM THE PATENT ROLLS. HENRY III. 1266-1272.

July 11th 1270. Appointment of Henry de Monte Forti to enquire in the county of Devon whether Walter, son of Henry de Stonhill, killed Juliana, wife of John de la Hurne of Bampton by misadventure.

In the parish burials register for St. Peter's, Tiverton, there is an entry on 24th May 1656 concerning a man of Clayhanger who had been strangled. He is not named, and there are no further details.

APPENDIX I

RECTORS OF CLAYHANGER

1271 June 15th	Geoffrey de Fulcham or de Folham (Fulham, London) occurs c1264
1311 Nov. 3rd	Stephen de Herdington. Pres. by magistri Novi Templi Londiniarum
	William de Mileford. Pres. by King Edward II as the lands of the Templars are in his hands.
1321-2 Mar. 8th	Sir William de Hengestecote. coll per lapse (placed by the bishop).
1358-9 Jan. 9th	Sir Thomas Frere. Pres. by Prior & Brethren of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.
	William Pacok occurs March 9th 1369-70.
	Sir Thomas Whytynge. (Died.)
1437-8 Feb. 19th	Robert Jeffrey. Pres. by Brother John, preceptor of Templecombe.
1449 June 20th	Sir Geoffrey Motte. Pres. by Prior of St. John of Jerusalem.
1453 Sept. 28th	Sir Symon Halshanger. Pres. by Prior of St. John of Jerusalem.
1477-8	John Bethunn
	John Byran alias Kendal. (Died).
1502 Dec. 7th	David Long. Pres. by F. and Thomas Newport & others. (Died).
1531-2 Jan 8th	Roger Boydell. Pres. by John Sydenham & others.
1545 July 11th	William Hettisfyld. Pres. by Roger Bluett esqr.
1582 Aug. 20th	Robert Challacombe. Pres. by Nicholas Bluett esqr. (Died).
1602-3 March 9th	Emmanuel Maye (Mavie). Pres. by Richard Bluett esqr. (Died).
1633 May 18th	Hugo Pymme. Pres. by Robert Blynham.
1671 Nov. 6th	Timothy Lockett. Pres. by Humphrey Hodgett & Edward H. Geule.
1688 May 12th	John Pym. Pres. by Andrew Cross and wife Elizabeth.
1695 April 10th	Thomas Seager. Pres. by Bluett Wallop esqr. (Died).
1706 Oct 21st	John Wood. Pres. by John Pym de Letton, Dorset.
	William Wood. (Died).
1744 Sept. 6th	Edward Beadon. Pres. by Robert Beadon de Skeford.
1783 Feb. 3rd	George Lewis. Pres. by John Karland of Langford Budville. (Died).
1816 Nov. 15th	John Townsend. Pres. by Richard Harrison.
1818 Oct. 29th	William Moore Harrison. Pres. by Richard Harrison.
1866 Dec. 19th	William Harpley. Pres. by William North Row.
1914	William Frank Lamplough
1931	Frederick William Milnes
1937	Evan David Evans
1938	Arthur O'Neill Drew
1944	Arthur Tulk Cook
1952	John Henry Jones
1957	Evan Emrys Hughes
1963	William Haythornethwaite
	Benefice united with Bampton
1968	Richard Kenneth Raith Coath
1977	Donald Michael Clarridge
1984	John Gilbert Scott
1992	Paul Philip Ockford
1999	John Stone
2011	Lynne Burgon
2015	Kevin Chandra

APPENDIX II

LAY SUBSIDY (tax list) 1332

John Daly 8d.	Batecok' de Doningeston 12d.	William atte Berehaie 3s.
Robert Veleheis 12d.	Robert de Bolecomb' 3s 6d.	Adam le Frère 2s.
John de Bolecomb' 2s.	William de Crockysbury 10d.	Richard le Knyght 15d.
Henry de Bolecomb' 12d.	William Bonde 18d.	Robert atte Crosse 12d.
Agnes de Cleyhangre 2s.	Robert de Stotcomb' 12d.	Thomas de Upcotte 8d.
John atte Doune 2s.	Edith atte Pirye 8d.	William atte Hurne 8d.

APPENDIX III

DEVON MUSTER ROLL, 1539. CLAYHANGER PARISH

(a list of the able men of Clayhanger available to be called to arms if needed)

Presenters sworn: John Nutcombe Roger Southeall Roger Burdg John Hill Who do present as before is said
[earlier in the document]

Jeffry Potter L 10	John Crosse G 6	John Nutcombe G 6	
Roger Southell G 6	Roger Burdg G 6	Thomas Stone G 7	John Hill G 7

(The L and G numbers are codes for the worth of each person. L10 meant that his annual earnings were between £5 and £10. G stands for goods, or possessions, the 6 and 7 being a kind of tax band). The spelling below is taken from the original documents!

The Inhabitants not particlarly charged by the Statut are acessed to fynd etc. one corselet, one pike, two harquebuts.

The names of all the hable men within the said parish of Cleyhanger mustered:

Archers

John Southwood	John Frogpit	Andrew Norman	John Stone of Upcote
John Tanking	Robert Torr	Jeffry Stone	Simon Frogpit
John Baylye	Thomas Stone	Richard Aplie	John Torr
John Burdg	James Escote	Nicholas Torr	

Gonners

William Stone	John Burdg jun	Roger Caperen	Edward Hagley
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Pikemen

Richard Crosse	John Burge	John Potter	John Hill at Boulcomb
Henry Thorn	Thomas Hart	William Powle	John Burdg at Bery
Thomas Jefford	Henry Osmund at Mill		

Billmen

John Nutcombe	Roger Burdg jun	John Martemer	John Stone at Hele
Roger Burdg	Nicholas Loving	Humphrey Stone	John Parkhouse
John Thorne	Robert Stone	George Farthing	Joseph Torr
Henry Farthing	Roger Burdg at Bery		

APPENDIX IV

PARISH CHURCH RATES, NOVEMBER 4th 1603

..... reparations of the parrish church of Cleyhanger made and confirmed with the Mr. Emannuell Maxey, Clerke, Parson there, John Nuttcombe, John Potter, John ..., John Burdge of Bulcombe, John Tooker, John Stone, William Corner, John, Agnes Burge, widow, Florence Frogpitt, widdowe, John Moore, Christopher Cornish etc.

	s.	d.
John Nutcombe for West Nutcombe		17
John Burge of Berrys for West Fryers & Bushayes		17
Micheal Frogpitt for Hookhay		9
Florence Frogpitt for Perry		9
John Perrott for Dunyngestone Myll		14
Dunshame alias Dunstone		19
Tollett meade		1
The widdowe Chrimpe for her close		1
Andrew Stone for Upcott & Chappell rewe		21
John Potter for Marley Downes and East Fryers	2	0
John Stone for Lane and Willhayes		12
Thomas Stone for Woodland		7
John Parkhouse		12
Alice Gifford, widdowe		10
William & Christopher Stone		13
Robert Potter		14
Thomas Hudford alias Bursone		9
John and Joan Hill for Bondhouse		13
John Tooker for Hearne Place		13
Henry Farthing for Crosses		11
Thomas Court for Morterland		2
All the Tennaments of Poulets, Leight Downe and Leyghwood Rynes Croft and Little Leight		23
John Nutcombe for East Nuttcombe		18
Agnes Burge for Hilcombe		7
John Southell for Southeale		17
John Norman for Honnleight		16
Joane Stone, wife of Matthew Bindon, for part of North heale		6
Christopher Cornish for Brockecombe		4
John Burge for Bulcombe and Cruksberrye		16
John Toase for part of South heale		1
John Moore for part of North heale tenement		3
James Addams for part of North heale tenement		2
Bawdon Coram		1
New cloasehit		1
<u>John Nuttcombe for Heale Wood</u>		<u>14</u>
Confirmed Nov 4. 1603	£1	12 2

Emannuell Maxey
Richard Stone, churchwarden Thomas Stone, Sydeman

** I make this total £1.11.5d

APPENDIX V

CLAYHANGER TITHE DEMAND 1634

PREMISES	OCCUPIER	AMOUNT	EXTANT?	NGR
West Nutcombe	John Nutcombe	6d		
East Nutcombe	John Nutcombe	6d		
Donningstone Mill Tenement	William Stone	3d		
Donningstone Mill	William Stone	15d	YES	ST 0082 2374
Hookhay	Richard Frogpitt	3d	YES	ST 0135 2445
Perry	Joan Frogpitt, widow	3d	YES	ST 0182 2242
Berry	Antis Burge, widow	2d	YES	ST 0118 2510
Bushayne	Antis Burge, widow	2d		
Marley	Nicolast Hartnoll, Clerk	3d		
Down	Nicolast Hartnoll, Clerk	2d		
East Fryers	Nicolast Hartnoll, Clerk	2d		
Hanleigh	Robert Norman	9½d	YES	ST 0315 2491
Woodland	Christopher Stone	3d	YES	ST 0291 2450
Hillcombe	John Talbott	6d	YES	ST 0275 2415
Vellhayne	Thomas Stone	3d		
Willhayes	Thomas Stone	3d	YES	ST 0245 2400
Woodcocks	Joseph Yaw	1½d		
Willball	John Flead	1½d	(?Fleeds	ST 0220 2373)
Hobhouse	Richard Stone	3d		
Upcott	Honour Stone, widow	5d		
Marshall	Honour Stone, widow	4d		
Southmoore & -				
- Northele (1 part)	Robert Adams	2d	YES	ST 0290 2320
Northeal (1 part)	Christopher Stone	6d		
Northeal (1 part)	Roger Southeal	5d		
Southhele	Roger Southhele	6d	YES	ST 0277 2246
Southhele (part)	James Ennor	2d		
Southhele (part)	Dorathy Sully	10d		
Brocham	Dorathy Sully	3d	Brockham Wood	ST 0225 2205
Helewood	Nicolast Nutcombe	8d	YES	ST 0265 2230
Wadhayes	James Wipple	3d	Wardhayes Copse	ST 0215 2222
Bondhouse	John Hill	3d		
Crosses	Henry Farthing	3d	YES	ST 0170 2210
Hearn alias Hoar Place	Nicolast Tucker	6d	YES	ST 0110 2195
South Bulcombe	James Corner	4d	NO	ST 0115 2256
Northbulcombe	William Burge	2d	YES	ST 0103 2283
Crooksbury	William Burge	2d		
West Cleyhanger	Robert Potter	5d		
East Cleyhanger	Robert Potter	4d	YES	ST 02 22
Twillett Meadow	Robert Potter	3d		

APPENDIX VI

CLAYHANGER PROTESTATION RETURNS, 1641

(An oath of allegiance to the king and Church of England against the Church of Rome sworn by the adult men [over the age of 14] of every parish)

Adames, Nicholas	Galsworthy, Michael	Stone, Richard	Bowden, William
Galsworthy, Robert	Stone, Robert	Bryant, Jacob	Grante, Henry
Stone, Thomas	Bullery, John	Harte, Robert	Stone, William
Burdge, John	Hawkins, Peter	Talbott, John	Burdge, John
Hill, Roger	Tallott, Jacob	Burdge, John	Jordan, Alexander
Tucker, Nicholas	Burdge, Roger	Knolles, Christopher	Venn, John
Burdge, William	Larcombe, Richard	Watts, Richard	Burdge, Arthur
Lawcombe, Robert	Waxman, Edward	Burston, William	Marchant, William
Webber, Richard	Charles, Robert	Norman, Robert	Willis, Alexander
Corner, James	Padden, Christopher	Willyams, John	Corner, Thomas
Padden, John	Wipple, George senior	Darch, Humphrey	Parsons, Gabriel
Wipple, Jacob senior	Davy, John	Potter, Robert	Wipple, Jacob
Davy, William	Reawe, William	Woodrofe, Robert	Derrant, John
Southwood, John	Woodrofe, William	Flead, John	Southwell, Roger
Wyne, John senior	Frackpitt, Jacob	Spring, Jacob	Wyne, John junior
Frackpitt, John	Stone, Christopher	Galesworthy, Nicholas	Stone, John

Followed by five signatures:

Hugh Pimme, Rector

William Stone, Overseer

Nicholas Nuttcombe, High Constable

Jeffrey Prottoar, Churchwarden

Richard Frackpitt, Petty Constable

APPENDIX VII

HEARTH TAX, 1664

(the numbers are the number of hearths in each person's house).

Mr. Nitcombe	16	Jon Stone[1]	2	Jon Stone[2]	2
Jane Tucker	3	Rob Lobb	3	Rich Bray	2
Amb Stone	2	Tho Bryant	2	Rich Milton	3
Wm Bowden	4	Mary Larkam	2	Dan Valdin	2
Anth Burges	3	Jon Hill	3	Nich Burridge	3
Eliz Watts	2	Edwd Frogpit	1	Rob Norman	2
Jon Burges	3	Alex Willis	3	James Mogridge	1
Mr Pine	6	Mr Sainthill	5	Widow Floud	2
Mary Evans	2				

The Poor of Clayhanger (Hearth Tax).

Math Bowdon	1	Tho Hays	1	Rob Larkam	1
Jon Potter	1	Jon Selly	1	Tho Padden	1
Rich Larkam	1	Jon Lewis	1	Mary Padden	1
Hum Woodro	1	Geo Hutchins	1	Ger Norman	1
Jon Wine	1	Rob Danniell	1	Joan Evan	1
Eliz Larkham	2				

APPENDIX VIII

LAND TAX, 29.8.1780.

LANDOWNER		TENANT	VALUE		
			£	s	d
B. Nutcombe Bluett	for Nutcombe		12	10	10
	for Dunningstone	Francis Welch	5	0	0
	for Helewood	Thomas George	5	0	4
	for West Clayhanger	William Blackmoore	2	10	2
	for Holecomb	Thomas Davey	3	11	8
Rev. Edward Beadon, rector			10	7	10
Sir William Yaw	for Bondhouse	Joan Hawkings	4	13	2
	for Wadhayes	Joan Hawkings	3	4	6
	for East Clayhanger	Stephen Bryant	2	10	2
	for Mortland	Stephen Bryant		14	4
Simon Slade	for Crosses		6	2	2
	for Ven		3	11	8
Mrs Ann Norris	for Handly		6	1	10
Thomas Musgrove	for Berry	Francis Timewell	6	1	10
Richard Bawdon	for Potters & Fryers	Francis Timewell	8	12	0
Thomas Musgrove	for Perry	Francis Timewell	3	8	2
John Ley	for Hookhayes	Francis Timewell	3	8	2
Ann Bryant	for Herne	Michael Bryant	4	13	2
James Blackmoore	for Dunningstone Mills		3	3	0
Miss Mary Southele	for Southele	James Hill	9	8	0
	for Northele	James Hill	3	10	0
	for Brushford	James Hill		14	4
N. Quick	for Northbulcomb	Nicholas Davey	6	9	0
Nicholas Davey	for Southbulcombe		3	12	10
Francis Wright	for Wellhayes	Benjamin Rodgers	4	6	0
Thomas Butcher	for Woodcock & Willball	Benjamin Rodgers	4	0	6
Cornelis Marsh	for Woodland	James Davey	2	10	2
Sir John Trevilyan	for Brockham	William Quartley	1	8	8
William Sharpey	for Newhouse			15	0
William Quartley	for Pearses Meadow			4	0
Francis Merson	for Tillett Meadow	James Weygood		6	0
Ashford Sanford	for Pulletslee	William Brewer	8	4	10
William Bray	for Upcott	Thomas Bray	7	1	4
			<u>*148</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>

Simon Slade Assessors & Signed & sealed by Samuel Newte, John -----, Francis Colman
James Hill collectors

* This figure does not compute. I make it £147. 15s. 8d.