

Report No. 2 (21 June 1969)

Murdered by Tories

by Frank T.Smallwood, M.A.

The story of Henry St.John, youngest son of Sir John, 1st Baronet, of Lydiard Tregoz, Wilts.

Henry St.John (1628-79), ninth and youngest son of Sir John, 1st Baronet (1585-1648), appears in effigy in his mother's arms on Sir John's monument in the parish church of Lydiard Tregoz, Wiltshire, where he was born, and his portrait as a boy of about seven is included (No. 43) in the collection in the Mansion. The position on the monument has been mistaken as evidence that he died in infancy. In fact, his mother died, but the boy survived.

Henry was not a popular name in the family. Olivers and Johns abound, to the confusion of the novice in St.John pedigrees. William had occurred among the early St.Johns, Grandisons, and Beauchamps, and in 1611/12 the boy's aunt Eleanor had married Sir William St.John of the Glamorgan line – a fact that is indicated in the shield at her feet on the triptych in the parish church. Edward and Walter were popular with the Hungerfords (the 1st Baronet's mother was a Hungerford); Nicholas was common among the Careys, Francis among the Bedfordshire St.Johns, and Thomas was well established in the Leighton family, from which the boy's mother came. Evidently popular names were running short when the ninth son was born. Henrys are few and far between among Sir John's forebears, but his cousin Sir Henry St.George, whose father Sir Richard designed the complimented in the naming of Sir John's last child. It is fairly obvious that Sir Walter's eldest son (Henry, 1st Viscount St.John) was named after Sir Walte's youngest brother and that from this Henry the name passed on to Sir Walter's grandson, the 1st Viscount Bolingbroke.

Two important things happened during Henry's childhood. In 1630 his father married, as his second wife, Margaret (Whitmore), widow of Sir Richard Grobham, and she doubtless looked after the boy till her death in 1637. Of her character and influence the present writer has no evidence beyond the inscription place on Sir John's monument while she and Sir John were both living "virtutis laude spectabilis, et bonis operibus intenta". At the end of the same year Sir Oliver St.John, died in Battersea without issue; his Battersea estates passed to his nephew, and his Irish estates to this great-nephew and godson John (2nd son of Sir John), and, if John has no male issue, to his other great-nephew and godson Henry, the subject of the present note.

It seems probable that from 1631 Sir John divided his time between Lydiard Tregoze and Battersea, possibly using his property at Purley, near Reading, as a half-way-house on the two-day journey. Even in Grandison's time the Battersea Manor House and the Church had been the scene of St. John family events – christenings, weddings and funerals. (Sir John's sisters had been brought up in Battersea by Grandison's wife, of whom Lucy Hutchinson gives a very uncomplimentary account.) It is, however, clear from the Battersea rate-books that Royalist Sir John kept away from Battersea during the period of the Civil War fighting – Edgehill (1642) to Naseby (1645). Apparently Battersea was too near to Parliamentary London to be comfortable for an ardent Royalist. Sir John was, however, in residence in Battersea when he died in 1648, and he lay in state there before his funeral at Lydiard. His elder surviving son Walter got into trouble with the heralds for giving his father, a mere baronet, a ceremonial fit for an earl or a duke. Some of the heraldic trappings were apparently still in the church at Lydiard when John Aubrey made his survey in the 1660's and some evidence survives in the south aisle. Presumably Henry, now about twenty, saw all this, though the heralds did not hold him responsible.

Sir John's will, made on the 3rd or 4th of July, 1645, (there is conflict of evidence on the date within the will itself) authorized his executors to pay one hundred pounds per annum, with a further fifty pounds if necessary, to his "said Henry whom I have lately sent to the University of Leyden in the part beyond the Seas, where I do intend he should continue for some time." This is confirmed by the Leyden entry of 19 July, 1645:

Henricus St. Jehan Anglus 17 P [= faculty of Philosophy]

Henry's entry at Leyden was by no means unique. Of 53 students entered in July 1645 eight were Englishmen. This departure from the general pattern of education for young St. Johns – either Trinity College, Oxford, or Lincoln's Inn, or both – may have been a consequence of the dislocation of academic life during the Civil War, when Oxford was King Charles's headquarters. In 1647 Henry was admitted to Gray's Inn.

Sir John gave instructions in his Will that an inventory of his movable possessions in the Battersea Manor House should be made, and that these should continue at Battersea "to the end the same may be there used and enjoyed by my said sonnes Walter and Henry". His grandson John, 2nd Baronet – a fatherless boy of about twelve – apparently continued to live at Lydiard, looked after by his maternal grandmother (to whom he left his biggest legacy), for his mother (to whom he left no legacy) had remarried. For eleven years (1648-59) Walter and Henry jointly headed the Battersea poor-rate assessments.

At dates that cannot be given precisely Walter and Henry married distant cousins, almost certainly sixth cousins – Johanna and Catherine, daughters of Oliver St. John, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, by his first wife, who was related to Oliver Cromwell. It is virtually certain

that the weddings were held in Enfield Parish Church. Between 10 May, 1646, and 1 November, 1653, no weddings are recorded in the Enfield registers – a fact that may be ascribed to the unsettled state of the country rather than to a dearth of bridal couples. But there are six pointers to Enfield:

1. When Oliver's sons Francis and William were entered at Lincoln's Inn (Nov 1648 and Feb 1652/3) their father was recorded as "of Enfield".
2. When Oliver informed Cromwell in Ireland of these "economie", ie domestic, events, he wrote from "Forty". Forty Hall still stands on the outskirts of Enfield. The letter is dated 7 January, 1650.
3. The Enfield register records that
The trulie worthy John Bernarde esq., of Huntingdon, & Mrs. Eliz. St.John, d. to the rt. Hon. Oliver St.John, lord chiefe justice of the common pleas, were married before her said father, and by him declared man and wife, February 26, 1655, coram testibus non paucis venerabilibus egregiis et fide dignis.
4. Although the Enfield ratebooks have now disappeared, William Robinson recorded in his *History of Enfield*, 1823, Vol.II, p.94, that St.John resided at the time of Elizabeth's wedding at Enfield and was assessed to the poor rate in 1654.
5. At the Restoration Oliver St.John published an eight-page pamphlet exculpating himself from responsibility for the death of King Charles I. In it he mentioned that at the time he had a lodging in Lincoln's Inn with enough accommodation for himself, his wife, and one servant only. Obviously, therefore, his family residence was not in London or in Westminster. Equally it must have been within reasonably easy reach of Westminster.
6. When Sir Nicholas Rainton, a childless widower, died in 1646, Forty Hall passed to his great-nephew, a boy of about thirteen. Such an heir had no immediate need of such a property, and although there is no known record of a lease to St.John, a lease for, say, ten years would have suited the Rainton family situation well.

From the inscription on Lady Johanna St.John's coffin plate it appears that Sir Walter married her late in 1649. Henry appears to have married in the following year. Concerning his two sons-in-law Oliver St.John said in the letter to Cromwell, "They are both such as feare God and such as myself and their wives I hope shall finde a blessing in".

In the summer of 1651 Charles II has crossed the Scottish border and was marching southwards west of the Pennines. Cromwell was keeping pace with him east of the Pennines. The general expectation was that when he reached the North Midlands Charles would strike south-east for London. The Council of State therefore called Militia out to strengthen

Cromwell's regulars, with orders to rendezvous at Daventry. Walter St. John was commissioned as captain of the troop of horse in the Surrey Militia, and Henry as one of the captains of the foot. Evidently the Surrey Militia was slow in moving, and the authorities applied pressure (26 August). Meanwhile Charles had surprised the authorities by striking south-west, and the rendezvous for the Militia was changed to Oxford. Exactly what part the Surrey Militia took in the battle of Worcester (3 September, 1651) cannot be said. Presumably the horse and the foot moved together, and in a dispatch to Parliament written on the day after the battle Major-General Harrison recorded: "The Regiment of Surrey under Sir Richard Onslow, and the Troop under Captain Walter St. John, marched hard to come up to the Engagement". (This supports the presumption that horse and foot moved together). But whether they succeeded in making contact with the Royalists and thus contributed to Cromwell's "crowning mercy" is left tantalizingly obscure. The tradition in the Onslow family that Sir Richard hovered near Worcester till he saw which way the battle was going apparently rests on a post-Restoration statement of doubtful reliability by Sir Richard. On the other hand Cromwell later described Onslow as "that fox of Surrey". But electioneering back-chat in Wootton Bassett in the early summer of 1660 suggest that Walter's horse may have taken part in the pursuit of the Royalist fugitives, for a local butcher declared that Sir Walter had delivered five bullets against the king at Worcester fight. Legal proceedings were begun to "shut the man's mouth" during the by-election, but were evidently dropped, for at the following quarter-sessions there was no charge against the butcher. (Doubtless it is too fanciful to guess that St. John's troopers missed the King at Boscobel).

About a month after Worcester Henry's wife had the first of her four children. All four – two boys and two girls – were christened at Battersea, but the first two, Oliver and Lucy, were buried there in infancy, Oliver on the very day of Lucy's christening and Lucy three weeks later. Katherine (christened 26 January, 1653/4) and Walter (christened 25 November, 1655) grew up. Exactly how long Henry continued to reside in Battersea cannot be said.

The St. Johns whose careers and interests took them to Ireland were directly involved in the troubles of the "most distressful country". During the rebellion of O'Neill, Earl of Eyrone, (1595-1603), Oliver St. John, later Lord Deputy of Ireland and Viscount Grandison, had taken part in the siege of Kinsale (about 12 miles south of Cork), where 4,000 Spaniards had landed in support of the rebels. In December, 1601, Tyrone, with the largest rebel army ever known in Ireland, marched to the relief of the town. On 2 December St. John was wounded in a night attack by the Spaniards, and a little later he was sent to England with dispatches. On the 24th the English won a great battle; the Spaniards capitulated and left the country.

The estate of the O'Hanlons (of whom more hereafter) in County Armagh was confiscated for their part in Tyrone's rebellion, and was granted by the Crown to Oliver St. John in 1610. The great-nephew and godson John, to whom Oliver (now Viscount Grandison and Baron Tregoz) had left the estate in 1630, was in residence at Tandragee, when rebellion broke out again in

1641 and soon spread from Ulster to the rest of the country. The Rector subsequently published Captain John's "Valorous performances, for at the beginning of the late Irish Rebellion, hardly escaping by leaping down from the top of the Battlements of his Castle in his Shirt, with much adoe he got safe to Lisny-Garvy, and there with a poor reminder of English Fugitives, not five Hundred, Attackt by as many Thousands of Irish, yet it so pleased the Almighty to bless their undaunted Courages, that they obtained a second Victory as memorable as the former, twice their own number of the Enemy being killed upon the place, and the rest totally routed".

By the end of 1643 Captain John St.John was taking part in the Royalist defence of Newark-on-Trent, was mortally wounded, and was buried – as "Curinall Senione gent" – in the parish church on 15 December. The crushing of the Irish rebellion of 1641 was not completed till 1652; the events included Cromwell's massacres in Drogheda and Woxford during the period August 1649 to May 1650.

As Captain (alias Curinall) John St.John left no male heir, the Irish properties passed in accordance with Viscount Grandison's dispositions, to Henry, who was then only fifteen. Henry was last named in the Battersea assessments in April 1659, but he does not appear to have settled in Ireland with his wife, son, and daughter till the spring of 1665. There in 1670 he rebuilt the parish church, which had been burned down during the rebellion of 1641, before he repaired his own house and at a date not recorded he built "that sumptuous market house ... a work so noble that it may better become a great City, than a Country Village". Moreover, "He kept a constant and plentiful Table ... no man entertained his Acquaintance and Strangers with great freedom and affability". "His Charity to the Poor was unspeakable ... every Lords Day he gave more to the Poors Box than the whole Congregation besides". (The Rector's funeral sermon, 16 September, 1679, devotes four pages to details of this kind.)

Early in the spring of 1673 his daughter Catherine married Anthony Bowyer a member of one of the leading families of Camberwell. According to the "allegation" for the marriage licence, the bride was "of St.Giles in the Fields". The rate-books for the parish do not survive, and the contemporary hearth-tax documents do not include the name of Henry St.John. But these documents do not assess "Lady St.John" for tax on thirty-six hearths in a house on the west side of Lincoln's Inn Fields and on eleven hearths in a property in Newman's Row near by. The house, which still stands as 59, 60 Lincoln's Inn Fields, was owned at the time by Charles Powlett, Lord St.John of Basing, son and heir of John, Marquis of Winchester. The head of the Befordshire St.Johns, to whom the bride's mother belonged, had married a third cousin of Charles, Charles Powlett's grandfather, and the name Paulet had been given to the second son in the next two generations. It is therefore interesting to surmise that the family enjoyed the hospitality of this handsome house for the wedding festivities. (It is also interesting to note that earlier and later owners of the house were connected with Sir Walter's family.) But there is no surmise about the fact that the wedding ceremony was held at St.Paul's, Covent Garden, on 14 February 1672/3, and that the Rector, the Rev. Symon Patrick, officiated. Patrick had come to Battersea as Sir Walter's chaplain in 1656 and continued to reside in the Manor House

till 1662, when he became Rector of St.Paul's. He had therefore known the bride since she was a little girl of two-and-a-half, which doubtless explains the choice of St.Paul's instead of St.Giles. Doubtless also Uncle Walter and Aunt Johanna and eight or nine cousins of assorted ages from Battersea formed part of the company.

In the preface to Henry's funeral sermon the Rector stated that Henry, "having considerable concerns in England ... intended to have settled his Son (i.e., Walter) the only one he had, here in Ireland". Fuller explanations would be welcome, but the events are clear enough. "A pack of insolent bloody Out-laws, whom they there call Tories" terrorized three or four counties in the North of Ireland. Their chief, Redman (or Redmond) O'Hanlon, was "a cunning dangerous fellow, who though Proclaimed an Outlaw with the rest of his Crew, and sums of money set upon their heads, yet he reigns still and keeps all in subjection so far, the 'tis credibly reported, he raised more in a year by contribution ... than the Kings Land-Taxes and Chimny-mony come to; and thereby is enabled to bribe Clerks and Officers". After an eloquent eulogy of this young man's maturity of judgement, true piety, beauty, activity, courage, affability, etc., the Rector, the Rev. Laurence Power, M.A, tells how Walter at the age of nineteen – which fixes the date as 1674 or 1675 – went in "too eager pursuit of those Villains that afterwards Murdered his Dear Father, led as it were by a prophetick spirit to prevent, if possible, the Decrees of Fate, or at least take vengeance of the Criminals beforehand". In the pursuit Walter "caught a Surfeit of heat and cold ... This Surfeit turned to the Small-pox, that fatal disease to hopeful Young-men, and so it proved to him; it quickly dispatcht him, and thereby disappointed his scarce surviving Parents of all their hopes, all their designs; they ... resolved not to quit the place where providence had cast them. [No reason moved them] so much as the prospect of doing most good there".

Henry St.John "scorned to have any correspondence with such Rascalls [the "pack of insolent bloody Out-laws, whom they there call Tories" mentioned above] no not to redeem a stolen Horse or Cow, he defied and prosecuted them to the uttermost". The consequence followed on 9 September, 1679, when Mr St.John, accompanied by the Rector of Tandragee and one of his menial servants, was attacked by some of O'Hanlon's gang of outlaws near Knockbridge. He had "no other Armes but a little Walking Sword, no manner of Fire-Armes, and riding upon a little packing Nag, so that it would be rashness in him to make resistance, no courage or valour. So that, upon this account, no man can dustly tax him with Cowardice, for it's well known that double their number could not take him if he had had but Armes suitable to his courage and resolution". The eye-witness Rector continues "he who was chief among the Villains did solemnly protest and swear, by the Eternal God, that if the Cry was raised, and the Country met them, he would leave him dead upon the place. And when the Country met us, tow of the Rogues that were on foot and let Mr.St.John's Horse, fired at him, so that I am confident 'twas one of them that shot him, for he was shot in the Forehead with a Brace of Bullets and both entered at one Orifice".

At the funeral service on the 16th the Rector concluded his sermon by roundly castigating some of the inhabitants who sheltered and protected “these vermine” and harboured “such pernicious vipers in their bosom ... such perfidious vermine ... these infamous rebels”.

On 14 September Sir George Rawdon, Bt., secretary and son-in-law to the late 2nd Viscount Conway, informed the 3rd Viscount of this murder and of O’Hanlon’s action in robbing a merchant of nearly a hundred pounds. (See C.S.P.D., 1679, p.241.) But in due course plans for dealing with the rogues produced results, for on 7 January Rawdon wrote again to Conway, who had recently been made an Earl; “The Tories increase daily. The heads of two notable rogues that killed Mr.St.John were brought to me last week by a contrivance I made and had the help of young Capt.Ralph Smith, our sheriff, by some tenants of his. By three of them only and a woman they were killed two miles beyond Dromore, and knocked on the head with an iron crow ... I then paid 101. to the actors on account of a greater reward I promised to procure them that they should attempt and perform that good service”. (The letter continues with other measures against the tories. On 25 April, 1681, Redmond O’Hanlon himself was shot dead by his foster-brother, who was sentinel and received £100 reward.)

It is interesting to note that when Henry St.John was murdered by Catholic tories in Ireland the scare raised in England by Titus Oates’s allegations of a Popish Plot was at its height. On 17 October, 1678, the body of a fearless Protestant magistrate Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey was found in a ditch under Primrose Hill with marks of strangulation on neck and breast and his sword thrust through his heart. For two whole days multitudes defiled past his body in the open streets of London, and a thousand nobles, gentlemen, and clergy attended the funeral. Godfrey was believed to be first victim of the Popish Plot. (See Trevelyan – *England under the Stuarts* Pelican ed., p370.) Women as well as men carried arms for self-defence, and the fear of fire or sudden death lasted “not for a few weeks or months only”. In August and September, 1679, elections for a new English parliament were held, but Charles II knew that if Parliament sat it would proceed with a bill for the exclusion of his brother James (a confessed Romanist) from the Succession. By eight successive prorogations therefore he prevented parliamentary action. But in December 1679 seventeen Protestant peers headed by Prince Rupert presented a petition urging the King to allow Parliament to sit. Despite a royal proclamation (12 December, 1679) forbidding “the joining in tumultuous petitions ... by evil-disposed persons ... tending to promote discontents and rebellions”, this was followed by monster petitions to the same effect from towns and shires, one of which was presented (22 January, 1679/80) by Sir Walter St.John and other Wiltshire members (see C.S.P.D. Jan.1679–Aug.1680, pp.376,7.) The King’s friends also organized petitions expressing their “abhorrence” at these attempts to put pressure on the King in the exercise of the royal prerogative to summon to mind their own business and **he would mind his.**) For a short time “Abhorrer” and “Petitioner” served as names of the two parties. But Titus Oates “used to croak ‘Tory’ at any man who dared to

question the plot”, (see Trevelyan, op.cit., p.395.) and in the course of 1680 “Tory” became the nickname of the Abhorrrers, who retaliated by nicknaming the Protestant Petitioners “Whigs”. The murder of Henry St.John by Catholic bandits is thus part of the story of the adoption of a party-political name that has served on and off for nearly three centuries, and it is not surprising that, four months after the murder, his brother Sir Walter was active in presenting the Protestant view to the King, even though he was firmly snubbed for his pains. Nor is it surprising that the Rector described Henry St.John as “A second Sir Edmund-Bury Godfrey”.

Irish troubles have continued to bear on this story, for the parish register that presumably recorded family events for John and Henry and the probate records that might have been informative about Henry’s affairs perished by fire in the Four Courts in Dublin on 28 June 1922. Henry’s widow, Catherine, outlived him by only two years. A few probate details are preserved, but are not significant.

The then Rector of Tandragee summarized Henry St.John’s character in a eulogy that may well end the present essay: “In short, the Church hath lost a bounteous Patron, the King a Faithful and Loyal Subject, his Servants and Domesticks a generous and indulgent Master, his Tenants and Dependants a gracious Landlord, the Poor a bounteous Benefactor; - - - the best Husband, and the tenderest Father”.

The writer is deeply indebted to the Rev.T.D.DMayes, Rector of Ballymore, Tandragee, Co.Armagh, for several valuable details and in particular for the reference to the published funeral sermon of the Rev.Laurence Power, M.A.

The St. John Chancel Trust

by the Rev. Brian Carne, B.Com

There is a strong tradition locally that Lydiard Tregoz Church is well endowed. This tradition is due mainly to the fact that, until the 20th-century fall in money values, the Rector's stipend was well above average, but in part due to the existence of an endowment earmarked for the repair of the Chancel, South aisle, and monuments. In 1645 this endowment was worth £10 per annum – quite a considerable and useful sum in those days, in 1969 it is worth the same - £10 per annum. To relate the story of this benefaction and its Trustees, together with such information as the records of the Trust give on repairs to the fabric of the Church, is the purpose of this article.

On 2 June, 1645, Sir John St. John, 1st Baronet, entered into an agreement with the Rector and Churchwardens for the creation for a Trust in perpetuity to be held in the names of eight Trustees. The Indenture states that Sir John “doth ... give and grant unto the sayd [eight Trustees] One annuitye or yearely rent of Ten pounds to be issueing out of all those lands tenements and hereditaments situate lyeing and being in the parish of Lydyard Tregoze aforesayd which were heretofore purchased by the sayd S^r John S^t John of one Edward Pleydall gent; and now are or late were in the tenure possession or occupation of one John Greenwood his assignes or undertenants. To have hold and receive the sayd annuitye or yearely rent of Ten pounds from and immediately after the decease of the said S^r John S^t John and St Michaell the archangel by equal portions”. He binds his heirs to pay this money and stipulates that late payments shall incur a fine of 10s. per week of arrears after fourteen days of grace have elapsed.

The purpose of the Trust is clear. The rent charge, in the words of the 1685 Conveyance, is in the order that “the Isle and vault in the Church of Lydyard Tregoze aforesaid then called the new Isle and vault and alsoe the other Isle in the same Church then called the old Isle (anciently erected by some of the Ancestors of the said S^r John S^t John and belonging to the Isle and all the Monuments which before that time had been or after should be erected or sett up in them or other of them by or for him or any of his Wives or Children or any of his Ancestors Kindred or Family And alsoe his Grandfathers and Fathers Monuments in another Isle, and the Chancell of the said Church, might be from time to time after his decease well and sufficiently repaired and maintained at this owne charges and without any charge to the said parish”.

The Trustees' duties are also clear. They shall "on every Easter Monday after his decease together with the Minister and Churchwardens of the said parish for the time being meet at the parish Church aforesaid and view the said Isles Vaults and Monuments and take order for repairing and keeping them in all decent matter And disburse the sume Twenty shillings of the said Annuity either in a dinner or supper as the said Trustees or the Major part of them should think fitt".

It is the duty of the Rector and Churchwardens to nominate new Trustees who are resident in the parish whenever the number has been reduced to three by death or removal from the parish, the surviving Trustees conveying the Trust to those newly appointed.

Conveyances of the Trust were executed in 1865 and 1703. Unfortunately no re-conveyance was made by the survivors of those appointed in 1703, and no-one remembered who was last to die. Over a century late the Rev. Giles Daubeney set about the revival of the Trust and took the matter to the Court of Chancery. By an Order of the Court, dated 27 July 1844, permission was given for a conveyance to be made to new Trustees. Further conveyances took place in 1882, 1901, 1926, and 1965. The list of Trustees is appended to this article.

The payment of the £10 annuity seems to have taken place regularly until the middle of the 18th century. In 1834 it was stated that the rent charge had not been paid for more than 50 years: such repairs as had been done had been paid for by Lord Bolingbroke, but monuments and aisles were stated to be in need of much attention. After 1834 arrears were made good, and payments were resumed for a while, but by 1901 they had lapsed again. Payments were resumed again in this century and continued until the sale of Lydiard Park. As a result of the 1943 conveyances of the property, the £10 has been paid annually by the "Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Swindon".

As a result of Bolingbroke's action in bringing the matter up to date on one occasion, £100 of the back payments were invested in Consols in 1866. A further investment of unapplied income took place in 1917 when £50 was invested in War Stock. The Consols and War Stock are held by nominees of the Trustees and are transferred whenever necessary.

Attempts to identify the field when Sir John bought from Edward Pleydell have failed: the rent charge is now attached to the site of the Mansion house. It is a matter of some regret nowadays that Sir John fixed the amount of the annuity in perpetuity according to the 1645 value of a particular field. He could have conveyed the field itself: he could even have given the Trust a field in Battersea, Wandsworth, or Earl's Court!!

20th-century prices may make us scoff a little at the sum of £10 to keep the south aisle, chancel, vaults, and monuments in good repair "without any charge to the said parish", but this should not blind us to the fact that in days gone by the Trust undoubtedly contributed greatly with its

funds to preserve for us the glories of the past. Unfortunately accounts only survive for the past 80 years, but they indicate the kind of work done over the centuries. Here are some of the items:

1886 work done by Joseph Bell & Sons of Bristol:

	£	s	d
Renovation and decoration of Monuments of Lord Bolingbroke's Family etc. as est.	50.	0.	0.
Gilding and decoration of Chancel rails and gates	20.	0.	0.
Painting and decoration of the East wall as far as sill of window	3.	0.	0.
Painting side walls of Chancel and Aisle, and the upper part of East wall and ornamented border to latter; and oiling woodwork of Western door and painting ironwork	7.	7.	6.
Two railway fares 15 th June		19.	0.
	<u>81.</u>	<u>6.</u>	<u>6.</u>

In a letter dated 19 June, 1886, Mr. Frank Bell explained in detail what work had to be done. Among the items are the following: The Golden Cavalier is to have "all the accessories of the figure" repainted and the renewal of "such lettering as may be traced and such cleaning as the gilding of the figure will admit of to be done". The shields and lettering of the Bedstead tomb are to be repainted where necessary. The Mompesson monument and the Nicholas St. John monument are to be completely repainted and the lettering renewed. The two hatchments adjacent to the Nicholas St. John monument are to be repainted as well as the shield and mantling placed on top of the same monument.

1887. Account from S.W. Wiltshire: Lowering paving in Chancel. Mason 61½ hours, Labourer 33¼ hours, 6 barrow Mortar, 4 pecks Cement, 1½ pecks fine grit, 20 red bricks, 32' super 2nd hand Swindon Paving etc. At a cost of £4. 3. 8d less 5s. credit for Bath Stone. For a further £11.10. 0d. that year Mr. Wiltshire re-laid 70' of stone paving and two new steps in the chancel in addition to providing new oak bearers and oak supports for the entrance to the St. John vault.

1890. Messrs. Edwards and Bays of Swindon provided a new wire guard for the East Window for the sum of £3. 8. 6d.

1892. H. Llewellyn of Wootton Bassett repaired the lead roofs of the Vestry and did some work on the Chancel roof for the sum of £31.14. 0d. The work involved the laying of 28 cwt. 1 tr. 18lbs. of new sheet lead which cost, with labour, £35. 5. 0d. There was, however, an allowance made on the 27 cwt. Of old lead amounting to £11. 9. 6d. The cost of red deal, sundry materials, and the repairs to the rest of the lead accounted for the remaining £7.18. 6d of the bill.

Also in 1892 repairs to the Communion vessels were undertaken by Payne, Moody & Co. of Old Bond Street, Bath. These repairs cost £1.15. 0d, and a new box was made to keep them in for the sum of £3.15. 0d. (Until the sale of the House the vessels were kept there and carried to the Church when required.)

In 1901 the restoration of the Church under the direction of C.E.Ponting took place. The work was done, in part if not wholly, by the firm of Joseph Williams. £179.12. 3d. towards the cost of Joseph William's work and £14 of Mr.Ponting's fees came from the Trust.

1911. Work costing £59.15. 6d. was done by Mr.H.Street. Of this sum £22.10. 0d was spent on lining the wall at the back of the altar with lead and decorating the same.

In 1914 George A.Smith, plasterer and decorator of Purton, refitted and re-decorated the Bolingbroke vault for the sum of £6.10. 0d.

Ernest J.Landown of Wootton Bassett did some work on the Bolingbroke Vault in the Churchyard in 1928 at a cost of £41.

The bank pass book indicates the expenditure of numerous other items, but where the actual accounts did not survived it is not possible to determine the work done. Some consideration, however, should be given to the number of letters, accounts, and reports relating to the work on the windows of the Church in 1937 and 1938 by Joseph Bell & Sons, of Bristol, at a cost to the Trust of £85.15. 0d. In addition to the Trust's contribution, a further £25 is stated to have come from the Central Council for the Care of Churches out of funds placed at their disposal by the Pilgrim Trust.

It would appear that re-leading of the windows was last done by a local plumber in 1819. By 1935 the old glass urgently needed expert attention, the rain was coming through the East window, and one of the tracery lights in the South aisle was filled in with a piece of tin. Canon Goddard wrote to Rector Harrison about the matter in 1935, but it was not until Rector Willetts came that anything was done about it.

Mr.Arnold Robinson, of Joseph Bell & Sons, described the work he did on the East window in a letter to Mr Willetts, "Almost all the retouching on this window has been done upon new clear glass leaded in front of the old, which at the same time protects the old paint still adhering to the old glass. Only in one or two places did I fire new paint on to old glass, when it was a simple piece like the covers of a book". Further information about the work needing to be done is contained in the report attached to Bell's estimate, where it is stated that "the shading on the yellow glass of St.John the Divine is coming off, also the Eagle's head and the book".

Until 1937 the Virgin and Child now in the westernmost window of the North aisle were in the left-hand light of the easternmost window in the same aisle, beside the Archangels. They had positioned at some time upside down, with the head hidden behind overlapping lower panes. The 1937 restoration not only turned them the right way up but gave them a new location more appropriate to their importance. The ark or shed, part of a halo, and the fringe of a robe which are joined to the Virgin and Child were formerly in the right-hand light of the Archangel window.

The Trustees do not now meet annually to inspect the fabric, nor do they consume a dinner or supper when they do meet. The Architect appointed by the Church Council surveys the fabric instead. The Trustees will meet next when the Church Council has prepared the next stage of the Church restoration programme in order to make a grant towards the cost of those projects that come under the terms of the Trust Deed. The balance standing on deposit in the name of the Trustees is £252, to which is to be added the relatively small sums represented by the holding of Consols and War Stock.

Appendix List of Trustees

- 2 June, 1645 Appointed by Sir John St.John:
John Pleydell, Esq., the Rev. Dr. Timothy Dewell, Peter Kibblewhite,
John Yorke, Nicholas Church, John Bath, Giles Prater, and Anthony
Kem.
- 10 July, 1685 Surviving Trustees:
Dr. Timothy Dewell, John Pleydell, and Nicholas Church.
Trustees appointed:
The three existing, with the addition of
Thomas Hardyman, Gent., Christopher Spencer, Gent., Francis Cox,
Gent., Ephraim Smith, Yeoman, and John Pannell, Yeoman.
(The witnesses for Sir Walter St.John's signature on the Deed of
Appointment are Stephen Charman, and William Foote. The
witnesses for Dewell and Timothy Dewell, Jnr.)
- 25 October, 1703 Surviving Trustee: John Pannell
Trustees appointed by the Rev.Stephen Charman and the
Churchwardens, John Neat and Thomas Pike:
The Rev.Stephen Charman, Edmund Pleydell, Esq., William Yorke,
Esq., Charles Vilett, Gent., Henry Smith, Yeoman, and John Pannell,
Yeoman.
(Sir Walter's signature is witnessed by William St.John, Sir Walter's
son, and Thomas Martin.)
-
- 9 September, 1844 Indebure made by authority of the Court of Chancery.
Trustees appointed:
The Rev.Giles Daubeney, Cornelius Bradford, Yeoman, Bartholomew
Horsell, Esq., Anthony Mervyn Story, Esq., William Plummer, John
King, Rawleigh Eddols, and George Busson.

- 14 February, 1882 Surviving Trustee: Rawleigh Eddols, now of Stanley Bridge, near Chippenham.
Trustees appointed by the Rev.T.T.Shipman and the Churchwardens, Messrs. Slade and Ody:
The Rev.Thomas Trafford Shipman, Achilles Henry Edmund Slade, Walter Ody, the Rt. Hon, Henry St.John, Viscount Bolingbroke, William Kinchin, William John Plummer Kinchin, Thomas Richard Plummer Kinchin and William Smith.
- 22 December, 1901 Surviving Trustees: Messrs. T.R.P.Kinchin, now of Wroughton, and W.J.P.Kinchin.
Trustees appointed by the Rev. E.H.Jones and the Churchwardens, Messrs. Large and Rebbeck:
The Rev. Ebenezer Humphrey Jones, Charles Large, William Alfred Rebbeck, the Rt.Hon.Mary Emily Elizabeth St.John, Viscountess Bolingbroke, Robert Wiseman, William Oliver Titcombe, George Price, and William John Plummer Kinchin. (George Price did not sign the Deed of Appointment, having withdrawn his name.)
- 9 July, 1926 Surviving Trustees: Lady Bolingbroke, Messrs. Large and Titcombe. Trustees appointed by Rev. A.H.Harrison and the Churchwardens:
The Rev. Alexander Herbert Harrison, William Oliver Titcombe, the Rt. Hon. Mary Emily Elizabeth St.John, Viscountess Bolingbroke, Hervey William White, Edward Hiscock, Ernest Thompson, George Ody, and John Percy Rumming.
- 21 April, 1965 Surviving Trustee: Mr.J.P Rumming, now of Blunsdon.
Trustees appointed by the Rev.B.G.Carne and the Churchwardens, Messrs. H.PFaulconbridge and S.D.A. Bowler:
Nigel Arnold-Forster, Peter John Farr Enderby, Graham Roger Gantlett, Thomas Keith Marshall, Frank Rudler, George Percy Rumming, Malcolm James Titcombe, and Rowland George Henry Woolford.
(Mr. Marshall has since left the parish.)

Surnames and Aliases

by T.Daish

An article in last year's report mentioned that I had transcribed the Lydiard Tregoz parish registers for the period 1666 to 1840. The undertaking of a task of this kind can be rewarding in several ways, and not least of these if the opportunity it gives for studying the growth of families in a small community, the variety of their surnames, and their relationships down the years.

Surnames and their meanings offer a wide field of study. The outstanding authority on the subject is Dr.P.H.Reaney's *Dictionary of British Surnames*, which cover about 20,000 names. A useful review of the history and development of surnames is afforded by the entertaining and scholarly introduction to *The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames*, by Dr.Basil Cottle. In this book he assigns surnames to their four broad categories, based upon:- 1. First-names; 2. Locations; 3. Occupations; 4. Nicknames.

The surname that occurs most frequently in the Lydiard Tregoz registers is Bezzant, in one or other of a variety of spellings – Bezzant, Besant, Bessant, Basent, Beisant are some of the variants. In the 175 years covered by my transcript this name appears in no fewer than 120 of them, and is fairly evenly spread over the period. (Thomas Beasant was Parish Clerk from 1775 until his death in 1785, when he was succeeded by his son William, who held the office until 1820. He died in 1826 at the age of 78.) The name belongs to the last of the four classes mentioned above; it is the name given to a gold coin of a type first minted in Byzantium. In heraldry, a bezant is a golden roundel; and it takes three of them to make a pawnbroker's sign. Further examples of the nickname origin are Goodenough, Little, Love, Newman, Savage, Short, Strange and Tru(e)man.

Second in order of frequency is Woolford, with its occasional variant, Wolford and Woollford. This belongs to the second group, and was probably derived from the place where sheep were washed. Or it may have been an enclosure against wolves.

Lyd(d)iard occurs only twice as a surname: in the marriage registers of 1676 and 1698. On 2 October, 1676, Thomas Humphryes married Katharine Lydiard; and on 28 April, 1698, Nicholas Lyddiard, of Stratton St.Margaret, married Elizabeth Seymout, of Swindon.

A name with many variants down the years is that known in more recent times as Theobalds, (Theobalds = son of Theobald.) In the 18th century it was usually Tibbals, Tibbels, Tibbells, Tibalds, or Tibbuls. It belongs to the first category. The first name, Theobald, is of Germanic origin meaning “bold people”. First-names account for the largest part of the total. We have no need to look beyond the A’s in Lydiard Tregoz to find Adams, Alexander, Allen, Allis, Anderson, Andrews, Angel, Anthony, Arnold, Atkins, Austin and Avery.

Of the surnames based on occupation there are many examples – Arrowsmith (spelt Arrasmith when Anne of that name married John Cox, of Little Hinton, on 11 October, 1709), Baker, Carter, Draper, Farmer, Fisher, and so on. Oddly Shepherd, or its near equivalent in spelling, occurs only three times, between 1671 and 1747.

A study of surnames leads almost inevitably to an interest in aliases, or alternative surnames. Many arose from illegitimacy, where the child took the mother’s surname, with the father’s as an alias, or the father’s name might be taken as an additional Christian name. Or, as a result of adoption, the original surname and that of the foster parents might be retained and joined with an alias. Similarly, a child whose father died early and whose mother married again might be known in youth by his stepfather’s name, and later might use his own father’s name as an alias.

Other kinds of alias no doubt originated in ownership of, or claims to, landed property, or they might merely perpetuate the name of an heiress through whom property had descended.

Nicknames were sometimes adopted as aliases to distinguish members of different families with surnames that were locally common. An example (though no one drawn from Lydiard Tregoz) might well be Carpenter alias Box, more especially if he were the village undertaker! Another kind arose for reasons of prestige, or because of dissatisfaction with the original name. An apt example of this is Werme alias Burroughs (from the marriage register, 1680).

It is by no means easy to assign a particular alias to the class to which it belongs, as the clues are absent or elusive. Several instances derived from the Lydiard Tregoz registers are:- Pedlingham alias Jeniver (Baptism, 1670), Champernown alias Slatter (Marriage, 1679), Seager alias Parsons (Marriage, 1712), and Tayler alias Pytcher (Marriage, 1670). Some reader of these notes may be able to suggest the answer to one or other of these queries.

Furniture – Lydiard Mansion

by Mr.N.J.Dowden, A.R.I.C.S.

When the Corporation purchased Lydiard Mansion there was not a stick of furniture, picture, or piece of china of any value in the place. All had been disposed of at a prior sale, the only signs of previous occupations being the unfaded patches on the wall coverings where pictures or furniture had been.

Fortunately, the fireplaces remained, with the bust of Henry St.John by Rysbrack over the fireplace in the hall, and part of the Library shelving with plaster busts of Venus and four admiring philosophers.

The fireplaces are very interesting, each being different and some having fine overmantels. The Library fireplace had classic pillars and uses several different marbles, while the Drawing Room fireplace is in white marble, heavily decorated with swags of fruit to match the ceiling and with cherubs as supporters on each jamb. The fire openings still have fire bars for burning logs.

The Library shelving is incomplete, the lettered sections running from A – Q, but the R – Z sections are missing. Presumably they stood in the centre of the room and were removed at the time of the sale. This is a great pity for the shelving is intricately moulded and carved, in keeping with the doorways to all the rooms. These doorways merit careful inspection as the degree of detail is surprising.

It was, of course, not practicable to furnish any of the rooms until the necessary repairs had been done to the structure and finishes. This work was expensive and took some considerable time, indeed it was not until 1955 that any thought could be given to the provision of furniture.

The first purchases included tables for the Library and Dining Room, the former a late Georgian revolving drum table and the latter a good reproduction. Six Hepplewhite chairs were obtained for the Dining Room, and recently these were augmented by six reproductions in similar style. The cut glass lighting fitting in the Hall was also purchased at about that time.

About the same time some items were loaned by Lord Landsdown while Bowood House was undergoing repair. These items were in the Drawing Room and bedroom, but have since been returned to Bowood.

A very generous gift was made by the National Art Collection Fund who gave pieces left to them by Mr E.E Cook. Included in this gift were the very fine secretaire bookcases in the Dining Room and bedroom and the large Persian carpet in the Library. Later they gave the walnut oval folding table which can be seen in the Library, and which opens out into a writing desk and chair. This is said to be very rare and is of considerable value.

During the years that followed the Corporation have received other gifts or loans, one in particular from the late Mrs.Bridgeman of Southrop of many pieces now on view. The Corporation has also bought pieces which were offered at reasonable prices, so that there is now a fair representation of furniture of the period. The books in the Library are on loan from the Swindon Public Library, as is also the fine Chinese bowl in the Dining Room.

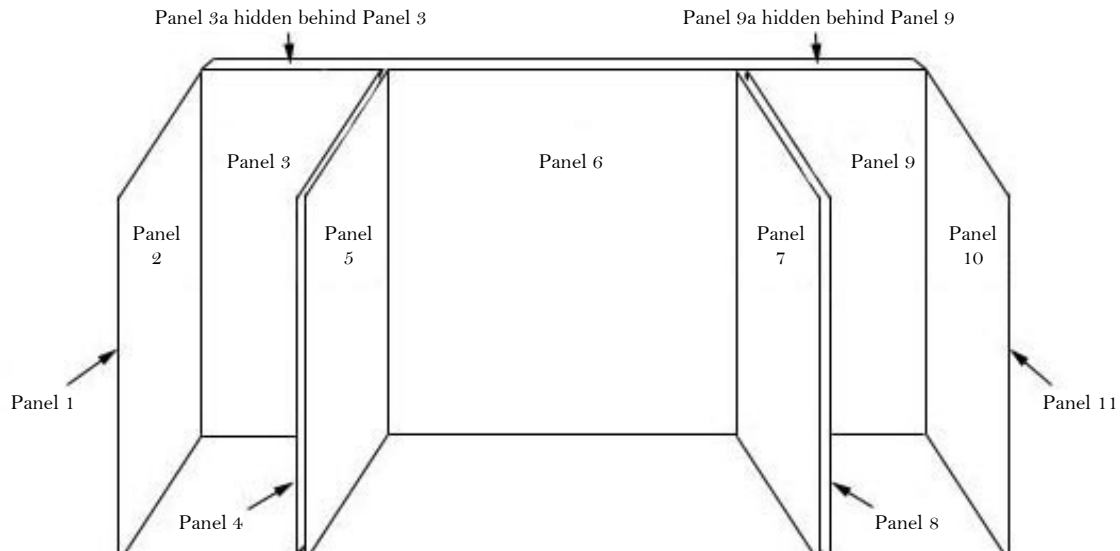
Later acquisitions have been a clock, a globe, pieces of plate and china, and smaller items to offset the furniture and to give a greater sense of use to the rooms.

It is intended to produce a schedule of the various items as soon as possible so that pieces can be identified by the interested visitor.

The Triptych

This extraordinary monument to family pride, which stands, on the north wall of the Chancel, was erected in 1615 by Sir John St.John, 1st Baronet. Sir John wished to commemorate his parents and to tell something of the history of the family.

To avoid confusion in description the following numbering will be observed:



It will be seen that this is an extended triptych with two pairs of doors. It has a carved stone base which bears on the left the arms of the 1st Baronet (St.John impaling Leighton), in the centre those of this father (St.John impaling Hungerford), and on the right those of his grandfather (St.John impaling Blunt), whose monument is in the south aisle. On the entablature, to the left, are the hames – the badge of the Tregoz family, to the right the garb (or sheaf) of the Hungerford family. In the centre, a pediment bears the portrait of Margaret Beauchamp, who figures largely in the St.John story, and above her is the falcon – the badge of the St.John family. Margaret Beauchamp is depicted between two coats of arms, the one on our left shows her arms impaled with those of her first husband, Oliver St.John, whom she married about 1430. On our right are her arms impaled with those of her second husband, John Beaufort, 1st Duke of Somerset.

When the central doors are opened, panels 5, 6, and 7 form a continuous conversation piece. In the centre, kneeling at a prie-dieu on a sarcophagus, are the 1st Baronet's parents; his father, Sir John St.John (d. 1594), in complete Greenwich-style armour, and his mother, Lucy, daughter and co-heir of Sir Walter Hungerford of Farley.

Flanking the sarcophagus are their children; beneath it are represented by three coffins those who died before 1615 – Martha, Walter (d.1597) their eldest son, and Oliver. On the left of the sarcophagus (as we face it) is the 1st Baronet (then aged about 29) in a Greenwich half-armour, together with his first wife, Anne Leighton. On the right are six daughters in mourning habits, their arms linked; the heraldic coats at their feet show that at the time of the portrait five of them were married. Katherine, the eldest, is at the far right. She married Sir Giles Mompesson, and has her own memorial above the door of the south chapel. Beside her is Anne, who married Sir George Ayliffe of Grettenham, Wilts. (His hatchment is in the south aisle.) Next comes Jane, who married Sir Robert Atye of Kilburn Castle, Middlesex, and then, on his death, married Sir Charles Pleydell of Midgehall in this parish. (See plaque over the south-west door.) The fourth is Eleanor, who married a very distant cousin, Sir William St.John;

beside her is Barbara, who married a half-brother of the Duke of Buckingham, Sir Charles Villiers. The youngest, Lucy, has a lozenge at her feet to show that she was unmarried at the time. In the October of 1615 she married Sir Alan Apsley, who, a little later, was made Governor of the Tower of London. Their daughter, Lucy, was the wife and biographer of Colonel Hutchinson. Mrs.Hutchinson wrote concerning her mother and aunts, "There were not in those days so many beautifull women found in any family as these."

When the central display is fully open it is interesting to note the artist's skilful balancing of the figures on either side of the sarcophagus and also to see that the "whole group is depicted in an Ionic colonnade, the crowning entablature of the monument." (Dufty).

Panels 5 – 7 are dated 20 July, 1615. The base, entablature, and pediment clearly fit in with this date. Also consistent with this date are panels 3a and 9a. These panels are revealed when the lightweight canvas-on-stretcher panels 3 and 9 are removed. It would appear that 3a and 9a form part of a continuous back-plate which runs behind panel 6. They bear statuesque, allegorical figures in grisaille painted directly on the wood. The figures, stand under alcoves, the one (Fortitude) holds a broken column, the other (Faith) has a chalice and a staff surmounted with a cross.

What else belongs to 1615? Across panels 4 and 7 run doggerel lines below which is written, "Some Antient Remaines of Sr Richard St: George Knt Garter King at Arms relating to ye Pedigree of St Iohn, written in ye year 1615 : and now transcrib'd this present year 1694." The verses tell the story of the descent of the manor of Lydiard Tregoz, the inheritance into which the St.Johns entered; and it is reasonable to assume that they appeared somewhere on the triptych in 1615. The verses run as follows:

When Conquering William won by force of Sword;
This famous Island now call'd Brittain's land;
Of Lydiard then was Ewyas only Lord;
Whose Heir, to Tregoz linck't in marriage band;
That Tregoz a great Baron in his age;
By her had issue the Lord Grauntsons wife;
Whose daughter Patshull took in marriage;
And Beauchamp theirs, wch Beauchamp's happy life
Was bless'd with a daughter, whence did spring,
An Heir to S't John who did Lydiard bring:
Thus course of tyme by God's Almighty power,
Hath kept this land of Lydiard in one Race,
Five hundred forty nine years and now more,
Where at this day is S't John's dwelling place:
Noe, Noe, he dwell's in Heaven, whose anchored faith
Fixed on God, accounted life but death.

Confirmation that these verses were part of the 1615 work forms part of the description of the Triptych made by John Aubrey, the historian, in the 1660's:

On the North side of the altar are the pourtraictures as big as life very well and curiously painted all at length, of Sir John St.John and his Lady, Lucy daughter and coheir to Sir Walter Hungerford. Also his sonne Sir John with his Lady, Ann, daughter of Sir Thos Leighton, and their six daughters, who were are Ladyes. On the back i.e. the outside of the doors, on which they are painted, is also the Pedigree of the family: which get. Q. Mr.Thomas Gore of Alderton for it.

Katherine married Sir Gyles Mompesson; Anne m.Sir George Ayliffe, of Gretenham, Jane m. Sir William St.John co. Glamorgan; Barbar m. Sir Edward Villiers; Lucy m. Sir Allen Aspley, Lieutenant of the Tower.

Under this Picture are verses.

What can we be sure did not form part of the 1615 work? The portrait of Margaret Beauchamp in the pediment seems to be late 17th-century work, and the inscriptions and genealogical tables on panels 1 – 4 and 8 – 11 bear a range of dates late in the same century, 1683, 1684, 1694, 1699, even 1718. Although these panels in their present form belong to the dates stated, it is inconceivable that the Triptych in 1615 was devoid of genealogical and heraldic material. John Aubrey noted that “the Pedigree of their family” was on the outside of “the doors” but unfortunately left it to his some-day editor to get it. He noted down with care the inscriptions of the monuments of Edward St.John, Katherine Mompesson, Nicholas St.John, the 1st Baronet, William Blackburne, the Yorkes, and so on, with full information about the many coats of arms in the windows and on monuments, nearly all of which remain as he saw them, but the one important monument that has been considerably enlarged since this time, namely the Triptych, he did not note down in detail. “The Pedigree of their family” may well have shown some of the glories of Sir John’s ancestry by exhibiting some of the shields of his ancestors or even by tables that culminated in himself or, perhaps, his two-year-old son.

The answer to this question about the scope of “the Pedigree” may yet remain on the Triptych, though hidden from sight. In 1694 an attempt was made to correct the warping that had affected the central doors. New panels were fitted – our present panels 4 and 8 – on to the existing doors. It is tantalizing to realise that the answer may be so near and yet inaccessible. All that we can do is to leave to conjecture what Sir John saw on the outside of the doors in 1615. Assuming, however, that panels 3a and 9a are original, it can be fairly stated that the old panels 4 and 8 were of some sombre colour to harmonise with their neighbours and form a fitting contrast to the central display.

This discussion of the extent of the original work of 1615 necessitates some consideration of the remaining panels. Number 3 and 9 consist of canvas on stretchers, and are dated 1699, 3a and 9a being mutilated to receive them. There is no doubt that they were an addition in 1699. But what of the lateral doors? Were they, or ones similar to them, part of the original construction? How much weight can be put on John Aubrey's silence about lateral doors? It is true that he did not mention the base or the entablature either, and there were undoubtedly part of the original work. Canon Jackson's description of Aubrey's work in the preface to the 1862 edition, "It is literally nothing more than the rough original note-book of a somewhat miscellaneous Collector", is a fair summary of its contents. But one is faced with the awkward question that perhaps Aubrey's silence is due to their serving no significant purpose – and so, if serving no significant purpose, why were they there at all? Further evidence to suggest that the lateral doors were not part of the original construction comes from the fact of their clumsiness. It is not possible to open the central doors without first opening the lateral ones. It is argued that, were they original, proper provision would have been made for their easy opening. A further argument from construction draws attention to "the architectural solecism of the overhang of the lateral lengths of the main cornice", if the lateral doors are not part of the 1615 work. Against this it can be argued that a triptych is normally intended to stand open, in full splendour. It is only because the Triptych is now normally kept closed that we are aware of the possibility of the solecism. It could even be that, after Sir John's death, it became the normal thing to keep the Triptych closed, and this change of habit may have been one of the reasons which prompted the addition of the lateral doors. It is the opinion of the present writer that the balance of evidence, though not conclusive, is in favour of the lateral doors not being part of the original construction.

A digression here may be permitted, to consider briefly the difference between what we believe to be the 1615 work and the only other comparable triptych in existence, the Cornwall Triptych in Burford Church, Shropshire. Whereas the Cornwall Triptych is medieval in outlook and theology, the St. John Triptych is Renaissance in its humanism. Yet only 27 years separate them. (The Cornwall Triptych is dated 1588.) The figures on the inside, members of the Cornwall family, are kneeling at prayer, rather like Nicholas St. and his wife, their eyes fixed on eternity. An inscription reads:

O LORD OUR SOWLES RECEAVE,
 AND EK OUR SINNS FORGYVE;
 WITH IOYE THYS WORLD WE LEAVE
 AND HOPE WYTH THE TO LYVE,
 THROUGH CHRST OUR LORD
 AMEN

Furthermore, the Triptych exhorts us to take the Apostles, who appear on the outside of the doors, as examples of life rather than the family whose portraits are on the inside. The pediment on the entablature contains a Doom scene in grisaille.

The St. John Triptych is very different. The deceased Sir John and his Lady seem only too willing to break off their contemplation of the Beatific Vision to have their portraits painted for the benefit of posterity. It is interesting to note the changing presentation of death on the monuments in the Church. Nicholas and Elizabeth and kneeling at prayer; Katherine Mompesson is seated and looks pensive as she waits for her husband and the general resurrection; the 1st Baronet and his wives are asleep – death to them is a comfortable rest; the Triptych shows John and Lucy as still very much this world regarding; all trace of sleep and death have gone with the Golden Cavalier, as he stands in pride of cause and family beneath his falcon-crested canopy.

There is an inscription on the prie-dieu to compare with that on the Cornwall triptych :

Aspice, pulvis eris qui nostra cadavera cernis
In cineres conversa : manet, spiramus Olimpo

The last three words present difficulties in translation, but there does appear to be a comma after 'manet'. The lines can be rendered :

Take note, you will be dust who look upon our bodies turned to ashes:
Still stands (the faithful saying), we are alive in heaven.

So far this article has treated, in the main, the 1615 work of Sir John – the main structure of the monument, the family portraits, with some discussions of the exterior work. The glorious proliferation of the genealogical tables must now be discussed in some detail. Sir John died in Battersea in 1648 and, after lying in state there, was buried at Lydiard Tregoz on 18 October of that year. He was succeeded, as second Baronet, by a grandson, John, who died in 1656 without issue. The third Baronet, Sir Walter, was the first Baronet's sixth son, and he remained as head of the family until 1708. Sir Walter's eldest son, Henry (d. 1742), was created 1st Viscount St. John in 1716. It was Henry's son by his first marriage, another Henry (d. 1751), Sir Walter's grandson, who became Secretary of State to Queen Anne and held the title of 1st Viscount Bolingbroke from 1712 to 1715. The tables tell the story of these people and their antecedents, ending in all five cases with grandson Henry.

The genealogical work is skilfully arranged. The lateral doors trace his descent over a period of 600 years, emphasizing the male side on panels 1 and 2 and the female side on panels 10 and 11. The two panels on stretchers highlight his common ancestry with the Tudor monarchs (panel 3) and the chief glories of this descent (panel 9).

The inside of the lateral door on our left (panel 2) is dated 1683 and starts with a Johannes de Sancto Johane, stated to have entered England with the Conqueror. (The status symbol of having come over with the Conqueror developed early – the Battle Abbey Roll is partly

fictional! The earliest documentary evidence of a St. John in England comes from about 1108.) This is nicely balanced by panel 10 which begins with Ralph, 1st Earl of Hereford, nephew to Edward the Confessor. So Henry's story stems from the Conqueror's army and from the Saxon Royal House. The panel continues the story of the St. Johns from the time of the Conquest down to about 1430, the marriage of Oliver St. Johns to Margaret Beauchamp. Panel 1 is dated 1684 and takes the story on from their two sons, who were the founders of the Bletsoe St. Johns and the Lydiard St. Johns, down the parallel lines to young Henry and his very distant cousins of the elder Bletsoe line, who had achieved the Earldom of Bolingbroke. (Some time after his father's remarriage on 1 January, 1686/7, Henry's step-mother was added, and, in 1695, Paulet's succession to the Earldom.) At the foot of the parallel pedigrees are full achievements with fluttered ribbons bearing the family mottoes of the two branches – right **Data fata secutus** (Bedfordshire branch); left **Sanctus in terra beatus in coelo** (Wiltshire branch). (This evidenced from what we believe to be work commissioned by Sir Walter himself gives no support to the notion that he adopted the motto *Rather death than false of faythe*, which his school in Battersea has been using since the 1850's.) At the bottom of panel 1 the inscription reads:

The ten lineal Descents of S^t Iohn of
Lydiard Tregoz & S^t Iohn of Bletsho
Brought down to this Present year, 1684

In this descent prominence is given to Oliver St. John (d.1630), who held high office in Ireland, and was created Viscount Grandison in the Irish peerage and Baron Tregoz of Highworth in the English.

Panels 10 and 11 show the descent of the manor of Lydiard Tregoz through four heiresses, Sybil of Ewyas (d.1236), Sybil de Tregoz (d.1334), Sybil de Patshull (d.1359), and Margaret Beauchamp (d.1463). The manor passed to Margaret's younger son, Oliver; thence through seven generations to young Henry, heir apparent in 1684. Henry's mother's family, Rich of Lees Priory in Essex, is also traced. At the bottom of panel 10 the inscription reads:

The ten lineal descents of ye two familys
(viz) S^t Iohn of Lydiard-tregoz & Rich of
Lees in Essex, brought down to this
Present year, 1684

In 1694 the canvas-covered new facings for the central doors (panels 4 and 8) were painted. These show the five generations of Henry's immediate forebears. Note: there are 28 functioning as 32 in the first generation shown. Henry's portrait as a young man of sixteen years old appears in a miniature on these doors. In 1718 the recent family glories were added: two new Viscounties with appropriate inscriptions. Below this family tree are the doggerel lines which were set out earlier in this article.

By 1694 the main work was done except that panels 3a and 9a with their figures in grisaille were incongruous with the new work of 1684 and 1694.

So, in 1699, five years later, they were covered by the panels of canvas on stretchers. Panel 3 tells of the affinity with the Tudors. The inscription at the bottom of the panel reads:

A Genealogical Tablet
With the DIRECT LINE of the
FAMILY of S.^T JOHN
Explaining their ALLIANCE, as well
In Affinity and Consanguinity to
KING HENRY VII
and also to
QUEEN ELIZABETH
Of most Glorious and ever Blessed Memory.

Margaret Beauchamp, after the death of her St.John husband, married John Beaufort, 1st Duke of Somerset and a grandson of John of Gaunt. Their daughter, another Margaret, married Edmund Tudor and was the mother of Henry VII. Anne Boleyn, the mother of Queen Elizabeth I, had a sister, Mary, who was an ancestress of Anne Leighton, first wife of 1st Baronet.

Panel 9 summarises Henry's descent from St.John, Huscarl, and Ewyas, and shows the build up of Henry's coat of arms through some of the heiresses captured by the St.Johns over the years. The inscription at the bottom of the panel reads:

A Genealogical Tablet
with an Abstract of the Descent by
HEIRS GENERAL,
from several
ANCIENT as well as Noble
FAMILIES;
Whose Arms and Inheritance centre in the Person of
HENRY S.^T JOHN Esq.^r

Both of these 1699 panels have groups of allegorical figures in grisaille by way of decoration, and the background of the whole is covered with St.John mullets and Beauchamp martlets.

Who was responsible for the 1683 – 1699 work? It would seem reasonable to attribute the bulk of this to Sir Walter. Although he has been described as being puritanical and sober in taste, there is little evidence for this. The pomp of his father's lying-in-state at Battersea and funeral at Lydiard Tregoz, and probably the luscious altar-rails in the Church are evidence of something far different. His father did not believe that "family pride must be denied, and set aside, and mortified", and it would appear that his son shared his views. The story in the "Pedigree" seen by Aubrey had to be brought up to date by Sir Walter. The Bolingbroke Earldom, his great-uncle's Viscounty, his own marriage to a St.John of Bletsoe, daughter of a Lord Chief Justice, his son's marriage into the family of Earls of Warwick, and his grandson's growing up, which seemed to assure the future of the line – all these were worth proclaiming.

Indeed it may be a bit fanciful but none-the-less interesting to link the dates of this work with the life of grandson Henry. B.M.Egerton MS.2378, a book of horoscopes cast by John Partridge, the famous Almanack Maker, gives some details in f.38 of his early years:

Lord Bo: was a very sickly Child & much
troubled with swellings about his Neck
& Lippes: and about 9 years of Age he
had a great fitt of sicknesse

And another fitt of sicknesse abt ye
age of 14 or 15 years: sch last
sicknesse was believed to be ye
Mezles & a surfeit & his life was
then almost despaired of

By 1694 when he was approaching sixteen there was excellent reason for commemorating his recovery. In 1699 he attained his majority.

Mr Smallwood writes, "I cannot help feeling that Sir Walter's family pride watched the growth of grandson Henry with very great concern. Two earlier grandsons had died in infancy; Henry was a sickly child; by 1684 the widower had not re-married, but the boy had managed to reach the age of six! By 1694 three grandsons by the second marriage had been born, but only one of them, George, still lived; Henry, however, thanks be, was now sixteen! By 1699 Paulet had been born and had died, so there were still only two grandsons to continue the line. Sir Walter's only other living son, William, was married but had no children. Henry was twenty-one!"

This leaves the coronets and inscriptions added in 1718. Who was responsible for these additions, for Sir Walter died in 1708? Christopher Hussey, in his "Country Life" article, 9 April, 1948, suggests that as Bolingbroke was, in 1718, in exile and attainted, the additions to the Triptych that year were due to "Bolingbroke's desolate and once wealthy wife, Frances Winchcombe, who died in 1718 and possibly left directions in her will for it to be done."

No copy of the will of Frances Winchcombe survives, but sufficient is known of its contents to make her unlikely to be seeking to extol her husband. Relations between them could not have been worse, and, much to his disgust, she left him nothing. It is far easier to see the hand of Henry, 1st Viscount St.John, in this. He was very proud of his title, and included also his son's, although the latter had been stripped of it. Henry was head of the family at this time, and added the sundial of Lydiard Park some time between 1716 and 1736.

These notes on the Triptych would be incomplete without some mention of the problems discussed in the article "Homer nods at Lydiard" in Bulletin No.1, 1968. Mr Smallwood there noted the following errors in the Triptych:

- a) the position of the arms of Broy in the 1st Baronet's achievement (panel6),
- b) the ancestry of Oliver, Lord Chief Justice (panel 4),
- c) the number of Earls of Bolingbroke (panel 1), and
- d) the description of Sir Richard St.George, Clarenceux King of Arms, as Garter King (across panels 4 and 8).

Who was responsible for these errors when the St.John family had the expert resources of the St.George family to draw on? The error about the Earls of Bolingbroke is particularly surprising, for they were the very distant cousins and eminent contemporaries of Sir Walter.

.....

Three generations of St.Johns had a hand in the creation of this important monument: 650 years of family history presented with great pride. It is a happy hunting ground of genealogists and heraldists and a continual source of delight to visitors.

.....

Diagram of:
St.John & Leighton Quarterings on Panel 5

APPENDIX

The blazoning of the shields incorporated in the full achievement at the feet of the 1st Baronet on panel 5.

St.John									Leighton			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	5	6	7	8
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36				
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	9	10	11	12
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54				
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	13	14	15	16
64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71					

St.John quarterings

1. St.John: Arg., on a chief Gu. Two mullets Or, a crescent for difference
2. ap Meredit: Arg., a lion rampant Sa. Armed & langued Gu. (?)
3. Unfravyle: Arg., a fess between 6 cinquefoils Gu.
4. Delabere: Az., a bend Or cotised Arg. Between 6 martlets of the 2nd
5. Calthorpe: Chequy Or & Az, a fess Erm.
6. Aven: Gu., 3 chevrons Arg.
7. (Unidentified): Arg., a lion passant guardant between 10 cinquefoils Gu.
8. Paveley: Erm., on a fess Az. 3 crosses Moline
9. Beauchamp: Gu., a fess between 6 marlets Or
10. Abrol: per pale Or & Gu., 3 roundels 2 & 1 counter changed
11. Moleyns: Gu., 3 pales wavy Or
12. Mauduit: Arg., 2 bars Gu.
13. Bassett: Barry (6) nebuly Or and Gu.
14. Newborough: Lozengy Or & Az., a bordure Gu. Charged with 8 bezants
15. Beaumont (E. of Leicester): Gu., a cinquefoil Erm.
16. E. of Warwick (until 1243): Chequy Or & Az., a chevron Erm.
17. Fernland: Gu., 10 (3.2.3.2.) crosses crosslet Or
18. Genton: S., a bend raguly Arg.
19. Harcourt: Gu., 2 bars Or
20. Camvile: Az., 3 lions passant in pale Arg.
21. Patshull: Arg., a fess Sa. Between 3 crescents Gu.
22. Broy: Erm., a lion rampant purp. Crowned Or
23. Stangrave: Az., a cross between 20 billets Arg.
24. Wake: Or, 2 bars Gu. & in chief 3 torteaux
25. Beauchampe: Quarterly Or & Gu., a bend of the 2nd
26. Grandison: Paly of 6 Arg. & Az., on a bend Gu. 3 eagles displayed Or
27. Tregoz: Gu., 2 bars gemel and in chief a lion passant Or
28. Fitz Gerold: Gu., a lion passant guardant Arg. Crowned Or
29. Ewyas: Arg., a fess Gu. between 3 mullets (of 6 points) Sa.
30. Iwarby: Arg., a saltire engrailed Sa., on a chief of the 2nd mullets of the 1st
31. Hardeshall: Or, a cross engrailed Gu., in the 1st quarter a martlet Sa., for difference
32. Hamell: Az., a fess between 3 dgriffins passant Or
33. Brett: Az., a fretty Gu., on a chief Or a lion passant guardant Gu.
34. Fitzhamon: Az., a fess between 3 griffins passant Or
35. Fitz-Water (Milo, temp. Henry I): Gu., 2 bends – the upper Or, the lower Arg.
36. Asnantes: Gu., 2 bars dancette Or
37. Newmarch (see no.60): 5 lozenges conjoined Or
38. Gwaith Voed (living 921): Vert, a lion rampant Arg., the head, feet and tail Gu.
39. Carew: Or, 3 lions passant guardant in pale Sa.
40. Fitz Stephen: per pale Gu. & Erm., a saltire counter changed
41. De Courcy: Arg., 3 eagles displayed Gu. crowned Or
42. Blunt: Quarterly Arg. & Gu.
43. Odron, Baron of: Arg., 3 snakes involved vert
44. Huscarle: Az., 3 battleaxes Arg.
45. Hungerford (Fitz John): Sa., 2 bars Arg. & in chief 3 plates

46. Hungerford (Heytesbury): per pale indented Gu. & vert, a chevron Or
47. Hungerford (Hussey): Barry of 6 Erm. & Gu.
48. Peverell: Az., 3 garbs Arg. Banded Gu. & a chief Or
49. Cornewall: Arg., a lion rampant Gu. crowned Or within a bordure engrailed Sa., charged with 8 bezants
50. Cobham: Gu., on a chevron Or 3 eagles displayed Sa.
51. Courteney: Or, 3 torteauz (2 & 1) & a label of 3 points Az.
52. Bromley: Gu., a griffin sergeant Or
53. Redvers (E. of Devon): Or, a lion rampant Az. Armed & langued Gu.
54. Moels: Arg., 2 bars Gu. and I chief 3 torteaux
55. Trafford: Arg., a griffin sergeant Gu.
56. Barkworth: Chequy Or & Gu., a bend Gu.
57. Botreaux: Arg., 3 toads erect Sa.
58. Corbet: Or, a raven Sa.
59. as no. 54
60. as no. 37, but differenced: Or, 5 lozenges conjoined in fess Gu., each charged with a trefoil of the field
61. Prous: Sa., 3 lions (2 & 1) rampant Arg. between 9 cinquefoils Gu. (3.3.&3.)
62. St.Pier: Arg., a bend Sa. & a label of 3 points Gu.
63. Cheverell: Arg., 3 lions rampant Sa, armed & langued Gu.
64. Clivedon: Arg., 3 escallops Gu.
65. Framlingham: Arg., a fess Gu. between 3 choughs
66. Fauconbridge: Arg., a lion rampant Az.
67. Baron Lancaster: Arg., 2 bars Gu. and in a canton of the 2nd a lion passant guardant Or
68. Molyne: Sa., on a chief Arg. 3 lozenges Gu.
69. Molyne: paly wavy of 6 Or and Gu.
70. Fitzwilliam: masculy Arg. & Gu. counter changed
71. as no.1

Leighton quarterings

1. Leighton: Quarterly Or & Gu., party per fess indented
2. Hogg: Arg., 2 boars heads couped Sa., langued Gu.
3. Nevill (co. Essex): Az., a lion rampant Or
4. Rognon (or Roynon): Arg., a wyvern sergeant Sa.
5. Jarman: Or, 3 bendlets Gu.
6. Dedendon: Az., 3 escallops Or
7. Lanacre: Az., a chevron between 3 fleurs de list Arg. (Erm.)
8. Frene: Or, a lion rampant Gu., a bordure engrailed Sa.
9. Dee (Jones): Gu., a lion rampant within a bordure indented Or
10. Clopton: Gu., a bend between 6 pears Or
11. Zouch: Gu., 10 besants (4.3.2.1.), a canton Erm.
12. Ferrers, Grooby: Gu., 7 maxles conjoined Or, 3.3.1.
13. Cantillupe: Gu., 3 leopards heads (invered) jet fleur de list Or
14. St.Maure (Baron): Arg., 2 chevrons Gu., a label of 3 (?5) Az.
15. Denham: Gu., 4 lozenges conjoined in fess Erm.
16. Warner: Sa., a fess between 3 fleurs de lis Erm.

Old Glass for New

by the Rev. Grain Carne, B.Com

Alterations in the glass of three windows in the south aisle have recently taken place as a concomitant to repairs to the exterior masonry of the Church. The masonry repairs included work on the mullions of the windows in the south wall of the south chapel. The window left of the doorway has only one light visible from inside the Church as the other two lights were filled in to form the back of the monument to the 2nd Viscount St.John. The glass behind the monument, only visible from outside, needed re-leading together with some replacement of quarries.

In 1935 Mr.Arnold Robinson had urged the Church Council to consider replacing the coloured glass altogether in the window to the right of the doorway. It was garish and of little merit, made up of multi-coloured quarries, each light being bordered with a continuous leaf design, and belonging to the same period as that in the west window of the nave, which is by Gibbs, 1858. Late In 1958 Mr.Geoffrey Robinson, Mr.Arnold Robinsons's son, was commissioned by the Church Council to make a new window. This he has done, using old glass from elsewhere in the Church.

The two lights behind the 2nd Viscount's monument were completely re-glazed with modern clear glass. Much of the clear quarries that were removed belonged to the eighteenth century and these form part of the background to the new window. The shields and their surrounds were removed from the trefoil heads to the three lights behind the organ. The shields and their surrounds belong to the fifteenth century or earlier and were still set in the original lead when Mr.Robinson removed them.

The shields represent on our left the Northwodes (their arms are not found elsewhere in the Church), in the centre the Barony of Tregoz, on our right the Grandison family. The manor of Lydiard Tregoz was part of the Barony of Tregoz until the death of John of Tregoz in 1300. He left no male heir, and his estates were divided between two daughters. The younger, Sybil, married William de Grandison. William and Sybil were granted the manor by her father in 1285, but conveyed it on 21 January 1331/2 to one of their annually on the Feast of the Nativity of St.John the Baptist. She married John de Northwode, or Northwood, and died in 1348.

The blazoning of the shields is as follows:

Northwode: Ermine, a cross engrailed gules

Tregoz: Or, 2 bars gemelles and in chief a lion passant guardant argent

Grandison: Paly of 6 argent and azure, on a bend gules 3 eaglets displayed or

To the purist the Tregoz shield is bad heraldry as it superimposes a metal on a metal. For our present purpose it is sufficient to note that this is another field tincture. The most common tincture is gules, with three instances in the Church of azure, the bars and lion being or in each case other than this window.

The Grandison window contains one point of interest. The eaglets are on a black background, contained in “bi-apsidal rectangles”, which are let into the bend. At first sight this would seem to be a further variation on the Grandison arms, to add to the mitres of Bishop John and the buckles of his brother. In fact, the black background is due to the convenience of the glazier rather than to the wish of the heraldist. Working with small pieces of yellow glass, the glazier drew the eagles and then blacked in the “fields” with fusible paint.

Portrait No.14 in the Mansion

On the reverse of the frame of portrait 14 pencilled inscription reads, “Sister to Lady Luxborough daughter of Henry Lord Viscount St.John.” This ascription is impossible as such a lady did not exist. The Guidebook draws upon tradition in stating “Angelica Magdalena (c.1666 – 1736), 2nd wife of the 1st Viscount St.John; English School, c.1725.” Doubt has now been thrown on this ascription following a recent visit by Mr.Richard Ormond, of the National Portrait Gallery, and a subsequent letter to Miss Madeleine Ginsburg of the Victoria and Albert Museum. Miss Ginsburg examined photographs of the portrait and was asked to comment on the dress of the sitter. In her reply she wrote:

“I think it highly unlikely that the lady was painted before about 1740-45 when this hair style with its curls on the side of the head became fashionable. The sitter seems to be wearing a form of fancy dress so her garments except in their general shape are not much help in dating. Unfortunately I cannot tell you what character she is dressed to represent except that the use of fur suggests an E. European – perhaps Polish original.”

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1968/9

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	Mr. Douglas Perry

POSTSCRIPT

The Society was formed in 1968 to link together those living locally with those living at a distance who had an interest in Lydiard Park and St. Mary's Church. Last year's meeting on 6 July was addressed by Miss Elizabeth Crittall, M.A, F.S.A, Editor of the *Victoria History of Wiltshire*. She spoke of the historical research which had been undertaken on Lydiard Tregoz and illustrated her talk, sketching in the development of the parish.

The main charge on our subscriptions is the cost of the Report, but in 1968 our first contribution was made to the restoration of the church's fittings and furnishings. The three helmets in the church, about which we hope to include a note in next year's report, were refurbished at the Tower of London at a cost to the Society of £15.

Membership stands at 52. It is with regret that we record the passing of Mr. Charles St. John, Lord Bolingbroke's brother, early this year.

The Rev. Brain Carne resigned the Rectory after almost nine years at the Lydiards. On Sunday, 8 December, we welcomed the Rev. Michale West on his institution as Rector.

Finally, our thanks are due to the contributors of articles to this year's Report, to the Corporation of Swindon for its generous help in making available materials for its productions, and to Mrs. Edith Harris for typing manuscripts and stencils.