

**THE STORY
OF
DUNTISBOURNE
ROUS**

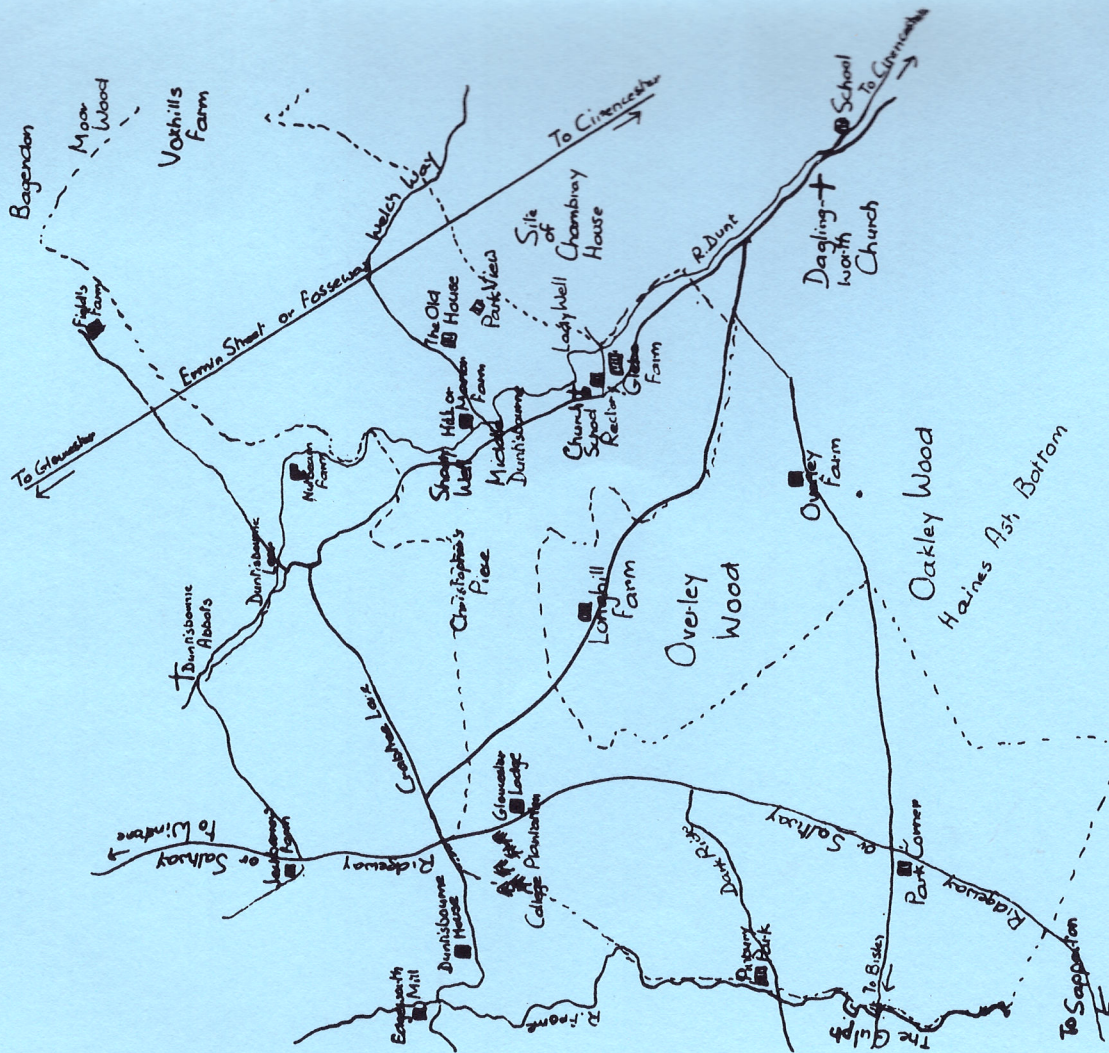
by

ANNE CARVER

THE STORY OF DUNTISBOURNE ROUS

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GLOUCESTER



SKETCH MAP OF DUNTISBOURNE ROUS

THE STORY OF DUNTISBOURNE ROUS OR MILITIS

PREFACE

I should like to thank the many past and present inhabitants of Duntisbourne Rous for their interest and help, and also the many people from outside the parish who have contributed to these notes. I cannot mention everyone by name, but would like to record my gratitude to the following:—

The Rector and Churchwardens of Duntisbourne Rous

Mr John Mullings

Mrs Sidney Barton

The Hon. Mrs James Lindsay

Mr Norman Jewson

Mr Clive Rouse

Mr Bernard Ashwell

Mr Walrond

Mr F. B. Bengier

Mrs Miles

Mrs Pritchard

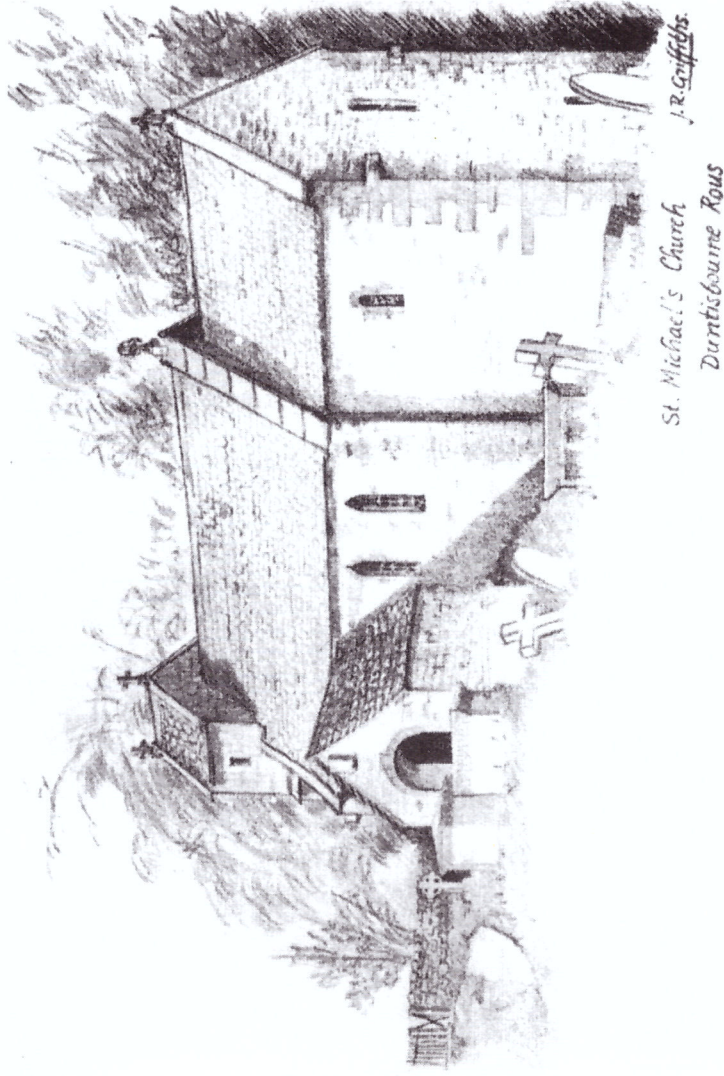
Miss Tickle

Mr V. J. Keyte

Ulric Daubeny.

I am also indebted to the Librarians and Staff of the Gloucester City Library and of the Bingham Library, to Mrs R. Gosling for permission to quote from her father's (the late Robert Henriques) book, and above all to Mr Irvine Gray and Mr Brian Smith and their Staff at the County Records Office, without whose help and encouragement I should have got nowhere.

DUNTISBOURNE LEER
1968



St. Michael's Church

Duntisbourne Rous

THE EARLY DAYS

This small parish with a population of sixty people is shaped like a figure of eight. In the north-eastern loop are the manors of Middle Duntisbourne and Duntisbourne Rous, and in the south-western one is the manor of Pinbury, which includes Park Corner. The parish lies between Duntisbourne Abbots in the north and Daglingworth in the south, and straddles the river Dunt and Ermine Street on its eastern border. On the west it is bounded by the river Frome.

A Saxon chief called Dunt lived at Brimpsfield and gave his name to the stream from which we get the first part of our name. The second part was added after the Conquest to differentiate between lands in Duntisbourne owned by the Abbot of Gloucester, by the monks of Lyre in Normandy, and by a Breton¹ Knight called le Rous, or The Redhead. Pinbury is another ancient name, meaning Penda's Borough or Fort, and possibly connected with the famous Mercian King Penda, from whom the penny is believed to get its name.

The earliest signs of man here are the three barrows in College Plantation.² One is thought to have been a long barrow, and the others, opened in 1882 by Mr G. B. Witts but inadequately recorded, were described as "resembling two round barrows". Bones and a flint scraper were found in these. There was also an earthwork of about an acre in the Pinbury area, said to have been made into a bowling green in the eighteenth century. Signs of another can be seen from the air in the field north of the house, but this may be part of the same one.

The Romans must surely have known about this sheltered valley so near to their main road, and several Roman objects have been found in neighbouring Daglingworth, but I know of nothing to suggest their occupation of the Dunt valley. There is a theory that the Roman invaders explored the Frome valley on their way to Gloucester, in order to avoid the fortifications of Minchinhampton.³ This is supported by the finding of a gold ring thought to be Roman by Mr Ernest Barnsley at Pinbury, and also of a gold coin of Antonia found in the rickyard there.⁴ Antonia was the daughter of Mark Antony and wife of Nero, and she lived between 39 B.C. and 38 A.D.⁵

The only recorded fact about our pre-conquest history is that a Saxon named Ulward held land here in Edward the Confessor's reign.⁶

The age of the Church is uncertain. Because of the herring-bone work on the north wall several authorities describe the nave as Saxon, but it is now considered that much work of this type is slightly post-conquest. Mr Clive Rouse, F.S.A., who recently visited the Church, says that it is not earlier than the twelfth century.

At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, several manors were recorded as Duntisbourne, two of which must have been those of Duntisbourne Abbots and Leer.⁷ C. S. Taylor was of opinion that the one held by William de Ow, a cousin of the Conqueror, was in fact the area of Daglingworth, a name which does not appear in Domesday Book at all. Two hides of land were held by Durand, Sheriff of Gloucester, whose tenant was named Radulf. This land later belonged to the le Rous family, whose name attached itself to the parish.

¹ B. and G. vol. 41, page 153. Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society.

² B. and G. vol. 79, page 78. Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society.

³ H. P. R. Finberg, *Genesis of Glos. Towns*, in Gloucestershire Studies, Leicester University Press, 1957.

⁴ B. and G. vol. 20, page 35.

⁵ Information from the Corinium Museum, Cirencester.

⁶ Analysis of the Domesday Survey of Gloucestershire, page 167.

⁷ Analysis of the Domesday Survey of Gloucestershire, page 167.

At the other end of the present parish was the manor of Pinbury, given by the Conqueror to his daughter, Abbess of Caen. Here there was a mill, and, surprisingly, a smith, one of the only two mentioned in the Gloucestershire Domesday. There are no signs of a mill on that part of the Frome that flows along the parish border, and the fall appears inadequate for one, so I think the above-mentioned mill was probably that of Henwood, which lies in the present parish of Sapperton. This mill, now ruined, was in use until the end of the last century.

THE MIDDLE AGES

Once the Normans had settled here they added to the existing Church. The chancel and its supporting crypt were built, and the font was made, possibly copied from the earlier one in Duntisbourne Abbots. The chancel was decorated with wall-paintings consisting of at least four figures, one of which was a monk with a harp. These were uncovered in 1872 and recorded by the Rev. George Moberley. Because the original paintings¹ are thought to date from the 12th century, I will quote from Mr Moberley's notes now.

"In 1872 the Commandment Boards at the (east) end of the Church were taken down, and four coatings of plaster successively disclosed. Immediately beneath the boards was a flowery centrepiece of which the final (adorned with cornucopaei on each side, one with wheat-ears the other with grapes) showed above the boards.

Beneath this was another set of Commandments written in large black letter type across the whole wall.

Beneath this again was a pattern exactly corresponding to the second pattern on the north and south walls of the chancel (which can be seen today).

Beneath this again came the painting of the original plaster of the walls. This consisted of four figures, two at the north and two at the south sides, separated by a large interval of wall on which are no traces of anything. The pairs were grouped under canopies, with no writing of any sort, and there was not enough of them remaining for their identification. The first, (according to Mr Waller[†] the oldest and certainly the finest and best preserved) was a monk with tonsured head and a harp in his hand. The second was much decayed. There was a glory round the head, which was bearded and full-faced.

The south pair were more decayed, but the third seemed to be a draped figure (of which . . . uncertain) carrying a . . . The fourth was utterly obliterated.

(Unfortunately the gaps in the above notes were caused by a mouse.) Beneath the new and freshly painted chancel was the crypt, built to make use of the steeply sloping ground. Possibly it was used for Masses for the Dead, as there are two aumbries there, or it may have been intended for confessions. Rudge, writing in 1803, says "formerly used

¹ Rev. E. Goldsmith and others, Notebook, Glos. County Records Office.

[†] Architect in charge of the restoration of Duntisbourne Abbots in that year

for some superstitious purposes of the Romish worship". The Rev. George Moberley, writing seventy years later, suggests that a relic may have been displayed there, and that the faithful approached it from the original chancel steps (now blocked), admired the relic, and departed by the present outdoor steps.

During the next century two bells were added to the church, dedicated to St Mary and to St Catherine of Syria. The present belfry was built later, but may have replaced an earlier one. The four misericordes in the chancel date from this time, but appear to be unnecessary for so small a Church, and probably came from a monastic Church, possibly Cirencester Abbey, after the Reformation.

From the Cartulary of Cirencester Abbey we know the names of some of the local residents of the time. A charter dated "before 1197" mentions Thomas de Viem who gave Pinbury to his wife Matilda Murdoc. Joseph, cleric de Duntlesborne, Roberto sacerdotē de Duntlesborne, and Henrico capellano de Duntlesborne, all appear as witnesses of a charter of 1200, and between 1313 and 1315 Margareta de Duntlesborne, Roger de Duntlesborne, Nicholae de Pendebury and Lawrence de Pendebury (Pinbury) appear in the same capacity.

The next recorded priest here was Hugh de Upton, appointed in 1268 by Helewysa (Louisa) widow of Henry le Rous. Hugh came from Clungunford in Shropshire, and was also priest of Duntisbourne Abbots. Shortly after his appointment he was granted leave to study for one year.



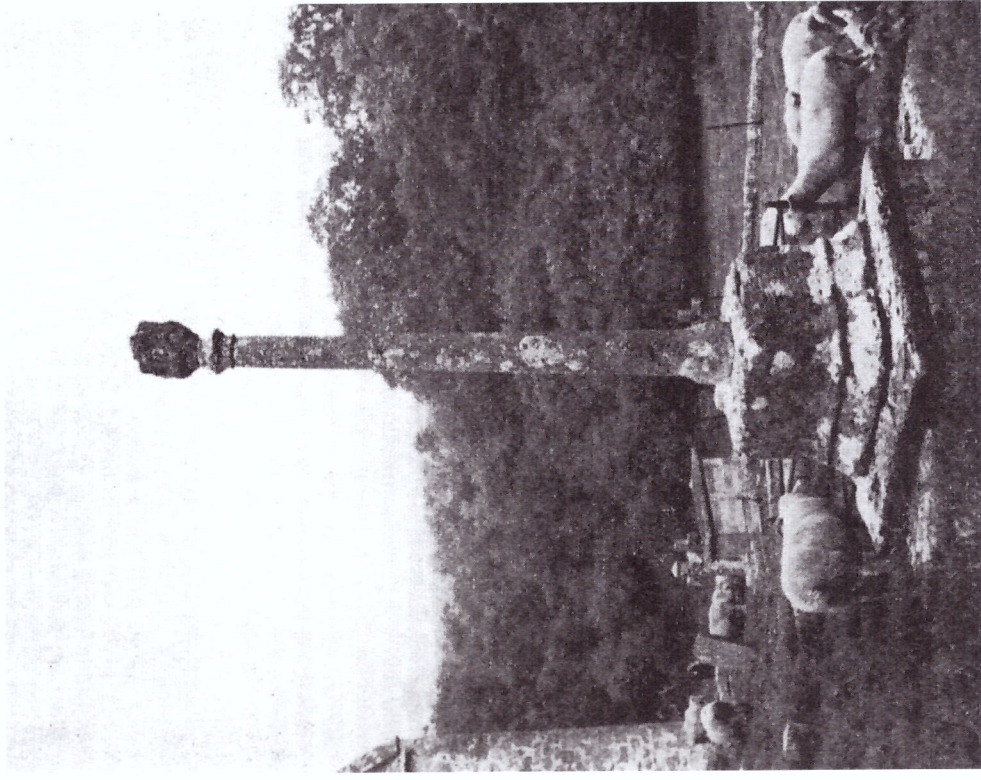
ONE OF THE MISERICORDES

Next, in 1289, came Walter Burdon, aged eighteen, and then a member of the le Rous family, Roger "in minor orders". But he soon resigned as "he did not have the letters of studying".

The above mentioned Henry le Rous was Roger's grandfather. His son Sir Roger (Sheriff in 1278) succeeded him, and was in turn succeeded by his son John, elder brother of Roger the priest. While this John was Lord of the Manor it was first described as Duntisbourne Militis, emphasising that it belonged to a Knight and had no connection with the Church. This name, also Knight's Duntisbourne, occurs frequently up to the eighteenth century, and even on Bryant's map of 1824.

³B. and G. vol. 10, page 120.

⁴B. and G. vol. 10, page 78.



THE CHURCHYARD CROSS

The next Lord of the Manor was his son, another John. In 1309 "Sir John le Rous, man of Duntisbourne" attended a tournament in Stepney. He took part in the Great Council of 1324, and then represented Herefordshire¹ in six successive Parliaments. He was attainted of treason² in 1322 and forfeited his lands, but these were restored to him in 1327. Meanwhile his Duntisbourne land was farmed by Richard de Foxcote.

I do not know what his Herefordshire connection was, but there was some link with the Abbey of Dore. John gave one acre of land in Duntisbourne Rous to the Abbey in 1331, and the Abbot held the advowson. John of Abyden (which may have been Abingdon, but was probably Abbey Dore) was priest here in 1304.

The le Rous family owned considerable land in Haresfield, where there was a castle, and where they probably lived.

The second John was succeeded by Thomas, who was the last of his name and died in 1348. His only son died young, and his daughter Juliana was his heir. She married firstly Sir Andrew Herle, and secondly Thomas Mylle, who died in 1422. Their son was also called Thomas, and he was attainted in 1461. The manor was seized by the Crown, and in 1462 was granted to Thomas Herbert, who died without heir. In 1472 Sir Richard Beauchamp (an ancestor of Mrs Renshaw of the Old Rectory) held the land.

The Church records for this century are very scanty, but the cross in the churchyard and the mass dial in the south wall of the porch probably date from this period, although the latter was moved to its present position later.

At the suppression of the alien monasteries in 1415, Pinbury was given to the Brigittine Nuns of Syon Abbey. There is no proof that any nuns ever lived at Pinbury, but there are so many local legends about them that I think some should be recorded. It is said that a few unmarried ladies of noble families were sent to live there under the supervision of one elderly nun and a housekeeper. When the Religious Houses were closed, either at this time or at the Reformation, these ladies were sent home, but the housekeeper was allowed to remain. She loved the place so dearly that she has never left it, and still appears in the "Nun's Walk".

Alexander Lindsay who lived at Pinbury as a child once remarked that he was being followed by "a lady with a necklace round her middle", and his mother says that they frequently heard ghostly voices there, chiefly of children. The housekeeper was seen recently in Shadywell by a party of local residents going to a cricket match. Another ghostly appearance in the same area is that of a group of monks carrying a golden coffin, presumably going from Pinbury to Nutbeam, where there was a chapel belonging to the Abbot of Cirencester. There are tales too of secret passages going in every direction, but no one seems to know of any reason for these.

¹ Worcs Dios, Records in Glos. City Library.

² B. and G. vol. 10, page 281.

SIXTEENTH CENTURY

In 1513 at the suppression of the monasteries Pinbury "passed" to Lord Windsor, and then to Sir Henry Poole of Sapperton. It continued in the hands of this family for over a century.

The rest of the parish was unaffected by the suppression, but I think it possible that the Norman windows in the barn at Middle Duntisbourne came from the chapel at Nutbeam. The local inhabitants probably helped themselves to useful bits of masonry, as there are several similar examples in Duntisbourne Leer. They may however have come from one of the churches where a restoration was in progress.

Dr Richard Fox, the blind Bishop of Winchester, bought the rest of the parish and gave it to the new college of Corpus Christi in Oxford, of which he was the first President. From that time until 1987 when the Lordship of the Manor was sold to Harold Hobbs of Horsham for £9000 the college has held the advowson, and has owned most of the land, selling it off gradually during the last fifty years. Manor Farm was the last to go in 1958. The college has kept excellent records, and it is from these that I have been able to collect much of the information that follows.

Sir Thomas Belli had been inducted before the college took over. During his incumbency,¹ at Archbishop Cranmer's request, the churchwardens Wyllum Alysannr and Thomas Rydlar sent two shillings "for the defence of the Christian Princes against the Turks", on behalf of the parish. Although on bad terms with the Pope, Henry VIII supported the efforts of the Holy Roman Empire to prevent the infidels from invading Europe via the Danube.

Robert Morwent, President of C.C.C.² was inducted here in 1545. It seems unlikely that he could have served the cure himself, but he was buried here in 1557, and during his incumbency the Registers were started. Next came John Jones, M.A., who resigned shortly afterwards and then John Dolber. We can assume that these Rectors occupied "the Rectory House" demolished in the early years of the nineteenth century, but apart from its demolition I have never found any other reference to it. It was almost certainly on the present site.

In 1560 Dr William Butcher, President of C.C.C., became Rector. Bigland, writing in 1792, said that "as he was in animo Catholicus he left Corpus the following year and retired to his small cure at Duntisbourne Militis where he lived obscurely for many years. At length, giving way to Fate, he was buried in the Church there Nov 1 1585".

Dr Butcher was examined by Bishop Hooper's Visitors, and got a good report from the examiners, which was to be expected as he was probably one of the few educated clergy in these parts. (Many of his colleagues in the surrounding villages could not even repeat the Lord's Prayer.)

As Dr Butcher was "in animo Catholicus" the church probably remained untouched by the Reformation. The crypt would still have been used for its "superstitious purposes of the Roman worship", and no new-fangled ideas such as moving the altar into the body of the church

¹ Hockday Extracts, Glos. City Library.

² C.C.C. archives.

would have been introduced. Dr Butcher was probably a discouraged and even frightened man, and he certainly neglected his duties, as the Diocesan Report of 1563 tells us—

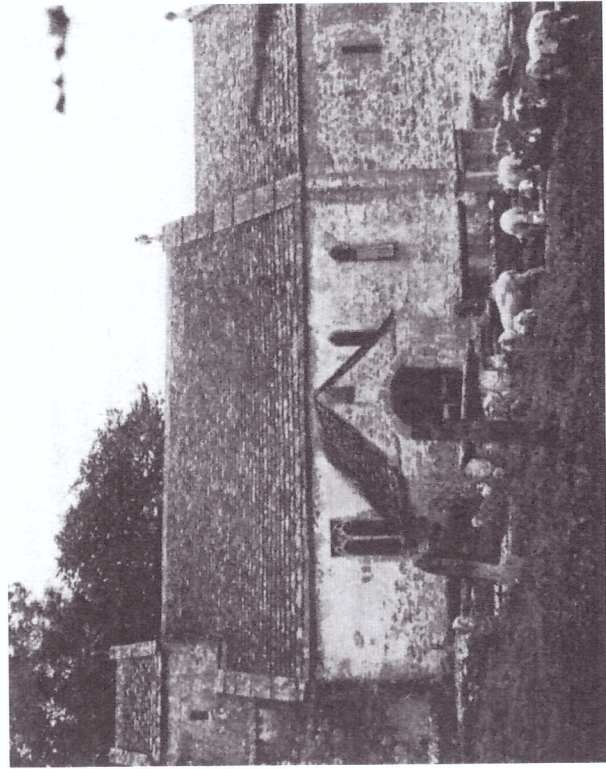
“The chauncel is in decaye, in glassinge, in Mayster William Bocher’s default . . . no person (Parson) there . . . body of the church is in decaye, in timber work, in the parish defaulte.” It adds “Elizabeth Forste is an evil lyving woman as the fame goithe”. By 1572 things were no better. The church and chancel “lack glassinge” and by now “they want a carpet.”

However the Wind of Change came in 1586, when Richard Woodward, Minister, was sworn and collated. He carried out Queen Elizabeth’s order of 1597 that all parish registers were to be copied on to parchment, and he signed each page. During his incumbency the top of the tower was rebuilt and the following inscription carved into it—

“This was built by John Haden, mason, John Freeman and John Hoskins being Wardens A.D. oi 1587.” This can just be seen today, but if it not soon restored it will disappear.

By now the “Romish practices” in the crypt would have ceased, and it was probably at this time that the crypt was turned into a chancel house and the steps blocked up.³

³Ulric Darkbeny, Ancient Cotswold Churches.



THE CHURCH TODAY

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

During the seventeenth century the family of Jefferies first became prominent. Their names occur frequently in various records and they have several gravestones in the churchyard, beginning with a table tomb of 1611, on which is a very early brass plate inscribed thus—

“An Elegie of Elizabeth Jefferies widow of John Jefferies of Dunsborne upon his death, who deceased the XII day of September 1611.

Two bodyes one united hart containede
Fast linckt in loyal league of true affection
But death, that such a sweete content disdaind
Mad of one halfe to immanure discretion.

One halfe yet lives alasse, why lives it longer ?

It lives to make my greife and sorrowes stronger.

Yet till the time my fattall thred bee spunne

My halfe shall pay perpetuall obsequies

As fresh as when my firme love first begunne

And deck thy hearse with endless elegies.

When in selfe same thrise desired shrine

My body shall the last rest take by thine.

We had VIII children, IIII sonnes and IIII daughters as followeth

John Elizabeth

George Anne

Thomas Susana

John Elizabeth

This John Jefferies deceased was the youngest son of his father, Richard Jefferies of Dunsborne.”

From this time onwards there are many sources of information available to us, beginning with John Smyth’s Men and Armour, compiled in 1608. This was a record of the names of the men in each parish who were eligible for military service, their ages, heights, occupations, whether trained soldiers, and what kinds of weapons they could use. Duntisbourne Rous had twelve able-bodied men. The Lords of the Manors were Sir Henry Poole and the President and Fellows of Corpus Christi. Richard Jefferies was described as yeoman, William Jell husbandman, William Humber keeper, and the rest had no given occupation. They had to raise one musket between them.

Richard Woodward continued as Minister until 1624 when he was succeeded by John Hampton.³ Mr William Tymmes (or Symmes) was appointed Rector by the Commissioners for Approbation of Public Preachers in 1655, and came with “a testimony of holy and good conversation.”

The following notes are taken from the Registers: someone has drawn attention to the most interesting items by sketching a hand with lace cuff and pointing finger in the margin.

1636 John Stone was strooken to deeth in y thunder and lightning in our field on ye Fosseway, ye handywork of God.

1649 John Rigobe found in a field dead, having, at the Coroner’s Inquest brought in their verdict, his neck twisted, and was buried by the Coroner’s leave.

³Hockaday transcripts.

1660 Charles the son of Sir Hugh Middleton Kt and Jane his wife was borne on ye 13th April and baptised ye 22 of the same month. (This is the only time this name occurs—possibly he was connected with the Pooles.)

1678 William Thomazino (a poor traveller of ye parish of Savicilio in ye county of Glamorgan) was buried february 13th.

1687 Samuel Rogers, Vicar of Painswick, and Susana ... ault of Pinbury were marryed.

By this time Pinbury has been bought by the Atkyns family of Sapperton.¹ Sir Robert Atkyns, senior, a distinguished Judge, lived at Sapperton Manor House (which no longer exists), and he gave Pinbury to his son, later Sir Robert, the Gloucestershire historian, who rebuilt the house and lived in it. The above Susana may have been some relation.

The Atkyns family had been connected with the Law for over three hundred years, and had also produced several Members of Parliament. The historian Robert was one of the two Members for Cirencester at the time. He was a Royalist at heart, and once fought a duel with Colonel Sir John Guise of Rendcomb in a field behind the Bear Inn at North Cerney. The official reason given for this was a dispute at cards, but it was really the result of longstanding political disagreements. Atkyns's blade went through Guide's back, and he fell into a saw pit,—but lived to fight further duels.²

The Jefferies family continued to supply churchwardens. They built the original part of the present Manor Farm in 1667 and put the date over the door. This too is rapidly vanishing. Another house in the parish was connected with the family, called Chambery or Chambray House. Identifying this house has been difficult, but we now think that it was in the small enclosure on the east side of the lane opposite to Manor Farmhouse. A rent-book of Sir Mark Pleydell of Duntisbourne Abbots³ who also owned land in Duntisbourne Rous, mentions in 1671 "a mansion, occupied by Jefferies, let to Jenner for £4, called Chambray House, with garden, bank, barns, stables, outhouses and fields". Jefferies was allowed to take enough timber to mend the plough and for firing. Again in 1729 we read "Chambray Bargain rent, Elizabeth Jenner £2".

The Haines family now appear in local records for the first time. They had been prominent in Daglingworth since 1528 and had intermarried with the Pooles and Hintons there. In 1678 John Haines was churchwarden of Duntisbourne Rous. I have not solved the question of whether they lived in the parish then, and if so where.

Thomas King, Gent.,⁴ was summoned by the Heralds in 1682, but I have no further knowledge of him.

The only known charitable work during the seventeenth century was a collection for "the late sadd fire within the City of London" but we do not know what sum was raised.⁵

¹ Dictionary of National Biography.

² Rees, Story of Bagendon.

³ Radnor Papers, Berks. C.R.O.

⁴ Bigland

James Session became Rector in 1679, followed by Josia Dockwray in 1696. This man seems to have been an extremely unsatisfactory shepherd of his flock. The age of absentee parsons had begun all over England, and Dockwray was probably no worse than many others, but he lived out of his parish and neglected his people. Things became so bad that in 1712 the churchwardens of North Cerney, Duntisbourne Abbots and Duntisbourne Rous complained to the Bishop that Dockwray was "always absent and had deserted his flock." The Bishop sequestered him, and William Phipps, Rector of Duntisbourne Abbots, was licenced to serve the cure of souls instead. Phipps was extremely active in his own parish, so probably Duntisbourne Rous benefited.¹

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

In spite of trouble with the Parson there were two gifts to the parish early in the new century. In 1702 a new chalice and paten were presented, almost certainly by the Atkyns family, as they are identical to those of Sapperton. They were made by Joseph Ward of London. When the widowed Lady Atkyns died in Bath in 1716 she left "6 lb to ye poor of ye parish."²

After the death of the Rev. Josia Dockwray in 1739, John Marshall became Rector with Thomas Clissold as his Curate. Six years later Edward Ford, Minister, S.T.P., took over the parish. He had matriculated at Corpus at the age of fourteen, and ran the first school in the parish. He taught his pupils in "a room at the back of the Rectory, known (in 1880) as the laundry."³ I think this was the detached room in the garden of the Rectory, which was certainly used as a school later on.

The Churchwardens' Accounts begin in 1720. Thomas Tombs was one Warden, and he states that the Rate brought in £2 6s. 6d. Spelling was not his strong point, as some of the extracts from his accounts will show; but he kept detailed accounts, and got no help from his Minister (Dockwray), who, as he notes, was absent.

1720 book of articles 1/-
fox, bager 1/-, sparrers 6d.⁴
broad an wind for too sacraments 4/-.

1722 Visitation Expences 6/6.

Prayer Book 1/6

Passingers 1/6⁵

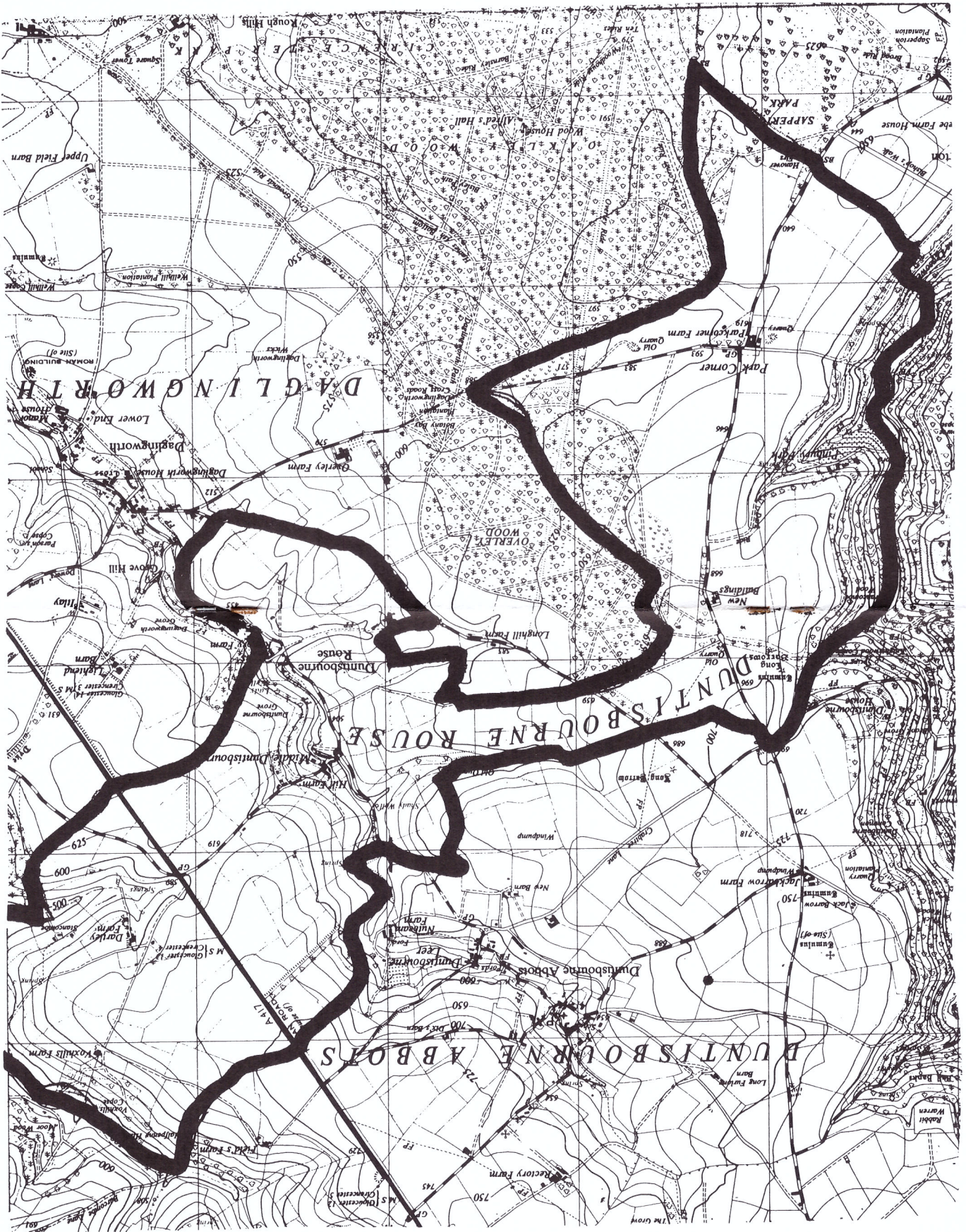
¹ Hockaday's Extracts.

² Church Registers.

³ Goldsmith's Norebook.

⁴ Payments for destruction of vermin.

⁵ Charity to wayfarers.



1735 The Honorable Lord Battors is Lord of the Manor. (This refers to the Manor of Pinbury. The spelling of Bathurst as spoken in broad Gloucestershire is phonetically correct!).

1744 Passons dinner 2/-

1755 a Fast Book 1/-.

During the following year there was much activity in and expenditure on the church. The rate brought in £11 ls. 3d, and the sum of £8 0 5½ was spent as follows—

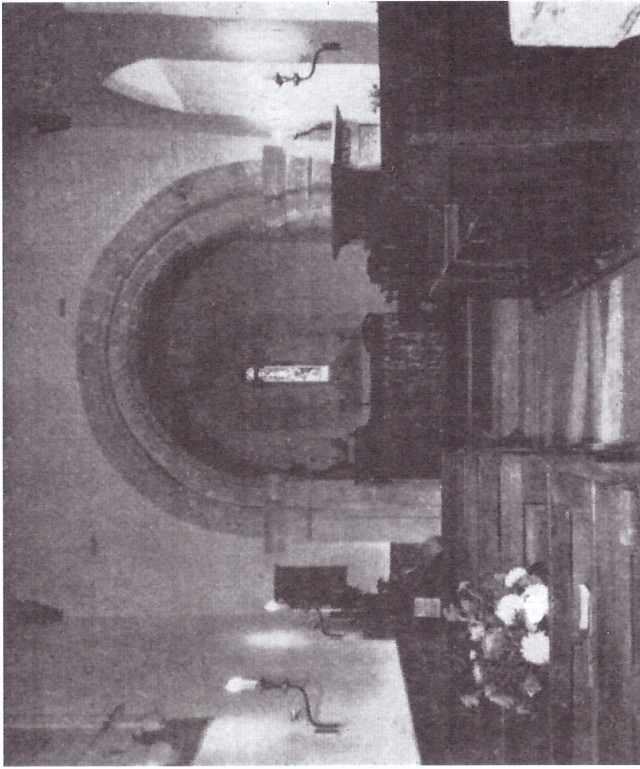
Dix, walling at porch	...	...	15	8
Dix, beam filling	...	...	1	2
William Freeman, for his son seiving mortar	...	...	4	10
Thomas Price, for work done at ye porch	...	...	1	5 11
Halling lath and slats	...	...	1	0
Halling stone from George's Quarr, and timber from Thomas Price	...	...	3	0
Halling 3 load of mortar	...	...	9	0
Halling one load of stone and cartload of mortar	...	...	4	0
2 bushels and a halfe of lime	...	...	1	10½
for seats to the porch	...	...	6	9
for laths to the porch	...	...	5	8½
George Blackwell's bill for wok and stone for ye porch	...	...	17	6
Slatters and . . . bills	...	...	2	6 0½
For a Warrant for a Shupor Viser	...	...	1	6
Mr Cantor's bill for Glassing in Church windows	...	...	15	0
a lock of ye porch door	...	...	1	6
			£8	0 5½

The above expenditure suggests that the porch was built at this time, and as the sundial of the same date was not mentioned in the accounts it was probably a gift.

A little later £2 4s. 6d. was spent on "a new pulpit cloth and making". The beautiful oak pulpit had probably already been installed. "For the King's Arms and putting up" cost them £2 5s, but these have vanished now.

The spelling of Visitation worried later Churchwardens. "Wisitation fees 17/6" was one effort. "Payd Sister men for fox" continued the custom of vermin control payments and of phonetic spelling, as did "payd to the pason for riting true 2/-", and "payd the Parater 1/-", which was an attempt at Apparator, a messenger or representative of the Bishop.

The Haines and Jefferies families continued to be the leading people in the parish. In 1784 a magnificent marble memorial was put up in the church to Nathaniel Haines and his family. This family certainly farmed Manor and Glebe farms at times, and younger sons may have lived there, but the family seat was in Daglingworth. John Haines the younger of Duntisbourne Rous, Gent, was appointed Gamekeeper by Corpus Christi College until 1784.



INTERIOR TODAY

After Edward Ford, Minister, came Thomas Pettener and William Finden. They both have memorials in the church and were buried in the crypt. The two huge slabs of stone over their graves may be the original stone altars from chancel and crypt, removed at the Reformation. Finder was sometimes absent, and took the Registers with him. There is a loose leaf attached to the page for 1763 recording that when J. Chapman, Curate, wanted to register the marriage of John Taylor of Bisley, clothworker, and Hester Bidmead, "Mr Chapman could not get at the Register Book, it being in the Rector's custody, who was then absent from his living."

John Skelton came next. At Corpus Christi College there is a bundle marked "30 letters about Controversy between Skelton and Haines 1793—1811." I failed to read through them all, but the argument was about tithes. Skelton was buried in a table tomb, which he shared with his friend the Rev. Edward Stretch, a Fellow of Corpus Christi College.

We get much information about this period from the several historians who were then writing about Gloucestershire, foremost among whom was our own parishioner Sir Robert Atkyns of Pinbury. In his *Ancient and Present State of Gloucestershire*, published in 1712 after his death, he describes his own newly-built house as "a pleasant seat in the midst of a large park." In this book, illustrated by Kip, is a drawing of his father's house at Sapperton showing Pinbury in the distance. This is the only picture I know of the house at this period, but it is difficult to

recognise, as are the surrounding roads and avenues. Rudder, writing in 1779, said that it had been "a delapidated Manor House" before Atkins rebuilt it. It was probably Atkins who made the bowling green on the site of the ancient earthwork. After Atkins's death Lord Bathurst bought it to add to his newly laid out park, but its glory faded rapidly. Rudder continued "the park is converted to a coney warren, the house gone to decay and some of it taken down."

Another historian who commented on the parish was Bigland, who did not think much of it. He remarked that no one from the parish had voted in the 1776 election, and "nothing occurs worthy of notice."

Park Corner was an important place during the eighteenth century because of its position at the crossroads of the Ridgeway, also known as the Saltway, and the Cirencester to Bisley packhorse road across the valley, then known as "the Gulph".¹ In 1752 the road was turpiked as far as the Gulph, and there were toll-houses near the Round Tower in Cirencester Park and at Park Corner. Sir Mark Pleydell's accounts frequently refer to Tol Pik 1d at Park Corner. Local tradition maintains that Whitefield preached there.

NINETEENTH CENTURY

At the beginning of the century all the main houses of the parish were in a very bad condition. As well as the decayed Pinbury, the Rectory House was described in a Corpus inspection of 1805 as dilapidated and inhabited by a labourer. In 1826 it was even worse. By 1828 the new Rector, the Rev. Vaughan Thomas, had refused to live in it, and had made such a fuss that the Diocesan authorities had agreed that "it is not fit for your residence." In 1834 they decided that it was dangerous and granted him a faculty to take it down and build a new one, which he did at his own expense.

A Terrier of 1828 mentions that adjoining the Parsonage House is "a large room called the school room" and twenty years later "the old school room, now a lumber room, needs a new wood floor £15." I assume that this was Mr Ford's original schoolroom in the garden, and that there had been no schooling in the parish for some time.

The total property belonging to the Rectory before the Enclosure Award of 1837 was 56 acres of inclosed land, 8 acres in the common fields, and a cottage and garden.

The Enclosure Award, now in the Glos. County Records Office, is in excellent condition and has a very clear map. The absentee Rector signed it and his interests were well safeguarded. The chief people concerned were William Hunter-Baillie of Duntisbourne Abbots who owned the original Pleydell land, Earl Bathurst who owned Pinbury, Thomas Boulton of Hill Farm, Edward Haines of Daglingworth, and the Churchwardens of Daglingworth and of Duntisbourne Rous. On this occasion some small alterations were made to the parish boundaries, all of which are clearly marked on the map.

¹ Cox, Turprike Houses of the Stroud District, B. and G. 1967.

As well as the derelict Rectory there was "an old Manor House" where Glebe Farmhouse now stands, occupied in the previous century by Mr Thomas Smart, Gent., of Bisley, who had married Ann Howes, a local girl. This house was rebuilt in 1844 by the Rev. Vaughan Thomas (whose initials are over the door) and was then occupied by Samuel Brunsdén, in whose opinion "the old one was much better."¹

The present Manor Farm was described in a C.C.C. report of 1805 as "Manor House, now a farm held by Giles Haines, stone and slate, occupied by two poor families. In bad repair. Has old barn of four bays, cart house, stable and cottage. Across the road in Upper Meadow is a five bay barn." In a similar report of 1826 it is described as "lately burnt down." It was probably rebuilt soon after this. The 1667 doorway is still there. The attic beams have obviously been burnt and re-used in the new building. There is an old stone dovecote in the garden, usually a sign of early manorial rights, so it is probably on the site of the original manor house of Middle Duntisbourne.

This farm now includes the sixty acres which were once a small farm situated on the upper slopes of the hill, surrounding the Old House, and farmed by the Boultons.² The Jefferies family farmed the lower land in the eighteenth century, and then the last surviving member of it, a girl, married a Boulton. They lived in the Old House at first, and later the two farms were joined up and the family moved to the rebuilt lower house. It kept the name of Hill Farm until recently, when the Bartons changed the name back to Manor Farm.

The Boultons had lived in the parish, and probably in the Old House, at least since 1740, when Christopher Boulton's name appears on a Pleydell map. I am indebted to the Rev. T. O. Boulton for the following information about his family.

At the beginning of the century Christopher Boulton had a large family, of which James was a soldier who fought at Waterloo; Christopher, a young widower, became a hermit and lived in a stone hut, of which some remains can still be seen in a field called Christopher's Bank; Thomas was laid out for dead at six months, but lived to be eighty-eight. He married Hester Skillen of Aston Keynes, who became the unofficial village doctor. She successfully sewed on the scalp of a boy who had been kicked by a horse, although it was hanging by a half-inch strip only. A fourth son, Benjamin, married Catherine Mary Gardner in about 1830. She was a teacher of dancing, music and languages, and was so devoted to her two cats that she left them £20. A family chronicle says that when on a visit to Duntisbourne Rous she danced minuets on the stone floor of the farmhouse kitchen, and that "she was so charmingly dressed in the short and scanty skirts of the then fashion that they almost worshiped her as a fairy." The scanty garments must have been ballet skirts. From the reference to the stone floor I think they must have lived then in the Old House, which still has a magnificent stone floor, whereas the lower house has a red tiled floor, probably put in when it was rebuilt.

¹ Goldsmith's Notebook.

² Enclosure Award Map.

The family continued to farm both farms for the rest of the century, and have several memorials in the churchyard. The draper's shop in Cirencester was founded by one of its members.

The Rev. Vaughan Thomas held the living for forty-five years, and is categorically stated by C.C.C. "never to have resided in the parish." He was a Fellow of Corpus and held also the livings of Stoneleigh in Warwickshire and of Yarnton in Oxfordshire, where he lived. The Dictionary of National Biography says that he was an antiquary and author. Heading the list of his publications is "A Sermon on the Impropriety of Conceding the Name of Catholic to the Church of Rome."

When offered the living of Duntisbourne Rous, Vaughan Thomas maintained that the old house was uninhabitable, and he continued to live at Yarnton. Consequently he forfeited an extra £40 a year, awarded to the previous incumbents subject to their living in the parish. This was the cause of a vast correspondence and much bitterness between himself and the President of the C.C.C.

After the new Rectory was built he still refused to live there, this time owing to ill-health. However he supplied a succession of curates, none of whom stayed for very long. Their names, occurring in various parish papers, are as follows—

- 1813 Andrew Deubeney.
- 1818 John Croome, also Rector of Daglingworth.
- 1822 John Chapman
- 1831 Henry Wood, who lived in Cirencester. He received £42 a year and Surplice Fees.
- 1834 Joseph Sisson, who was paid £60, and lived in the new Rectory.
- 1840 Richard Dawes, £70.
- 1844 Lewis Bowerbank.
- 1846 Henry Bubb, Rector of Daglingworth. He had recently been Curate of Bagendon, under the famous Mr Bythesea. His wife was a Miss Haines.

Joseph Sisson was certainly resident, as we learn from a delightful book by Henry White called *A Record of My Life*,³ which describes how the Bagendon farm-labourer's son came to Duntisbourne Abbots to school, and then got a job with the Rev. Dr Sisson, Curate of Duntisbourne Rous. His duties were to drive a donkey cart to Cirencester twice a week, wait at table, clean knives and boots, and care for the garden and three pigs, for doing which he received £2 for the first year. A charming illustration called "First Appearance in Livery before his Master and Mistress" shows the author bashfully parading before his employers in "white stockings, black plush breeches buckled at the knee, brimstone-coloured waistcoat and blue pigeon-tailed coat." One of his duties was to follow the family to Church, carrying his master's surplice. The appearance of this youth in his splendid new clothes "caused uproar" among the village children, who had never seen anything like it.

An old man, reminiscing in 1907, told Mr Jewson that he remembered the Hungry Forties, when he had often helped himself to turnips from

³ In the Bingham Library, Cirencester.

the fields to help stave off his hunger. He told of a widow with two children who managed to keep her family well and plump in spite of the bad times. It was discovered that she was feeding her family on snails—probably the large white-shelled ones still found today, and thought to have been introduced to these parts by the Romans.

The absent Vaughan Thomas was obviously on bad terms with his parishioners, a fact which clearly emerges from his lengthy and acrimonious correspondence with C.C.C. He quarrelled particularly with the Haines family. In 1822 he wrote about "the injury done to the Rectory by the accumulation of so many of the College farms in the hands of one family, and that family living out of the parish"—possibly an unwise remark from an absentee Parson. He accused the Haines family among other things of falsifying a map "which map cunning Johnny had taken care to have drawn up so as to suit his own purposes . . . and by leaving out old field roads, jumbling together Copyhold, Leasehold and Glebe lands . . . the map is not to be trusted." There is a comment attached to these letters, presumably by someone at Corpus who was trying to deal with the complaint. It reads "That Triumvirate, the College tenants, the three Haines. Their persecuting spirit must have produced a rupture between the Rector and themselves. The Curate, the Rev. John Chapman, Rector of Daglingworth, having no business to transact with them, has no fault to find with them, and performs his duty in the parish with much better effect than the Rector could hope to do."

The Haines family were now living at Moorwood in Bagendon. Edward Haines was a famous flockmaster and the largest breeder of Cotswold sheep in England. His son John Poole Haines was Chairman of the Bench. They do not sound like forgets of maps.

In spite of quarrels in high places, Church life continued under the care of many curates. But in 1818 some people could stick the atmosphere no longer, and Henry Hawkins, Protestant Dissenting Minister of Eastcomb, registered "a certain stone kitchen, now in occupation of Robert Birch, for the use of worship for Protestant Dissenters,"[†] These are the only Dissenters I have come across while compiling this history, and I do not know to which cottage the above refers.

The Churchwardens' Accounts mention a very unusual state of affairs for that time. There was a woman Churchwarden, Mrs Mary Matthews. She took over the office from her husband, and the first items on her expenditure account were, very properly, "broom and mop 2/6."

In spite of her position, and presumably knowing what the penalty would be, she took a private case against her maid for stealing her clothes, and the unfortunate girl, Sara Coates, was convicted and sentenced to be hanged. Mrs Matthews's lawyer's brief, now in the County Records Office, lists the stolen property as follows—

- 1 straw bonnet, 2 ribbons, a cotton gown, a pair of stays, 2 pairs of slippers, a dark Callimanco skirt, a cloth Great Coat, a piece of a cotton gown, a shawl, a pair of cotton gloves.

[†] Hockaday Extracts, Glos. City Library.

These were taken from four unlocked boxes by Sara, who then set off for Bisley, wearing some of the clothes and carrying others. Mrs Matthews discovered the loss, and sent her shepherd, Thomas Stevens, and her carter, Thomas Carver (!) to catch her. They found her on the following day, trying to sell the clothes at the Three Cups in Malmesbury. All the stolen goods were recovered and the girl admitted everything. She was tried at Gloucester Assizes in 1810, but apart from the lawyer's scrawl across the document saying "convicted and sentenced to be hanged", I have not been able to find any further details, or whether the sentence was carried out. It was probably altered to transportation, as was normal practice by this date.

Other items in the churchwardens' Accounts were an iron register chest bought in 1813 for £5 6s., which is still in use; "the Commandments and tables put up" cost £7 18s. 7d.; and ten yards of Irish (linen) at 4d. a yard for a surplice cost 6/- to be made up. In 1812 a man with a pass received 6d., and a distressed seaman, escaped from a French prison, with a pass, received 2/-.

Unfortunately, the accounts for the next hundred years are missing. There was a school at times, presumably in the room where Mr Ford had taught a century before. A report from the minutes of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education of 1846 says that there were seven boys and seven girls there, and that it was both day and Sunday school. There was one paid mistress at £12 a year, but no teacher's house. The estimated annual maintenance was £14. It was supported by subscriptions and children's payments, and the comment was "a new schoolroom and house for mistress would be very desirable, the estimated cost would be about £150. An efficient mistress is much needed." The school was mentioned again in 1871 as a private school for eight children who received no grant.

The long reign of Vaughan Thomas ended in 1859, and the Rev. Edmund Hubert Goldsmith came as the new Rector. He was a keen antiquarian, and the first owner of the notebook found in the Rectory and now in the County Records Office. It is headed "Records of the Parish of Duntisbourne", and he was handed down from Goldsmith to his successors George Moberley and A. O. Trotter. This most helpful book contains a mine of information about the history of the parish, and includes some of Duntisbourne Abbots as well. Other curates and laymen have contributed notes to it, and there are several different handwritings and some sketch maps, but I think most of the information was gleaned by Mr Goldsmith himself.

It begins with copies of the Registers between 1545 and 1761. Then, in a different writing, comes a list of Churchwardens beginning with Thomas Tombs in 1720 and ending in 1829 with Edmund Kimber. There are family trees of the de Bohuns, de Rous, de Lacey, Pooles, Freemans, Boultons and Jefferies. There are notes from the Domesday Survey, and from cartularies (referring to Duntisbourne Abbots), transcriptions, and notes on the fabric of the Church, but the most interesting item of them all is the complete description of the discovery of four layers of wall-paintings in 1872, already quoted on page 5. The writer, presumably George Moberley, mentions in this "a large interval of wall on which there are no traces of anything" between the two

see Addenda.

groups of figures over which, later, had been written the Commandments across the whole wall. Note that there is no suggestion of a window. The present east window commemorates Mr Goldsmith himself, so I think a new aperture was made after his death in 1871. The Commandments Boards (of 1822) were then put back over the newly plastered walls, and remained there until 1966. They were later covered up by the blue brocade curtains, which were recently made up into the altar frontal.

In the Dilapidations Correspondence of 1859,¹ the lawyer for the new incumbent (the Rev. Edmund Goldsmith) wrote to the Diocesan Architect objecting to the excessive estimated cost of repairs to the Rectory—£390—and demanding a second inspection of the property. This time the estimate was reduced to £285, but an acrimonious correspondence continued, ending in agreement to appoint a Mr Plowman as umpire. The final outcome is not recorded.

Mr Goldsmith was succeeded by the Rev. George Moberley, a nephew of the Bishop of Salisbury. His family were all psychic, particularly his famous cousin Miss Moberley of St Hugh's, Oxford. This may explain his account of a miraculous escape from death in a carriage accident² as a small boy, "when a pretty Lady in blue" rescued him from under the horses' hoofs and deposited him safely beside his hysterical nurse.

His name appears in 1876 in some correspondence with the Committee of the Privy Council on Education, when the question of the schooling of the Duntisbourne Rous children arose. The school in the Rectory garden had been closed, and it was proposed to send fifteen children to Dagingworth school. Mr Moberley agreed to pay the fees for six only, saying that the others would not benefit from education. I have seen an estimate of 1881 for a "new school to be built in the Rectory garden" — but this was as far as it got, as the children did go to Dagingworth school and have done so ever since.

Moberley stayed until 1880. There was then an interregnum, as the Rev. C. F. Cornish who had been appointed to the living refused to pay the dilapidations, and resigned. Next came the Rev. Osborne Bubb, who began another heated correspondence with Mr Waller, the Diocesan Architect, about the money spent on the Rectory during the previous year. The house, then unoccupied, had had £307 spent on it, and Mr Bubb on his arrival was expected to pay for this. He refused, and said that Moberley should pay some of it. Mr Weller wrote to Moberley pointing out that the trouble had been caused by Moberley's "wilful waste, due to the neglect of the roofs". Moberley wrote back in a fury, threatening to report Waller to the Bishop. Alas, again I do not know the outcome.

Osborne Bubb's daughter played the harmonium. His niece Miss Church, now a very old lady, stayed in Cheltenham as a girl, and one of her treats was to drive up to visit her uncle. The party would stop at the Air Balloon for breakfast, when they refreshed themselves with cherry brandy. After Bubb came Frederick Arthur Clarke, who stayed for three years only, and then Frederick Augustus Vinon in 1897.

¹ Gloucestershire County Records Office, D1381.

² related by an old family friend.

Before reaching the end of the century I must mention Park Corner again. When Lord Bathurst realigned the Stroud road the "Gulph" one lost its importance and its toll house. I think this was then converted into a house for the Bathurst Estate Agent. William Benger (1778 to 1839) was their Land Steward, and found it necessary to buy a pair of pistols after he had been robbed by a highwayman. His son lived at Park Corner and continued in the job for a few years. The family then moved to a farm at Blunsden, but after the fall in wheat prices William Edmund went to Virginia and planted tobacco. He later returned to England and farmed at times, but finally became an artist. Very recently a member of the family paid for the new heating of the Church—a welcome improvement after the old tortoise stove.

During the 'fifties the Moss family, bailiffs to Lord Bathurst, lived at Park Corner. I have seen the accounts of the funeral of Charles Moss¹ who died in 1869 and left under £200. He was probably buried at Sapperton, as the officiating clergyman was the Rev. W. Pye, Rector of Sapperton and a brother of the Poet Laureate. Here are the expenses—

6 bearers	...	...	...	£1 10 0
Rev. W. Pyes' fee	...	...	...	1 0 0
W. Arnold, clerk, fee	...	...	...	10 0
G. Blackwell, opening and covering up vault	...	...	...	16 6
W. Greenwood and Son, Bowley	...	...	...	10 0 0
W. Greenwood, coffin	...	...	...	7 19 6
W. Berry, flies attending funeral	...	...	...	1 4 0
Robert Cowley, engraving plate	...	...	...	10 0
George Frazer, bill for clothes	...	...	...	2 9 9
Mrs Jarvis for attendance on deceased and for mourning	...	...	...	5 0 0
				£30 19 0

A grandson, Denis Moss, used to help his father and grandfather with their estate work, but later became a well-known Cirencester photographer.

Mr Norman Jewson tells me that Joseph Arch, the agitator and reformer, who succeeded in obtaining better conditions for workers on the land, addressed a meeting of farm labourers in the common (now enclosed) opposite Park Corner in about 1870.

At the end of the century there were two visits to the parish by parties from the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. The first was in 1887,² and the second in 1897,³ when after a tour of the Church the party visited Pinbury, then being revived by the Barnsley brothers. These young architects took six years over the rebuilding and furnishing of the decayed old manor house of Sir Robert Atkyns.

By *Chance I Did Rose* by Norman Jewson has some delightful descriptions of the Frome valley and its adjoining villages at that period.

¹ County Records Office.

² B. and G. vol. 12, page 2.

³ B. and G. vol. 20, page 35.

He says that when Ernest Gimson and the Barnsleys looked over Pinbury for the first time they found vast quantities of cider in the cellars. The old woman who showed them round explained that "my master's son Tom do drink a gallon of cider every night." The three friends put everything in beautiful order, and furnished the house mostly with furniture made at their Sapperton workshops. They were visited by their landlord Lord Bathurst, who was so delighted with the transformation that he wanted the house for his own use. He asked them to give it up and in return offered them sites anywhere on his estate on which to build new houses at his expense. This they did, at Sapperton and at Beechanger, just over the Sapperton border. *Country Life* of 1910 has some particularly beautiful photographs of Pinbury taken at that time.

TWENTIETH CENTURY

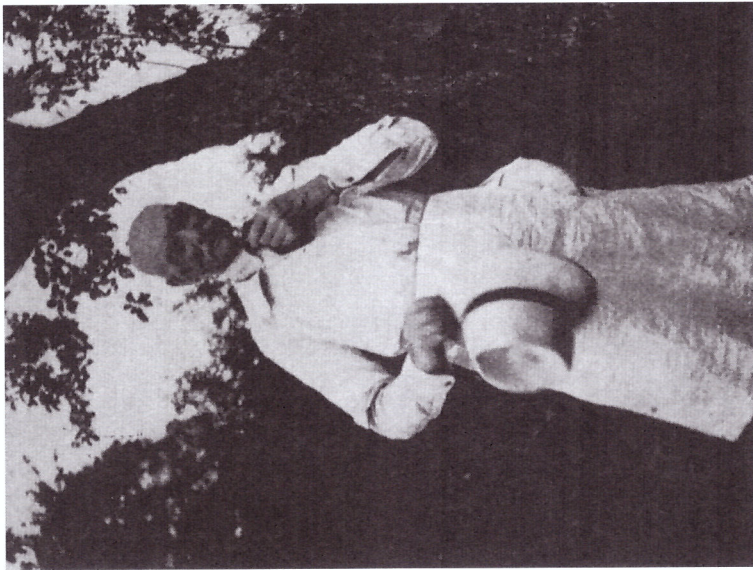
So many changes have occurred during the last sixty years that I can only summarize the main events.

Fortunately the Church remained unrestored until the nineteen thirties, when Mr Sidney Gambier-Parry came to live at the Rectory. He was related to the Highnam family and possessed much knowledge and excellent taste. He found that the crypt was being used to store coal and rubbish, so he cleared it all out and restored it. He retiled the roof. He rescued some discarded panels found in the Bathurst timber yard, and under his guidance and with his help Mr George Clarke put them in their present position in the nave. Although it is sometimes maintained that these were originally pew doors from Sapperton Church, Mr. Gambier-Parry thought that they must have been the original panels of Duntisbourne Rous, because they fitted the walls so perfectly. His daughter, Mrs Miles, says that her father was a keen carpenter and did much of the work himself.

The Gambier-Parrys gave the hanging candelabra and the candle brackets which were used for their proper purpose until 1960, when a final candle-lit service was held on a dark winter afternoon, and electricity was then installed.

While Mr Gambier-Parry was at the Rectory a mass grave was found at the end of the graveyard. It was at first thought to have been a plague-pit, but as all the skeletons were of big men with perfect teeth it was suggested that they were soldiers. Mr Gambier-Parry is reported to have declared that they were Cromwell's soldiers—which belief is still firmly held—but this mistake arose over his comments on a similar grave at Highnam.

The Rev. Frederick Vinon, Rector at the turn of the century, was uncle to the late Mr Charles Thomson of Park View, who as a boy lived with his widowed mother at the Rectory. When the next incumbent came they moved to Pinbury, to join his sister who had become Mrs Ernest Gimson. Later Mr Thomson married Miss Porter of Hill Farm, and until his recent death lived at Park View, previously occupied by the last of the Boulton family, a spinster lady.



MR GAMBIER PARRY

The new Rector was Archibald Owen Trotter, later Rector of Winstone as well. When he vacated the Rectory an old lady, said to have had seventy cats, lived there for a short time, and then came the Gambier-Parrys. Charles and Jeanne Renshaw bought it in 1937, and as he was descended from the Nevilles, and she from the Beauchamps, once Lords of the Manor, there could not have been more suitable inhabitants. Mrs Renshaw and her two sisters presented the present harmonium in memory of their famous sister Katherine Mansfield. This instrument bought in an antique shop in England, was made in Utah, U.S.A.

In 1927 the ecclesiastical parish boundaries were rearranged. Pinbury and Park Corner were transferred to Sapperton, and Dartley and Vauxhill farms to Bagendon, but all are still in Duntisbourne Rous for civil purposes.

When the Trotters left, the parish was united with Daglingworth under the Rev. H. A. Williams from 1932 to 1941, and W. Essame until 1944. The Rev. Phillip Brown took over in 1944, and shortly afterwards Duntisbourne Abbots was included as well. Owen Griffiths came in 1955, and before he left in 1966 was able to see the Church redecorated and refurbished.

Pinbury Park was occupied by the Bathurst family at intervals, and in the nineteen-thirties the Poet Laureate John Masefield lived there. His book *The Bird of Dawning* must surely have been written here, as the characters in the story mostly have local place-names, such as Miserden, Duntisbourne, Trewsbury, and so on. He told Russell Perkins, then of Jackbarrow Farm, that he was leaving the district because of the noise of the aircraft from Aston Down. The James Lindsays took the house during the last war, and since then there have been many changes.

Park Corner was the club-house of the nine-hole golf course in the early years of the century. They called themselves the Sapperton Golf Club, and Mr Clappen, President of the Cirencester Archaeological Society, has an amusing photograph of the members. Later the club moved to Minchinhampton, and finally to Baunton, when it became the Cirencester Golf Club.

Hill Farm was farmed by the Porters before World War I. The Barrons have farmed it since 1917, and bought it from Corpus Christi College in 1958, thus breaking the last link with the College except for the Advowson. The original roof tiles were removed by the College for their own use, and were unfortunately replaced by red ones.

The Glebe Farm has been farmed by the Merretts since the nineteen twenties. Dartley Farm has changed hands several times.

It would seem that the World War I made very little impact on the parish. No one was killed, and I imagine that agriculture kept most of the men at home. There are no War Memorials for either war, and the above remarks apply also to World War II. Local members of the Home Guard attended parades in Duntisbourne Abbots, but both Daglingworth and Duntisbourne Abbots came to Sunday morning shooting practice on the bank below Rous Church. There were several "incidents" in the surrounding villages, the most dramatic of which was a "dog-fight" over Pinbury, when two enemy parachutists descended in to the woods. Mrs Lindsay and a friend searched for them on horseback, but with no success. They were later captured in Daneway.

New Zealanders came to Overley Wood to cut timber for the war effort, and Mr Painter and others worked there with the charcoal burners for the Ministry of Supply. Trenches were dug across the big field at Park Corner to prevent enemy landings, but later these were filled in and the field used by the R.A.F. from Aston Down.

Cottages in Middle Duntisbourne and by the ford at Glebe Farm have been rescued from demolition and converted to more elegant dwellings, but on the whole the parish has escaped the hand of the developer, and today, in the words of the late Robert Henriques, referring to the Duntisbourne Valley in *The Cotswolds* "you will find a country that is lagging a century or two behind, that is unsophisticated, more primitive, almost savage, as if the shepherds had never left and the binder never entered."

shilling, later increased to 1/6, a week, and regular supplies of wood. Robert, George, Ann (Nan?) and Elizabeth Coates constantly received clothing and shoes, and Ann was presented with two shifts worth 5/- on "going to Service".

Widow Tombs was paid 5/5 for delivering Barbara, who on that occasion received malt and hops and twelve shillings "for her month". Several times there was a charge of 5d for bleeding her, and Doctor Cowper was called in when she was ill and was paid 10/- for his services.

Other members of the family had to be helped by the Overseers. Nan Coates received £1 for her lying-in. In 1805 she was employed by the Overseers of Duntisbourne Abbots to work on the roads. There was also a payment of £1 in 1784 for "taking up Ingcoagnances (recognizances) for Richard Coates.

George Coates was ill in 1787 and received 15/-, but he died the same year and was buried at a cost of 18/6.

Barbara died in 1794 and her funeral was cheaper still, at 16/6. Three years later John Coates was paid £1 11s for thatching, and that seems to have been the end of this family's drain on parish resources; but it was probably not the end of the story, as in 1810 Sara Coates was in great trouble for stealing her employer's clothes. (see pages 21 and 22). Sara was probably a daughter or granddaughter of Barbara.

I have added up the sums spent by the Overseers on the Coates family during thirty years, and it amounts to £122 10s 3d, quite a considerable sum for a parish of about fifty people.

I also found an interesting entry about the Sage family.

1784 Sage and wife and family when had small pox £1 3s 0d.

Mr Cullane for inoculating Sage family 15s 0d.

Inoculating Thomas Week's family £1 1s 0d.

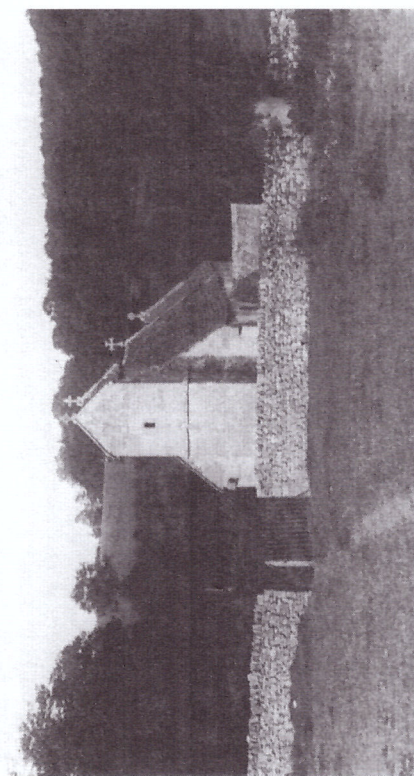
1785 Middlecot's wife for looking after Sages when they had ye sim'pox 8s 0d.

Note that they were inoculated, not vaccinated. This was the old and often dangerous treatment, later abandoned in favour of Dr Jenner's invention of vaccination.

Other facts to emerge were that the Overseers tried to introduce home spinning and weaving between 1797 and 1800. They laid out £3 on eight spinning wheels, bought flax and hemp, and paid Hester Hawkings for instructing the Eeles children in spinning.

They then paid 9/- for the cloth, and 6d for its carriage to Bourton. More wheels were bought two years later, and there are other references to this industry.

Bridge Money was paid to Gloucester for several years before 1815. This was a rate levied on all parishes in the county to pay for the new bridge over the Severn at Gloucester. At the same time there was a Rate for the Shire Hall of the large sum of £9 4s 1½d, but this was a once-for-all payment.



Addenda

Since writing this booklet some new material has come to my notice. The *Overseers of the Poor Accounts* of between 1763 and 1824, the *Vestry Minutes* of 1878 to 1938, and the *Churchwardens Accounts* of 1829 and 1933 have all been found, and together they tell us much about the parish welfare arrangements. They contain some detailed accounts and include many disbursements to several families that we should now call Problem Families. I have noted the expenses connected with one family only, that of Barbara Coates. I think she was an unmarried mother as she appears to have had no relations to look after her, and the marriage registers mention neither her marriage nor that of Nan Coates who was probably her daughter. Barbara had one recorded baseborn child Richard, son of Richard Taylor, in 1764. Of course we do not know all the circumstances, but this family certainly needed and received a lot of help from the Parish.

Barbara Coates herself seems to have been the chief recipient, in fact there were so many small payments to her that the Overseer frequently referred to her as just Barbara. Between 1765 and her death in 1794 she had her rent paid regularly, an allowance of one