

THE

HISTORY

OF

DUNTISBOURNE ABBOTTS

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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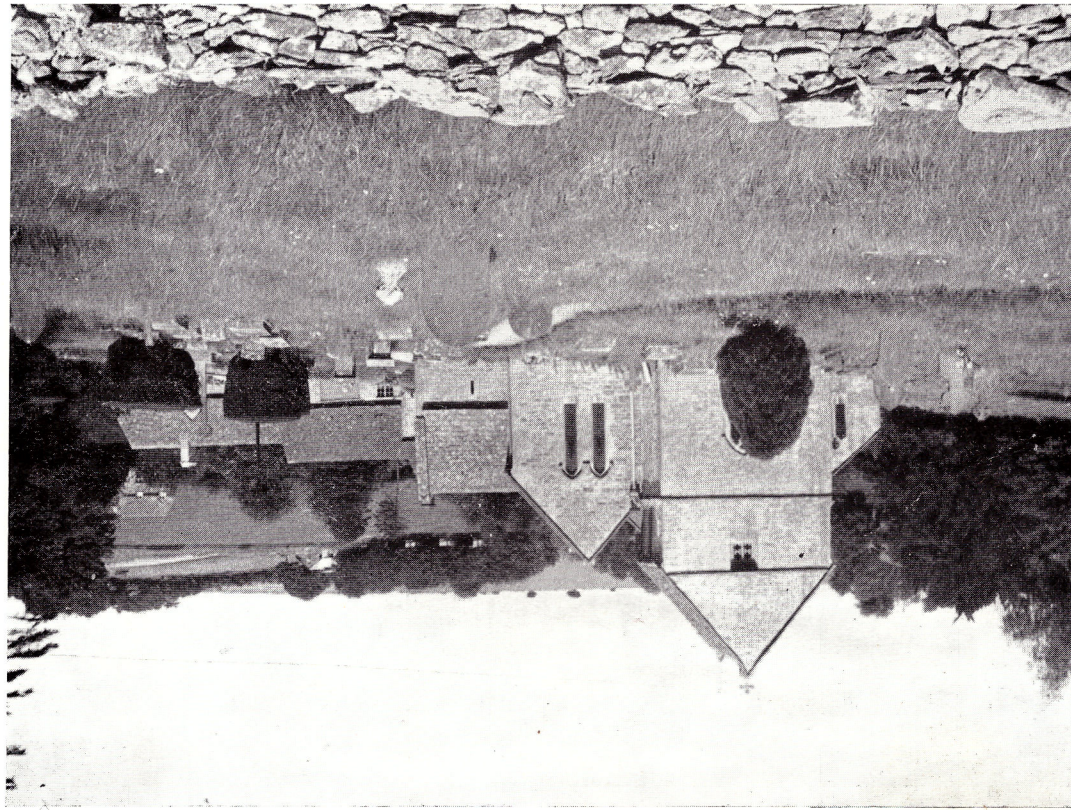
OF

DUNTISBOURNE ABBOTTS

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Duntisbourne Abbots Church

## Notes

### on the History of Duntisbourne Abbots, Gloucestershire

The village of Duntisbourne Abbots lies at a distance of about one mile from the Ermin Street, on the southern side. It is approximately half way between Birdlip and Cirencester.

The name Duntisbourne is made up of two elements, according to Ekwall, meaning Dunt's stream, Dunt being a personal name and bourne a stream. Abbots was added because it was a possession of the Abbey of Gloucester.

### The Prehistoric Period.

Far back in the mists of time, the oolitic rock on which our village is built was formed on the bed of an ocean. If we take the trouble to search in old quarries or among the stones of our dry walls we shall find abundant evidence of this in the numerous fossils which can be found there.

After millions of years this ocean bed became dry land and strange reptiles made their appearance. Plant life developed. Later mammals dwelt on the earth and then after many more years man made his appearance.

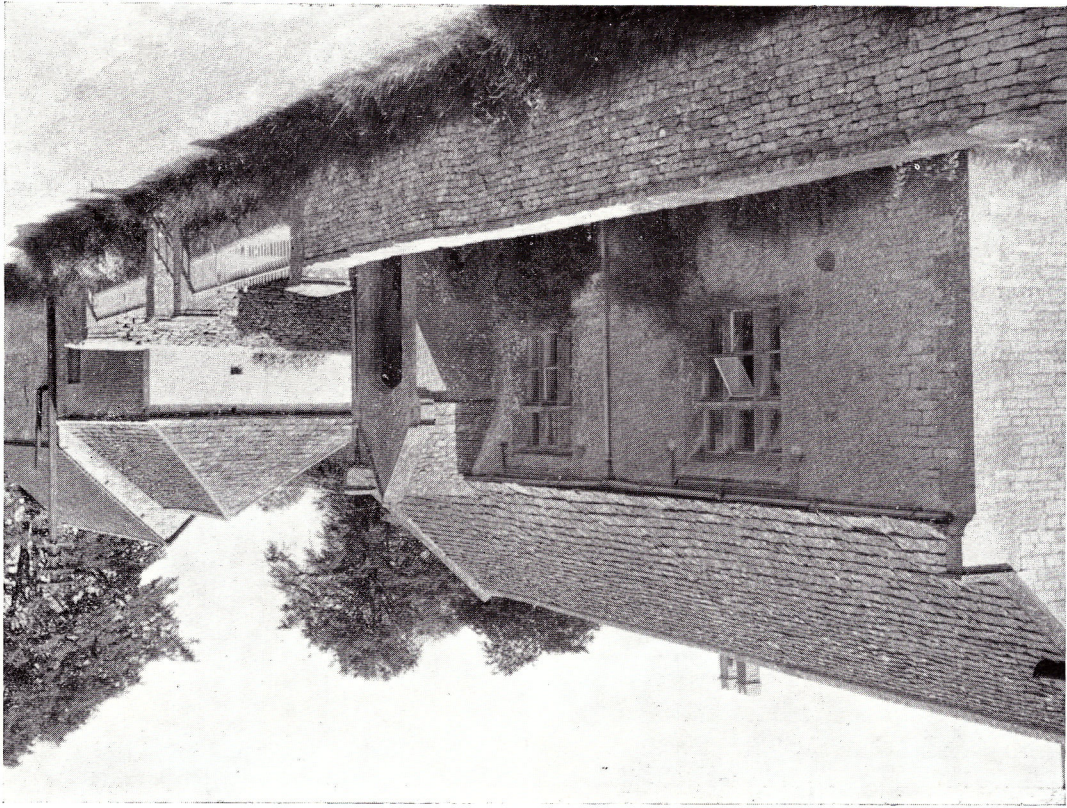
How long ago did man tread the earth in our village?

That is a question which at present it is impossible to answer, but tools of Palaeolithic man have been found in the gravels on the edge of the Cotswolds, together with bones and teeth of mammoth, rhinoceros and other extinct animals.

When we approach the Neolithic Period which is usually reckoned to have lasted from 2,500 B.C. to 1,800 B.C., we have definite evidence of the presence of man, for there are in our parish no fewer than three long barrows which are burial places of this Neolithic period, and a possible Neolithic trackway.

The people who inaugurated the Neolithic culture in this country were of Iberian stock, short in stature and dark haired.

They brought with them the knowledge of agriculture, and of the domestication of animals, both discoveries of enormous importance, which revolutionised the nomadic hunting life of the older tribes.



Duntisbourne Abbots Church of England School

These people built causewayed camps, they made pottery, and worshipped some kind of fertility goddess of whom clay images have been found by archaeologists.

Their long barrows were used for burials, probably of the chieftain and his family. They usually consist of a chamber or chambers, built of huge blocks of stone, over which they placed a covering of neatly piled slabs of stone, kept in place by dry walling. Many Cotswold barrows have horned entrances, in the forecourt of which it is believed sacrificial ceremonies took place. The barrows, which were built about 2,000 B.C., give us our first examples of the art of dry walling, an art which has survived to this day. Unfortunately the three long barrows in this parish are in a ruinous condition.

#### THE HOAR STONE LONG BARROW.

The site of this barrow is in a field called "The Devil's Flights" on New Barn Farm. It is near the corner known as High Bush where Crabtree Lane joins the Daglingworth Road. At the present time all that may be seen of it is a very low mound on which are two megalithic slabs of stone, one vertical and one horizontal, the horizontal one covering a cavity or chamber. It was excavated by the Rev. Anthony Freston, Rector of Edgeworth in 1806 (see *Archaeologia* XVI, p. 362). In "Long Barrows of the Cotswolds" Mr. Crawford quotes the following account by Witts.

"The largest stone at the east end has long been known by the name of 'Hoar Stone,' it is of the calcareous kind 12 ft. high, 13 ft. in circumference and weighs between five and six tons. It was half above and half underground. Another stone about 9 feet square and one foot thick lay on the ground: this covered a chamber in which the remains of 8 or 9 human bodies were discovered. The chamber was divided into 2 cells about 4 feet square and 6 feet deep."

The barrow measures 120 feet in length and 90 feet in width.

#### THE COLLEGE PLANTATION BARROW.

This barrow is situated in the College Plantation which lies between the Sapperton Road and the Edgeworth Road, not very far from the Hoar Stone Barrow. It was excavated by Witts in 1882 who gave the following report.

"The two mounds formed the ends of a huge Long Barrow, having a total length of 210 feet. The central portion of the tumulus must have been removed ages back. The circumscribing

wall is in a good state of preservation on the south side. The direction of the barrow is nearly east and west. Further examination will I hope enable me to give a fuller description of this very interesting pre-historic monument at a future time. During the late excavation one very perfectly formed flint scraper was found and several small bones. Part of the outside wall at the west end was removed a few years back but no interments have yet been found. There are several round barrows in the immediate neighbourhood, and Pinbury Camp is only one mile distant on the south."

#### JACKBARROW.

All traces of this barrow above ground have now disappeared and farm buildings occupy the site. There is in Duntisbourne Abbotts' churchyard a stone cross dated 1875, on which is an inscription stating that human bones found at Jackbarrow are buried beneath it. There appears to be no evidence to tell us whether in 1875 the barrow was excavated by an archaeologist, or whether it was removed merely for the convenience of the farmer who then farmed that land. There are tales extant in the village about a huge iron sword being found there, and the name "Jack" being inscribed on a stone, but there is absolutely no evidence to support these legends. If there should be any truth in them, they can of course have no connection with the original purpose of the barrow which has been proved a long barrow, and was therefore raised well over a thousand years before the introduction of iron into this country. The name "Jack" of course, must be, as archaeological periods are reckoned, a very recent addition. In the Proceedings of the Cotswold Naturalists' Field Club for 1933, Mr. C. I. Gardiner, the Curator of Stroud Museum has described some human remains found by him in the Mechanics' Institute, Nailsworth, and now said to be deposited in Stroud Museum, which came from the Jackbarrow tumulus, which Mr. Gardiner described as a recently discovered long barrow. In 1936, doubts were raised about Mr. Gardiner's statements as the only evidence connecting the bones with Jackbarrow was a label on a frontal bone of a skull stating that it came from Long barrow. In 1937, Mrs. E. M. Clifford of Witcombe conducted a partial re-examination of the barrow and came to the conclusion that it was definitely a long barrow, and that its probable length had been 156 feet.

#### NEOLITHIC TRACKWAY.

Mrs. E. M. Clifford and Miss Simpson have written a paper, describing a possible Neolithic Trackway leading from Bisley to

near Swell. The trackway approaches our village from the Edgeworth valley from whence it ascends to the ridge crowned by Jackbarrow and the College Plantation Barrow, and continues past the Hoar Stone Barrow. It descends to cross the stream somewhere less than a mile below the present ford. It ascends to the ridge of Ermin Street where some megalithic stones have been found, and then descends again to the next river bottom, and so continues to Woodmancote. It proceeds via Chedworth, Stowell Hill, Northleach, Norbury Camp, the Windrush Valley, and Notgrove to Swell.

The authors of the paper emphasize that it is a "possible" trackway, and they cannot be definite about it.

Prehistoric trackways have been investigated only in very recent times, and at present our knowledge in these matters is very limited. It is however generally accepted to-day that barrows were used as mark points in prehistoric times, as also were hill outlines and notches. Perhaps "Fosse Notch" on the Ermin Street has some connection with ancient trackways?

Witts mentions a round barrow of the Bronze Age in the vicinity of the College Plantation Barrow, but there appears to have been no other finds relating to Bronze or Iron Age cultures in the parish. A visit to our local museums at Cirencester, Stroud, Gloucester or Cheltenham will enable anyone to see many evidences of the pre-Roman Celtic cultures on the Cotswolds, so it is quite probable that there were tribes occupying our village in that period. It is known from Roman records that at the time of the conquest a Belgic people named the Dobuni were dwelling on the Cotswolds with their tribal capital where Cirencester now stands, so possibly some of these people lived here.

### The Roman Period.

It is a well known fact that the Cotswolds were an important area in Roman times. The numerous fine villas, the Roman town of Corinium Dobunorum (Cirencester), the colonia at Glevum (Gloucester) and the great Ermin Street which led via Glevum to the fortress of the Second Legion at Caerleon all witness to the importance of this region. The Ermin Street passes through our parish and commanding it, at a distance of about 200 yards was a Roman Post House (mansio) the remains of which now lie buried in a field above our village. This field is the Bantry Field or as it was formerly, Bannocktree Field and it is at the junction of lanes leading from Duntisbourne Abbots, and Duntisbourne Leer to the Ermin Street.

This very interesting building has not yet been fully excavated but it was examined by Mr. Adamthwaite of Preston who found the site quite accidentally while hunting. He writes—"The building is only 2 feet from the surface. I excavated 2 rooms. As a result of my work there was a most interesting article in the *Daily Telegraph*. This site is the first Posting Station on the road from Cirencester to Gloucester." Mr. St. Clair Baddeley in a note in the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Transactions, vol. 45 says, "This seems therefore a fitting opportunity to point auspiciously to another site lately noticed to be strewn with Romano-British debris situated in a field above Duntisbourne Abbots, one likewise commanding the Irmin Street at but 200 yds. distance; and both from its proximity, as well at its distance of 5 Roman Miles from Corinium, suggesting the site of the other required mansio."

### The Saxon and Norman Periods.

After the Roman legions left this country a period of confusion followed for which our historical evidence is scanty. In 571 A.D. the Battle of Dyrham gave the Saxons control of Gloucestershire, and later the country suffered from the depredations of the Danes. The only direct evidence concerning our own village before the Norman Conquest is that given in the Domesday Book which relates to the time of Edward the Confessor. Duntisbourne is mentioned nine times in the Domesday Book, Ampney likewise and no other place in Gloucestershire is mentioned more often than nine times. It is difficult to differentiate between the Duntisbournes and to assign to each modern parish its proper amount of land.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Kenneward, Elmer and Chetel were owners of land in Duntisbourne Abbots and Leer. Elmer held in Duntisbourne Leer, 120 acres of ploughed land worth £1 per year. The uncultivated land is not mentioned. Kenneward held land, probably in Abbots consisting of 300 cultivated acres and valued at £2 per year.

Elmer held two separate pieces of land, both probably in Abbots. The value of one piece was 4/- but its acreage is not given. The other piece consisted of 120 acres of ploughed land and was worth £2. There is also mentioned a further 960 cultivated acres for which no owner is named in Edward's reign. Lands at Pinbury, Daglingworth and Duntisbourne Rouse are mentioned in Domesday Book under the name of Duntis-

bourne but these which lie outside the present parish of Duntisbourne Abbots are not included. After William, Duke of Normandy had defeated Harold at Hastings in 1066 he resolutely set about the task of subduing the whole country completely; and he rewarded the knights and barons who had aided his enterprise by gifts of lands in England which they held under feudal conditions. One of these Norman knights was Walter de Laci, a liegeman of Bishop Odo of Bayeux. He appears to have received practically all the lands in Duntisbourne Abbots and Leer with the exception of the land held by Chetel who seems to have retained his land from the time of Edward.

Walter de Laci became an important landowner in Gloucestershire, owning many other manors beside Duntisbourne. Painswick and Edgeworth were two of his other manors.

Walter de Laci died on March 27th, 1085 and was buried in the Abbey Church of St. Peter in Gloucester. He left three sons, Roger, Hugh and Walter. Walter was dedicated to a monastic life and later became Abbot of Gloucester. Roger inherited his father's lands but in 1088 he joined the rebellion of Robert of Normandy and was banished. The de Laci lands then passed to Hugh who was the founder of Llanthony Priory.

Shortly after his father's death Roger gave 120 Priory acres of plough land in Duntisbourne Leer to the Abbey of Lire in Normandy which had been founded by William Fitz Osbern who later became Earl of Hereford. Walter de Laci's widow Ermeline gave 5 hides, which contained 960 acres of plough land to the Abbey of St. Peter in Gloucester. This land was in Abbots. Roger de Laci's tenant Gilbert gave his land in Abbots to the Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester, in 1100, so that at that date, the Abbey of St. Peter was the largest holder of land in this parish. Other holders of land were the Abbey of Lire, already mentioned, Ansfrid de Corneilles, who had married a niece of Walter de Laci and had acquired land in this parish as her dowry, and Chetel who had been a holder of land before the Norman Conquest.

The Domesday record shows us that the value of the land had not greatly altered since Edward the Confessor's time. There was a decrease in the value of the land which Ansfrid de Corneilles held and an increase in the value of that held by Chetel.

The total male population of Abbots and Leer, as far as it is possible to assign it to the correct parishes, was probably 40.

This total is made up of 11 villeins, 9 borders, and 20 serfs. In addition 5 ancillae or female serfs are given, as being on land owned by Ansfrid de Corneilles. This record does not include the wives and families of villeins, etc., so the total population was probably much larger than would appear at first sight. It is seldom that female serfs are mentioned in the record. These were usually employed in domestic duties but we have no evidence of any castle or manor house in this parish in Norman times.

Another interesting fact to note in the Domesday survey is that Duntisbourne Abbots had a mill. It was on the land owned by St. Peter's Abbey and its annual value was 2 shillings. The site of this mill is an interesting subject for speculation. It is highly probable that it was situated somewhere near where the road from Duntisbourne Abbots joined the stream. The conformation of the land in the meadow there, seems to indicate that it was probably a mill pond. The mill would have been a corn mill in which all the tenants' corn would be ground, the price being fixed by the lord or his steward. It was almost certainly a water mill, and there was probably more water then running through the valley than there is at present. It is very probable that there was a stream from Winstone running through the now dry valley which forms a footpath through the "Groves" to that village.

Apart from the Domesday record there is only one further mention of a mill in this village. This is by Mr. St. Clair Baddeley in his History of Cirencester when he mentions a 15th century fulling mill in Duntisbourne.

Before leaving the subject of the mill, it may be noted that there appears to have been a track from Duntisbourne Leer, across Trustram's Mead to the supposed mill site, which may have been an old road to the mill.

### Landowners in Duntisbourne after Norman Times.

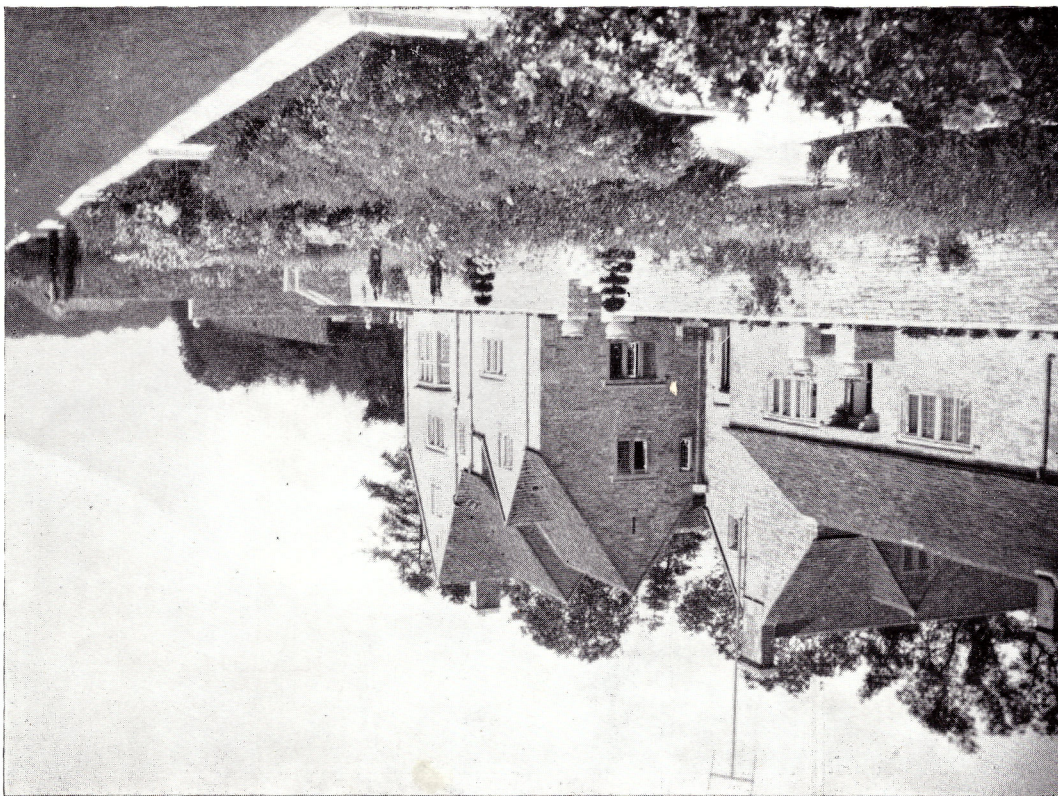
The large estates held by St. Peter's Abbey in the year 1100 continued to be so held until the dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. Henry VIII granted lands in Duntisbourne to William Morgan and James Dolle. Mr. John Dolle is recorded as having died in possession of the manor in 42nd year of Elizabeth's reign, and Mr. Edward Dolle was lord of the manor in 1608 (see Rudder). Mr. Oliver Dolle was buried in the Church in 1660 (Bigland) and Oliver Dolle was mentioned by the Heralds in their visitation of 1682-3. The will

of Oliver Dolle of Duntisbourne was proved in the consistory court of the bishop of Gloucester in 1712, and the will of Edward Dolle in 1728. Mary Dolle daughter of Edward Dolle was married in 1737 to Thos. Clark. Whether the manor was still in the Dolle family is not known, but Bigland states in 1792, "Sir Mark Stewart Pleydell built a house on an eminence in this parish some 30 years since." This house was Duntisbourne House and is thus dated about 1760. Sir Mark appears to have been the lord of the manor, since at his death in 1770 he devised the manor and estate to the Earl of Radnor his grandson, the son of his daughter Harriet who had married William Viscount Falkstone.

The Hon. Jacob Pleydell Bouverie, Earl of Radnor was the lord of the manor at the time of the enclosure award in 1777 and also when Bigland was writing in 1792. He sold the manor to Thos. Raikes who resold it to Mathew Baillie M.D. an eminent physician of London. Storer and Brewer in "Delineations of the County of Gloucester" 1824 state "Mathew Baillie M.D., whose name has added some interest to this seat was the son of the Rev. James Baillie, Professor of Divinity at Glasgow, and was initiated in professional knowledge by his maternal uncles the late Dr. William and Mr. John Hunter. He took his degrees at Oxford and was admitted M.D. 1798. Attaining great medical eminence he was appointed physician to the late king . . . ."

Dr. Mathew Baillie died in 1823 and the manor passed to his son Mr. William Hunter Baillie who was lord of the manor until 1894. It then passed to Captain William Hunter Baillie who was squire of the parish for 12 weeks. In 1895 Miss Helen Hunter Baillie became lady of the Manor and in 1906 she sold the estate to Henry Hopkinson Esq. who was a tenant in Duntisbourne House before he made his purchase. In 1910 it was sold to Arthur John James who left it to Alfred James his brother. Squire James, as he is always called was well known to many people in the village to-day. He appears to have been a great personality, autocratic and eccentric, but at the same time very good to his tenants and dependents. It is said that he forbade the installation of the telephone in any of his tenants houses, and that he had a passion for planting trees.

The manor of Duntisbourne Leer continued in the possession of the Abbey of Notre Dame at Lire in Normandy until the alienation of English possessions in 1416. It then passed into the possession of the Augustinian Abbey of Cirencester. Nutbeam Farn, was a portion of the lands held by Cirencester Abbey and is



A 17th Century Cotswold Farm with additions in traditional style—by Sidney Barnsley, Architect, Sapperton



believed to have been a grange of the Abbot of Cirencester. At the dissolution it was granted to William Sherington and sold by him to William Pleydell 34 Henry VIII.

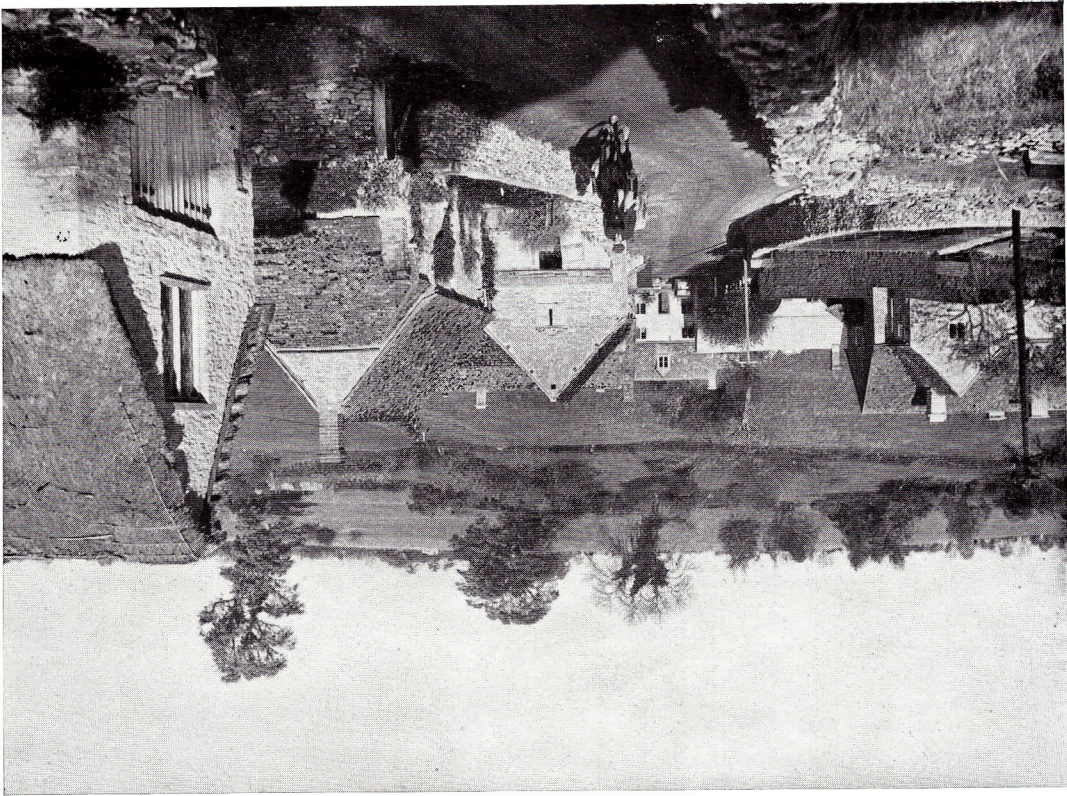
The following is a copy of the Letters Patent of Henry VIII granting permission to William Sherington to alienate the property to William Pleydell.

"*Henry the Eighth* by the grace of God, of England, France and Scotland, King, Defender of the Faith, on earth the supreme head of the English Church, to all to who these present letters come, greeting.

*Be it known* that We of our special grace and in consideration of the sum of 42 shillings and 8d. paid to us in the Hanaper (?) Office of our chancery have granted and given licence for Ourselves and Our Heirs so far as in us lies to William Sherington Esquire to grant, convey, sell and transfer to William Pleydell *All that* Capital Messuage called *Nutbene* otherwise known as *Nutbene* in *Duntysbourne Lyer* with its appurtenances in our county of Gloucester.

*And all that* delineated and capital message of our manor in *Duntysbourne Lyer*, in our said County of Gloucester together with all houses, buildings, barns, dovecotes, ponds, fishponds, gardens, lands, returns, rents, manure heaps, leys, meadows, pastures, plantations, orchards, commons, and other profits and hereditaments, whatsoever, in *Duntysbourne Lyer* in our said County of Gloucester which are now, or were lately in the tenancy or occupation of *John Jeffereys and Matilda* his wife and *Richard* the son of the said John and *Matilda* or of any one of them or of their assignee or of the assignee of any one of them, and *all those burrows* and the area known as the *Conygre* estimated to comprise an acre and a half with it *appurtenances* in *Duntysbourne Lyer*, in our said County of Gloucester together with the right of free ingress and egress to and from the said Burrows and all that wood and area known as *The Combes* with its appurtenances in *Duntysbourne Lyer* aforesaid, and *all that messuage*, tenement and homestead and all lands, fields, fisheries, and hereditaments whatsoever together with their appurtenances and hereditaments in the tenancy or occupation of *Richard Moody* or of an assignee of theirs, situate, lying and being in *Nether Duntysbourne* in our said County of Gloucester, which for long was situated in and belonged to the late *monastery of Cirencester* in our said County of Gloucester, now dissolved, and was part of the possessions of the same late monastery all of which are held by us in chief is acknowledged. *To the end that* the afore-

Duntysbourne Lier By permission of "Cheltenham Chronicle"



said messuages and other premises be possessed and held by *William Pleydell* and Thomas and the legitimate heirs of the body of the said Thomas with remainder to *Zacharias Pleydell*, a son of the said *William Pleydell* and his heirs in perpetuity.

*And in like manner* we have granted and hereby grant special licence to *William Pleydell*, *Thomas* and *Zacharias* to accept grant of the aforesaid messuages and all and singular. The other premises with their appurtenances from the aforesaid *William Sherington* to hold themselves, and their heirs as is herein before stipulated according to the tenor of these presents. And we hereby declare that the said *William Sherington* or his heirs shall not by reason of any of the matter herein appearing be fined or in any way molested or mulcted nor shall any one of them be fined, or in any way molested or mulcted by Us or Our Heirs, Ministers of Justice, Lords, Lieutenant, and other bailiffs or servants or by those of Our Heirs.

*In Testimony* of which matters we have caused these our Letter Patent to be made of which I myself am witness at Westminster on the 11th day of November in the thirty-fourth year of Our reign."

The Pleydell family retained possession of this manor for a very long time. As has been already stated the Pleydells acquired the manor of Abbots in the 18th century and the two manors were then joined. The manor of Leer was in the possession of the Pleydell family for over 250 years. It passed with the manor of Abbots to Thos. Raikes and his successors, as has already been noted.

Some odd pieces of information about parcels of land in Duntisbourne are given by Sir Robert Atkyns, "Duntisbourne" he says "was held of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Essex, and Joan his wife" 46 Ed. III.

"Lands in Bockham and Duntisbourne were granted to Richard Andrews and Nicholas Temple, 35 Henry VIII which formerly belonged to Llanthony Priory near Gloucester. Two other estates in Duntisbourne were granted to the same man in 36 Henry VIII, belonging to the same priory."

"Richard Murdac gave 1 hide in Duntisbourne to the Priory of Llanthony which was confirmed. 1 John (1199) (Atkyns).

It is interesting to note here that Llanthony Priory was founded by Hugh de Laci the second son of Walter de Laci who obtained the manor after his brother Roger was banished for rebellion in 1088.

### Duntisbourne in the 18th Century.

The little information we can glean about the village in this century is scanty, but the great Gloucestershire historians Sir Robert Atkyns and Rudder do give a few facts. Atkyns writing in 1712 says "There were 42 houses and about 180 inhabitants in this parish whereof 12 were freeholders. Yearly births 4 burials 3."

From 1700-1710 there were 55 baptisms and 30 burials. From 1760-1770, baptisms were 43 and burials 26 (Rudder). Sir Mark Stewart Pleydell was lord of the Manor during most of this century, and at his death in 1770 the manor passed to his grandson the Earl of Radnor.

Rudder also gives the following interesting report—

"By an agreement made between the Bishop of the Diocese and the Rector in the year 1681, the latter is to pay 20s. a year to the poor on Palm Sunday, in lieu of a calf and other entertainment formerly given to the parishioners on that day."

In 1777 the enclosure of the common fields took place. Jacob, Earl of Radnor was then Lord of the Manor and the Rev. J. Chapman was Rector of the parish. Earl Bathurst is mentioned as being a trustee of certain lands left for the benefit of the poor.

### The 19th Century.

Although the 19th Century was one of cataclysmic change in many parts of England, it seems to have brought little to Duntisbourne. The open field system had of course passed away in 1777, and the Baillie family held the manor.

Not many dates appear to have been recorded during this century. The earliest I can find mentioned is 1842 when a house occupied by Samuel Painter was registered as a place of worship for Protestant dissenters. Samuel Painter was the grandfather of Miss Painter who now dwells in the village and he lived in the same cottage which she now occupies. He was a Baptist.

In 1843 another house was registered as a place of worship for Protestant dissenters. This was the cottage of Mr. James Kilminster. The Kilminster family lived in the house now known as Newbold Farm which has been greatly reconstructed in recent years. The Kilminster family were Methodists.

In 1845 the present school was built and extended about 1880. In 1860 the Moot Room was built for use as a Methodist Chapel. Later it was used by the Plymouth Brethren.

In 1895 the Parish Council was established for Duntisbourne Abbots and Duntisbourne Leer. 5 councillors were elected on March 20th, and they took office on the following April 15th.

1898 is the date at which the present school Log Book opens. Miss Lucy Dodds was mistress and there were 51 pupils.

### 20th Century.

When the 20th Century opened Miss Helen Hunter Baillie was Lady of the Manor, the Rev. R. L. Crawley-Boevey was Rector and Miss Lucy Dodds was Schoolmistress.

Kelly's Directory for 1902 gives the following information.

Rateable value £1,456; Population 1901, 230. Mrs. Ann Hawkins, sub-postmistress, also kept a dairy and a laundry.

Jesse Short was licensee of the 5 Mile House (good accommodation for cyclists).

William Belcher, Stone Mason. —

Charles Clark, Farmer, Jackbarrow Farm.

Elizabeth Compton (Mrs.), Grocer.

Jacob Gibbins, Farmer.

John Haviland, Farmer, Church Farm.

Arthur Holland, Grocer.

William Moss, Farmer, Nutbeam.

Joseph Murby, Farmer, Rectory Farm.

George Partridge, Farmer, Wheelwright and Carpenter.

The following are some extracts from a Scrap Book kept by a former Rector now in possession of the present Rector.

1907, The tithe was £11 3s. 0d.

1908, Mr. Haviland and Mr. Hopkins were churchwardens. The new heating system was installed in the church.

In 1908 the Rector, the Rev. L. J. Chamberlen writes about Old Age Pensioners, suggesting 5/- a week and endowed alms houses in every village, 3 cottages built by voluntary subscriptions and government grants, in control of the Parish Council.

### The Church.

The Church of St. Peter stands in the centre of the village. The lower stage of the tower has a typical Norman window and arch. It may have been in existence before the rest of the Church. The main part of the Church was probably built early in the 12th century, it consists of nave and north aisle. The pillars and arches of the north arcade are of Norman

transitional work decorated with scallop pattern on the capitals. There is an early decorated window in the west wall of the tower. In the eastern bay of the north arcade are traces of the fixing of a former screen which would point to the north aisle having been a chapel: there is an ambury in the north wall. There is another ambury in the chancel as well as a piscina. The latter is now in very low as the floor has been raised considerably from its original level.

The south aisle is a modern addition built in 1872 when the Church was altered. The chancel arch was raised on two pillars of granite, and subsidiary arches were cut on either side of it, thus completely changing the character of the church. A western gallery was taken down, the old seats were removed and replaced by the present ones, and the old three decker pulpit on the south side of the chancel arch was replaced by a modern one. The organ chamber was added, the chancel floor raised, the font moved to just inside the south door and a stove installed.

The south porch which is Early English was taken down and re-erected in its present position. In the porch are two early lancet windows, one cut from a single stone. Mr. F. W. Waller, of Gloucester, was the architect for the re-construction.

The door is mediæval and has a handsome handle and scutcheon.

The font is an interesting example of about 1200 with trefoil-leaf ornament.

In the north aisle is a mediæval stone coffin of the 13th Century which has had a varied history. It was at one time built into the churchyard wall, after which it lay in the tower. Later it was put out in the churchyard but was brought back into the church in 1910.

The following is an incomplete list of the rectors of the parish:—

1269 Hugh de Upton, rector of Duntisbourne.

1270 Record of institution of rector, but no name.

1279 or 80 Walter of Homme inducted.

1293 Stephen de Duntisbourne.

1296 John de Dentisborne.

1301 Walter of Forthampton was rector.

1302 Thomas of Stok, incumbent formerly or present?

1322 Robert of Ruyton was rector.

- 1349 Resignation of Walter Radeford; John Brymbrok admitted rector.
- 1375 Adam Fyde instituted rector.
- 1375 John Lethyngburgh instituted rector.
- 1434 John Hogel Dean of Cirencester was rector.
- 1541 Gilbert Bourne instituted rector.
- 1556 Roger Eliot resigned.
- 1557 Thomas Caponhurst presented with living.
- 1569 Resignation of Thomas Caponhurst; Richard Jeffreyes was apparently rector at this time as he is ordered to repair chancel by the consistory court.
- 1573-1575 James Ballard rector.
- 1575 Hugh Omfres instituted rector.
- 1583 Thomas Knight instituted.
- 1593 Ellis Williams instituted.
- 1594 Giles Dimock instituted.
- 1620 William Pole instituted.
- 1634 Thomas Cole instituted.
- 1657 Lawrence Tarrens, presented by Oliver the Lord Protector, admitted by the Commissioners for the approbation of public preachers and the Rectory of D.A. Doubtful if he was ever instituted.
- 1660 One Mr. Edward Flekher (Thatcher?) a Puritan clergyman is recorded as Rector of Duntisbourne Abbots. He was so inhumanly treated by the king's soldiers, that to escape he left the country.
- 1714 William Phipps instituted rector.
- 1733 Thomas Davies instituted rector.
- 1772 Joseph Chapman instituted rector—2 institutions, in April and July.
- 1775 Joseph Chapman the elder.
- 1794 Charles Mesman.
- 1842 Richard Randall Suckling instituted rector.
- 1851 Thos. Hayes curate.
- 1861 Thos. Hayes instituted rector.
- 1875 W. H. Bromley Way.
- 1891 L. B. Kevill Davies.

- 1893 G. Napier Whittingham.
- 1896 William Robinson.
- 1899 Richard Lloyd Crawley-Boevey.
- 1906 Lawrence John Chamberlen.
- 1912 William Henry Nichol.
- 1923 Charles Harry Travers Wright.
- 1940 Philip Stanley Brown.

There are a few interesting notes among ecclesiastical records which may be deserving of mention.

The earliest is in 1322 when an order was made to restore property taken from the rector of Duntisbourne Abbots, Robert of Ruyton, because the king had learned by an inquisition that Robert only served John Gifford, Rebel, in the celebrations of masses and distribution of alms to the poor and otherwise bore himself well towards the king. This same rector, Robert of Ruyton seems to have been the centre of a considerable amount of trouble for in 1327 a commission "of oyer and retainer" is made on the complaint of Robert that certain persons had burned his houses, felled his trees, and carried off horses, sheep, cattle, etc., worth £40. Among the persons cited as performing in those days is the parson of Bagendon and some of the Foxcote family who dwelt in our village.

The same year it appears that Robert of Ruyton has again complained—this time that his enemies imprisoned him in Gloucester and would not set him free until he paid a fine of £20.

Another complaint by Robert was that he had been imprisoned by the chaplain of Chippenham and others and was not set free until he paid a fine of 100s.

In 1505 a man named John Jones died at Duntisbourne Leer and among other bequests he left 40s. for the repair of highways round Cirencester. John Jeffereys, a landowner of considerable importance in Duntisbourne Leer was one of his executors. He was probably the man who received the lands of Cirencester Abbey in the time of Henry VIII and alienated them to Will Sherington.

In 1576 a will of John Teeles of Duntisbourne is mentioned. William Brode the elder left 12 pence for the High Altar, Duntisbourne Abbots for forgotten tithes.

In 1545 William Brode left for the maintenance of the church at Duntisbourne Abbots, a ewe, two sheep and a bushel of barley.

In 1558 the will of Nicholas Slye is mentioned. This is of interest because the family of Slye or Sly lived for a long time

in this village. Richard Slye was married here in 1613, and Anthony Sly was married here in 1707. Anthony Sly was buried beneath the Church porch in 1736. He was 93 years old when he died. The tablet recording this may be seen on the Church porch.

Another item of interest associated with this family is Sly's Wall, a plantation of trees on the south side of Ermin Street, with an earthwork running along one side.

In 1569, Dec. 16th, the Gloucester Consistory Court ordered Richard Jeffereyes to repair the Chancel which was ruinous by the Feast of the Purification, and Jerome Jeffereyes for obstinate refusal to attend divine worship, was excommunicated.

In 1572 there was an Episcopal Visitation and it was recorded that the parson was not resident, there were no quarter sermons, the chancel was in decay, glass was missing and paving, the Bible was rent, and the windows lacked some glass.

In 1637 there is an allegation of intended marriage between John Bronde a widower aged 80 and Anne Dewer a spinster of 40.

In 1910 plans for the re-construction of the chancel arch and a new pulpit by E. Gimson Esq. were considered and rejected, and in consequence the Rector gave notice that he would be unable to hold office any longer.

In 1926 Mr. A. James of Edgeworth presented a silver chalice and paten to the Church.

### Inscriptions in the Church on Flat Tombstones in the Chancel given by Bigland

These may be underneath the present chancel floor which was raised about 1 ft.:

In Memoriam

Maria uxoris Thomae Phipps  
Rectoris Hujus Ecclesiae quae  
sepulta fuit decimo die Januarii  
Rectoris Hujus Ecclesiae quae  
sepulta fuit decimo die Januarii  
Anno Salutis 1694.

Mr. Wm. Phipps Rector of this church was buried Dec. 17 1732  
Aged 71.

Ann

The daughter of  
John Partridge  
and wife of Thomas Phipps  
Rector of this Parish  
Was here buried July 28th 1700.

Here resteth the Body of Oliver Dolle gentleman who departed this life on the 2nd day of September.

Anno Domini 1660.

Here lieth the Body of

Anne the wife of Thomas Limbrick.

She died 15th Day of April 1754

Aged 82.

### Churchyard.

ON PORCH.

Beneath this place lieth Anthony Sly  
of this Parish

He died the 9th day of July 1736

Aged 93 years.

(Still in existence).

ON A TOMB.

William Freeman of this Parish

Died March 13 1769 Aged 69.

Mary his Wife

Died Oct. 8 1765 Aged 56.

ON FLAT AND HEADSTONES.

Joseph Sayer of Duntisbourne Rous, 1 June 1729.

Joseph Sayer, Junr., 14 June 1729.

Joan, wife of Joseph Sayer, 6 May 1720.

Richard, son of Wm. and Mary Freeman, 6 Dec. 1748.

Thos. Field, 5 Aug. 1765.

John Field, 24 Oct. 1751.

William Field, June 1775.

Edward Field, Aug. 1778.

Thomas Field, 7 July 1774.

Henry Field, 4th son of Thomas and Anne Field, 15 Dec. 1724

Mary, wife of Thomas Clark and daughter of Edward and Sarah Dolle, 17 Jan. 1737.

Wm. Beames, 23 Jan. 1780.

John, son of John and Mary Taylor, 3 July 1763.

Sarah, wife of James Hobbs, 21 March 1761.

John, son of Thomas and Mary Harding, 6 July 1715.

Thomas Harding, 10 Jan 1753.  
 Mary Harding, his wife, 28 May 1772.  
 William Harding, 28 May 1785.  
 Thomas, son of Thomas and Mary Harding, 18 May 1755.  
 Mary, wife of Anthony Sly, 29 Jan. 1732.  
 Mary, wife of John Hills, 22 Jan 1733.  
 Elizabeth, wife of Wm. Paish, 3 June 1743.  
 Sarah, wife of William Eldridge, 8 Feb 1746.  
 Thomas Trustram, 27 July 1690.  
 Eleanor, wife of Thomas Trustram, 10 Oct. 1730.  
 Jeremiah Griffiths, 1729.

#### Inscriptions in the Church to-day, 1949.

##### CHANCEL.

Rev. Thos. Hayes, 1893.  
 Augusta Catherine Hayes, 1910, aged 93 years.  
 Lieutenant Henry Horace Hayes, 1885, aged 32 years.  
 NORTH AISLE.  
 Mathew Baillie, M.D., aged 62.  
 Sophia, his wife, 1845, aged 74.  
 William Hunter Baillie and his son, 1894.  
 William Hunter Baillie (squire of the parish for 12 weeks), 1895.

##### SOUTH AISLE.

Henry Scrivens, 1876.  
 James Ratcliffe, 1875.  
 Henrietta Baillie, wife of W. Hunter Baillie, 1857.  
 Mathew John Baillie his eldest son, 1866.  
 James Baron Baillie, 1868.  
 Robert Denman Baillie, 1870.

##### TOWER.

Susanna Mesman, 1833, aged 67.  
 Ann Watson, servant to the Mesman Family, 1812, aged 85.  
 If power and wealth demand recorded fame  
 Shall humble worth no grateful tablet claim  
 A rare example to the rising age  
 Who in the course of servitude engage.  
 Anxious in childhood's care or manhood's cause  
 She sought the good of all with just applause  
 E'en to old age her fond affection prove.

She lived not more to serve than lived to love  
 But at the fiat of a Heavenly Nod  
 Her earthly service left to serve her God.

Daniel Mesman, 1834, aged 71.  
 Charles Mesman, Rector, of this Parish 48 years, 1842, aged 77.  
 Thomas their son, 1793 aged 4.  
 Ann wife of Thos. Price, daughter of Thos. Field, 1793, age 34.  
 Thomas Field, 1796, aged 68.  
 Sarah, wife of Thomas Field, 1801, aged 76.  
 Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Field.  
 Thomas Field, 1832, aged 78.

Brass in Nave to Fallen of 1914-1918 War.

W. Belcher.  
 D. Calthorpe.  
 J. Jones.  
 S. Nicholls.  
 C. Painter.  
 J. Potter.

Brass Plate recording Restoration of Church in 1872.

Stained glass in East Window "To the glory of God, this window is dedicated by J. H. and L. H. Hutchinson."

Stained glass windows in South Aisle to the memory of—  
 (1) Henrietta Clara Marion, wife of the Rev. J. Maconechey, 1872 and Sophia Joanna Baillie, 1882.

(2) Mathew John Baillie, 1866; William Hunter Baillie, his brother, 1895.

(3) James Baron Baillie, 1868.

(4) Robert Denman Baillie, 1876.

The stained glass West Window of the Tower is dedicated to William Hunter Baillie, 1878.

#### Inscriptions on Stones in the Churchyard, 1949

I have quoted here the name, age and year of death of those named, but no further details except where these are of special interest.

Robert Abell, aged 76, 1823.

Catherine Selina, his wife, aged 76, 1823.

Robert Archer, 1811.

Thomas Archer, 1812.

Wm., son of Wm. and Sarah Beames, aged 22, 1799.

- Thos. Moss, aged 67, 1853.  
 Robert Archer, 1822.  
 Mary, wife of Robert Archer, aged 58, 1801.  
 Elizabeth Archer, second daughter of Robert and Mary Archer, aged 22, 1796.  
 William, son of Robert and Mary Archer, aged 23, 1801.  
 Thomas, son of Robert and Mary Archer, aged 31, 1812.  
 — Archer, 1831 (remainder undecipherable).  
 Hannah Eldridge, wife of William Eldridge, 66, 1821.  
 Mary Rickets, 1826.  
 Sarah Rickets, 1841.  
 John Rickets, 1851.  
 James Dix, son of Thos. and Hannah Dix, 1815.  
 Thomas Dix, Clerk to the Parish aged 77, 1855.  
 Thomas and Ann Price, (he) 1776; (she) 1778.  
 Sabrina, their second daughter wife of William Joachim, aged 39, 1783.  
 Ann their 4th daughter, and Thomas their son, 1789; Betty their 3rd daughter, 1792.  
 Mary, elder daughter of Thomas and Ann Price, 1796.  
 "Both old and young O'Death must yield to thee,  
 Dear friends farewell, my home's eternity  
 Adieu all earthly joys, I go to prove  
 The endless pleasures of the saints above  
 Farewell my pains, disorders, doubts and fears,  
 In heaven there's neither sadness, grief or tears.  
 All I possess below I now resign  
 Vain world adieu, but welcome joy divine."  
 Ann Maria, wife of Thomas Murcott, aged 56, 1866.  
 Hester, wife of R. Hinton, aged 85, 1806.  
 "Young ones may, old ones must  
 Quickly die and turn to dust."  
 Thomas Dix, aged 73, 1785; also Mary, his wife, aged 62, 1778.  
 Mary Ann, infant daughter of S. S. Robertson, 1826.  
 Elizabeth, mother of above, aged 50, 1842.  
 Samuel Robert, aged 66, 1866.  
 Elizabeth Hinton, daughter of John and Mary Hinton, aged 68, 1853.

- Sarah Hinton, sister of John Hinton, aged 89, 1852.  
 John, son of John and Mary Hinton, aged 18, 1802.  
 John Hinton, aged 71, 1831.  
 Mary Hinton, aged 96, 1852.  
 Mary, wife of Thomas Hinton, aged 77, 1866.  
 Thomas Hinton, aged 84, 1873.  
 Mary Mathews, widow of William Mathews, aged 77, 1844.  
 William Mathews, son of above, aged 58, 1852.  
 William Mathews, third son of James and Jane Mathews, aged 43, 1803.  
 "I long in painful sickness lay  
 Death now hath hurry'd me away,  
 From my wife and children dear  
 To lie here till Christ appear."  
 Jane, wife of James Mathews, aged 73, 1800.  
 "A most indulgent mother sleepeth here  
 No love to husband could be more sincere  
 But vain are tears of friends, when God doth call  
 All likewise must to death as victims fall."  
 James Mathews, aged 63, 1787.  
 "Affliction some long time I bore  
 All human help was vain  
 'Till God alone did hear my moan  
 Who eas'd me of my pain."  
 Peter Mathews, aged 72, 1860.  
 Susannah, his wife, aged 82, 1879.  
 Thomas Mathews, aged 65, 1821.  
 Sarah, his wife, aged 65, 1833.  
 Charlotte Matilda, their daughter, wife of Henry Wood, aged 28, 1826.  
 Sarah, wife of Augustus Mathews, aged 26, 1808.  
 Clara Susannah, their daughter who died in infancy.  
 Sarah Julia, daughter of Peter and Susannah Matthews, aged 26, 1852.  
 Emma Susannah, their daughter, aged 17, 1855.  
 Austin, their son, who died in infancy.  
 John, son of Thomas and Sarah Mathews, aged 34, 1824.

Jane, Wife of William Mathews, aged 36, 1835.  
 Elizabeth Sarah, their daughter, aged 3 months, 1834.  
 "A loving wife is buried here  
 And near her lies her baby dear  
 We hope through Christ her soul's at rest  
 To meet us all among the blest."

William Mathews, aged 62, 1871.  
 Jane, wife of Thomas Mathews, aged 45, 1880.  
 Robert Belcher, aged 68, 1863.  
 His wife, aged 55, 1861.  
 Also their children—Charles, 14, 1847; Ann, 31, 1859; Alfred, 32, 1871.

John Scrivens, aged 44, 1847.  
 Mary Scrivens, aged 68, 1870.  
 Mary, wife of John Woolley.  
 Harry Kent, aged 10, 22nd June, 1885.  
 Alice Kent, aged 4, 23rd May, 1885.  
 Fred Kent, aged 6, 1st June, 1885.  
 Ellen Kent, aged 8, 5th June, 1885.  
 (These 4 children, 2 brothers and 2 sisters were the victims of diphtheria).

Henry Scrivens, aged 36, 1876.  
 John Short, aged 75, 1887.  
 Elizabeth, his wife, aged 85, 1901.  
 Augusta Caroline Brown, aged 59, 1899.  
 Peter Brown, aged 64, 1904.  
 Agnes A. Brown, aged 28, 1911.  
 Maria Stafford (?) aged 44, 1892.  
 Harriet Moore, aged 23, 1855.  
 John Mathew Moore, aged 53, 1856.  
 Elizabeth, his wife, aged 78, 1885.  
 Mary Perkins of Berkeley, aged 36, 1846.  
 "The path of Godly sorrow that alone  
 Leads to the land where sorrow is unknown."  
 George Blake, aged 85 years, 1833.

Sarah, his wife, aged 79 years, 1830.  
 "Would you attain a good old age?  
 Let God your earliest thoughts engage  
 Remember him in days of youth  
 And turn not from the way of truth."  
 Elizabeth, wife of William Blake, son of the above George and Sarah Blake, she died 1841, aged 35.  
 "How sweet to hear Christ say at last  
 Ye blessed children come  
 Your sorrows are for ever past  
 And Heaven is now your home."  
 Ann, second wife of the above William Blake, aged 67, 1852.  
 "How bless'd the light that gilds death's deepest gloom  
 With prospects of a better life to come!  
 How bless'd the Saviour whose almighty power  
 Sheds joy and comfort on a dying hour."  
 William Blake, aged 77, 1860.  
 John Blake, son of George and Sarah Blake, aged 69, 1851.  
 Sarah, his wife, aged 82, 1868.  
 George Blake, son of George and Sarah Blake, aged 61, 1849.  
 Sarah Ann Blake, daughter of George and Sarah Blake, aged 31.  
 May, wife of Edward Murphy, daughter of Thos. Field, aged 79, 1860.  
 Alec Mansfield Johnson, aged 59, 1940.  
 Mollie Vaughan Ambrose, daughter of Kathleen Johnson, aged 32, 1932.  
 Joseph, son of Joseph and Kezia Stafford of Nutbean, aged 20, 1837.  
 Also of Kezia, wife of Joseph Stafford, aged 78, 1855.  
 Joseph Stafford, aged 90, 1864.  
 "Our flesh shall slumber in the ground  
 Till the last trumpet's joyful sound  
 Then burst the grave with sweet surprise  
 And in our Saviour's image rise."  
 Samuel Gardner, aged 74, 1879.  
 Caroline, his wife, daughter of Joseph and Kezia Stafford, aged 66, 1888.  
 William Stafford, aged 69, 1880.



Jemima Rodger, widow, 1854.

"A happy day indeed that was for me  
When from afflictions and from sin set free  
God took me hence to joys that never cease  
So to be with Christ, my life in rest and peace."

Ann Jemima, daughter of John and Ann Stafford, aged 10, 1857.

"Thus much (and this is all) we know  
She is supremely blest  
Has done with sin and care and woe  
And with her Saviour rests."

Ann, wife of John Stafford, aged 31, 1865.

John Stafford, aged 82, 1897.

John Gibbins, aged 76, 1876.

Sarah Jane, widow of the above, 76, 1891.

"They are not dead but sleepeth  
The Lord in safety keepeth.  
Those whom He loved so well."

Jonathan Dix, 1881.

James Malpass, 1863.

Charles Holland, 73, 1894.

Jane, his wife, 79, 1897.

Richard Thomas Holland, died in infancy.

The daughters of Charles and Jane Holland, Harriet, 1922;  
Louisa, 1925; Emma Elizabeth, 1947; and Arthur  
George, their son, 1942; Mary Ann, his wife, 1935.

William, husband of Eliza Mary Smith, aged 62, 1941.

Amy Marianne, wife of William Malcolmsen Reynolds, 1939.

These rough stones taken from the Barrow at Jack Barrow  
Farm cover the remains found therein when it was opened, 1875.

Sir Henry Lennox Hopkinson, 1936, once squire of this parish,  
and his grandchild Olivia, infant daughter of Henry  
and Alice Hopkinson, 1932, aged 3 days.

Bartolo Daubigné, 1908.

Louisa Annie St. Paul, daughter of the Revd. W. J. Shafto Orde,  
1923.

James Maconechey, 1901.

Albert Smith, 2nd son of William and Mary Smith, aged 73, 1929.

William Smith, aged 76, 1890.

Mary his wife aged 95, 1918.

Mary Matilda Smith, 87, 1939.

Henry Freeman, aged 65, 1902.

Eliza, his wife, aged 85, 1922.

Alice Louisa Inglis, 1945, elder daughter of Andrew and Louisa  
Inglis.

Sophia Joanna Baillie, eldest daughter of William Hunter Baillie,  
1882.

Henrietta Clara Marion, wife of the Rev. James Maconechey,  
daughter of W. H. Baillie, Esq., of Duntisbourne  
House, 1878.

William Hunter Baillie, 1895.

William Moss, 1904.

Eliza, his wife, 1906.

Florence A. Brown, 1934.

Harry Evans, aged 46, 1932.

Mary Elizabeth Dixey, aged 79, 1944.

Maud Albertha, her daughter, 1920.

Craftsman C. Painter, R.E.M.E., 1944 (Wooden Cross).

Emily Jane Brown, aged 78, 1946.

Clara Furley, aged 66, 1948.

William Belcher, aged 73, 1931.

Eliza, his wife, aged 71, 1936.

William Belcher, aged 56, 1881.

Margaret, his wife, aged 89, 1912.

Their grandson Willie, killed in action, 1916, aged 21.

Anne Belcher, 1779.

Robert Belcher, 1886.

### Charities.

The following are copies of boards which are on the walls  
of the church tower.

1. Elizabeth Hinton, spinster of this parish bequeathed the  
sum of one hundred pounds unto the Rector and Church-  
wardens for the time being upon Trust to be invested in one of  
the Public Stocks of Great Britain in their respective names, and  
the dividends to be divided annually during the Easter Week

among ten poor men or women at their discretion. Also the sum of 20 pounds unto the Rector of Duntisbourne Abbots upon trust for the benefit of the National Schools.

These two sums being united are invested in 3 per cent consols in the names of the Rev. Richard Randall Suckling, John Stafford and John Gibbins, and were purchased into the funds at 90 $\frac{3}{4}$ . A.D. 1854.

2. Thomas Hinton of this parish bequeathed the sum of four hundred pounds in the new 3 per cent unto the Minister and Churchwardens for the time being upon Trust once in every year in the first week of the month of January to distribute the dividend or annual income in the following manner, by paying the sum of 1 pound a year in cash to the oldest poor man who at the time of distribution and for twelve calendar months previous thereto shall have resided in the parish of Duntisbourne Abbots aforesaid within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of the parish church there, or in the hamlet of Duntisbourne Leer (a tailor, or a shoemaker, if any, to be preferred) and a sum of £1 a year to the oldest poor widow woman resident within such limits as aforesaid, and then by paying the residue of the said dividend and income among the 30 oldest poor women (except the widow taking the aforesaid pound) who at the time of the distribution and for twelve Calendar months shall have resided in the parish of Duntisbourne Abbots aforesaid within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of the parish church there, or in the hamlet of Duntisbourne Leer, whether widow, married or single equally share and share alike. The wife of the aforesaid oldest poor man, if one of the said 30 oldest poor women to be entitled to share.

3. Mr. Muggleton by will to the parishes of Duntisbourne Abbots, Miserden, Winstone and Syde, Pasture ground in the parish of Duntisbourne Abbots called the Poor Ground, the rent of which is divided yearly among the 4 parishes above named in equal proportions. The share of this parish is given to the poor at the discretion of the Minister and Churchwardens. Rudder mentions the Muggleton Charity which by the will of Mr. Thomas Muggleton gave a fourth of the rent of Bull Bank Close to be distributed to the poor on Good Friday.

M. Turner also gave to the poor of this parish the sum of £5, the interest of which is divided with the above, and the principal invested in 3 per cent consols in the names of the Rev. R. R. Suckling, Mr. Jno. Stafford and Mr. Jno. Gibbins.

4. The Duntisbourne Abbots Trust Fund administers a modern charity which is not recorded in the Church. It consists

of the cottage known as the School House and the allotment gardens adjoining it: given by Commander James who sold the estate in 1937.

The will of Thomas Muggleton was proved 1659.

Bigland mentions another charity, that "William Harding, 1785, by will gave £20, the interest thereof for instructing as many poor children as the officers think proper."

### Folk Lore of the District.

Many legends have gathered around the stones of the Hoar Stone Barrow in the "Devil's Flights," a field of Mr. Thomas's farm. The stones are supposedly the abode of the devil and at midnight are reputed to turn over or to get up and walk round the field. Another tale is that a man with a rake or harrow goes round the field. Another story is that a white lady passes from Nutbeam Farm to the Hoar Stone Barrow. "The rustle of her silk dress has been heard."

Miss Painter tells of an old shoemaker who lived at Duntisbourne Leer who declared to her that on his way home from Park Corner, he was bodily picked up near the barrow and lifted across the field to the opposite hedge leaving his bag of tools, etc. behind him. He said that the "influence" would not let him return the way he came, but that he finally walked round by another way and recovered his tools.

Nutbeam Farm is commonly supposed to be haunted. There are tales of a ghostly monk and a secret room, which are not surprising in view of its great age.

Duntisbourne House is also reported to be haunted and one often hears it said in the village "I wouldn't live there for anything." Duntisbourne House is also reputed to have a phantom coach and horses which goes up the drive. Another phantom coach is said to be driven by a white lady who appears from the "haunted holly tree" which stands by the roadside, by the "water splash."

Another story about the haunted holly tree was told me by an old lady living in the village. She can remember a family named Belcher, who lived in the cottage near. A certain Althe Belcher who had lived abroad a considerable time was reputed to have been a very bad character and his ghost supposedly dwelt in the holly tree. This old lady tells that when she was a girl at school she can remember all the children of the school gathering

round the holly tree and shouting "Come on out Alfie Belcher" then taking to their heels and running for their lives!

A very favourite story is that of the golden coffin at Shadywell. 12 phantom men and a priest are supposed to appear carrying this golden coffin across the road and disappearing into the field beyond.

It is said in the village that there is an underground passage from Duntisbourne House to Pinbury Park. It is said that the entrances exist at both ends, but of course the passage—if it is a passage—is blocked.

There is a story connected with Trustram's Mead, that a man who lived there was found hanged on Bantry (Bannock-tree) Hill, or "trussed-up," and that is how the house was named. This, however, is hardly likely to be true, since the parish registers record several Trustrams in the 18th century. A man named Trustram once dwelt in the village and it is far more likely that Trustram's Mead was derived from his name.

### The Village of Duntisbourne Abbots Today—1951

The village today consists of 67 homes, many of which are over 200 years old. There are more families than houses, since the housing shortage has resulted in two families sharing a house in some instances.

There has been, in the past decade a tendency to convert old cottages into superior residences. This tendency continues and is likely to do so in the future.

The most important occupation in the village today is agriculture and arable farming predominates. Wheat, Barley, Oats, Potatoes, Swedes, Kale, Linseed, Dredge Corn, Sainfoin, Clovers, etc. are all grown.

Dairy herds are small, the largest being owned by Major Birchall who is developing an attested Freisian herd.

Sheep farming has almost died out. A few sheep may be seen in the parish, but the great breeding flocks of pre-war days are no more.

There is a piggery in the village owned by Messrs. Gillett of Cirencester where pigs are bred and fattened for bacon. Mr. Chadwick breeds greyhounds, and also runs a poultry farm.

Most of the workers who are not engaged in agriculture or private service travel to Gloucester or Cirencester where they engage in a variety of occupations. Exceptions are Mr. H.

Brunsdon who builds stone walls and does general building work, Mr. W. Smith, and Mr. Leslie Taylor who do plumbing, and building repairs, and Mr. J. Abel who is a fine craftsman in wood. Mr. W. D. Workman is a master baker. The village still has its school which was built in 1845 but the number of pupils has now dwindled to 8. At the age of 13 years children proceed to the Secondary Modern School at Cirencester.

There is a Post Office in the village and a public Telephone Kiosk. Miss Radway is the postmistress.

The Rector, the Rev. P. S. Brown resides at Dagingworth, The Moot Room is the property of the Women's Institute. It was the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Perkins, formerly of Duntisbourne House. The W.I. holds meetings here on every third Thursday each month. Mrs. R. Perkins is the president. Other social activities are arranged by the Social Club which was inaugurated in July 1947. The Chairman is Major P. D. Birchall, the Secretary, the Rev. P. S. Brown, and the Treasurer, Mr. A. Jarvis. Whist Drives are held frequently.

Captain C. E. Dalton is the village representative on the Cirencester Rural District Council. Major P. D. Birchall is the County Councillor.

The village now has a piped water supply and a daily bus service to Cirencester, but no gas or electricity.

The "Five Mile House," is the only Inn. Mr. F. Ruck is innkeeper.

### Places and Objects of Historical Interest to be seen To-day

The most interesting features to be noted in the village today are those connected with domestic architecture. Many of the cottages are wholly or in part of considerable age.

Sunnyside was built about 1600 A.D., it has a Tudor doorway (now filled in) and windows with Tudor dripstones. The School House is 19th century in date. Newbold Farm is Tudor but has been largely reconstructed in the original style, which is very pleasing. Church Farm was built in the 17th century, it has been altered, but most of the front is original. Brook Cottage is late 17th century. The Cottage owned by Mr. N. Abel has a stone set near the window on which is written, "W. Kent, 1615" and by the door is a mass dial built into the wall, this last item must have come from the Church.

The Old Cottage (where the Schoolmistress lives) is a 17th century building with an original chimney still insitu, there is an interesting stone protruding from the outside of the chimney to form a shelter over a window. It was once a laundry, and at another period was a shop.

Church Cottage is of 18th century origin and has Georgian windows.

The cottage occupied by Mr. Vizor was built about 1600. It has the typical steep Cotswold gables, ashlar chimneys and an interesting stone water trough. The finials are of 18th century origin.

Well Hill was probably built about 1600.

Elm Cottage, is an old cottage which has been spoilt. Mr. J. Partridge records that his father was taught there for a charge of 6d. a week by the Parish Clerk, who kept a small school.

No. 13 was probably built about 1600. It occupies the traditional site of the mill or mill house. In a field opposite is the depression which may have been the mill pond. This may be the site of the 11th century fulling mill mentioned by Mr. St. Clair Baddeley in his History of Cirencester. The house has a verge at the gable ends which denotes a place of more importance than the ordinary cottage. It has an unusual continuous dripstone.

In Duntisbourne Leer a blocked mediaval light (trefoiled lancet) may be seen in the wall of the 17th century cottage occupied by Mr. A. Dixey. Similar lights are built into the houses of Mr. Moore-Stevens and Mr. Richmond. It is possible that they are remains of a former oratory.

Duntisbourne Leer Farm, now owned by Mr. H. Carver has some interesting features. The chimney has fleurs-de-lys carved on it, and in November 1948 when the plaster was stripped from a room a recess was found with a lintel carved with fleurs-de-lys and a rope pattern on the uprights. A date had been carved but the first two digits are missing. The last two were —17. The Rev. Pottto Hicks was consulted about the find and he expressed the opinion that the date should read 1517. He thought that the masonry may have been part of a doorhead moved there from another place.

Attached to the farm is a brew-house where a great vat may be seen. In a barn is a large pigeon loft, a common feature in mediaeval times when pigeons provided fresh meat in the winter

as a change from the salted meat which was the normal diet. A large barn at the roadside has an unusual feature. At one end the floor makes a sudden drop of about 6ft. It has been suggested that this may have been used as a cockpit when cockfighting was made illegal but there is no proof of this.

Nutbeam Farm is the oldest house in the parish, part of it dating back to c. 1440. The old Mediaeval hall may still be seen although a floor has been inserted to form it into two rooms. It was at one time the property of the Augustinian Abbey of Cirencester. A depression in front of it which may still be seen is believed to have been the fishpond. The farm buildings and most of the windows are of 17th century origin.

The village pound may still be seen in Duntisbourne Abbotts. It is at the side of the lane on the east of the Church near "Sunmyside." The Youth Hostel was formerly the Rectory.

"Trustram's Mead," in Duntisbourne Leer was kept by the grandfather of Mr. J. Partridge, and a barn known as Miss Inglis' barn was at one time a carpenter's shop. A blacksmith's shop once existed in Duntisbourne Abbotts in the yard where Mr. W. Smith has his workshops.

Two hollows or pits in the ground known as Green Pit and Pug Pit are traditionally connected with the Wars of the Roses when opposing forces are said to have hidden in them and fired at one another. Green Pit is in a field on Jackbarrow Farm and Pug Pit is in a field on Rectory Farm. The name Pug Pit has been derived from a pit where clay was "puddled." The clay may have been used in the making of dewponds.

### Field Names

*The following is a collection of field names in the parish of Duntisbourne Abbotts. The numbers in brackets refer to the Ordnance Maps 1922 Edition (25 inches to the mile).*

Cockshott (287); The Home Ground (311); Little Ground (310); Greenpits (205); Wych Hazel (269); Townsend Close (214 and 265); Daniel's Ground (266); 22 Acres (271); 14 Acres (294); 16 Acres (270); Riddler's Bottom (263); Pool Ground (267); Cirencester Leys (297 and 268); Beech Copse Ground (295); Pool Ground (293); New Park (307); Lower Leach (Lych or Lutch) (252); Middle Leach (Lych or Lutch) (299); Top Leach (Lytch or Lutch) (298); The Five Acres (301); Winstone Piece (7); Long Furlong (202); Gleb (204 and 203);

Eighteen Acres (14); Innocks (207); Horsley Thorns (15); Bottom 5 Acres (208); Tunnock's Bottom (175); Tynon's Bottom (173); Wall Ground (177); Original strip of 3 field system (179); Vineyard (178); Tump Piece or Barton's Piece (9); Grove Hill (172); The Twelve Acres (210); Lower Innocks (167); Middle Innocks (217); Upper Innocks (216); The Groves (171) and 168 and 230); Coniger (Conygre) (233); The Laggot or Clover Ground (161); Lower Home Ground (12); Top Home Ground (13); Ealy Hill Fields (88, 89); Pug Pit (11); The Creep Hole (10); Top Five Acres (8); The Home Ground (311); Long Tidenham (319); Sealy's Piece or Old Rough (320); George's Corner (29); High Bush (322); Jackbarrow Piece (323); High Bush Piece (309); Wall Ground (308); Three Ash Piece (306); The Devil's Flights (326 and 328); Forty Acres (305); Hanging Ground (304); Horse Ground (148); he Ox Ground (6); Bullbanks Piece (182); Old Church Close (181); Old Church (200); Bull Ridge Piece (198); White Cross Piece (199); Bull Ridge (273); The Tynning (274); White Cross (272); The Rickyard Ground (289); The Folly Piece (90); The Fosse Field (91); Bannock Tree Ground (Bantry) (109); Common Field (120); Grove Piece (131); The Meadow (130); Three Acres (146); Furlong (150); 14 Acres (49); Top Cot Abbey (198); Middle Cot Abbey (201); Lower Cot Abbey (202); No Gains (20); Middle Piece or 12 Acres (19); Lime Kiln Field (18); Apple Pie Hill and Selscombe (38); Stutchcombe (22); Cabbage Piece (37); Moon Leaze (36); Nine Acres (40); Hindridge (33); Drive Grounds (41); Little Haycombe (51); Lower Green (55); Powell's Close (56); Five Mile Fields (47) (83) (82); Haycombe Common (79); Haycombe Butts (57); Little Mead (57); Cricket Ground (81); Old Lime Kiln Field (80); Adldlescombe (78); Clay Piece (74); Ox Common (62); Far Hill (63); Greater Far Hill (60); Twenty-two Acres (16); Top Piece (17); Lower Tynnings (176); Upper Tynnings (142); Quarr-Leazes (65); Arnold's Close (66).

### Inhabitants of the Village, January, 1951

No. in House	Name	Address
2	Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Dean	Nutbeam
1	Mr. Thomas	Field Barn Farm
4	Mr. and Mrs. W. Thomas	
2	Mrs. W. Partridge	
3	Mr. Dixey	
2	Mr. and Mrs. Shaw	
2	Miss Gegg	
3	Mr. and Mrs. A. Dixey	
5	Mr. and Mrs. Carver	
2	Mr. and Mrs. A. Watson	The Leer Farm
1	Miss Smith	
2	Mr. and Mrs. Richmond	Turners
2	Mr. and Mrs. Moore Stevens	Trustram's Mead
3	Mr. and Mrs. Vincent	
4	Mr. and Mrs. Brunson	
2	Mr. and Mrs. J. Chadwick	Barnfield
2	Major & Mrs. Astley Roberts	
1	Miss Painter	
2	Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis	Box Cottage
3	Mr. and Mrs. Stewart	
6	Mr. and Mrs. Reeves	
2	Misses Maconechey	Well Hill Cottage
6	Mrs. Kibble	
3	Mr. and Mrs. Vizor	
4	Mr. and Mrs. Cooke	Church Cottage
3	Mr. and Mrs. Hinks	Elm Cottage
2	Mr. and Mrs. J. Partridge	
2	Misses Radway	The Post Office
2	Mrs. Davenport	Brook Cottage
2	Mr. and Mrs. N. Abel	
1	Mrs. Iles	
2	Mrs. W. Smith	
1	Mrs. Cole	
1	Mrs. S. White	The School House
2	Mr. and Mrs. Ormondroyd	Youth Hostel
4	Mr. and Mrs. Young	Newbold Farm
2	Misses Holt	Church Farm
7	Mr. and Mrs. G. Smith	
5	Mr. and Mrs. Bruton	
3	Capt. and Mrs. Dalton	Windmill

<i>No. in House</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
2	Mr. and Mrs. J. Able	Yew Tree Farm
3	Mr. and Mrs. Blundell	Five Mile House
2	Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins	Cotswold Farm Cottages
2	Mr. and Mrs. Creswell	Cotswold Farm Cottages
7	Mr. and Mrs. Ruck	Cotswold Farm
4	Mr. and Mrs. Wall	Cotswold Farm
3	Mr. and Mrs. Sadler	Cotswold Farm
2	Mr. and Mrs. Tibbles	Cotswold Farm
5	Lady Birchall	The Gables
3	Mr. and Mrs. Workman	Jackbarrow Farm
2	Mr. Clarke	
2	Mr. and Mrs. Smith	
5	Mr. and Mrs. Harris	
4	Mr. and Mrs. Barker	
4	Mr. and Mrs. Bennett	
7	Mr. and Mrs. R. Perkins	Duntisbourne House
2	Mr. and Mrs. Watson	
4	Mr. and Mrs. Passey	
1	Mrs. Osman	
2	Mr. and Mrs. P. Stewart	
2	Mr. and Mrs. Taylor	
1	Mr. Wilcox	Field Farm
5	Major and Mrs. Birchall	Rectory Farm

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