

# FRIENDS OF LYDIARD TREGOZ

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The FRIENDS OF LYDIARD TREGOZ was formed in 1967 with the approval and full support of St.Mary's Church and the Borough of Swindon.

The objects of the society are to:

- Foster interest in the Church, the House, and the Parish as a whole.
- Hold one meeting in the House annually, usually in mid-May, with a guest speaker. The meeting is followed by tea in the dining room and Evensong in the Parish Church. (The meeting in 1997 was held at Battersea.)
- Produce annually *Report*, a magazine of articles which are concerned in the broadest way with the history of the parish, its buildings and people, the St.John family and their antecedents as well as more locally-based families, and the early years of the Sir Walter St.John School in Battersea. Copies of *Report* are deposited with libraries and institutions in England, Wales, and the United States of America. The offer of articles for inclusion is always welcomed by the Editor.
- Make occasional contributions from unexpended income towards the cost of projects in either the House or the Church.

# EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT ON THE PARK AT LYDIARD TREGOZE

## Nicholas Pearson Associates

### Editor's Note

Particular thanks are due to Nicholas Pearson Associates for permission to reproduce parts of their report on Lydiard Park - their assessment of its historic development and their recommendations for the future - in this *Report*. Members of the Friends of Lydiard Tregoz have taken a close interest in these proposals over the past twelve months. It is good to have the opportunity to set these proposals in context now that the Borough of Swindon has accepted them and the appropriate funding is in place.

### Introduction

Lydiard Park is Swindon's foremost historic park but, as well as being designated a County Park, includes the striking Palladian house with many of its original contents, and the setting to one of the country's most beautiful parish churches. The park and house are both extremely popular, but there is a recognised need to improve both the quality of the park and the facilities used by some quarter of a million visitors every year. Lydiard Park was selected by the Countryside Agency as a national pilot project to explore best practice and a renaissance for county parks.

### Outline History

Lydiard is reputedly an old Welsh place name suggesting a gateway or pass, possibly reflecting its position between the tractable soils of the vale and heavier plateau clays of the Forest of Braydon. The archaeological record suggests some Romano-British settlement between the church and brook.

- 1086 South Lydiard, *Lediar*, was one of many manors held by Alfred of Marlborough; the manor included 400 acres of meadow and 30 acres of pasture and woodland 1 league long and *Vi* a league in breadth. The woodland was part of the Forest of Braydon, of Anglo Saxon origin.<sup>1</sup>
- 1100 Harold of Ewias gave the church at Lydiard to St Peter's Abbey Gloucester.<sup>3</sup> The manor was held in demesne.
- 1198 The Tregoze family, of Norman extraction, acquired the Lydiard estate through marriage.<sup>2</sup>
- 1254-56 Forty-four deer from the Royal Forest of Braydon were given to Robert Tregoze by King Henry III to restock the park at Lydiard.<sup>16</sup>
- 1257 A forest eyre of Braydon Forest names *la Frith*, identified as Frith Copse.<sup>1</sup>
- 1270 A royal licence to enclose and impark a wood called *Shortgrove* of some 20 acres within the forest, half a league distant from the *great covert* of the forest, was obtained by John Tregoze; this is considered to have been in order to enlarge the existing park at Lydiard.<sup>1</sup>
- 1274 John Tregoze was granted the right of free warren.<sup>3</sup>
- 1279 Parts of Braydon Forest were disafforested, including Lydiard.<sup>1</sup>
- 1280 The advowson of the church was granted to John Tregoze by the abbot of St Peter's Gloucester. Much of the church fabric is thirteenth century in origin.<sup>3</sup>

- 1299 The estate passed to the Grandison family, via Sybil Tregoze, who had married William de Grandison by 1299; in this year the park was restored to de Grandison, having been taken by the crown.
- 1323 In 1323 the Grandisons conveyed the estate to Hugh le Despenser in exchange for the release of their son Peter, held prisoner after the battle of Boroughbridge in 1322. It was restored to the Grandisons in 1326.<sup>3</sup>
- 1348 Lydiard descended to Sybil, niece of Peter de Grandison and wife of Roger Beauchamp<sup>3</sup>; in this year a wood called *Parkwode* which contained 40 acres was recorded at Lydiard.<sup>1</sup>
- 1358 Peter de Grandison's brother John, Bishop of Exeter, acquired the advowson of the church, and it was conveyed to Sybil and Roger Beauchamp in 1364.<sup>3</sup>
- 1420 The estate descended in the Beauchamp line until 1420, when Margaret Beauchamp succeeded her brother John and, through her marriage to Oliver St John, Lydiard came to the St John family.<sup>3</sup> The fifteenth century saw the remodelling of the church, probably under the aegis of Oliver and Margaret St John.
- 1583 A park is recorded at *Liddiard Tregose*, in the ownership of Nicholas St John Esq.<sup>4</sup> During his time common fields, commons and marshes of the manor were enclosed, with the exception of the common pastures of Eastleaze, High Mead and the Green.<sup>3</sup>
- 1592 The Court met at *Lyddiard* during a progress made by Elizabeth I, when John St John was knighted here by the queen.<sup>5</sup>
- 1617 Venison offences are recorded in the purlieus of Lydiard Wood; this suggests that the woods were still subject to forest law. The name Purley survives, which may identify the location of the purlieus.
- 1620 Oliver, the younger son of Nicholas St. John, Lord Deputy and, later, Lord High Treasurer of Ireland, was created Viscount Grandison; on his death in 1630 his nephew, Sir John St John inherited the manor of Battersea.<sup>3</sup>
- 1627 The disafforestation of Braydon Forest began.<sup>1</sup>

The first baronet, Sir John St John, (died 1648) is credited with creating formal gardens and remodelling the medieval house.<sup>7</sup> He was an MP in 1624 and sheriff of Wiltshire in 1633 and made Lydiard Park his principal residence; from 1615 he invested in notable monuments in the church including the Golden Cavalier, a memorial to one of the three sons lost in the Royalist cause during the Civil War.

He also earned out modifications to his estate. Three formal avenues were created in the park, one being the main approach to the house, and the formal gardens involved considerable terracing and included a terrace walk along a formal canal.<sup>7</sup> The canal is considered to have been created from the fish ponds of the earlier house and a pair of yews and two rows of yew stumps in the edge of Church Wood are also thought to be relicts of the layout. It has been presumed that Sir John was responsible for the removal of most of the village of Lydiard Tregoze, east of the church, partly to make way for the dam for the formal pond/canal and partly in order to remove village housing from the approach to the mansion.<sup>7</sup>

The track just south of the present drive to Lydiard Park is thought by some to mark the line of the former village street<sup>3</sup>; others disagree.<sup>6</sup>

1648 Sir John St. John was succeeded by a grandson who died in 1656. From the time of the third baronet, Sir Walter St. John, the St John family's house at Battersea, London, became their principal residence until it was sold in 1763.<sup>7</sup>

1659-64 Correspondence between Lady Johanna St John, wife of Sir Walter, the third baronet, and Thomas Hardyman, their steward at Lydiard, gives glimpses of life at Lydiard, her keen interest in the gardens and the produce often sent up to London from the estate and the garden.<sup>8</sup> The produce included turkeys, geese, chickens, swans, wild duck, rabbits, pork, bacon and cattle, some driven on the hoof, butter, brawn and cheese. Partridges which had been turned out into the orchard by Rudler the gardener, were also in demand and *doe rabbits from lidiard alive... we are storing the wa'm [at Battersea] again, later a ferit* was required from Lydiard. Lady St John wrote *I hope you will provide all manner of garden stuff for us* and indeed peas, barberries and asparagus, skirrets [a form of carrot] and nuts were sent. She sent down oranges, citrons and lemons for making citron water and *oak bud and red rose water and concerve of red roses* were also made at Lydiard; and ale was made in quantity *we drink 12 galons a week at least*. Various herbal potions were also made, using coltsfoot, borage, plantain, and mint.<sup>8</sup>

For the garden, Lady St John *bid richard brown send down some slips of the austrian rose which she wanted set.. between the lawrel tre in the court if ther be any that stand far enough asunder*. She hoped that Hardyman had *received the Trees for the Garden,*<sup>8</sup> *I would have the woodbines planted about the larder and stilhous cort*. Mint and sage cheeses were produced. *I have .. .sent Rudler downe some seeds and some poppy Eminy [later spelled Annemeny] roots I shal also commaund Richard to send him a noat of the number and how to use them but the seed must not be s[own] till next yere tel him he must not brag to much least he lose them and tel him I would have all the white and yelow crowns planted in the outward garden as welas thos that are turnedplainered oryaloworwhite bid him also save some of his white stock seed for us. I doe intend to send Rudler some Crocuses next week.. .he should all this time ofourabsenc ha ve planted Harry choks [artichokes] and parsnips and all other things that are of any long growth. I hope you git a good stor of Hors radish planted.*<sup>4</sup>

Rudler was also instructed through Hardyman *tel rudler I hope he will be very careful of his flowers bidhim also try an experiment wch I here from Dr Ingils is certainly so that if you take a barbery or goosberry and put it in the ground the wrong end upward it wil then bear fruit without any stonf*

*If the flags in the orchard ponds are fit to make bed matts of let rudler se and make for the beds as many as they will make*. Rudler fell from grace in 1661 and controversy ensued from which it is apparent that there were Tulips and *Aurickilus*, in the garden; Lady St John was prepared to let him have *seeds and off setts out of my garden without any harm tome*, but was displeased by his claims that much in the garden was his own; In the end he was given a reprieve and shortly after she *sent Rudler some Melon seeds that came out of Franc last week and are the best sort in Franel have sent him direction for to Plant them and how to order them I have other seeds here wch wil be planted time enough after I come down*. Lady St John also required reassurance that for their visit *we have all garden stuffe that can be*.<sup>8</sup>

Lady St John also sent seeds called *thestertion*, with instructions that they be planted with the melons and kept under glass. There was also much talk of supplying muscovy ducks for the King to introduce to his new river in St James's Park. She sent more seeds of *Portingal Melons*, rare *Musk Mellon*, *Farkspur* 2 sorts the one is the ordinary sort the other double *let the worst not be set in the garden bt in the orchard let him plant flowers of the sun and Hollyhocks on the bank under the rails and balesters of the garden next the bowling green*

*and let him compas the lawrel round the cort wth pole as he did the woodbine by the Hal dore to fenc it from the children. She also sent Shallotts for the Kitchen Garden, an orang colerd cowslip root, Lawrestine and she wanted to git violet roots out of the woods and Plant them in the orchard under the wal thatgos from Dr Dewels garden to the great Pond and that wall by the mil for thos violets planted in a garden wil be far blewer and better for my used*

On the wider estate Sir Walter was suffering from theft of his posts and rails, which were being dug up by one Perkins. The deer park clearly flourished and meat was sent from Lydiard to London including a dowe and venison to serve to King Charles; Sir Walter was asked by Sir Robert Pye for a buck, which he was to supply, and Lady St John wrote *I hope when any venison is ready you wil send us up a brace of bucks for we can tell at any time how to bestow them*. Fish are also mentioned, including giving permission for a man to *fish for Tenches*. There was also talk of Sir Walter *fishing his ponds*, putting some fish in the bathing pond and of casting the *stue pond*.

- c. 1670 John Aubrey commented on the richness of the monuments in the church and, more mundanely, that fat cattle from Lydiard shared the renown of those at Dauntsey at Smithfield Markets, and that the butter was as good as any in England, though the cheese was not so good.<sup>3</sup>
  
- 1677 The glebeland at Lydiard consisted of 87 acres, including meadows at Parsonage Close and the Hamme and arable land at Prinnells, Claypiece and Blacklands.<sup>3</sup>
  
- 1700 The surviving part of a plan of 1700 shows the mansion and park. The house is shown in a vignette, with the early fabric visible in the west wing, walled from the forecourt, and later remodelling/building of the main house, with tall narrow windows and an impressive coat of arms over the principal door. A paved terrace before the house leads to a gravel forecourt railed and gated from the park; formal gardens with topiary lie to the east side and an enclosed lawn or bowling green lies to the front of this, reached by a gate in the garden railings. A walled garden to the south-east is partly shown, with plants trained along its inside wall and square beds surrounded by trellis or fencing. Although the lower pond is depicted as a formal canal, the upper pond corresponds closely to the later layout. The parkland is shown dissected by four avenues, two of which radiate from the mansion; two of them leading to Park Coppice, which is divided into three, *Old Park Copice*, *Park Copice* and *New Copice*. Two planted belts along the road east of Hook Gate are named *Oak Plantation* and *Castlebrake*.
  
- 1708 Sir Walter died, and had still been visiting Lydiard in 1703.<sup>16</sup>
  
- 1712 Henry St John, a Toiy statesman, was created Viscount Bolingbroke. Although he created a ferme omée at his estate at Dawley in Middlesex and was associated with Pope and Switzer, Lydiard seems to have received little attention from him.<sup>7</sup> He was disgraced after negotiating an unpopular peace treaty with France and exiled on the accession of George I; he was pardoned in 1723.<sup>9</sup>
  
- 1716 Henry St John's father obtained the title Viscount St John.<sup>9</sup>
  
- 1738 Hemy St. John renounced his interest in Lydiard in favour of his half-brother John (Jack) St John. Jack married a wealthy heiress Anne Fumese of Waldershare, Kent and commissioned the Neo-Palladian remodelling, creating two symmetrical classical facades at right angles to each other. The architect is not known: Pococke states in 1757 that it was *from a design of Campbelle's*, although Colen Campbell had died in 1729. Roger Morris is considered to be a strong candidate,<sup>7</sup> but circumstantial evidence points to Nathaniel Ireson,



the builder and master mason, as being in charge of the remodelling, possibly to an earlier design.

Jack St John is also likely to have commissioned some remodelling of the grounds, relocating the walled garden, removing the approach avenue and planting a large informal clump to the west of the house.<sup>7</sup> A hint to his influences can be gained from a letter of his in 1743, *I am glad you find Studley as Beautifull as I discribed it. I have been at Wilton, Doddingtons & MrHoares [Stourhead],...all three delightfull in their different ways, the 2d is Magnificent past all discription, its a Gold Palace not the house of a Subject. Mr ffoare's is the very Counterpart of Studley, 40 Acres of Clear Water in a Valley & the hills Nobly planted with trees & Temples, falls of Water, Obolisks, &c without End*}<sup>9</sup>

- 1742 A list of trees marked and bought by Jack from Hemy included timber in *Rag Cop's, Morris's, Frith, Pound, Long String, Broceas, Purleaze, Webbs, and Lydiard Plain*}<sup>0</sup>

- 1745 Henry, Viscount Bolingbroke wrote of his half-brother's activities at Lydiard Park, *I am glad that my Lord St John has done so much att Lydiard. I abandoned it to him that he might restore the family seat, and that by living there decently and hospitably he might restore a family interest, too much and too long neglected, he may perhaps do the first in time, he seems pleased with what he has done, & vanity and ostentation may get in some degree the better of another persons avarice. ..as to the last I doubt more of it. they have made ymselves aproverbin the country already for their stingyness. theyhavesentmehalfabuck.. Jackwrites to me to send for more whenever I want it.. he won 7 - Kent's shop at Temple Baris the best Park in England. I am hopeful the waters of Bristol will do him good, he is certainly in a bad state of health.*<sup>20</sup>

This letter was written to his half-sister Henrietta Knight, Lady Luxborough, who was 'incarcerated' in Warwickshire and forbidden to visit Lydiard; as Lambert has pointed out, this deprived Lydiard of the influence of another important figure in garden history.<sup>7</sup>

- 1748 John St John died a year after his wife and his son, Frederick, succeeded, at the age of fifteen.<sup>9</sup> The Third Viscount St John also inherited the Viscounty of Bolingbroke in 1751, as second Viscount, and married Lady Diana Spencer, daughter of the Third Duke of Marlborough; her artistic influence survives in paintings in the mansion.

- 1757 Dr. Richard Pococke described Lydiard as *a pretty park, with serpentine river in sight of the house, which is a good piece of architecture, built with square turrets at the comers, from a design ofCampelle's; there is a handsome hall and apartments, andan elegant library...*}<sup>4</sup>

- 1764-66Two equestrian paintings by Stubbs shows the lake and lawn in the background, one showing wooden railings, the mansion, church and mature trees. Frederick St. John was a keen gambler and Stubbs' most important patron at this time.<sup>32</sup>

- 1766 Apian titled *Survey drawing ofthe Manor ofLydiard Tregoze* by F ran ci s H o ward W i l l i n g t o n shows evidence of landscaping around the new house. The formal gardens at the front and south east of the house have been swept away with lawn sweeping down to the possibly remodelled pond, where the alignment of the castellated dam wall is plotted. The walled garden to the south-east has been replaced by a single walled garden to the north-west, a parallelogram in plan, which survives today. There are three approaches to the mansion, two from Hook Street and one passing beneath the dam wall. The avenues across *Lydiard Plain* seem to have been removed and a large informal clump planted to the west of the house. A possibly new formal walk to the lake survives. A wooden pale is shown along the park

boundary, only amended since 1700 in Park Coppice and adjoining Alder Plantation. A rectangular enclosure lies adjacent to Hook Gate, possibly a deer pen.

- 1768 Frederick and Diana's marriage was not long-lived and ended dramatically in 1768 after the Viscountess formed a liaison with Topham Beauclerk, great grandson of Charles II and Nell Gwynn<sup>(t)</sup>. Frederick sold the house at Battersea and Lydiard became the principal seat of the family once again, albeit badly neglected on account of Frederick's gambling and travels. The house was let to Lord Powys for a time.<sup>21</sup>
- 1773 Andrews' and Dury's map shows the two and a bit surviving avenues as in 1766. *New Copice* is still shown with a circular clearing north of the avenue. The house is shown in elevation, with a tree-lined area in front and the walled garden divided into six beds. The lake is shown with a small building in open lawns to the east of the lower dam. A short riding or avenue is shown in *Castle Brake*.
- 1787 George Richard Third Viscount Bolingbroke inherited in this year, but lived abroad for many years, leaving the estate let.
- 1804 The Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal opened, with a wharf at Hay Lane.<sup>7</sup>
- 1808 A view by Nash in Britton's *Beauties of England and Wales* shows the mature parkland landscape and it is described:  
*The attached grounds are extensive, and contain many large clumps of trees, among which is a great number of oaks. At one extremity a portion of the park is cut off by a fine pond of water.*<sup>11</sup>
- An undated sketch by J Britton of the same period records two island flower beds, and a rail fence on a similar line to that shown in 1766.<sup>29</sup>
- 1810 A view of the church and mansion by Buckler records the beginning of an antiquarian appreciation.
- 1812 There was an exchange of land between the church and Lord Bolingbroke to enable removal of the parsonage and the building of a stable on the west side of the churchyard; Lord Bolingbroke also agreed to the construction of a Horse road to the church from the east and a carriage road from the west for the exclusive use of people going to Church.<sup>22</sup>
- A plan relating to the exchange of land for the new parsonage shows the layout of the old Parsonage and its garden, the church and the mansion. A Court Garden is shown between the north-east front of the mansion and the churchyard, and a shrubbery between the east wing, the churchyard and the Parsonage grounds. It also shows the extension to the churchyard and location of the site for the new parsonage or rectory.
- The rector exchanged the glebe land of Parsonage Close, Hamme, Prinnells and Claypiece, in total 61 acres, for 73 acres in a block south of the new rectory; Lord Bolingbroke acquired the old Parsonage and its grounds north of the church.<sup>3</sup>
- 1813 A letter from young Joseph Henry St John, at Sandhurst, to his mother at Lydiard asks *how does the house go on is it nearly finished*.<sup>10</sup>
- 1824 The Third Viscount died and many of the contents of Lydiard were dispersed or sold.<sup>9</sup> Henry the Fourth Viscount Bolingbroke inherited and married Maria St John-Mildmay.<sup>9</sup> He is credited with the creation of a new drive over the former glebe land north of Church Wood.<sup>7</sup>



- 1826 William Cobbett recorded his impression of Lydiard Park *Here is a good old Mansion-House and large walled in garden and a park belonging... to Lord Bolingbroke. It appears to have been a noble place; the land is some of the finest in the whole Country; the trees show that the land is excellent; but, all, except the church, is in a state of irreparable and apparent neglect, if not abandonment. ....*<sup>9</sup>
- 1828 The Ordnance Survey Old Series map marks *Lydiard Tregoze, Lydiard Park* and *Park Coppice*. The upper and lower lakes are shown and there is just one remaining avenue, leading north-west with a plantation at its southern end. South-east of the park *Windmill Leaze Farm* and *The Folly* are marked. The Folly appears to be situated in a circular clump on an eminence.
- 1830 The west side of the house was remodelled at about this time, providing an entrance and an extensive servants' wing.<sup>12</sup> The service wing shown in 1700 was demolished. A drive was created passing the church across the former glebeland to the north of the church. The Parsonage had been in need of repair since 1787 and was abandoned in 1830 when the new rectory was built next to the road to Lydiard Millicent; it remained the rectory until 1956.<sup>3</sup>
- 1832 The house and grounds were leased out.<sup>9</sup>
- 1839 The Tithe Map for Lydiard Tregoze shows that *Lydiard House, lawns and plantations, gardens, pleasure ground, ponds and island* and two fields on the north side of the house and church, effectively ring-fenced, were let to Orby Hunter Esq. Lord Bolingbroke retained various plantations in hand, whilst the park and other fields were tenanted and almost all were under pasture. It is notable that several field names echo the names of local people referred to by Lady Johanna St John in her correspondence of the 1660s.
- To the south-east of the park a circular plantation is shown at the site of *The Folly* marked in 1828, in hand to Lord Bolingbroke; there is no mention of a structure in the apportionment and the surrounding field is named *The Low Leaze*. Notably, the ponds are shown as a single sheet of water, with the eastern bank entirely *plantation*. The park is subdivided by a fence and the ha-ha plotted for the first time.
- 1846 An early photograph by Nevil Story Maskelyne shows hay making in the park beyond a line of estate fencing at the ha ha. A glasshouse or conservatory stands before the west wing and at least one large urn stands on the terrace.
- 1855-59 Game records show hares, pheasants and rabbits shot in the park<sup>23</sup> and other records show the importance of game through the latter half of the century.
- 1867 The park was not recorded as a deer park at this time by Shirley.<sup>4</sup> Richard Jefferies states that Lydiard Park was *formally famous* for rearing *young things* (cattle). He described the landscape as well wooded with oaks and states that John St. John was a friend of Pope and Bathurst. He also noted heavy stocking with gamebirds.<sup>17</sup> A cash book of the same period records a gardener netting fruit trees, beaters, staff wages, game sales and making hay ricks.<sup>24</sup> Four different farm tenants managed the Park between 1839 and 1895,<sup>25</sup>
- 1886 The Ordnance Survey first edition map shows a landscape largely unaltered since 1839, with the plantation east of the lake labelled Pheasantry.
- 1889 The Ordnance Survey six inch map shows an area of trees and pasture, north of the park, as continuous parkland.
- 1898 Nathaniel Hiscocks started work on the estate, and described the park as *very bleak*. The gardener was a Mr Chantler. Living at Brook Cottage he recalled *Sometimes the lake*

*overflowed, then there was a great flow of water rushing along the brook, at times flooding the fields.*<sup>20</sup>

1899 The fifth Viscount Bolingbroke died and the heavily-mortgaged estate passed to his widow, Mary Emily, who died in 1940.<sup>9</sup>

1901 The Ordnance Survey second edition map shows a landscape not greatly changed although the old upper pond is shown entirely silted, and the path through the pheasantry is omitted.

Photographs from the turn of the century show the mature character of the park, ice house road, and lake at the time.

1911 Huntingdon Elms were planted along the drive north of the church. These survived until succumbing to Dutch Elm Disease in 1976.<sup>12</sup> In this year also the dam burst, draining the lower pond.<sup>12</sup>

1917 Elizabeth Mullins recalls a gardener, two or three labourers and two gamekeepers.<sup>26</sup>

1920 Viscountess Bolingbroke sold 1,000 acres of the estate.<sup>9</sup>

1924 The Ordnance Survey Third Edition shows the lake as marsh with an island. There is a visible loss of parkland trees since 1886.

1928 Storms blew down many trees in the park including an ancient oak.<sup>35</sup>

1930-40 A further 1,800 acres were sold. Margaret North recalled that there was *no outside help* for the staff, under the bailiff Edward Hiscock.<sup>26</sup>

1941 Lydiard Park was requisitioned and the sixth Viscount vacated the mansion which was not occupied as it was deemed unfit.<sup>9</sup>

1942 An American Forces camp was established on 80 acres of the park, in the area of the present sports pitches; much timber was felled during the war by the Ministry of Supplies.<sup>13</sup>

1943 The remaining 750 acres of the Lydiard estate were sold; the house and parkland amounting to 147 acres were bought by the Corporation of Swindon, with a view to establishing a university.<sup>33</sup> Lord Bolingbroke sorted his family papers and sent two and a half tons of material for War Salvage, which may explain the paucity of surviving documents.<sup>14</sup> The sale plan marks *Rough Pond*, the adjacent *Pheasantry*, *The Avenue*, *Elm Plantation* and *Ash Plantation* within Lydiard Park. The clump to the south-east of the park is named Round Clump and contains a reservoir.

1944-49 The 302<sup>nd</sup> Station Hospital occupied and expanded the base, initially for the reception of D Day casualties. In 1944 it became a Prisoner of War Hospital, and was security-fenced with watchtowers at the comers.<sup>13</sup> The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Great Western Railway) Home Guard was stationed at Lydiard Park in 1944. At the end of the war the hospital camp became 160 Prisoner of War Camp; one prisoner, Peter Probst, painted Lydiard Park and the church.<sup>13</sup>

1948 Lydiard Park was described in and photographed for *Country Life*.

1950 After the war the camp was converted to residential use, to alleviate the post-war housing shortage; residents had space to create productive gardens beside their homes.<sup>15</sup> Fruit from the walled garden was sold to the residents, whilst its produce was also scrumped by the children,

for whom the park was an adventure playground. The complex also housed a school and a club.

1953 Sir Hugh Casson spoke of the architecture of Lydiard Park.

1955 The House and Park were opened to the public by Lord Lansdown.

1960 The residential occupation of the former wartime camp came to an end and, after demolition, the land was returned to agriculture.<sup>15</sup>

1974 Lydiard Park Management Centre opened.<sup>27</sup>

1979 Nearly 8000 trees were planted to replace trees lost to Dutch Elm Disease, the 1976 drought, felling in the Pheasantry, and clear felling of the Avenue.<sup>36</sup>

1980s Development pressure led to Lydiard Park being used as Public Open Space, with sports pitches, play areas and other facilities. A lime avenue was planted to replace the elms along the eastern drive.<sup>9</sup>

1984 The Borough of Thamesdown purchased a further 113 acres of the original Park, between Ash Plantation and Park Coppice, by now stripped of parkland trees and partly let as a tip site for clay excavations.<sup>9</sup>

1985-86 The Park was designated a Country Park and a new visitor centre was built, with interpretation facilities as well as refreshments.

Present Part of the House is let to HTS Ltd as a Management Training and Conference Centre; a new accommodation block and a swimming pool have been added. The grounds are open to the public as a Country Park and the ground floor of the House is open to visitors as a historic house and registered museum containing much of the original St. John family furnishings and portrait collection.

## Analysis

### Development of the Historic Landscape

From the foregoing history of the park five main phases of design can be identified:

#### *1. The Medieval Park*

The earliest evidence located is of an existing deer park in 1256, probably carved from the Anglo Saxon Forest of Braydon. It survived beyond 1583, and was almost certainly used by Elizabeth I. The park, as would be expected, seems to have included an *Old Pond* and pillow mounds, recorded on the preliminary archaeological survey. The last written reference to deer dates to 1745, but deer park pales and paddocks are clearly plotted on the survey of 1766. It seems likely that the deer were lost or poached during the ownership of the dissolute Frederick, Third Viscount St. John, after 1766 and by 1787.

#### *2. A Royalist Landscape?*

The formal gardens, avenues and remodelling of the house depicted in 1700 have been attributed to the first baronet, Sir John St. John (d. 1648). He would have completed his work between about 1630 and 1642, the start of the Civil War, during which he lost three sons. Garden terraces, the crenellated dam wall, yews, forecourts, and formal ponds could have been part of a Stuart period,

early Anglo-Dutch garden but there is, as yet, no conclusive proof of this. Given the lack of archival evidence, garden archaeology will be necessary to prove, or disprove, the presence of what would be an important Stuart garden phase. The use of part of the garden for bowls can already be confirmed by the find of a seventeenth century bowling ball during an initial excavation of the lake. Conversely, the gardens recorded in 1700 could be more the product of Sir Walter and Lady Johanna St. John; the snapshot documentary evidence proves Lady Johanna's keen interest in the gardens, ponds and park. Furthermore, the layout of the grounds, young plants shown in the 1700 vignette, and a glimpse of the *new pond or canal* on the 1700 plan imply a more recent Anglo-Dutch garden. The brickwork, new canal and interest in exotic waterfowl precisely parallel the royal canal in St. James Park of 1660. The grand avenues of elm are also entirely consistent with a late seventeenth century date. The elm avenues at Newton Park, Bath, planted in 1666, had started to die of old age before the 1973 outbreak of Dutch Elm Disease, and may have been contemporary with the similarly failing trees at Lydiard. Whatever the precise origins, the survival of some of the avenues as raised walks from 1700 to the present day is impressive, and the visible earthworks of the formal gardens on the front lawn represents important garden archaeology.

The record of the early park and garden layout is complementary to the architecture of the rear of the house and the church. The church became part of the later designed landscape but also has an aesthetic and architectural power of its own, and as the home of Royalist monuments and the triptych.

#### *Hi. The Palladian Landscapes*

Remodelling of the mansion by 1743 was matched by changes in the grounds; the differences can be assessed by reference to the 1700 and 1766 plans. The true extent of Henry, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount St. John's work at Lydiard may have been underestimated; conventionally, most of the change is attributed to John St. John, but the Sundial bears Henry's arms. John implemented changes over just ten years prior to his death, and these included sweeping away the large walled garden, forecourt and parterre, building a new walled garden, stables and coach house, and removal of some parts of avenues. Depending on the accuracy of the 1700 map, the crenellated dam wall and causeway wall may perhaps be attributed to this later phase, as it shows the *new pond or canal* to have been slightly shortened. Three or four new clumps can probably also be attributed, but these works combine to constitute more the provision of a proper setting to the newhouse, rather than a fundamental redesign of the entire park. There is, for example, no evidence of John being inspired by Stourhead to contradict his reputation for *stinginess*. However, even without a dramatic new landscape, the reordering and sweeping away created a strikingly successful setting to the house, with framed outward views across the new pond and open park. John Phibbs interprets the design as *naive, and none the worse for that*, with good examples of framed views and *repoussir planting*, grading the greens of the foliage to enhance perspective.<sup>18</sup>

Alternatively, if changes in the grounds after 1700 could be attributed to Henry St. John, Viscount Bolingbroke, son of the First Viscount St. John, the significance of Lydiard could be dramatically altered as a surviving expression of an influential proponent of the English Landscape movement. Bolingbroke is known to have explored his influential political and philosophical views at his ferme omée at Dawley. David Jacques considers Bolingbroke's interest to be apolitical gesture rather than a desire to establish a new system of gardening,<sup>30</sup> but his work at Dawley was widely referred to by Stephen Switzer and Alexander Pope. Bolingbroke was, in the later 1720s and 1730s at one with Burlington, Bathurst and Cobham, leaders of the Augustan landscape and Palladian architecture, when rural gardening and politics were as one.<sup>31</sup>

Lydiard has an added role of national status as the setting for some of Stubb's more important paintings, and the home of several paintings until 1943. His landscapes and horses have a quintessential Englishness, and an iconic role to the present day.

#### iv. *The Final Phase*

The last phase of design development seems to have been completed by 1839 under George the Third or Henry the Fourth Viscount Bolingbroke, and included the ha-ha separating the home lawn from the park; breaching the central dam, running the two ponds into one; new plantations on enclosed areas; a new northern approach around the church after removal of the old parsonage; and a short lived *Folly* on Windmill Hill enclosed by a clump which lasted until the twentieth century. It is possible that this was seen as a means of appropriating a more varied topography and longer views into the park landscape, particularly after the separation of the home lawn from the park by the ha-ha and subsequent planting.

#### v. *Neglect and Rescue*

Neglect of the landscape, noted by Cobbett in 1826, continued through the following century, with a lone gardener; letting and agricultural improvement of the park, including drainage ridge and furrow which cross the route of one earlier avenue; management for game; the progressive loss of the old oaks; collapse of the dam wall in 1911; land sales; and the final sale in 1943. The remaining usable timber seems to have been felled, explaining the preponderance of old Horse chestnuts now. Lydiard Park's condition reflected the declining status and influence of the family, and the homes of the gentry more generally. This also helped to protect Lydiard from change, and developed a new, and very local, cultural role as a domestic estate where the estate workers were, in some cases, part of the family, and where the tales were of rabbits and giant pike.

However, with Corporation ownership came a new life, during the war and afterwards as a temporary home to hundreds until 1960, restoration of the house, and making good of tip sites prior to the designation of the park as a County Park. The house was transformed from the home of a defunct gentry by the pioneering restoration work of the Council's Direct Labour Organisation, taking an immensely important cultural asset into the care and ownership of the local community, for use by local people. Lydiard Park is unique to Swindon as a complete and important historic estate of house, church and park which remains accessible to all.

### **Statement of Significance**

The Analysis above attempts to draw out what it is that makes the historic landscape important. However, the entire Country Park is of significance in a variety of ways:

- The architectural importance of the buildings, including the grade 1 church and house, and their settings
- The archaeological importance of the medieval deer park and other features
- The local wildlife value of the County Park habitats
- The educational value of the house, and public access to the house interior
- The very high levels of access to the Country Park, in the region of 250,000 visitors per annum
- The community, social, health, and educational role of the Country Park
- The economic role of the conference centre
- The involvement of Swindon people in the rescue of the house
- The combination of furnishings, archives, portraits, and monuments as a social and family record
- The unique quality of Lydiard Park in Swindon

The surviving designed landscape and house alone are of national importance, and the very high levels of public access are an asset of at least regional importance; this and interaction with the historic estate render the Country Park of national value.



## Restoration and Management Objectives

On the basis of the above analysis, the following objectives for conservation, restoration, and management are put forward for consideration:

- i Wherever feasible, to conserve archaeology and surviving historic landscape fabric of earlier landscapes *in situ* including any evidence of the medieval and Tudor deer parks, field archaeology and the early garden layouts recorded in 1700; where this is not feasible, to conserve by recording
- ii To conserve and restore the historic character of the park gardens and grounds by the active conservation and restoration of historic landscape features and areas, to the *last significant design phase*, based on the best available evidence, but subject to avoiding works which would increase the impact of modern development on the historic landscape
- iii To conserve and enhance biodiversity primarily through the restoration of the historic landscape rather than by the creation of the new habitats
- iv To encourage appreciation, interpretation, and intellectual access to the buildings and historic and natural landscapes through publications, interpretation, and events at Lydiard Park
- v To hold, display, and interpret copies of key archival evidence for the historic landscape, and improve public appreciation of the designed landscapes
- vi To continue to encourage free public access to the Country Park, and to spread access across the park so as to reduce the effects of over-use on core areas
- vii To seek funding and partnerships towards restoration and management projects consistent with coherent priorities, phasing, and a programme of works
- viii To seek to retain and enhance protection of the Country Park landscape and its setting through the planning system and cooperation with adjacent landowners
- ix To improve accessibility to the Country Park and house other than by private cars
- x To improve access to the house to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, but also to encourage increased appreciation of the house in the context of its historic grounds, and disabled access to the wider heritage asset
- xii To improve the sense of community ownership and responsibility, and reduce anti-social activity in the park
- xiii To improve the economical and environmental sustainability of the Country Park as a whole and establish a secure financial basis for the coherent management of the park
- xiv To involve people of all backgrounds and abilities in the improvements and enjoyment of Lydiard Park

## Area-by-Area Proposals

The following section outlines restoration, management and development proposals for individual areas of the site.

### House, Church and Coach House

*History* Medieval house and church with complex later development, both of very high quality.

House remodelled 1743; Coach house partly pre 1700 site, but western service wing and parsonage removed after 1812, Coach house extended and cloister added to north of church. Service wing remodelled nineteenth century; house restored 1948-1955, conference centre added 1974.

*Condition* House, Church and Coach house generally in good condition. Informal church car park in area north of the Coachhouse; church room/hall in old church stable. Conference Centre occupies converted service wing, new buildings and all of the first floor. Ground floor of



the house operated as a museum. Coach house used by Sunday school, scout group and visiting schools as a cloakroom and shelter. Garden beds and immediate setting simply maintained, and the area is subject to occasional vandalism.

### *Proposals*

- i. Provide disabled access and toilets for public visitors to the house by internal modifications and re-using the nineteenth century entrance as the museum entrance. Relocate the shop to allow use of the Hall for functions and events with direct access to the front lawn and rear courtyard garden.
- ii. Create legible, firm and level access to and around the house by repairing gravel and stone paving, repairing land drains, and redesign of the service courtyard including removal of the modern hornbeam in the service courtyard. This can be achieved by adhering to the historic record.
- iii. Provide visitor facilities to the focus of the historic landscape with high quality teas, courtyard seating, further toilets, and a ground floor shared community and education room within the Coach house. The tea-room could be operated on a lease or franchise basis. The Coach house could also provide controlled access to the walled garden, and interpretation within the building. The upper floor would be used for the property manager's, ranger's and head gardener's offices, with a volunteer/mess room on the ground floor. The scope for a potential new church hall was part of the project brief. However, due to the structure of the landscape and its designed views, no site has been identified which could accommodate a substantial new hall without impact on the landscape. The preferred approach is one of cooperation with the church in booking and use of the coach house and visitor centre education rooms.
- iv. The visual impact of the modern conference centre buildings should be reduced by a new, traditional stone wall opposite the Coach house, reinstating shelter and enclosure to the stable courtyard, and by planting and maintaining the new wall and low shrub planting. In the very long term, as and when major repairs become necessary, the Council should consider the scope for replacement with a less intrusive building.
- v. The rear courtyard to the house should be maintained to a higher standard, with selective replanting of ornamental plants from the historic record at Lydiard, and typical of circa 1743. By contrast, the front of the house should be kept clean and clear of introduced ornamental planters.
- vi. The house and Church should establish a joint visitor arrangement, to improve access between the two elements and joint interpretation. Volunteer staffing of the church at weekends would improve security and implementation. Free public access to the Church via the House entrance and rear courtyard would improve supervision of visitors, and CCTV of the Church added to the existing House system.
- vii. The Church Car Park should be relocated and a gravel turning circle provided for buses, coaches, dropping off, and disabled parking on the existing car park site.

### **Approach and Parsonage Close**

*History* Archaeological finds suggest an early occupation site, and possibly the site of the earlier village. Glebe land in 1766. New approach drive by 1839, plotted as parkland in 1889. Avenue of elms planted by 1924, replaced early 1980s by lime.

*Condition* Lime trees established, tarmac drive with speed bumps, and mown grass area used for seasonal car parking.

### *Proposals*

- i. Carry out a full archaeological, geophysical and test pit survey of the seasonal carpark/paddock area to the requirements of PPG 16, and identify an acceptable method of providing a permanent car park on the site, allowing relocation of the existing conference centre and church car parks. Subject to the survey, this may require excavation and conservation by record, or preservation *in situ* using a superficial carpark surface design. Part of the carpark scheme would require a secure

iron parkland or timber paling fence to the screen belt, and high quality bound gravel paths to the Church, Conference Centre and east of the house. The capacity of the car park would be determined by existing Conference and Church carpark capacity, plus an allowance for coaches, disabled drivers and others with limited mobility, to avoid generating or attracting significant increases in car traffic .

- ii. Remove the new hedge adjoining the avenue, and replace the agricultural fence with an iron parkland fence.

### **The Walled Garden**

*History* The Walled Garden was built after 1700, and by 1766, and is generally supposed to have replaced the much larger walled garden removed east of the house circa 1743. Although it was in kitchen and fruit garden use in recorded memory, an archaeological evaluation by Bernard Phillips has demonstrated good survival of an ornamental walled garden of the eighteenth century. The precise importance of the site remains to be uncovered. It could simply be that the choicest plants at Lydiard recorded in the 1660s, and sketched in the 1700 walled garden, were found a new home in the 1743 changes and sweeping away. Alternatively, Henry, Viscount Bolingbroke, could have been involved earlier in an Augustan garden which combined productivity with beauty. While the latter would be of very great importance, even the former would represent a nationally unique opportunity to record and restore an eighteenth century walled flower garden.

*Condition* Brick walls intact, but previously repaired with a hard mortar and, probably as a result, showing structural movement to a southern gate pier. Roughly mown garden inside. Outside, evidence of wall trained pear (cv. Marie Louise) with some modern roses. Outer garden either mown grass, conference centre carpark, or scrub woodland, with the outer wall low modified brick, relict bank over brick and stone nibble, or derelict field stone wall. Currently not in use.

### *Proposals*

- i. Subject to the results of further archaeological survey and excavation to confirm survival of the eighteenth century layout, and inform restoration proposals, restore the walled garden as close as possible to its eighteenth century layout, with planting informed by environmental sampling, earlier records at Lydiard and comparative studies. The garden could develop, for example, a collection of the many early *Allium* and hyacinth varieties of circa 1743, which are now rarely used in gardens.
- ii. The outer gardens, considered to be essential parts of the walled garden, should also be restored, although tree growth and physical disturbance is likely to result in a poorer archaeological record. A simpler outer garden of grass, bulbs and wall-trained fruit enclosed by lower walls to the south and west is proposed. To the north, the outer wall has been planted over with lime trees, and restoration is probably not justifiable. To the east, however, removal of the tarmac car park would allow the recreation and interpretation of the nineteenth century kitchen garden, enclosed by surviving brick walls.
- iii. The brick walls need active investigation by a conservation architect to determine the best techniques to conserve the historic wall fabric, and the rendered footings in particular.

### **Walk and Dam Wall**

*History* The garden and canal boundary were plotted in 1700, and overlaying this on the 1766 plan is not conclusive; it is possible that the dam wall originated with the earlier landscape. A formal tree-lined walk is shown in 1766 (behind the green-painted timber palings in the Stubbs view) with a boathouse at the lake's north-east corner. The lane beneath the dam wall is shown, together with Brook Cottage and the Parsonage. The latter apparently

removed by 1828, Church lane partly diverted and the screen belt of beech and lime planted. Site of north-west boathouse shown in 1839, by when old Church lane beneath the dam wall apparently abandoned. Path through plantation still shown in 1889, afterwards not plotted.

*Condition* 1766 walk and yews part surviving. Screen belt largely intact. Church lane now a hollow way, with massive stone slabs under the dam wall spillway. Boundaries poorly defined. Brook Cottage and garages recently much extended, and now potentially intrusive. Site of north-east boathouse visible. Dam wall fenced off and at risk of partial collapse. Lake outfall collapsed and now an open stream with gabions, modern footbridge and path ramped over the site of the north-west boathouse. Extensively scrubby undergrowth.

#### *Proposals*

- i. As a matter of urgency, survey, record, clear, stabilise and secure the dam wall. This will require input from a team comprising abuildings archaeologist, structural engineer experienced in historic structures, conservation architect, Council conservation officer, English Heritage officer, Reservoir Panel Engineer, quantity surveyor and historic landscape consultant. Subsequently, restore the dam wall including spillway, drawdown sluice, castellated wall and the adjacent stone retaining wall. Establish maintenance and public access below the dam wall, being the old Church lane route. Confirm and secure the boundaiy to Brook Cottage. Realign the path over the dam wall to allow reinstatement of the original north-east comer, excavating and recording the 1766 boathouse site with a view to possible restoration.
- ii. Restore paths, boundaries, woodland management and underplanting as per the general proposals, including a detail survey and analysis of veteran trees and designed views to inform detailed landscape proposals for restoration of the landscape planting.

#### **Ponds and Pheasantry**

*History* *Ponds* and *Fish Pond* in 1700 with a formal walk to the west (lost by 1766), and small plantations to the east. *Old Pond* and *New Pond or Canal* by 1766, showing a modest serpentine to one bank, possibly added since 1700. Small building, possibly a garden temple or seat, in addition to boathouse together with sunk wall across eastward view. Water's edge depicted clean in 1765. Cattle on both sites, with some siltation/reeds in 1808. East bank mostly planted by 1828, completed by 1839 when the lake is shown subdivided only by an island. Progressive siltation and reeds shown to upper (south) end in 1889, implying the original fish pond reached back to Hook Street. Silted down to the island by 1901. Dam breached 1911, entirely silted by 1924. *Rough Pond* in 1943.

*Condition* Temporary weirs hold water over part of the New Pond, and the Old Pond, the later being heavily enclosed by mature alder, with several islands. The woodland is a mixture of veteran Horse chestnut, beech and grey poplar trees, woodland planted 1960s - 1970s including beech and spruce, and lakeside and lakebed willow and alder. Much of the original lake bed is dry with reeds. The boundary is breached in several places by uncontrolled entry, hedges are overgrown, and the bridge/causeway between the two ponds a popular duck feeding location.

#### *Proposals*

- i. Carry out a full topographic survey of the original lake extent and sample silt cores to determine depth, type, wood content and chemistry of silt. Identify areas where silt can remain undisturbed *in situ* as a geomorphical/archaeological record, probably at the upper end of the lake. Carry out ecological survey.
- ii. Carry out an archaeological investigations and excavations to identify the original form of the main

dam, the dam/causeway/bridge between the *Old* and *New Ponds*, and the site of the conjectured garden temple.

iii. Restore the ponds in sequence:

- Treethinning/clearance
- Restore the dam wall
- Drain down temporary part of *New Pond*
- Excavate and remove silt from *New Pond* where essential, and install new elm campshedding;
- Drain down *Old Pond*, transfer wildlife and duck feeding to *New Pond*, temporarily held at a lower level
- Reform/restore and build new weir/bridge between the ponds
- Coppice and retain one island for wildfowl
- Desilt *Old Pond* and install campshedding
- Replace existing footbridge with a cycle bridge and board-walk across the upper end of *Old Pond*
- Allow *Old Pond* to refill and reseed banks

Central to this work is the identification of silt volumes to be removed and the final designed water level, and a location for land fanning or disposal of silt. The former design level should meet the following criteria:

- Avoid excessively deep water at the lake edge, yet provide deep water in the centre for fish
- Achieve a smooth reflective sheet water for *New Pond*
- Follow the historic record of the lake profile as accurately plotted in 1889
- Retain an area of marsh woodland and reeds at the upper end of the *Old Pond* for wildlife
- Retain one island with coppiced alder, willow and dogwood for waterfowl
- Allow for the requirements of the Reservoirs Act

Silt disposal options should be reviewed against the following criteria:

- Minimise cost and travelling distance
- Avoid impact on buried archaeology
- Avoid use of landfill sites if at all possible
- Avoid impact on valued wildlife habitats
- Be of agricultural benefit;
- Avoid changes in landscape character

No site within the Country Park has been identified that meets these criteria, but it should be possible to find suitable arable land south of the Country Park where silt could be spread after harvest. A waste management licence may be required as land fanning is likely to exceed 25 Otonnes/hectare.

- iv. Restore paths, boundaries, woodland management and underplanting as per the general proposals, including a detail survey and analysis of veteran trees and designed views to inform detailed landscape proposals for restoration of the landscape planting. A number of trees and shrubs may originate from early eighteenth century plantings. While it is no longer desirable to reopen the view to Greendown, for example, due to the presence of the modern school buildings, the vista to the Folly could be reopened, and the open lake edge reinstated. The aim would be to revert the woodland back to a more ornamental and flowery walk along the home circuit, using plants present, or known to have been present, at Lydiard, including snowdrops, crocuses, Star of Bethlehem, butchers broom, cherry, *Viburnum*, and honeysuckle. Further upstream, around *Old Pond* the emphasis would be on more native species, and aquatic marginals, giving the two ponds very distinctive characters.
- v. Recreate the boathouse and garden temple/ seat on the basis of the archaeological investigations.

## **The Lawn**

*History* In 1700 quartered, enclosed gardens and forecourts which appear to have evolved over time, and gave onto a deer lawn with planted avenues. By 1766 this seems to have been all but swept away; an open lawn in 1765 but partly enclosed on the 1766 survey. Trees placed across the lawn, apparently including Cedar of Lebanon, elm and Horse chestnut, possibly to enhance perspective. Pope's poem, dedicated to Lord Bolingbroke, in 1731 referred to '... *ample lawns.. notasham 'd to feed*

*The milky heifer and deserving steed;*'

However, there is no clear evidence that the lawn was separated from the park until 1839 (when it was part lawn, part pasture) and it seems most likely to have occurred in circa 1830 with construction of the ha-ha, and a phase of planting (Deodar, red horse chestnut and box on the lawn). Subsequently mown for hay, with a small area enclosed by iron railings for raised beds and, later, box edged beds, and finally, a croquet lawn removed since 1993.

*Condition* Now mown grass with veteran trees, enclosed by woodland belts and the ponds; excellent field archaeology corresponds well in part to the 1700 recorded layout. Views to the house reflect the character of the 1765 view; a grand Palladian house on a open lawn.

### *Proposals*

- i. An excellent location for major arts and cultural events if the landscape setting of lake and outward vistas is reinstated.
- ii. Restore paths, boundaries and planting as per the general proposals, including a detail survey and analysis of veteran trees and designed views to inform detailed landscape proposals for restoration of the landscape planting. If clear and unambiguous evidence does not arise from further research and analysis, it may be necessary simply to maintain the existing mature trees and replace like-for-like should they fail. Given the existing quality of the space it would not be justifiable to create a conjectured Palladian or circa 1830 layout without definitive evidence.

## **The Avenue**

*History* In 1700, the site of three crossing avenues; by 1766 truncated with an open grove and a large clump plantation. In 1773 there is the suggestion of a formal walk in the park continuing the line of one avenue, towards the ponds. Ha-ha possibly in place by 1828, certainly by 1839, by when the plantation and pleasure grounds were much extended and enclosed from the subdivided park. A view funnel becomes progressively blocked off by tree growth after 1889. Ice house drive shaded, contrasting with the openness of the avenue itself. Extensive felling during the Second World War. Visitor Centre added 1985, and a new cypress avenue planted to the walled garden.

*Condition* Some veteran beech and Horse chestnut survive. Ice house drive enclosed by box hedging and gloomy. Ice house heavily eroded. Visitor Centre intrusive from adjacent woodland. Much of the woodland is replanted ash and beech. Disturbed ground partly old quarries, partly post-war infilling. Play area strung along southern belt, in poor condition and in need of extensive renovation. The Avenue itself is now wet grass in winter, but was cleared back after 1993.

### *Proposals*

- i. Remove existing play area after establishing a new high quality play area adjacent to the Visitor Centre in an area of robust, relatively modern planting, an extension to the original woodland. Develop on a woodland maze theme.
- ii. The above proposal allows the creation of a quiet 'homecircuit' around the lawn, taking advantage of a sequence of keyhole and designed views to the house. Re-open the historic funnel vista and



the view due south to the Folly site. Manage an open woodland understorey of bulbs and widely spaced box and yew, without an abrupt edge to the lawn. Restore paths, boundaries, woodland management and underplanting as per the general proposals, including a detail survey and analysis of veteran trees and designed views to inform detailed landscape proposals for restoration of the landscape planting. Thin out box along ice house drive to improve the sense of security and reflect the historic record.

- iii. Record and restore the ice house, with interpretation explaining how it functioned. Provide railings around to enclose the mound, earth up over and plant box.
- iv. Excavate sample trenches, record, survey and resurface gravel walks along the historic avenue axes, wide enough for pedestrians and cyclists.
- v. Replant specimen trees, small-leaved lime to substitute for elm, or Horse chestnut, along the avenues.
- vi. The visitor centre, although robust, is in need of refurbishment to address the visual impact of the storage yard to the north; the failure of the heating system; to ease maintenance of the toilets; to improve acoustic performance of the building; and to provide acceptable changing rooms. Modifications should aim primarily at improving service delivery to visitors, cost efficient maintenance, and improving revenue targets. Lydiard Park is not well suited as the central location for aperi-patetic ranger service due to the lack of workshops and storage; on-site accommodation for staff dedicated to Lydiard would be useful and improve security. The café should continue to focus on simple refreshments and an ice cream kiosk, to meet the needs of the majority of park users, but opening hours, franchising, and revenue targets should be reviewed under Best Value with the Property Manager. The education room should be expanded and its use extended to provide the main accommodation for schools visits to the house and park, for holiday period exhibitions by the education officer, and for community letting. This would require, in turn, a more flexible approach to closing the main gates, caretaking and security. Renovation of the heating system should actively consider the scope to enclose part of the rear service yard and install a woodchip boiler, capable of using chipped waste arisings from woodland management work within the park and, possibly, beyond. Care is needed to avoid ad hoc assemblage of such a system, and fully integrated systems are now becoming available.
- vii. The project brief called for the identification of a site for a post-war Lydiard estate hut. The Visitor Centre rear yard is well concealed, supervised and serviced so that the hut could be used to interpret the early post-war history of Swindon, and Lydiard in particular. If an original hut can be located, it could be repaired, conserved, brought back to Lydiard and furnished for interpretation and education use.
- viii. The visitor centre sits adjacent to both the modern circulation crossroads and the historic axial crossroads. The detail layout needs redesign to ensure that access to the wider park, house and home circuit is as legible as possible, through both signage and clear circulation. It should also provide facilities for cyclists to and within the park.
- ix. The modern cypress avenue should be removed as a modern visual intrusion and replanted as a subsidiary woodland walk.

## **East Park**

*History* Probable site of the medieval or Tudor warren with suggested pillow mound, spring and *Old* fish pond. Open park with avenues and *oak plantation* by 1700, enclosed by timber-pale. Two avenues removed by 1766 and a small clump planted overlooking the *Old Pond*. Dotted park trees recorded 1773 and southern approach not mapped in 1828, although three clump plantations added, *New (now Spring) Plantation* and *Half Moon Plantation* and *Ash Plantation*, *Oak Plantation* renamed *Elm Plantation*, pale removed along Hook Street/Park Lane, and park divided in two. Unchanged until 1940-1960 when the main area was used as a hospital and then housing estate, then removed and replaced by sports pitches, carpark and field.



*Condition.* Only the northern part, under an agricultural tenancy, Ash and Spring Plantation remain largely unaltered, with the northern pasture being the best record of the character of the historic park. Elmplantation cleared and replanted. The events and playing fields are very open and exposed, if useful, areas. The car parks and barbeque area are enclosed by informal screen belts which subdivide the landscape. The ha-ha and view gaps northwards are obscured by extensive modern planting and scrub, especially in the north-east corner on the site of the landfilled debris from the hospital/estate demolitions.

#### *Proposals*

- i. The northern grazing area currently represents something close to the ideal management of the wider park, with extensive grazing, veteran trees, *de facto* open access, and good conservation and legibility of field archaeology. It is proposed to extend this historic park character across the area, albeit subject to the various modern uses. Parkland tree planting at wide spacing will improve visual integration and shelter in the longer term, but a rapid improvement can be achieved by heavy selective thinning and transplanting of selected trees, mainly oak and beech, from the landscape screen belts and scrub woodland areas. The sports and events field are close to their ideal locations in the park, due to the increasingly clayey soils to the west, and proximity to visitor services.
- ii. The boundary with Hook Street could be enhanced by reinstating the historic boundary trees, using lime in place of elm, and replanting Half Moon Plantation. The entrances into the park should also be improved by fencing, gates, signage and planting which identifies the park clearly and reflects the history of the park. A combination of maintained hedgerows, timber paling and green painted woodwork rail gates would be functional, attractive and sustainable.
- iii. Extensive grazing by livestock should be retained within pasture areas; this will require some improvements in access and entry points, with cycle grids and gates, but also repair and re-use of the stone footbridge at the north end of Ash Plantation; and cleaning out and repair of the stock watering hole adjacent to Spring Plantation. Fences will need to be replaced with low visual impact, traditional parkland railing fences.

#### **West Park**

*History* Open park with avenues, *New Copice*, enclosed by pale in 1700, with *Castle Brake*, apparently a young plantation inside the south boundary. By 1766, only part of *New Copice* remained enclosed, with a paddock, the remainder as grazed woodland and the modern boundary to Park Wood established. One avenue removed, and a fenced pen set up near Hook Gate. The 1773 confirms this, with *New Copice* grazed woodland with a large circular opening in the middle, and a drive along the southern edge. By 1839 the southern pale has been removed and *New Copice* divided into two paddocks and *Alder Bed* plantation, with some farm buildings in the north-east corner. Many parkland trees still plotted in 1889-1901, with many lost by 1924. Sold 1943. Site of *New Copice* landfilled with clay waste circa 1980 and all parkland trees removed. Park of West Park purchased 1984, with land lost to Lower Hook Farm, and areas of screen belts and Alder Plantation replanted.

*Condition* Improved, bleak pasture; alder plantation replanting not successful although original alder bed remains. Land raise clay waste tip site very wet, poorly draining low hill. Let on an annual grazing licence. Paths poorly signed, restricted by numbers of fences, stiles and tractor damage to the historic drive surface. Crossed by pipelines and power cables. Extensive relict ridge and furrow to north. Open drainage ditches. Concrete access track apparently not owned.

#### *Proposals*

- i. Due to its poor current condition this area has considerable potential to improve the public access, wildlife and historic landscape value of the park. As well as recreating historic drives and ridings

for cyclists and pedestrians, the exposure and enclosure of different parts of the park can be addressed by heavy selective thinning of the screen belts and transplanting selected trees, (oak, ash, beech and lime) to reinstate the historic tree cover.

- ii. Rather than replant the open grazed woodland of 1766-1924, and due to the obliteration of the original topography, it is proposed to replant *New Copice* in its entirety, with a view to reincorporating it into the park in, say, 30 years' time. At present, the poor soil structure will need active drainage, and planting with transplants if long-lived trees are to establish. The field is of low agricultural value, but would be eligible for the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme. The circular glade mapped in 1773 would now occupy the crown of the hill; accurate restoration informed by archaeology is no longer possible, and therefore this is proposed as a new landscape design feature, giving views out and a new sense of place or location for artwork. Once established, the new woodland should be robust enough to accommodate a wide range of community uses, possibly including a mountain bike track.
- iii. Similarly, the 1700 avenues seem to have been lost progressively or felled to pay debts, rather than designed out of the landscape, and it is therefore proposed to replant the avenues as accurately as possible.
- iv. Although creating a large field, removal of the subdividing fences would recreate the park landscape and ease access. Open ditches within the field would need to be cleaned annually, or piped.
- v. Castle Brake should be replanted with oak to improve shelter, although this is constrained by the number of buried and overhead services.

### North of Park Copse

*History* Never plotted as part of the park; two fields in 1766. Hedgerows altered by 1889; low-lying land implies alder bed or possible earlier pond. Fields combined and new hedge since 1924, and alder bed infilled with clay waste and restored as improved pasture.

*Condition* Improved pasture, public footpath, stream partly forded using broken concrete construction waste.

### Proposals.

- i. Regard as surplus land for disposal, sale or swap to resolve other land ownership issues.

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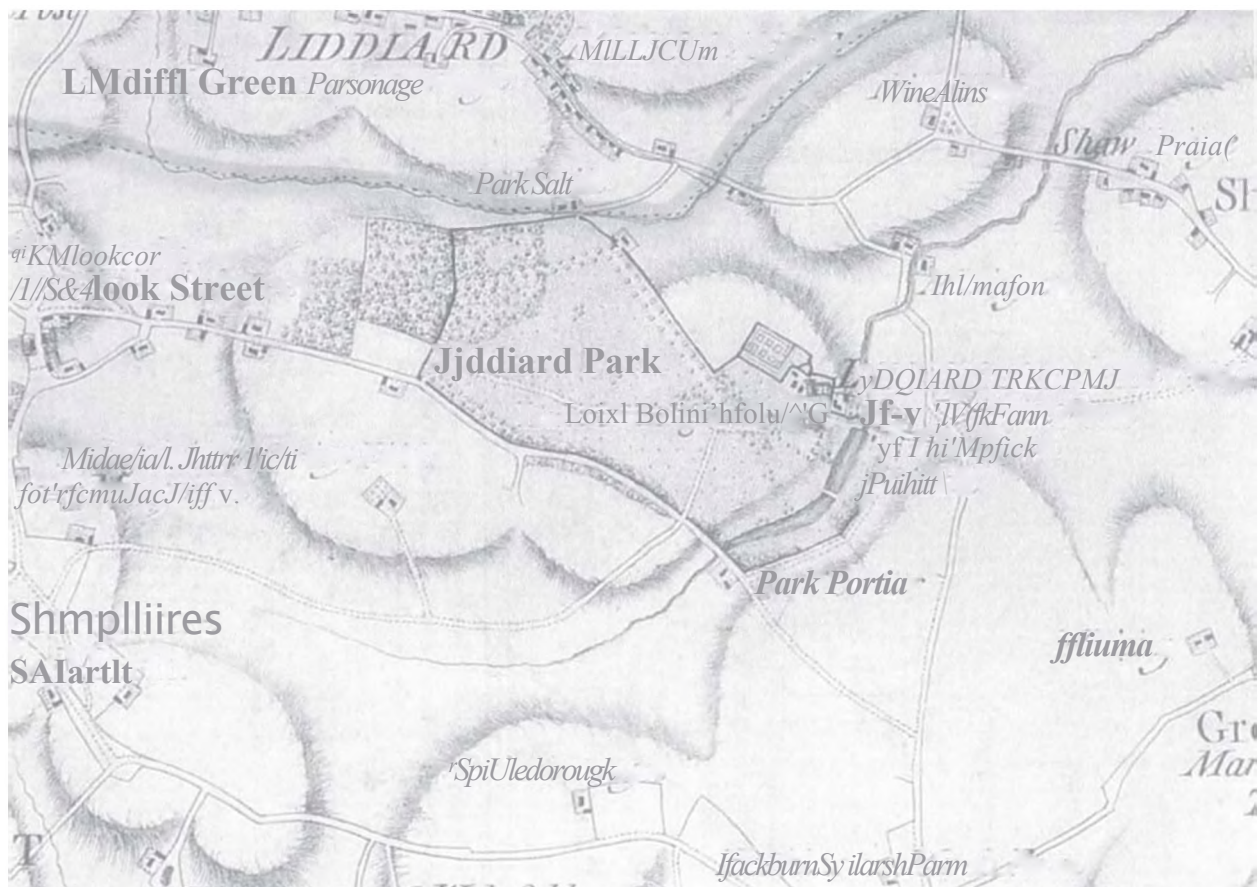


Plate 1 Andrews' and Dury's map of Wiltshire, 1773





Fig. 2  
Ordnance Survey Old Series, 1828

# IN SEARCH OF THE ELLISONS

by Sally Payne

I was born Sally Elizabeth Willis. My father, William George Ellison Willis - always known to his family and friends as 'Ellison' - and his two younger sisters, Evelyn May and Adeline Greta were born at the beginning of the last century in Stanford-in-the-Vale, Berkshire, where at least the previous three generations had been master bakers, grocers, and bacon curers.

As a young child it never occurred to me that the name 'Ellison' was in any way unusual. Far more romantic sounded the names of some of their relations about whom they would talk. There was, for example, a great-uncle called Ambrose Willis, who had apparently escaped from the family business to lead a much more varied and exciting life. Evelyn still kept in touch with his grandson, a John Ambrose Fanner from Kington in Herefordshire. There was also Adeline's godfather, an 'Uncle Roly, whose real name was Rawleigh Eddolls. He had given my father an unusually pretty tie-pin which had been made into a ring for my mother, and which she still wears each day despite her ninety-nine years.

It was not until a few years later, when Evelyn showed me some old family photographs and portraits, that I learned that the name 'Ellison' was actually the maiden name of my great-grandmother Emma. Seeing my interest, Evelyn gave me the beautiful lace wedding veil worn by Emma in 1867 when she married my great-grandfather George Willis.

For many years I did not give any more thought to these items, but when I myself married I decided to wear my great-grandmother's wedding veil. I began to wonder where exactly it had first been worn, and from what sort of family Emma had come. It was not, however, until a few years ago that I actually found the time to follow up these questions.

My starting point was the family Bible, which, as is so often the case, contained a hand-written record of many of the births, deaths, and marriages which have occurred in our family over the years. It appeared that Emma had been born in 1832 and that she married my great-grandfather in 1867. He was a widower and already had a young family. Emma became their stepmother and went on to have three children of her own, one of whom was my grandfather George Willis junior, before dying from cancer at the age of sixty-five.

The censuses of the period stated that Emma Ellison had been born in a place called Lydiard Tregoze - a place-name which I must confess was completely new to me, and which appropriately enough sounded every bit as romantic as those names I had heard my father mention at those years ago. My next move was to visit the Family Records Office in London where I have trawled through the many indexes of births, deaths, and marriages as well as the censuses for Wiltshire, the Public Records Office at Kew to study the tithe maps of the nineteenth century, and very briefly the Wiltshire Records Office to look at the transcriptions of some of the parish records and copies of old wills. I have also written numerous letters, and, eighteen months ago, fulfilled a long-held wish to visit Lydiard Tregoze in order to see the church where the wedding veil had first been worn.

The whole process has been absolutely fascinating and very addictive - not least because of the close links I have discovered between those names heard in my childhood. Not only have the families of Willis, Ellison, and Eddolls apparently been closely connected since the mid-nineteenth century, but the family names of Fanner and Price also reappear down the generations.

It seems that in the early-1800s the majority of Ellisons lived in the North of England. They were largely concentrated in Lancashire, but the name was found to a lesser extent across the Pennines in Yorkshire.

The only other area of the country where the name was to be found to any extent was Wiltshire, particularly around Swindon. Whether this is just coincidence, or whether at sometime some Ellisons migrated south is a matter for speculation. Back then these Wiltshire Ellisons tended to be landowners and fanners, or at least to hold some position of responsibility on an estate.

The first definite records I have so far discovered of the family name in Wiltshire go back to the beginning of the eighteenth century. In November 1702 a Richard Ellison married Rebecca Besley at Lydiard Tregoze, and four years later a Samuel Ellison married Maiy Whitehead there. Also living in the parish was John Ellison and his wife Susannah. John made out a will in 1713, in which he left the grand sum of one shilling to be paid to each of his three children - Edmund, Thomas, Samuel, and Maiy Hodges. The remainder of his estate he left to his wife. Unfortunately there is no mention of which farm John Ellison occupied, neither is there any information as to the whereabouts of his children, but an inventory accompanying his will put a value of £ 153.18s. Od. on his property. This was broken down as follows:

	£. s. d.
Wearing apparel	5 0 0
Contents of the hall, such as pewter dishes and flagon, brass bottles and pan, wanning pan and skillet	7 16 0
Contents of the inner room, such as a table board and forms	1 0 0
Contents of the buttery including a table board, one knife, and five ban'els	1 10 0
Contents of the daily house including cheese press, four knives, a salting tray, and cheese vats	1 10 0
Contents of the rooms over the hall including two feather beds, feather bolsters and pillows, and two bedsteads	4 0 0
Contents of the room over the buttery including a feather bed, bolster and bedstead, a chest, coffer, and sideboard	3 0 0
The bed and bedstead in the room over the inner room	10 0
Contents of the room over the daily house	1 0 0
Fifteen hundred of cheese	15 0 0
Herd of cows and cows with calves	64 10 0
One bull and three yearlings	13 0 0
One horse	2 10 0
Seventy sheep	10 0 0
Six quarters of oats in the bam	4 4 0
One pig in the sty	1 10 0
Pair of wagon wheels, harrow, plough, and cart	4 0 0
One rook of hay	10 0 0
One acre of wheat and other crops	2 10 0
Harnesses and suchlike	18 0

What happened to this property, and who took over the farm after John's death we do not know. I have so far found no record of an Ellison in Lydiard Tregoze for the next seventy or so years. It is then that my own great-great-great-grandfather, William, who was Emma Ellison's grandfather, was to be found fanning at Great Chaddington. I have so far been unable to link John Ellison with this branch of the family, but it would be nice to imagine that there was some connection.



William Ellison was born in the 1770s. He married Ann Fanner in 1794, and they appear to have had at least six children who survived to adulthood. The family lived at Little Chaddington, part of the St. John family estate, which was farmed not only by William until his death in 1836, but then by his son Han-y, and subsequently his three grandsons Daniel, Henry, and then James. William left his estate to his six children. Four of his sons - George, John, Abbott, and Hany - were executors of his will. They, together with his daughter Emma, who was married to a local fanner William Price, benefited financially from the sale of his cattle, corn, grain, hay, and all other personal effects. I have not yet traced the George, John, or Abbott Ellison, but it seems reasonable to suppose that, along with Edmund, Thomas, and Samuel before them, they contributed to the rapid growth of Ellison families in the area. Harry Ellison, on the other hand, we know also married into the Price family. He and his wife Ann had seven sons and a daughter. Three of the sons at least, as we have said, followed their father into fanning. His eldest son, Thomas Price Ellison, however, became a butcher - presumably providing an outlet for some of the meat produced on the farm.

William's remaining son, James, received no such legacy. Nor was he one of his father's executors. Instead he was left:

*All that my freehold close of meadow or pasture ground called the Brick Yard situate lying and being within the tithing of Eastcott in the Parish of Swindon ... with the appurtenances to the same belonging which I have lately purchased of the Company of Proprietors of the Wilts and Berks Canal to hold the same unto my said son James Ellison, his heirs and assigns for ever.*

This James Ellison was my great-great-grandfather. Whether he was the eldest in the family, or the youngest, and his brothers already established fanners, I do not know. He does, however, appear to have retained an interest at Eastcott all his life, despite living at Marsh Farm in Lydiard Tregoze until 1849 and then at Lower Studley for the next couple of years, and for much of that time farming both of them simultaneously.

It is with James Ellison that the connections with the Willis and Eddolls families really begin. In 1819 James married a Maiy Ann Reynolds, from yet another fanning family in the area. They had five daughters - Elizabeth, Mary Ann, Harriet, Jane, and Emma - followed by three sons - James, William Fanner, and Thomas. I was intrigued to find out that on the 1841 census James was at home at Marsh Farm without his wife, and with only five of his children, ranging from twenty-two-year-old Elizabeth to one-year-old Thomas. I have only just discovered that his wife was actually staying - at least for the census night - at Eastcott with sixteen-year-old Mary Ann and young Emma and James, together with a man servant. Here she was reportedly selling beer in a house of seventeen young carpenters and sawyers!

Unfortunately James's wife Mary Ann died from TB the following year, and her youngest son Thomas died in 1844 at the age of five from scarlet fever. James was left a widower and still had two young sons to care for, so Emma became his housekeeper. In 1853 he remarried - this time to Sarah Plummer, the forty-three-year-old daughter of fanner Richard Plummer of Lydiard Millicent. James continued farming but moved from Lydiard Tregoze to a farm nearer Swindon - its whereabouts, or what happened to his daughter Emma until her marriage in 1867, is still to be discovered.

James's other four daughters married at a younger age. Mary Ann married James Hull, a fanner from Kington St. Michael, but sadly died from TB eight months later. Two other daughters - Elizabeth and Jane - found their husbands nearer to home. The neighbouring Can Court farm was at that time occupied by a certain Rawleigh Eddolls. Rawleigh had moved to the area from Hardenhuish. He and his wife Ann had three daughters of similar age to the Ellison girls - Ann, Rebecca, and Maiy. They also had three sons - John, Rawleigh junior, and Robert. Elizabeth, the eldest Ellison daughter, married Rawleigh's eldest son John in 1844. They were both twenty-three years of age. For many years they

fanned at Hannington Wick before moving to Bishops Fowley Farm at Wootton Bassett. They seem to have had twelve children, the eldest of whom was again called Rawleigh. Even at the age of seventy-six when she had already been widowed, the 1901 census records that Elizabeth was still fanning. It is no wonder that when she died in 1907 the certificate lists exhaustion among the causes of death!

Jane Ellison does not appear to have fared so well. In 1850, when they were both twenty, she married Rawleigh Eddolls' youngest son Robert. They appear to have taken over the running of Can Court, and had six children, all of whom were baptised at Lydiard Tregoze. They later moved to Micheldever in Hampshire where another son was born - his name yet again being Rawleigh. The first indication that something was wrong is to be found in James Ellison's will of 1861. Here he specifically singles out his daughter Jane, instructing his trustees to:

*invest the sum of £250 ... in the public stocks or shares of Great Britain, or upon Government or real security in England, or upon Railway debenture bonds... and pay and apply the interest thereof unto my daughter Jane, the wife of Robert Eddolls for her own sole use and benefit and wholly independent of her present or future husband...*

Twenty-three years later, at the age of only fifty-three, Robert Eddolls died near Wokingham in Berkshire from chronic Bright's disease and cirrhosis of the liver. His death was registered by his son Rawleigh.

It seems to be this fourth Rawleigh who became a close friend to the Willis family in Stanford-in-the-Vale and became my aunt's godfather. It is he who became known to my father and his sisters as 'Uncle Roly'. After his aunt, Emma Ellison, had married George Willis, he and his sisters would stay at the bakery. In the 1881 census he was actually working there as a grocer's assistant, and later went on to be a grocer himself. He was much the same age as George and Emma's son George junior, which probably accounts for the friendship. Both boys were also executors for George's will. It is interesting to note that, according to this will, Rawleigh called his house, in Brighton, 'Lydiard Tregoze'.

James Ellison's remaining daughter Harriet also married at the age of twenty-one. In 1849 she married an ironmonger from Swindon. He had been born in Stanford-in-the-vale, and his name was (John) Ambrose Willis - the Ambrose I had heard about as a child. Ambrose was a widower with a young daughter. His first wife had been Caroline Busson from Lechlade in Gloucestershire, a member of whose family had taken over the fanning of Upper Studley in Lydiard Tregoze from James Ellison's brother-in-law William Price. In 1851 Ambrose (by then a cheese factor) and Harriet, together with their month-old daughter and her nurse, were staying with the Bussons at Upper Studley. Shortly afterwards they took over the farm themselves. By the time of the next census they were also firmly installed at Can Court, having taken it over from Harriet's sister and brother-in-law Jane and Robert Eddolls. Here they stayed until Ambrose's death in 1866, apparently raising ten children. Harriet herself lived for another thirty-four years, her youngest son Ernest taking over the tenancy of Can Court.

Emma Ellison - James's youngest daughter - did not marry until she was thirty-five. Her husband, George Willis, was Ambrose's younger brother, as mentioned before, like his brother was a widower. Her father having died in 1862, Emma waited until both her young brothers were settled. Her youngest brother, William Fanner Ellison, had been left:

*All my household furniture and linen, plate, china, glass, cookery books, pictures, wine, liquor, and all my other goods and chattels in and about my dwelling house, and all my stock of cattle, corn, grain, seeds, hay, straw, dairy utensils, implements in husbandry, and general farm stock in or upon my farm and lands in the said Parish of Swindon.*

He was also about to marry Ellen Sargent, another fanner's daughter, by whom he was to have two sons, Francis and William. He took Upper Studley over from his brother-in-law Ambrose, and

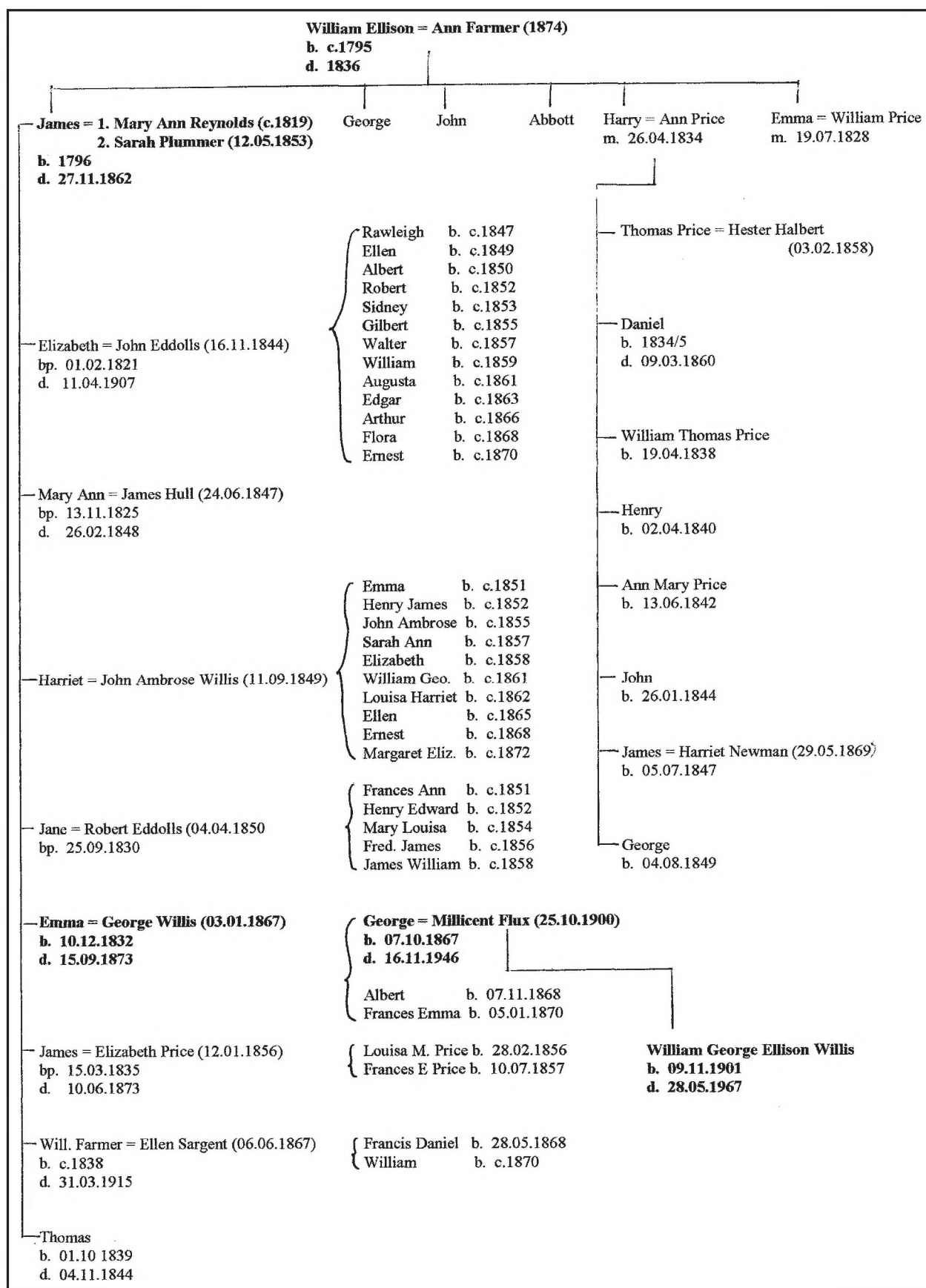


Fig. 1 Descendants of William Ellison and Ann Fanner.

remained there for many years before moving to Little Somerford. William appears to have remained close to his sister. He was witness at her wedding, and both and his wife were godparents to her first child - my grandfather, George junior. When widowed in 1904 he is reputed to have been the 'Uncle Ellison' who stayed at Vine Cottage in Stanford-in-the-Vale with his two nieces, Caroline and Frances

Willis. It was, however, at Wroughton, where his sister Harriet's daughter Sarah Fanner lived, that he died in 1913.

Emma's other brother, James, was also settled before she herself married. In 1856, at the age of twenty, he had married his cousin, Elizabeth Price. His father had already set him up in fanning, first at Park Farm, Swindon, and then at Lyneham. He and his wife had two daughters, Lucie and Frances, but sadly he died suddenly from heart disease in 1873 while having dinner. He was only thirty-eight, and had not yet made a will.

After Emma had moved away to her new home in Stanford-in-the-Vale, the fanning community round Swindon began to dwindle. The railways were being built, and people were moving away to more lucrative jobs in the towns.

Today, much of the land tenanted by my forebears has disappeared under the urban sprawl of Swindon. Other land has been taken for the motorway and major roads which now link the area to the rest of the county. Some farms have been demolished and rebuilt, and others are hidden behind a barrage of 'keep out' signs and barbed wire. There is still a peppering of 'Eddolls' in the area, and 'Willis', of course, has never been an unusual name. The number of 'Ellison' families in the whole of the Swindon area, however, seems to have again been reduced to a couple of dozen.

In spite of this, I was delighted to find that St. Mary's church, where my wedding veil had first been worn and where so many of my family were baptised and married, was still standing and in use. It was a lovely surprise to see what a beautiful and interesting building it still is. Moreover, there, in front of the churchyard, is an impressive pink granite tombstone dedicated to the memory of John Ambrose Willis and his wife Harriet Ellison - the only sign of the part that we once played in the community.

## SOME MORE ST.JOHN FAMILY PAPERS

It was reported in *Report31* (1998) that among the growing number of items in the archive at Lydiard Park were four notebooks (Lyd. 1994/114 a-d) and three letters (Lyd. 1994/137/1-3) which were at one time in the care of Antonia Georgina Isabella St.John. She was the daughter of Henry Joseph St.John (more often known as Joseph Henry), who was one of the sons of George Richard, 3rd Viscount Bolingbroke, and his second wife, Baroness von Hompesch.

The three letters were transcribed in *Report31*. The notebooks contained select pedigrees of the St.John family, and Antonia had marked certain names with a '+', with a footnote which read, 'Those marked +1 have letters of.' The comment was made in that *Report* that it was most unfortunate that these letters apparently had not survived. It was with great rejoicing that, last year, they came to light together with a number of other St.John items which are of great interest. They have kindly been made available for transcription. Grouped under the various heads of the St.John household is the first section of the archive. Next year's *Report* will contain the large number of items of correspondence and accounts from America, dated from 1800 to 1857, together with an account of the life of George Richard, 3rd Viscount Bolingbroke, and his family.

In all there are fifty-seven items in this collection, which include two pieces of printed matter. There is also a copy of *The Times* of 2 May 1796, a fairly careful reading which has not revealed why this particular copy has been kept.

Where, in the original text, there is a contraction sign the abbreviated word is expanded and the added letters are underlined. Square brackets ([ ]) indicate a conjectural reading or an editorial interpolation or enclose an ellipsis ([... ]) where part of the text cannot be deciphered or is missing.

### Undated and cannot be further assigned

#### 1 An account of money spent on a journey

*sundaye at diner*

<i>Item for a pese of befe</i>	<i>xijd</i>
<i>Item for a capen</i>	<i>ijs xjd</i>
<i>Item for a cupellofrabets</i>	<i>xvjd</i>
<i>Item for breade</i>	<i>viijd</i>
<i>Item for beare</i>	<i>iiijd</i>
<i>Item for butter</i>	<i>]jd</i>
<i>Item for stronge beare</i>	<i>jd</i>
<i>Item for wine</i>	<i>xijd</i>
<i>Item for iiij<sup>h</sup> of suet</i>	<i>xvjd</i>
<i>Item for peper</i>	<i>xjd</i>
<i>Item for flower</i>	<i>xvjd</i>
<i>Item for butter</i>	<i>viijd</i>
<i>Item for the baceing it</i>	<i>xijd</i>
	<i>xijs xd</i>
<i>for wode</i>	<i>xijd</i>
<i>for colle</i>	<i>iijd</i>



	atnighte	
Item for a shoulder of mutton		xvjd
Item for a rabbit		viijd
Item for breade		iijd
item for beare		iiijd
	ijs vijd	
Item for washinge		viijd
Item for logyne		xvs
	xxx viijs viijd	

## John St John (d. 1576)

- 2 A rental of the manor of Purley for the year 1528-29. The transcription of some of the names is uncertain.

Purley

Rentalles of the maner of purley made the xx<sup>th</sup> yere of the reign of Kyng Harry the viijth

First of John Flaser for his londgs and <u>tenementes</u>	ix <sup>s</sup>	
of Thomas Marsh for his londes and <u>tenementes</u>	Hif	
of Thomas Percy for his londes and <u>tenementes</u>	if	
modo ?lanren [ ]		
of Thomas Maygede for his londes and <u>tenementes</u>	if	
<u>Summa</u>	xvijs	

### Copyholders

of Joone Good ley for her londgs and <u>tenementes</u>	viif	Hif
of Thomas Gove for his londes and <u>tenementes</u>	V <sup>s</sup>	
of Maryen Bayly for her londgs and <u>tenementes</u>	\T	viif
modo Johannes [ ]		
of John Percy for his londgs and <u>tenementes</u>	vif	Hif
of Willyam Whete for his londes and <u>tenementes</u>	viif	
of Thomas Opraley for his londes and <u>tenementes</u>	viif	
of Maude Cony Wydowe for her londes and <u>tenementes</u> by yere	vif	viif
<u>Summa</u>	I <sup>s</sup>	
<u>Summa totales</u>	lxvif	

- 3 A comparison of the flocks of sheep in 1567 and 1568. In 1545 John St. John purchased the manor of Littleton for his son Nicholas.

### Shepe at Michaelmas 1567

At lydiard	First Store Ewes	Hf	lxxvj
	Store Farmes	*ij	
	Store gradlying Farmes	H}	
	Store Farme hogges	vij	
	Store hogges	if	xl iij
	other young Ewes	vlv	
	Fell whethers	if	
	Fell Ewes	xvj	
	Farme hogges & Culling hogges	xxx	



			XX	
	<i>Shepeat</i>		<i>Hij</i>	<i>xiiij</i>
			XX	
	<i><u>Sunwia</u></i>	<i>viif</i>	<i>Hj</i>	<i>Hj</i>
<i>atLytleton</i>	<i>Store whethers</i>		<i>Vs</i>	<i>viiij</i>
	<i>Fatshepe</i>		<i>Hij</i>	
	<i><u>Summa</u></i>		<i>Vs</i>	<i>xii</i>
			XX	
	<i><u>Summa</u> totalis</i>	<i>xiif</i>	<i>Hij</i>	<i>XV</i>
	<i>Shepe at Michaelmas</i>			
	<i>at Lydiard</i>		<i>f</i>	<i>xxxij</i>
	<i>atRodbome</i>		<i>ijf</i>	<i>lxxj</i>
	<i><u>Summa</u> totalss</i>	<i>ixs</i>	<i>Hj</i>	
	<i>atLytleyton</i>		<i>vs</i>	<i>XXVj</i>
	<i><u>Summa</u> xats</i>			
	<i><u>Summa</u> toales</i>		<i>xiiifxxix</i>	
	<i>Soiij</i>			
	<i>enciess</i>			
	<i>xxxiif</i>			

Fig. 1  
Rental of the Manor of  
Purley for 1528-29.

- 4 The right-hand side of the first part of an undated proclamation, printed in Gothic black letter, issuing dire warnings to anyone who took up the cause of Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary fled to England in 1568 after her forced abdication from the throne of Scotland. English Roman Catholics regarded her, a great-granddaughter of Henry VII, as the rightful Queen of England. Many conspiracies were formed to place her on the throne, and for complicity in one of these she was executed in 1587. John St. John was sheriff of Wiltshire in 1555-6 and 1572-3, so it likely that the proclamation belongs to his second term of office.

#### Nicholas St John (d.1589)

- 5 Nicholas St. John was a verderer of the Forest of Braydon. In the course of his duties he was assaulted by Giles Brydges, the son of Lord Chandos of Sudeley. It is not possible to give an exact date for the incident, but it occurred during the lifetime of Edmund, Lord Chandos, Giles' s father. Edmund succeeded to the title in 1557 and died in March 1572/3. Giles was twenty-five when his father died. Perhaps Giles was about twenty when Nicholas St. John took him to court and obtained judgement against him. The fine imposed on Giles Brydges was not paid, and in his will (1589) Nicholas bequeathed to his granddaughter Anne St. George 'all suche sommes of money which Giles Lorde Chandoyes oweth me by reason of a judgment in a Recoverye which the saied Nicholas had against hym the saied Lord by the name of Giles Bridges Esquyer in an Acction of trespas of assaulte and Battrey. ' Giles, Lord Chandos, died in February 1593/4: perhaps Anne St. George never did receive her inheritance.

This item is badly stained in places and has lost text on either side of a fold: two sides rehearse the 'complainte', a third side - not here transcribed - is headed 'An abstracte ...' and is so faded as to almost be unreadable.

*The somme of the complainte of Nicholas Seyntiohn against the honorable the lord Chandos & Gyles Bridges his sonne & heyre apparandl the said N Seyntiohn sayeth that as a verderer of the Forest of Braydon, wherof Lord Chandos is master of the same, receaved a letter from Sr Walter Myldmey the lord cheif baron & others of the barons of the eschequer commanding hym by the same accordinge to his deuty [the next nine lines are omitted in this tentative transcription] whereupon the said nicholas Seyntiohn advertized to Sr Walter Myldmey [... ] shortly thereupon came a commission directed to Sir John Thynne Knight harry Sherington John Danvers h[... ] Knevitt esquires & to me the said Nicholas to inqyre of[... ] supposed to donne within the said Forest of Braydon with winch [ ... ] the said Nicholas rouded to M Dunts to conferre for the executinge of[ ... ] service & his comminge homewardest agayne in the Quenes heighway[... ] his fathers mare & his owne there was set one of the keys who bya[... ] call youre warnings to Mr Gyles Brydges of the said Nicholas his [... ] Jesonne upon winch warninge given the said M Bridges [... ] came forth upon the said Nicholas the said M Bridges [... ] dagger & a great crabtree cudgell in his hande the rest[... ] Forest alles & longe staves the said Nicholas havinge with hym one servingman & his horse boy havinge [ ... ] them everytho his single sworde wherupon the said M Brydges crossinge the [... ] Nicholas who did not suspect any evill will on his parte towardes hym as not havinge anye cause growen betwene them at the first meeting did put of his hatte & saluted the said M Brydges who presented with great othes said nowe will I be even with the for arrestinge my man which areste was for that his man with others had ryouttously entred into a[... ] howse of the said Nicholas fathers & there take awaie [ ... ] crossbow racke & arrowes of the said Nicholas & caryed awaie the owner of the said howse & kepte him prysoner iiij or v dayes, for the which parte they stand presently endyted & forth with the said M Bridges strake the said Nicholas on the heade with the said Cudgell that he was almost felled from his horse & [... ] aboute his shoulders the rest of the keepers layd at his men the said Nicholas seinge hymself & his men so*

overmatched with his horse being better then theirs in great dannger ofhis lyfe escaped awaye willinge his men to do thelyke but then beinge envyroned with thekeepers could not escape but weare soe soundly beaten in so much as the Rannger of Braydon being one of them brake his bill in iij peces on one of my men, & if they had gotten me the said Nicholas within the dannger I thynke they would have murthered me at leaste have maymed me suche as the approved cruelties of the said Chandos men but at which my goinge awaye the said Gyles with loude voise [there are a further twenty lines in the 'complainte']

6 A fragment of the award against Giles Bridges

... Chandoys, or by the said M Gyles Bridges, or by any of them in the observinge performyng and fulfillinge of the said Articles ofAwarde or any of them of the said Date thexxviiij<sup>th</sup> Daie ofthisinstantemonthe ofFebruarie OryfbyDefaulteshalbehad or made by the said M Gyles Bridges in the obsgrvinge porformyng and fulfillinge of these present Articles of Awarde and order and everye article and matter therein Conteyned shall cease and be utterly voide and of none effecte Any thinge herein Conteyned to be contrarye thereof in any wise notwithstanding

[... ] Pembroke

7 An undated letter of Eleanor, daughter of Nicholas St.John, who married Sir Thomas Cave of Stanford-in-the-Vale, Northamptonshire. In Report3 (1970) is reproduced an inventoiy (1670) of goods in Lydiard Tregoze church which begins with ' One velvt Pulpitt Cloth and Cushion Imbroydred withe the Amies of the Lady Elinour Cave wh Sheegave unto the church.' Note that the spaces in the following text are not in the original but are added to make up for the lack of punctuation.

Ipraye talke Wh fauns brother whattshe shall have to hermarradge forn<sup>f</sup> newportis to bring over nf catsbye that serves my cosen griffme to be a suter unto her he doth assure me he shall have a hunderdpound a yere land and fortie marck a yere junter [=j ointure] she shall have and ther affter as her portion is itshalbe amendid he wilbe here very shortlye and it is very lykelye to goe forward, I will send momiaye halfe his monye very shortlye, I pray send som seed roger onely doth know wher to by [=buy] very good here is a notte of the names of such as shall need  
your very loving sister  
Elianor Cave

8 The acknowledgement (1584) of a loan of £40 from Sir Walter Hungerford of Farley Hungerford to Nicholas St.John. The top right-hand comer is missing. The small seal, made probably with a signet ring, appears to have the St.John crest of a falcon rising.

Be hit knowen unto all men by the [... ] SeintJohn of Lydiard Treygoze [... ] Wiltes Esquire do owe unto Wall[ ... ] Farleghe hungerford in the Countye [... ] Knight the somme of Fortie poundes of[...] money of England. To be paid to the [... ] hungerford his executors administrator ... ] And for the tewepayment whereof [ ... ] the said Nicholas SeintJohn do bynd my[...] heires executors administrators & assignes by[...] ] presents. In witnes whereof I the sayd Nicholas SeintJohn to these presents ha ve sett my hand and seale, geven the xxvj<sup>th</sup> daye ofmaye in the xxvj<sup>th</sup> yere of the raigne of our Sovereaigne ladye Elizabeth by the grace of god of England France and Ireland Queene defender of the faithe &c 1584

N SeyntJohn

Sealed signed and delivered the  
daye and yere above written in  
the presentes of  
W Hungerford



- 9 A copy of the general letter (15 87) to the sheriff and justices of Wiltshire concerning urgently needed provisions for the navy from Charles Howard, Lord Howard of Effingham, appointed Lord High Admiral in 1585 and as such was in command at the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

*After my verie hartie comendacions you shall understand that Edwarde Baeshe Esq  
generall Surveior of the Queenes majesties victualles for the sea causes is speciallie  
comanded with all expedicion fom[ake] readie a great proportion of victualles for the  
whole navy towards the furnishing whereof there is to be had [... ] provided within  
your Countie of Wiltes three hundred tuns of wheate & three hundred quarters of m[al]te  
for which ca[use] he dothe nowe send downe this hearer[with this] letter of deputacion  
And therefore I require you for that the wheate and malte is presentlie to be occupied to  
assemble your selves together in your severall divisions and to appointe the said  
Come to be Delivered at reasonable price considering the same is for her majesties  
service And that redie money shalbe paid upon the deliverie thereof wherein I praye you  
to use your furtherance in suche good order that there be no cause to put her highnes  
commission in execucion which otherwise muste be done respecting the necessitie of  
this Service, the proportion of wheat and malte appointed for your sheire is no more then  
is allotted for the Countie of Dorset whose good order therein have seen, and therefore  
these are to require you to see this performed for your partes soe as there be no lacke  
for her majesties Service. We send you hartielie well from the Court at Grenewiche the  
22 of Marche 1586*

*your verie loving frend  
C Howard*

*To my Loving Frendes the Sheriffe and Justices of the Countie of Wiltes and to all other  
th[ at are] appointed for the restraunte of come with[ in your] Countie and to all other to  
whome it shall [... ] to everie of them*

[On the reverse]

*I have sent by this bearer a copie of a letter sent from the right honourable the Lord  
admirall for a provision of wheate and malte to be made within this Countie as by the  
same letteres more plainelie maye appeare And for the allotment thereof and the prises  
to be assented unto I do thinke Fitt to assemble together at the Devises on thursdaie  
the xjth of Aprill where I wold [wi]she you and the reste of the Justices of that division  
to be present, where there shalbe the verie lettre, And the purveue who is to receyve  
present order for the same, And this withe my hartie comendacions I comitt you to god  
from Sarum this xxixth of Marche 1587*

*your assured Frend  
E Ludlowe*

*To the Worshipfull M Nicholas  
S' John Escf geve these  
And to the rest of the Justices  
of that Division geve these*

- 10 An item (1588) from Robert Danvers 'To his assured good Frendes M nicholas S' John & M John Wameford esq's or to one of them rgceve thes'. The threat of invasion seems to be resulting in mustering local defence forces with apparently mixed success. It was just over a month after this letter was written that the Spanish Armada sighted the Lizard peninsular. Eight persons are named, and beside each name appears to be the equipment which they must bring. Unfortunately the items of equipment are abbreviated. 'Cor' with an abbreviation mark - which is here replaced with a colon

- could be 'corslet', but nothing at present can be made of 'gnal'. There is a four-line footnote in another hand but so much has been lost as to make it not worth transcribing.

*As I have sent you herinclosed a true coppie of suche orders and dyrections as I have receaved, so fyndinge the inconvenyence that fell out at our laste trayning by the backwardnes of thes & such other lyke persons as here ar undernamed I am charged to praye you by virtue of your owne acthoryty as by the such other acthoyti geven you by the said orders under the seal of the Right honourable therleofpembrocklo:lyevetenant of this counteyou odo take such present order as theforesaid defects [... ] bepresentlie supplied & be had in reddynges or otherwyse the persons [... ] to such [there follow two lines that are not transcribed] herin with my veryharte comendacion I bid you hartilie [... ] from Dontesey thexiiij<sup>th</sup> of June 1588*

*your very lovinge frend  
Rto Danvers*

<i>William Webb</i>	<i>1 Cor:</i>
<i>William leech</i>	<i>2 Cor: i gnal:</i>
<i>Edmond Webb gent</i>	<i>i Cor: i gnal:</i>
<i>olifferKeblewhi t</i>	<i>ignal:</i>
<i>William baskerville</i>	<i>i Cor: i gnal:</i>
<i>William Anstie</i>	<i>i Cor: i gnal:</i>
<i>bartelmewe prater</i>	<i>ignal:</i>
<i>Walter pgrker</i>	<i>ignal:</i>

### **Sir John St John, knight (d.1594)**

- 11 The remnants - in two pieces - of a deed (1592) of Richard St.John. Richard is a rather shadowy figure. He was the youngest of the three surviving sons of Nicholas St.John, his older brothers being Sir John (bom 1552) and Oliver (bom 1559), Viscount Grandison. He inherited, through his father's will, income from Little Poulton Farm. He joined his brother Oliver in Ireland and, with him, was a member of the Irish House of Commons in 1613. An undated memorial in Purley church states that he was buried at Purley. He apparently died, without issue, before his brother Oliver, Lord Grandison, made his will in 1630.

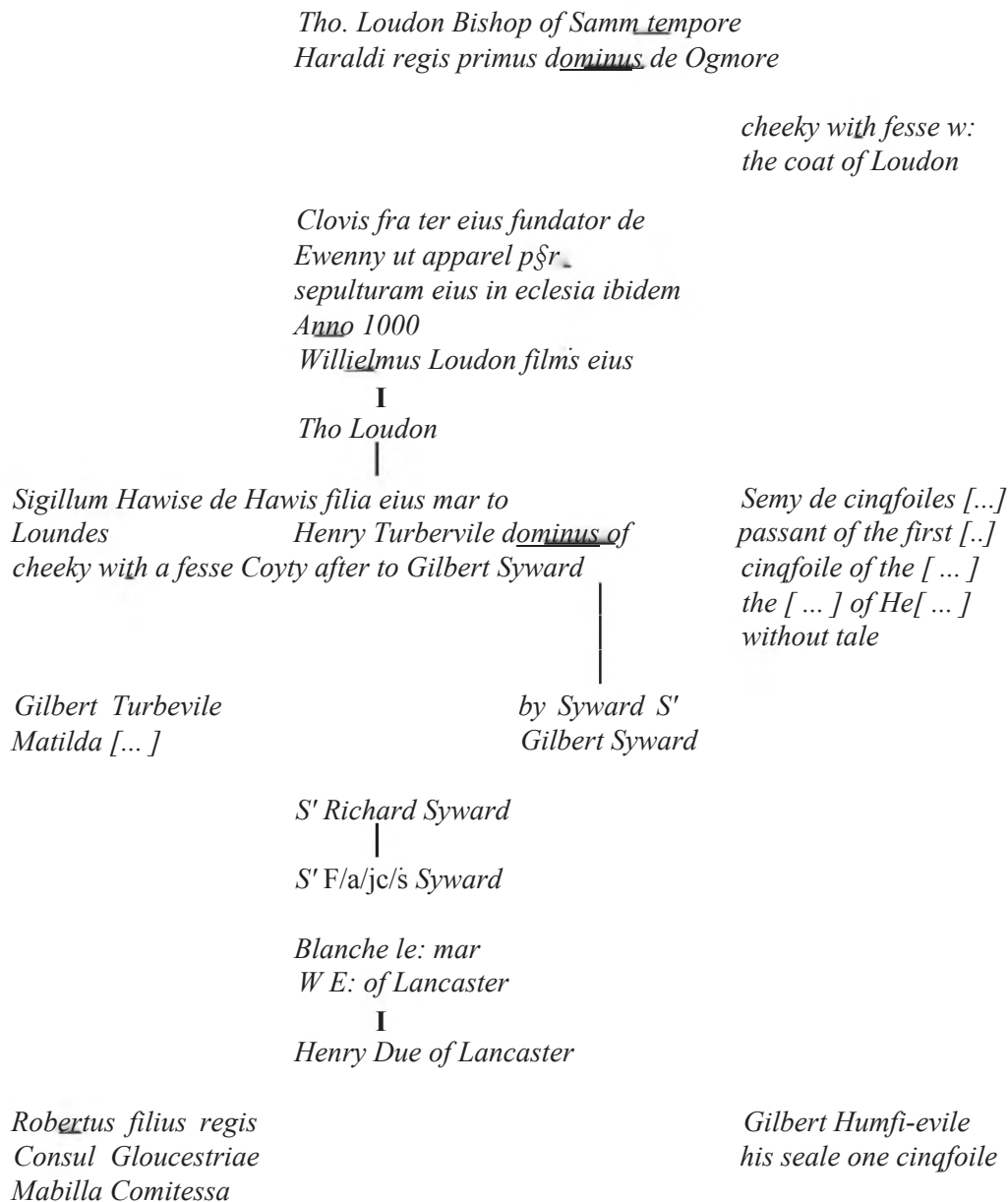
*[... ] these presentes thatl[... ] sonne of Nicholas S' John esaquire [... ] receyved of Sir John S' John my brother [... ] nine poundes o flaw' full monie ofEngland[... ] narteres amitie dore[ ...]nto me the same[....] the feist of Sainte Thomas the ap[... ] beforethe date hereof assigne and [... ] farme of little powlton in the coun[... ] and allsoe have receved of the saidS[ ...]the some of twentie shillinges dowe [... ] the said Richard S' John at thes[... ]by the [... ] of my fathers will of winch several I somes of monie I the said Richard doe [... ] presence acquite and dise charge the said Sir John S' John his heaires executors assignes By these presence as witness[... ]the said Richard St.John to these [... ] sett my hand and seale dated the viii<sup>th</sup> d[... ] ofJenearie in the <fore> fuife and thertith ieare ofranit of owre sov§raigne laideElezabeth the Qu[... ] magist*

*By me Richard S' John*



**Sir John St John (d. 1648), 1st baronet**

- 12 An undated, rather tattered, select pedigree of Loudon with blazons



- 13 An undated statement of heraldry, which includes Hungerford, with an untinctured coat attached

*Coates of S<sup>T</sup> Johngs o[n]/y to be put w[. ] a seale att which shalbe Earles or baro[. ]  
or branches Descended from them*

- 1 the first S<sup>T</sup> John with his Cressant
- 2 then beuchamp
- 3 Abtot
- 4 mauduit Earle of Warwick
- 5 Newborough Earle of Warwick
- 6 wake a baron
- 7 Beauchamp baron of Bedford
- 8 Grandison a baron
- 9 Tregoz a baron

- 10 ~~Hungerford~~ a baron  
 10 Ewyas a baron  
 11 Hungerford a baron  
 12 Courtney  
 13 ~~mollynes~~  
 13 Botereux baron  
 14 mollynes baron

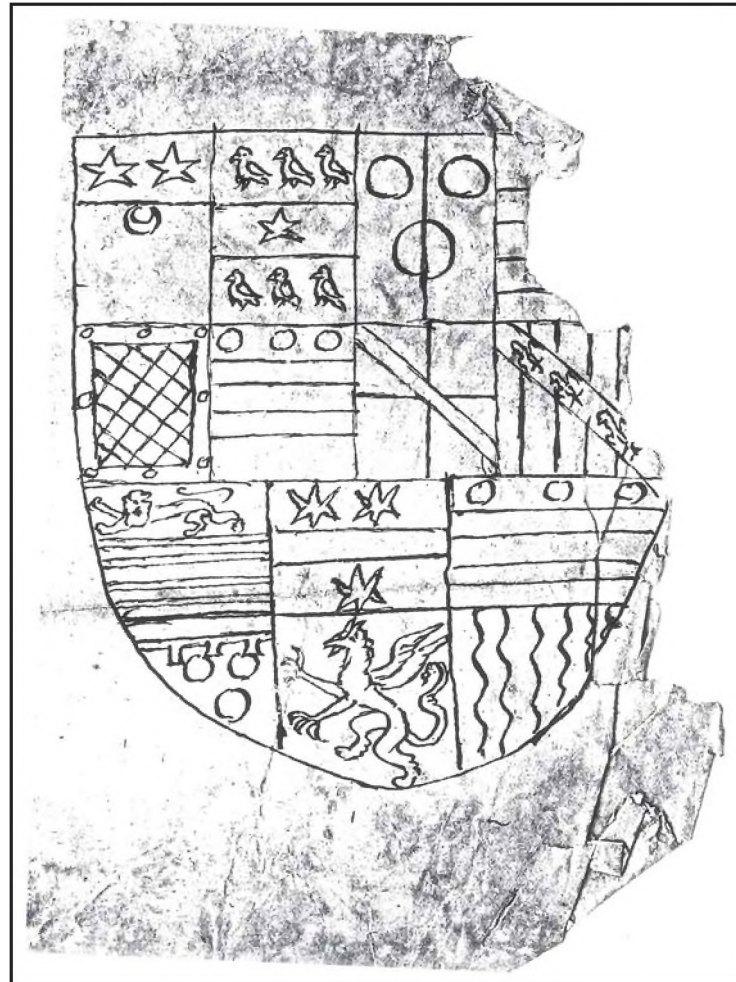


Fig. 2 *Coates of St Johnes*

[The shield, quarterly of 14:

- 1 On a chief two unpierced mullets, a crescent for difference
- 2 On a fess between six martlets a mullet for difference
- 3 Three roundels counterchanged
- 4 Two bars
- 5 Lozenge, a bordure charged with eight roundels
- 6 Two bars and in chief three roundels
- 7 Quarterly, a bendlet
- 8 Paly, on a bend three eagles displayed
- 9 Two bars gemel and in chief a lion passant
- 10 A fess between three mullets
- 11 Two bars and in chief three roundels
- 12 Three roundels, a label of three points
- 13 A griffin segreant
- 14 Three pales wavy]

- 14 Sir John was knighted at Whitehall on 2 February 1608/9, at the age of twenty-two. The counter-signature is that of his uncle, Sir Richard St. George, who also added '*this fee is due*'.

*(a) Receved of Sr John Senjohns for his Dewe to theyemen ushers of the Kinges Chamber  
for his Knighthood the some of xx<sup>s</sup>*

*this fee is due* *by me John Brigges  
Ri S' george*

*(b) Rec. of the Hon<sup>or</sup><sup>hlc</sup> Sr John S' Johns K & Baronett by the hands of Thomas Tichener  
his servannt the somme of forty pounds, & is in parte of a greater somme. Isay rec. this  
6 day of December 1623. 40<sup>l</sup>*

*p[er] me William Perkins*

- 15 An undated letter from Sir Charles Pleydell, the last two-and-a-half lines of the text have been overwritten so that neither scripts are legible. Sir John St. John's sister Jane married, firstly, Sir Robert Atye (d. 1612) of Kilbum Castle, Middlesex. In 1618 she married Sir Charles Pleydell of Midgehall, Lydiard Tregoze. Apparently Sir John is pursuing an action on behalf of his sister against the widowed mother of her first husband, presumably for the release of assets due to her as dower.

*Memorandum that I have receved of M Hinton all such coppies as I did formerlie deliver  
him, and which I receved of Sr John S' John moreover I have receved the coppie of Sr  
Arther Aties will the coppie of Sr Johns answere in the <Channcer> Court of Wardes  
and [the remainder of the letter illegible]*

*Cha: Pleydell*

*The coppie of the bill in Channcery betwene Sr John and my Lady Aty Robert Aty*

- 16 A letter from Lady Mompesson, with accounts. Katherine St. John, eldest sister of Sir John, 1st Baronet, married Giles Mompesson in 1606/7. (See *Report 4* (1971), pp. 32-47.) Giles Mompesson obtained lucrative monopolies from the Crown through his wife's brother-in-law George Villiers, later created Duke of Buckingham. In 1621 Parliament proceeded against Mompesson. He was deprived of his offices and fined £ 10,000. The fine was assigned to Katherine's brother Sir John and their half-brother Edward Hungerford as provision for her and her child. The presence of these accounts in the Lydiard archive suggests that Sir John managed her affairs after 1621. She died in 1633, and Giles erected the monument in her memory which is above the south door of the St. John aisle.

*My dear sister your plesing lines can never com unseasonally but ar and stil must be  
imbrased with my best affections coming from her hand I so entierly love and onor: I  
have spoken efectually to my husband About your cosen and he has promised that he  
will be so earnest with master voleyers that theshal do nothing agaenst hi m: pray present  
my best love to my brother: and if I had anynues to send: you shoeld be pertaker but at  
this tiem hear is much expected but nothing of it: and so I commend al good wellwishes  
unto you and remain yours to comand*

*Ka therin mompesson*

[on the reverse]

*reseved of technor  
To workmen  
for barbing*

*11<sup>l</sup> 3<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>r</sup>  
23<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>p</sup>  
7<sup>s</sup>*

toharyharill	20 <sup>s</sup>
to a carpenter	7 <sup>s</sup>
for workmen	20 <sup>s</sup>
to bell	12 <sup>s</sup>
sent you by mary for shous	4 <sup>s</sup>
for the glasiyer	7 <sup>s</sup>
forbel	4 <sup>s</sup>
forgarge taler	5 <sup>s</sup>
to the carpenter	20 <sup>s</sup>
to your self for workmen	10 <sup>s</sup>
to John panel	10 <sup>s</sup>
to the thacher	5 <sup>s</sup>
to work workmen	5 <sup>s</sup>
forhegers	5 <sup>s</sup>
fornours for qwarterege	32 <sup>s</sup>
forrichard ferns	2 <sup>s</sup>

## 17 Money received for Lady Mompesson

3<sup>o</sup> Die December 1623

monie received in Essex of Richard EJayward

First of the woodmony	xix <sup>h</sup>	vif	x <sup>d</sup>
Item the remainder of the finale Rentes	iif	viif	
Item the remainder of the Mill Rent		xl	
Item for parte of Robertes his fine	iii <sup>"</sup>		
Item of William Wilkes for parte of his Rent	xxv <sup>li</sup>		
Item of Raph Wilkes for parte of his Rent	xx <sup>u</sup>		
Sum is	lxxiiij <sup>h</sup>	xv <sup>s</sup>	x <sup>d</sup>

paid of this to M Perkins xl<sup>h</sup>

A note of money which M Hinton Received

first att London from Richard Hayward of

the woodmony	x <sup>h</sup>	
Item of him in Essex of the Mill Rent	viif	
Item of Raph Wilkes for parte of his Rent	vi <sup>li</sup>	
Item of one for a fine	x <sup>h</sup>	x <sup>s</sup>
	xxxiiif	x <sup>s</sup>

Memorandum that Mr Allen is to receive of M Ward

for his sa tisfa con	xxvif	xif
There remaines of M Wilkes his Rent	lxx v <sup>li</sup>	
of Raph Wilkes his Rent	xxxiiif	

appointed to be payed to my lady  
mumpesson in the Tower

- 18 An undated account for the sale of timber. As the sums are large it is assumed that the sale was for Sir John's own benefit.

	li	s	d
<i>Thegreate wood cont. 36<sup>ac</sup> 3<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>p</sup>ches [...]</i>			
<i>sould atiiif the acre Cometh to</i>	147	4	0
<i>The small wood Conteyneth 23 acres 3 rodes and 15perches being sould at 26<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> the acre Cometh to</i>	<u>31</u>	<u>i 5</u>	<u>10</u>
<i>Totall</i>	178	19	10
<i>out of which is to be deducted 2 acres deducted for waste and 1 acre in the small wood at the rate of iif the acres [which] is to be abated, by Covenante, byreosen the older wood in the smalerexceedeth not about 1 acre whereas ij acres was allowed; so the totall to be abated is iij acres deducted at iif the acre which cometh to</i>	xiiif		
<i>Soe the totall due for all the wood is</i>	164	19	10
<i>of which there is paid to Mr Perkins</i>	108		
<i>to Mr Allen</i>	27	12	
<i>to Richard Hayward</i>	<u>29</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>
	164	19	10

- 19 A copy of a petition (1626) to the Lord Chancellor and the Privy Council against Sir John St. John concerning his alleged oppression of Richard Richmond of Chaddington. Richard was a brother of Toby Richmond, freeholder of Chaddington: they were sons of John Richmond of Chaddington and his wife Susan, who was a daughter of William and Agnes Pleydell of Midgehall. Henry I. Richmond, *Richmond Family Records* (London, 1938) III, p. 20, quotes the Roll of Quarter Sessions at Devizes in 1616 in which reference is made to 'strife' between Sir John St. John and Richard Redmond so that it would appear that their differences continued for a long time. The right-hand comer and part of the left-hand margin is missing.

*Copia*

*To the right honourable my Lord Chann[...]  
the rest of the honourable Lord of his M[...]  
Councell*

*At the pittifull Complaint and earnest request of this our poore Neighbour Richard Richman we c[annot] but Commend him to your honours protection of whom unlesse he fmde some releife whereof we nothing doubt he is a man utterlie undone. May it please your honours to understand that this poore man beinge possessed of a certaine tenement andpremisses in Chaddenton in the County ofWiltes one Sir John. StJohnKn<sup>t</sup> and Barronet by uniustmeanes and by force and violence hath not only dispossessed him ofhis said Tenement and allhisgoodes therein to the utter undoeing of this poore man his wife and fourteene Children butallsoe oppressed him with manyaccions and suites which thispooreman by reason ofhis povertieisnotable to defend. And beinge not able to goe to law with soe myghtie and great an adversarie as like to loose his liveing and goodes unless your honours in favour of Justice stand his honourable Lordes. In witnesse whereof we have subscribed our names the xixth daie of November 1626*

*Simon Sloper*

*Francis Sherele*

*Edward Slade*

*Thomas Wheler*

*Hughe Bannton*

*Henry Bond*

*Constable*



Thomas Bull  
William Clerill  
Edmonnd Hirne

Henry La urence  
Thomas Nash  
John Morgan  
William Whitehead  
Richard Porte

Constable  
  
Churchwarden  
Churchwarden

[In the margin, in another hand]

[... ] my of the  
[... ] the Inhabitants  
[... ] which is 24 or 25  
[... ] from this tennement

[An endorsement on the back, in yet another hand: part of the text is veiy badly faded]

*This man cannot sweare that he is not worth v<sup>l</sup> for he hath xiiij or xv beastgs and horses  
beside other moveables of good value and he hath other landes worth Ten poundgs [per]  
Annum at the least as [... ] wilbe made  
There be also other defendants which are [... ] of good ability. Therefore no [... ] in  
any of them should be admytted [... ] in former [... ]*

- 20 A bill from an unnamed dressmaker, presumably in London, for the making of gowns, kilties, and coats. The date appears to be 1629. Sir John's first wife died on 19 September 1628, and he remarried on 23 October 1630. The dresses are for the first wife and for two of her children - Anne (bom November 1614) and Barbara (bom February 1618/19), and for Mrs Talbot. Apart from the familiar damask and silk, there is a wide variety of material - baize, coarse woollen stuff with a long nap; buffin, a coarse cloth; fustian, a coarse cloth made of cotton and flax so named as coming first from Fostat, a suburb of Cairo; galloon, narrow closely woven ribbon or braid, of gold, silver, or silk thread, used as trimming; grogram, a coarse fabric of silk, of mohair and wool or of these mixed with silk; robing, trimming in the form of bands or stripes; sarsenet, a very fine and soft silk material; and say, a cloth of fine texture.

*The Lady S' Johns of Lideard the 28 of March 1629*

<i>for Canvas stifling and whalbone for Mistress Ans</i>		
<i>grene and white flowered grogram goune</i>	2	6
<i>for fustyan to lyne the sieves and Clasps</i>		8
<i>for a yeard of Crimson and silver grogram</i>		
<i>for the same goune</i>	15	0
<i>for a norme and quarter of new silver lan[... ]</i>		
<i>for the bodis and sieves</i>	6	6
<i>for faring for the same goune</i>	1	0
<i>forsilke</i>		6
<i>for making Mistress Ans goune and white</i>		
<i>grogram goune</i>	5	0
<i>for Canvas stifning and whalbone for Mistress barbares</i>		
<i>goune and white rough grogram Cote</i>	1	0
<i>for fustyan to lyne the sieves</i>		6
<i>for silke for the fomier Cote</i>	1	3
<i>for making Mistress barbares [... ] grogram Cote</i>	3	0
<i>for dying your [... ] wescot of damask</i>	12	6
<i>for 2 ounces and halfe of silke</i>	5	10

for 3 kees and quarter of ash Culler sarsinet to lyne the hanging flowers and border of your goune and Certel	1	7	6
for fustyan for the hang[ ... ] and front of the goune and Certel		1	[...]
payd for Cuting and fy[... ] your goune and wescot [...]	...	...	...
for making your goune and Certel and [... ] of same flowered damaske		10	0
for Canvas stifling and whalbone for Mistress Ans grene bufen goune		2	6
for fustyan to lyne the sieves and Clasps			8
for bordering for the 2 Cotes		1	4
for making Mistress Ans grene bufen goune		5	0
for Canvas stifling and whalbone for Mistress barbares grene bufen Cote		1	6
for fustyan to lyne the [... ]			6
for making Mistress barbares grene bufen Cote		3	0
payd for 2peare [... ]		3	[...]
for 10peares to make Mistress talbote a goune at 2 <sup>s</sup> 4 <sup>d</sup> the yearde		1	4
for 3 ounces and quarter of?black and white galonne and silke		5	[...]
for Canvas stifling and whalbone	[...]	...	...
for fustyan to lyne the sieves & Clasps	[...]	...	...
for bordering for the suet	[...]	...	...
for making Mistress talbots goune of?black and white silke	[...]	...	...
for a hamper payd to a porter for Caring the things to the Canry[... ]	[...]	...	...
for 7 yeards and quarter of ash Culler bayes at 5 <sup>s</sup> the yearde for your goune and wascot	1	16	3
for stayes and stiflings for your bayes goune		5	0
for a forme 3 quarters of silke		4	0
[... ]fustyan to lyne the wascot		2	0
[... ]arter of a nell of tafate to lyne [... ] wascot and lyne the sieves		3	6
for saye to border the scert			9
for 3 yeards and quarter of 8 <sup>d</sup> Robin to border the goune before		2	2
for 3 yeards of[... ]for the scerts andsyses		1	0
payd for doaing the peses of the goune		2	6
for buttons for the hands and Clasps			6
for making your ash Culler bayes goune and wascot		16	0
for a box topai[ ...]oy in		1	0

The wholle sume is 12<sup>h</sup>

17<sup>s</sup> 5<sup>d</sup>

## 21 An account of money received and disbursed, March 1630

Money delivered untome by my master at his goeing to Sarum which was on Monday the 29. of March 1630 & since Received to his use as followeth &c

	li	s	d
Mar: 29 <u>Imprimis delivered</u> unto me by my <u>master</u> in his Closett	100	0	0
30 <u>Received</u> of <u>Roeer Spackman</u> dew uppon bond	16	0	0
<u>Received</u> then of <u>Edward Spackman</u> of <u>Chaddinston</u> for Rent then dew	3	10	0
Summeis	119	10	0

Money Laid out and paid from the time aforesaid as followed: &c

Mar: 30 <u>Imprimis paid</u> <u>Anthony Chamberlen</u> uppon presenting the assurance of <u>Toveys howse</u>	5	10	0
<u>paid</u> his wife upon the acknowledging of a fine theron	1	0	0
<u>paid</u> a footman for bringing a letter from Malbrough			6
<u>paid</u> a man for bringing a letter from Marston from Mr Tawbett			6
<u>paid</u> Robert Jacob for <u>Mistris Anne</u> gowne and all charges themnto belonging	3	19	4
<u>paid</u> him for a bible for <u>Mistris Lucy</u>		8	6
<u>paid</u> him for Childrens hattts	1	6	2
<u>paid</u> him for stufes for the Childrens clothes as by his bills sevsrallie of all their things as doth most plainly appear	4	12	6
Summeis	16	17	6
<u>Received in Total</u>	119	10	0
<u>Laid out in Total</u>	16	17	6
<u>Remainder</u> now dew	102	12	6

- 22 Eight of the twenty-two lines of an undated and unaddressed statement by John ?Rice, the remainder being so rubbed and dirty as to make them difficult to decipher. Lord Grandison died in December 1630.

*A monday being the 4<sup>th</sup> of September I [... ] with on blacke which was searvant to my Lord Grandson when he died [...] with him hee and I fell into discorse and in one talke and discorsing aboute disese [... ] my Lords dea th hee said [...] hee lost a good Lord and master ... ] day all fared the beater by his death: [ the remaining lines]*

*John ?Rice*

- 23 Abroadsheet, 14 1/4 x 11 1/4", printed in London for Thomas Lewes, 1642, is headed 'A Declaration, Or Resolution of the Countie of Hereford. It declares that the usurping of power by parliament portends 'symptomes of mine and destruction' in seeking to please the vulgar rabble of the nation, but that the king, happily preserved by God's great goodness, alone can preserve the Protestant religion (i.e. the Church of England) and protect the laws of the land and the liberty of subjects. It ends with, 'So we doe reciprocally declare that we conceive ourselves bound to maintaine him [the king]... with our Lives and Fortunes.' It is tempting to believe that Sir John obtained this copy and kept it as a declaration of his own convictions,

Sir Walter St John (d.1708), 3rd baronet

- 24 A receipt for transport to the wedding of Sir Henry Lee and Anne Danvers. For Sir Walter's links with the Lees of Ditchley, see *Report* 30, pp. 8-10.

May 1655

*Paid unto Cornelius Collines the sum of to pound ten shillines by your Cummand for  
Carring your worship to dichli to surHenneri leese weddin*

[In another hand]

April the 24

*Received in ful of this Bill by the handes of sur Waltar S' John the sum of 2<sup>l</sup> 10<sup>s</sup> I say  
Receved bymee Richard Smith*

- 25 A list, dated 1 January 1663. It is not possible to tell whether the items are 'gifts' to or from Sir Walter or even whether the list is simply a menu for 'New Year Gift Day'. On the reverse is 'Ne wye a re day gift in 1663''

*Newyeere day gifts 1 day 1663*

*24 Cop [=?couple] Cappons*

*24 Cop Pullutts*

*7 Geess*

*1 Calve*

*1 Sheep*

*1 Lamb*

*6 Cop Chicken*

*4 Turkeys*

*2 Cop Ducks*

*1 Chine Bacon*

*1 Cheess*

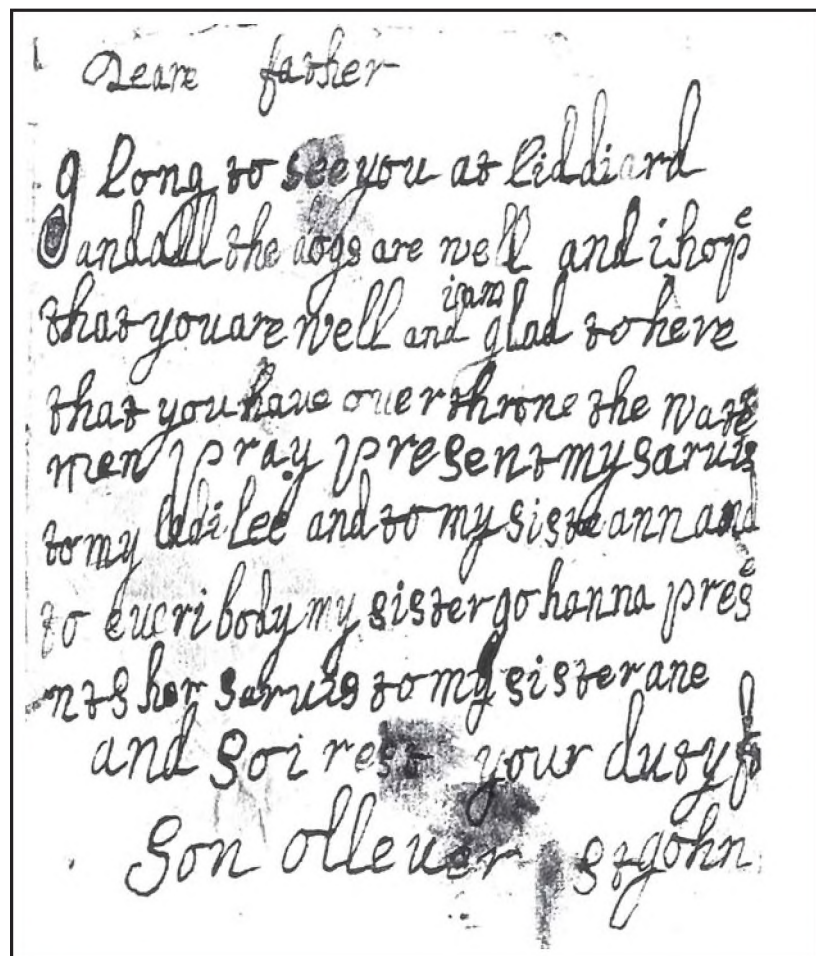
*10 Bushl Beans*

*3 Pecks Applls*

*5 Suger Loss*

*1 li [=libra, pound] Ppper*

*9 one Nuttmegs*



Dear father  
I Long to see you at Liddiard  
and all the way are well and i hope  
that you are well and glad to here  
that you have over thorne the wate  
men I pray present my saluts  
to my Lady Lee and to my sister Anne  
and to every body my sister go hanna pres  
ent her saluts to my sister Anne  
and so i rest your dutieff  
Son Oliver St John

Fig. 3 A letter from Oliver StJohn to his father.

- 26 An undated letter from Oliver St. John to his father, Sir Walter St. John. Oliver was baptised at Battersea on 6 January 1660/1 and died at Battersea in 1679. It would have been interesting to have been able to date this letter by the reference to 'lady Lee', but such is not possible. Lady Lee was Elizabeth, wife of Sir Hemy Lee, who died in 1667. By 1671 - when Oliver was eleven - Elizabeth had married Robert Bertie, Earl of Lindsey and Lord Great Chamberlain. On the reverse it is addressed 'For Sr Waltr S\* John this present'

*Dear fãther*

*I long to see you at liddiard and all the dogs are well and i hope that you are well and i am glad to here that you have overthroned the Watermen pray present my sarvis to my ladie Lee and to my sister ann and to everibody my sister johanna presents her sarvis to my sister ane  
and so i rest your duty ful  
son ollever St John*

- 27 Statement of tenancies. Undated. Richard Gorham died in 1670, but may have relinquished his tenancy before that. Johanna, daughter of Sir Walter's steward William Foot and his wife Susanna, married, about 1693, the Rev. Nathaniel Gower (d. 1726/7), vicar of Battersea. Foote Gower, one of their sons, was baptised at Battersea in December 1696, and his mother Johanna died in 1705. Sir Walter, in his will (1705/6), bequeathed £50 each to William and Susanna Foot and to his godson Foote Gower. The following statement will have been drawn up before 1693 and amended - to substitute the name of Foote Gower for that of his mother, after her death in 1705.

*John Pannell holdeth by Lease During his own, Susannah his Wife, & Elizabeth their Daughter for their Naturall Lives, one Messuage or tenement with the appurtenances & also one close or Meadow call 'd The home Close, & also one other close or pasture call 'd the Scales, with common of pasture thereunto belonging all lying in the parish of Lidiard Tregooze.*

*Thomas Hardyman Junior holdeth by Lease for his own, Sarah Hardyman & Mary Hardyman his Sisters, During their naturall Lives one ground hereto fore in the tenure of George Cleeter & Since in the tenure of Richard Goreham with all Commons & Common of pasture in Clintons Wood Chattertons Woods in the forest of Braydon*

*Will: Loot holdeth by Lease for his own, Susannah his Wife, & Johanna their daughter and Loot Gower their Grandson during their Naturall Lives, one Messuage or tenement Lying in Chadington within the Mannor of Bynoll formerly in the tenure of one Giles Perkins together with all orchards Gardens &c. to the said tenement belonging, & also those two closes of Meadow ground known by the Name of the home closes, & also four other closes of pasture or Meadow ground known by the name of the Breaches, one Mead ground a parcell of Cancourt farm, call'd Hunt Mead, & also one other close or now Inclosed plott of pasture ground Lying in Chadington feild, & all the other close of Meadow ground known by the name of Calve Mead, & also all Commons & Commons of pasture thereunto belonging.*

- 28 A valuation of lands in the hands of Sir Walter, his son, and his grandson possibly for assessment for Land Tax. The 'Trustees Lands' are probably related to the trust established by Sir Walter's father for the maintenance and repair of the St. John aisle and the monuments in the Lydiard Tregoze church. Sir Walter put his son Henry in possession of Lydiard when he married: the same seems to have happened when, in turn, Henry's son married. A Bargain is a small agricultural holding. The valuation is endorsed, 'The Valuation of the several Lands in Lydiard Trigoze & Lydiard Millicent for the year 1702', below which is drawn a face surmounted by a bishop's mitre.



*The particulars of S<sup>r</sup> Walter S<sup>t</sup> John, Hen: S<sup>t</sup> John Serf & Hen: S<sup>t</sup> John Jurf Escf<sup>s</sup> their Estates in Lydiard Tregooze & LydiardMillicent, in the Year 1702*

*Lands in the parish of Lydiard Tregooze*

	<u>per annum</u>		
<i>S<sup>r</sup> Walter S<sup>t</sup> John</i>			
<i>Lor the Woods &amp; Purlues</i>	100.	0.	0
<i>Lor the Trustees Lands</i>	9.	0.	0
<i>Lor part ofPra ters</i>	8.	0.	0
	<u>117.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Hen: S<sup>t</sup> John Serf Escf</i>			
<i>House Garden Park &amp; Underwoods</i>	50.	0.	0
<i>Gooses 9<sup>l</sup>' Church feild 9<sup>l</sup>' Ladys Mead and</i>			
<i>Horse Paddock 9<sup>l</sup>' Pannells feild 5<sup>l</sup>' Broad</i>			
<i>feild 8<sup>h</sup> Woolfords feild 5<sup>U</sup></i>	45.	0.	0
<i>Salters peice</i>	8.	0.	0
<i>Seymores Close &amp; Land</i>	4.	10.	0
<i>John Cliffords bargain since Lady day 1702</i>			
<i>51-10-0pr an: let before for 48<sup>h</sup></i>	51.	10.	0
<i>M<sup>rs</sup> Smiths bargain</i>	30.	0.	0
<i>Perkins Ground</i>	15.	0.	0
	<u>204.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Hen: S<sup>t</sup> John Jurf Escf</i>			
<i>Rich: Doare</i>	220.	0.	0
<i>Thomas Skull</i>	140.	0.	0
<i>Lydiard Marshes &amp; the homeward Shannells</i>	54.	0.	0
<i>Greendown &amp; the two farther Shannells</i>	100.	0.	0
<i>Windmilleaze</i>	100.	0.	0
<i>Pillacres Reeves close and Horse Paddock</i>	65.	0.	0
	<u>679.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0</u>

*Lands in the parish of Lydiard Millicent*

<i>S<sup>r</sup> W. S<sup>t</sup> John</i>			
<i>S<sup>r</sup> Walter S<sup>t</sup> John for his Woods</i>	21.	0.	0
<i>John Pannell for p<sup>t</sup> of Praters</i>	5.	0.	0
<i>John Hale</i>	2.	10.	0
<i>W<sup>m</sup> Templer</i>	3.	0.	0
	<u>31.</u>	<u>10.</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>H: S<sup>t</sup> John Serf Escf</i>			
<i>W<sup>m</sup> Edwards for Baylys farm &amp; Motleys</i>	125.	0.	0
<i>Tho: Try</i>	70.	0.	0
<i>Tho: Ayres</i>	11.	0.	0
<i>John Hale</i>	5.	0.	0
<i>Martins Hamm</i>	3.	0.	0
<i>Rob* Lyddall</i>	7.	0.	0
<i>Martins Hum</i>	9.	0.	0
	<u>230.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>H. S<sup>t</sup> John Jurf Escf</i>			
<i>Mundees bush &amp; Smiths Mead</i>	18.	0.	0

*Rich: Doars Cowleaze & Marsh belonging to*

<i>Eastleaze</i>	20.	0.	0
<i>Part of Wick bargain</i>	16.	0.	0
<i>M Jenner</i>	11.	0.	0
<i>W<sup>m</sup> Green</i>	13.	0.	0
	<hr/> 78.	<hr/> 0.	<hr/> 0

- 29 A rental of 1708. Sir Walter died probably on 3 July 1708: the following rental has four, later, marginal additions which appear here in square brackets after the corresponding entries. Thomas Fiy was buried at Lydiard Millicent on 7 March 1711/12.

*Rack Rent 1708*

<i>William Edwards at Shaw</i>	125.	0.	0
<i>Thomas Frye [Brian Buley]</i>	70.	0.	0
<i>John Smyth</i>	30.	0.	0
<i>Thomas Ayres</i>	11.	0.	0
<del><i>John Hylton for the LSK*W</i></del>	<del>5.</del>	<del>0.</del>	<del>0</del>
<i>Thomas Hardyman for Martins Ham</i>	3.	0.	0
<i>Rob* Lyddal Martins home feild</i>	7.	0.	0
<i>John Holliday for Rochells</i>	48.	0.	0
<i>Richard Munday for Brinsdens 8 half yard</i>			
<i>lands [Widdow Munday]</i>	13.	0.	0
<i>John Neat for the Dryefields</i>	46.	0.	0
<i>John Holliday for a feild late part of</i>			
<i>Gregorys Lease hold</i>	3.	10.	0
<i>Charles Heuse for Seymers Close &amp; lane</i>	4.	10.	0
<i>Widdow Sanders for Bynol Farm [Ambrose Sanders] 130.</i>		0.	0
<i>Tho Alexander for Bynol Parsonage</i>	140.	0.	0
<i>John Pannell for the home Purlues &amp; d:</i>			
<i>[J. Pannell for the Home Purlues 1 (J<sup>l</sup>:</i>			
<i>part of Praters 6<sup>h</sup>: the Monument lands</i>			
<i>/ 9<sup>l</sup>: the Purlues late Cifts 26<sup>u</sup></i>			
<i>per annum:]</i>	61.	0.	0
<i>Anthony Bristow for lands in Broad Hinton parish</i>	24.	0.	0
<i>Widdow Tayler late Rob<sup>l</sup> Tayler for lands in</i>			
<i>Broad hinton parish</i>	94.	5.	0
<i>Walt Shropshire Angell Inn in Marlburrow</i>	50.	0.	0
<i>John Hale for Goose Pool at Shaw and Common Close 7.</i>		10.	0
<i>Will Templer by the Park side</i>	3.	0.	0
<i>Thomas Hardyman for 3 Acres in Broad Hinton</i>			
<i>called Bellarets</i>	3.	0.	0
<i>John Skinner</i>	6.	0.	0
<i>John Bristow for Honey hill</i>	18.	0.	0
	<hr/> 897.	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 0
<i>Freehold Rents</i>	1.	5	4
<i>Composition Tyth Payable to the Rectory of Bynol</i>	2.	0.	0
	<hr/> 3.	<hr/> 5.	<hr/> 4
<i>Quit Rents payable yearly of Coppy and Leasehold</i>	24.	10.	10
	<hr/> 27.	<hr/> 16.	<hr/> 3

Henry (d.1742), 1st Viscount St John

- 30 An undated love letter from Lady Maiy Rich, first wife of Henry St.John. Mary was one of the daughters and coheirs of Robert Rich, 3rd Earl of Warwick. Hemy courted her from the Summer of 1673, and they were married on 11 December of that year. She died, aged twenty-seven, on 18 September 1678 at Lydiard T regoze, having given birth to her only child who survived infancy. The child was the future statesman, Viscount Bolingbroke. The letter can be assigned to 1673, between Summer and December.

*Deare sweet hart*

*you had heard from me long ere this but that I could not devise how to send to you, but this gentelman comming offten hether offred me the favour of sending a letter to you wich must tell you my affection to you is more then heer can be expressed as strong as ever wch I beseech you to believe never to receive the least chang, I have bin veryil ever since my coming to the contry or els if I could possible I wold have seeneyou all thoug we are farther asunder then I hoped we could have bin but howsoever my hart is with youandforsuch ever time we were you ?wch was your most faith full till death Ma Rich*

Henry (d.1751), 1st Viscount Bolingbroke

Receipts for one year's Land Tax payments on land in Lydiard Tregoze and Lydiard Millicent, totalling £50.12.6d, which is noted on the reverse of the first receipt. Also on the reverse of that receipt is a list of amounts, beside which is written 'Tyth'. The amounts are: £100, £15. 18. Od, £19. 19. Od, £15. 6. 4d, £2. 14. Od, and £51.0. 6d, which amount in total to £204. 17. 1Od.

- 31 *October the 6th 1739*

*Reed: of Peter Dore the Sume oftwo pounds seventeen Shillings and Nine pence in full for half a years Land tax for Lands in Lidyard Millisant that are the Lord Bullingbrocks due at Michealmas last past*

*£2:17:9*

*per me William Edwards*

- 32 *October the 6th 1739*

*Reced of Peter Dore the Sume of twenty two pounds Eight Shillings and Six pence in full for half a years Land tax for Lands in Lidyard Tregooze that are the Lord Bullingbrocks due at Michealmas last past*

*£22: 8: 6*

*per me Richard Rudler*

- 33 *March the 28th 1740*

*Reced: of Peter Dore the Sum oftwo pounds Seventeen Shillings and nine pence in full for half years Land tax for Lands in Liddyard Millisant that is the Lord Bullingbrocks due at Lady day last past*

*£2:17:9*

*by me William Edwards*

- 34 *March the 28th 1740*

*Reed: of Peter Dore the Sum of twenty two pounds Eight Shillings and Six pence in full for half a years Land tax for Lands in Liddyard Tregooze that is the Lord Bullingbrocks due to Lady day last past*

*£22: 8: 6*

*by me Richard Rudler*

Hon. John St John (d.1748), 2nd Viscount St John (1742)

- 35 A letter from Robert Loftie, John's agent in Kent, with a schedule of repairs. (See, *Report* 29, pp. 62-63.) Addressed 'To The Hon<sup>ble</sup> John S<sup>r</sup> John Escf at his House in Audley Street near Grosvenor Square London.' Added to this transcription is a list of arrears of rent of roughly the same date, in another hand.

*Honoured S<sup>r</sup>*

*I rec<sup>ed</sup> Yours of the 26 Felf<sup>h</sup> and have set a price on the Wood & sent to M Pilcher it is more than could be expected was not the office at Dovor open.*

*As to the Que. in yours of the 27 of Jaif<sup>h</sup>*

1 *Hamets Rent for Cocklescomb is but O<sup>l</sup>'a Year. The l<sup>h</sup> 10<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup> is a Quitt Rent payable to the Mannor of Cocklescomb and not left to him*

2 *Thos. Mount is Tenant to the 11: Acres at Finglesham. No Lease.*

3 *Sims left Hocklings Mich. 1739 and it stood empty a Year but Wike left it to Atkins from Michaelmas 1740. No Lease*

4 *John Perkins of Sarr had a Lease for 21. Years from Mich. 1723. He is dead and his Widow married to John Cork.*

*Jacob Windeet of Court Lees agreed with M Paramor for 7. Years which ends Mich. 1742 but has no Lease. He leaves it at Mich. 1742.*

5 *The Timber is not sold at Whitstable. About the Time Wike was selling it the Lord Warden laid a Claim & the Carpenter was forced to buy elsewhere*

6 *I am proposing Contracts for Allen & Pilcher*

*The Ash & Elm Trees at Swanton are sold to pilcher of Dovor and are to be measured this Week*

*Wike sold some Oak Timber at Pouces Farm to Dennand Shooler at 2<sup>h</sup> 12<sup>s</sup> 6 a Tun 27 Tun of which was felled last Spring and Wike rec<sup>ed</sup> 40<sup>l</sup>' on Account and told them he had your Consent to discharge them from their Contract as to what is not felled I have rec<sup>ed</sup> Some Money of them on Account. I must beg your Speedy Answer whether you will discharge them from what is Standing if not the Timber must be taken down directly and Allen thinks they will loose near 10<sup>s</sup> a Tun by that now Standing as well as by what is felled which is about halfe the Trees.*

*I have inclosed a particular of what Repairs are absolutely necessary and which the Sooner they are done the better for several are expected to fall and the rest will receive much more Damage.*

*I have collected M Fumeses thirdpart as well as Yours of all could and have sent Mesks Knight & Jackson to the amount of 389<sup>l</sup>' which is much about what I have rec<sup>d</sup> for You lam*

*S<sup>r</sup> Your most obedient humble Serv<sup>t</sup>*

*New Romney March 4<sup>th</sup> 1740*

*Rob<sup>t</sup> Loftie*

[John St. John has drafted an answer:]

*Contract w<sup>\*</sup> Denn for Wood comes to 70<sup>l</sup> of w<sup>cb</sup> Wike has received 40 remains 30:17:6 L<sup>d</sup> Rock<sup>m</sup> to pay me the 2 yrs due on Malmains farm.*

*I w<sup>d</sup> have the rest of the trees on Poucis cuttin Case what Wi<sup>k</sup> said was true that they are past their prime.*

*all Repairs to be done Out of hand make the best Contract you Can W<sup>h</sup> the Workmen.*

*Ill see them in May. Employ Staple & pettman the latter was reckon 'd the Cheapest but Staple must work as cheap.*

*Pray getta Good Tenant for Court Lees if Jac: Windeet leaves it. IW<sup>l</sup> have Leases in all the farms.*

[The Schedule of Repairs]

*Pouces Farm Step: Garret Tenant. The pidgeon House must be new tiled or it will fall.*

*Manson Court Jeffery Peart Tenant. About Eight Square must be now tiled a Stack of Chimneys must be pulled down & new built there must be a new Wheel to the Well one of the porches to the Bam must be new done*

*Thoum Fami John Kirby Tenant two Sides of the Pidgeon House Wall must be very soon taken down & rebuilt the Wall at the Head of the House must be soon taken down & rebuilt the Kitchen wants new paving there must be a new Oven there must be about 8 Square of one of the Stables new thatched*

*N.B. After these Things are done Kirby is to find Repairs*

*SarrStep: Colmer Tenant there must be about 11 Deal Boards of 14 foot long to board the Bam there must be two new Windows Some of the Rafters of the House are broakeso that some of the Tiling which is very badd must be taken off&new done*

*Lime Kiln perkins Ten\*. Tenant finds Repairs*

*Supperton Fami Rob\* & W''' Beak there must be a new fore door two sides of the Granary must be new tiled the podder House must be new boarded about 14 pannell of paling Fence must be new*

*WallendFamie Will<sup>m</sup> Dobson Tenant The podder House is quite down but a less may do there must be 2 or 3 new Gates there must be about 5<sup>h</sup> worth of Chalk & piles bought to repair the Sea Wall.*

*Ellenden Famie Edw<sup>d</sup> Dadd late Fox Tenant The underpinning of the Bam must be new done The End of the Stable must be new boarded Several Joists & some Sell at the House Some part of the House must be new tiled there must be a new little House or necessary House*

*Ham Famie Edw<sup>d</sup> Bunce Tenant One Side of the Outhouse must be new boarded one Head of the small Messuage must be new weather boarded*

*Little Bottshanger Famie Daniel Golder Tenant. There must be about 19 Square new tiled there must be about 500 Bricks to repair a Wall the Oven must be new crowned there must be a new Stable and a new Bams porch*

*Sutton Courte Famie Robert Finnis Ten\*. there must be 6 or 7 Square new thatched Some Rafter & a false Reason to the Bame*

*N.B. When this is doing it will be of great Service & but little Expence to lengthen the Porch*

*Long Lane Famie John Belsey The best Way will be to brick the Front up to the Reason*

*N.B. There are but tweo lodging Chambers & the Tenant begs the Buttery may be boarded & a small Chimney run up and a Buttery and made into a lodging Room Coved down to answer the other Cove This new Addition will cost 7\*' or 8\*' at most*

*Lyddon CourtFamiePeterHamet Tenant There must be two new Bams Doors and new Eves Boards at the Bam There must be two new Gates and 300 or 400pales about the Closes*

*Cocklescomb Famie Peter Hamet Tenant The Bam must be new boarded at one Side*

*The Warren Famie Peter Hamet Tenant There wants some new Rafters to the Cove of the Bam*

*Goddings Famie John Watson Tenant The Stable is fallen down & must be new built The Bam wants a great deal of repairing*

*Swanton Famie John Weston Tenant Most part of the Roof is expected to fall almost every Day and must be taken off & new Rafters and Wallplates*



*The Bams want a good deal of underpinning & boarding and some new Sells  
& puncheons*

*Chalksole Famie Rich<sup>d</sup> Badcock Tenant Several Rafters are broke that the Roof must  
be taken off & new thatched Part of the Granary must be covered with Slit  
Deals it will want a Quarter of an Fiundred of whole Deals The Bam wants a  
good deal of new underpinning*

- 36 Details of arrears of rent to Michaelmas 1740, in another, more copperplate, style. Note: the arrears are entered in a third column as, 'When he has paid £.. he will have cleared to Michaelmas 1740' and repeated in a final column as figures. The third column entries have been omitted in this transcription

<i>Names of theFamis</i>	<i>Tenants Names</i>	<i>Their Arrears</i>		
<i>Poucis</i>	<i>Stephen Garrett</i>	96.	10.	<i>hep<sup>d</sup> Wike 73. 10. 0</i>
		100.	0.	0
<i>Thom</i>	<i>Kirby</i>	61.	8.	0
<i>Manson Court</i>	<i>JefferyFort</i>	62.	5.	0
<i>Sarr</i>	<i>Stephen Bulmer</i>	51.	12.	9
<i>Sarr Lime Kiln</i>	<i>Perkins</i>	5.	0.	0
<i>Superton</i>	<i>Rob<sup>f</sup> &amp; Wilt<sup>l1</sup> Beak</i>	67.	0.	0
<i>Wallend</i>	<i>Dobson</i>	80.	0.	0
<i>Cocklescomb</i>	<i>PeterHamett</i>	30.	0.	0
<i>Lidden Rec<sup>tr</sup></i>	<i>PeterHamett</i>	85.	0.	0
<i>Geddings</i>	<i>Jrf Weston late Kirby</i>	14.	0.	0
<i>Swanton</i>	<i>John Weston</i>	65.	0.	0
<i>Chalkshole</i>	<i>R Badcock</i>	15.	0.	0
<i>A field called</i>				
<i>Woodland</i>	<i>John Stupple</i>	10.	0.	0
<i>St Anns</i>	<i>Tevelain</i>	<i>paid</i>		
<i>Court Lee</i>	<i>Whittil</i>	22.	10.	0
<i>Ellenden</i>	<i>JDadd</i>	19.	10.	0
<i>Ham</i>	<i>Bunce</i>	<i>paid</i>		
<i>Hicklings</i>	<i>J Sims paid to Mich 1739</i>			
	<i>Atkins</i>	10.	0.	0 [No Lease]
<i>11 Acres in Tingleson</i>				
	<i>Tho Mount</i>	3.	15.	0 [No Lease]
<i>Li ttleBotsinger</i>	<i>Golder</i>	42.	10.	0
<i>Sutton Court</i>	<i>Rob<sup>f</sup> Finnis</i>	32.	10.	0
<i>Long Lane</i>	<i>Balsey</i>	25.	0.	0
<i>2 Closes in Guston</i>	<i>Thos Eastes</i>	4.	10.	0 (two years)
		807.	0.	9

*MalmainField Wm Kingsford Tenant Mr Walker Steward to the Earl of  
Rockingham destrained for his Lordships Rent but has stopped this Rent which he  
thinks is two years. Mi 1740 at 1.10.0 a Year, it is now lett to the Earl of Rockingham  
Wheatstable Quit Rent paid  
Wheatstable Fishery 23 Boats & 8 of the 2<sup>sh</sup> Tenants have paid to August 1740*

*Menf<sup>lS</sup> from M Loftys Letter*

*Eiametts Rent for Cocklescomb is but 50£ a Year. The 1.10. 6 is a Quit Rent payable  
to the Mannor of Cocklescomb & not let to him.*

*John Perkins of Sarr had a Lease for 21 Years from Mich 1723 he is dead & his Widow married to John Cork.*

*Jacob Winddeet of Court Lees agreed with M Paramer for 7 Years which ends Michmas 1742 but has no Lease he leaves it at Michmas 1742.*

*The Timber is not sold at Whitstable. about the Time Wike was selling it the Lord Warden laid a Claim & the Carpenter was forced to buy else where*

*The Ash & Elm Trees at Swanton are sold to Pilcher of Dover and are to be measured this Week.*

A series of receipts

- 37     *March the 22th: 1739:40*  
*Reed of Thomas Pinnill the Sume of one shilling Being in full for one years Quit Rent for Esqr Saint Johns Estate in Brinkworth*  
*Due at Michelmas Last past*  
*for the Youse of the Earl of Barkshir*  
*Reed By me Abraham Clarke*
- 38     *March the 28th: 1739:40*  
*then Reed of Thomas Pinnill for Esq Singons a teat the half Landtax dew to o Ladey*  
*day Last past to pound thirteen Shillings and to pence halpenny*  
*Reed By me Thomas Pinnill*  
*Colector*
- 39     *Reed Aprill the 3 th: 1740 of Richard Lea the sum of onepound five Shillings for the Cart house Reed by me Thomas Pinnill*
- 40     *1 Th June 1740 Reced of the Honoble Jo" S' John Esq<sup>f</sup> (by Adam Tuck) one poors Rate of Six pence in the pound for Westend & darters Eighteen shillings & 6<sup>d</sup> More for Hargrove Ten shillings & 6<sup>d</sup> More for part of Clarks Two shillings & Four pence more for Markmead Three shillings & 4<sup>d</sup> & more for West feild Close Four shillings & 8<sup>d</sup>: all which s<sup>d</sup> sums are in full for the first Collection for the poor in Brinkworth for the year 1740. I say reced by me £2:5:4*  

*John Fry*  
*Overseer*
- 41     *1<sup>st</sup> of July 1740 Received of the Honble John S' John Esq<sup>f</sup> (by M Adam Tuck) Nine Shillings and Two pence for the Land tax charged on Glazelds One pound Eight Shillings and a penny for Westend and Darters. Fifteen Shillings and Eleven pence halpenny for Hargrove all w<sup>th</sup> Said Sums is in full for one quarter of a years Land tax due at Midsummer last for the Estates late occupied by Thomas Pinnell.*  
*at the same time more Five shillings and one penny for Markmead Seven Shillings and one penny for West feild Close and for the Messuage & c part of Clarks Three Shillings and Eightpence all which said Sums are in full for one quarter of a year Land tax for the house & Lands lately occupied by Thomas Lea and due at Midsummer last I say received by me*  

*John Smith Collector*
- 42     *8 July 1740 Reced of the Honoble John S' John Esq<sup>f</sup> (by Adam Tuck) Six Shillings & three Pence in full for one quarter of a years Land Tax for the Close lying in Little Somerford part of Tho<sup>s</sup> Lea 's due at Midsomer last I say reced by me*  

*Thomas Tilton*

43      14 July 1740 Reced of The Hono<sup>ble</sup> John S' John Escf (by Adam Tuck) for Westend & Darters Twelve shillings & 4<sup>d</sup> for Hargrove Seven shillings for Glazelands four shillings forpart ofClarks one shilling forMarkemead Two shillings & 2<sup>dl</sup>/ for Westfeild Three shillings & 1<sup>d</sup>A all which Sums amount in the whole to the Sum onepoundNine shillings & 8<sup>d</sup>:&isin full for one Rate to the Highways at Brinkworth at Eight pence in the pound I say reced by me Robt Stratton

44      16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1740Reced ofthe Hono<sup>ble</sup> JohnS' John Escf (by Adam Tuck) one poor's Rate for the Lands lately occuppyed by Tho:pinnell Westend & Darley for 2 Hargroves and for Glazelands one pound and fifteen shillings And for the Bargain lately occuppyed by Lea called part of Clarks forMarkemead & Westfeild Close Ten shillings & 4<sup>d</sup> I say reced in full for one poors Rate for the poor of Brinkworth

Joseph fry

	£	s	d
pinnells			
Westend & Darters		18	6
2 Hargroves		10	6
Glazelands		6	0
	1	15	0
Leas			
Part of Clarks		2	4
Markmead		3	4
Westfeild Close-		4	8
		10	4
	1	15	0
	2	5	4

45      11<sup>th</sup> Octob: 1740 Reced of The Hono<sup>ble</sup> S' John Escf (by Adam Tuck) Six shillings & 3<sup>d</sup> in full for one Quarterly pay to the Land Tax for part of Leas Farm due at Mich, last 1740I say reced by me Thomas Tilton

46      11<sup>th</sup> October 1740 Reced of The Hono<sup>ble</sup> John S' John Escf (by Adam Tuck) Nine shillings & 2<sup>d</sup> for Glazelands for Westend and Darters one pound Eight shillings & 1<sup>d</sup> for Hargrove fifteen shillings 11<sup>d</sup>A [Moons in margin] forMarkemead five shillings & 1<sup>d</sup> for Westfeild Close seven shillings & i<sup>d</sup> & for part of Clarks Three shillings & 8<sup>d</sup> all which s<sup>d</sup> severall Sums are in full for one Quarter of a y's Land Tax due at Michaelmas last

I say reced by me John Smith

	£	s	d
latePinnells			
GlazeLands		9	2
Westend & Darters	1	8	1
Hargrove		15	11A
Lea 's or late Moons			
Markemead		5	1
Westfeild Close		7	1
part of Clarks		3	8
	3	9	0A

47 3<sup>d</sup> Rate.

2<sup>d</sup> Dec. 1740 Reced of the Hono<sup>b,e</sup> John S' John Escf. (by Adam Tuck) for one poors Rate for late pinnell & Moons for Westend & Darters Eight shillings & 6<sup>d</sup>: for Hargrove Ten shillings & 6<sup>d</sup> for Glazlands six shillings for part of Clarks Two shillings & 4<sup>d</sup> for Markemead Three shillings & 4<sup>d</sup> for Westfeild Close four shillings & 8<sup>d</sup>: which in the whole amounts to the Sum of Two pounds five shillings & 4<sup>d</sup>. I say reced by me

W<sup>m</sup> Fry

48 Escf St John for Glazlands		9	2
for Westend & darters	1	8	1
for JJargrove		15	lPA
for Markemead		5	1
for Westfield Close		7	1
for part of Clarks		3	8
		<hr/>	
	3	9	OV <sub>2</sub>

3<sup>d</sup> January 1740 Reced of the Honble Jo<sup>l</sup> S' John Escf (by Adam Tuck) the above Sum of Three pounds Nine shillings & Vi in full for one Quarter Land Tax for late pinnells & Lea 's due at S' Thcf day last I say reced by me

John Smith Collec<sup>f</sup>

49 January 3<sup>d</sup> 1740 Received of Mr Tuck the Sum of two Shillings for four Rates to the high ways, for the Estate of the JJonourable John S' John Equire in the Parish of Little Somerford, received by me John Sloper

50 24<sup>th</sup> Feb: 1740 Reed of the Elono<sup>hlc</sup> John' John (by Adam Tuck) one poors Rate for the Lands late pinnells one pound & 15<sup>s</sup>: & for late Lea 's Ten shillings & 4<sup>d</sup> I say reed by me

Joseph Fry

	£	s	d
Late pinnells			
West end & Darters		18	6
Hargrove		10	6
GlazeLands		6	
		<hr/>	
	1	15	0
Late Lea's			
part of Clarks		2	4
Westfeild Close		4	8
Markemead		3	4
		<hr/>	
		10	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	1	15	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	2	5	4

51 Esqr St John for Glazlands		9	2
for Westend and Darters	1	8	1
for Hargrove		15	lPA
for Markemead		5	1
for Westfield Close		7	1
for part of Clarks		3	8
		<hr/>	
	3	9	OV <sub>2</sub>

March the 31:1741

Reced Then of Mr Tuck the Sume of Three pound nine Shillens and hapanny for a  
Quarter Land Tax due att a Lady Day Last past for Esqr St.John Estates  
by me

John Smith  
Colecter

52 The Honourable Mr S' John for Tythes for the Year 1740

For West End & Darters late in the  
Occupation of Tho: Pinnell

4 0 0

For Westfield, Markmead & Clarkes  
late in the Occupation of Tho: Lea

1 10 0  
~5To d~

Apf T<sup>h</sup> 1741 Reed of Mr Tuck The above Sum of five Pounds & ten shillings in full  
for the Honourable Mr S'Johns Tythes to Lady day last past by me

Will<sup>m</sup> Thornton

53 May the 4 1741

Then Reed of Mr Tuck the sum of tweve Shillings and Six pens for half a years Land  
tax duatt Lady day last for a Easteat a Littel Somerford by mee

Thomas Tilton  
Collecklar

54 ?1 IthMay 1741 Reced of the Honcfble John S' John Esq' (by Adam Tuck) the Sum of  
Six Shillings in full for twelve Rates for the use of the poor of Little Somerford for the  
year 17401 say reced by mee

Humphery Spenser  
Overseer

55 A letter from Philip Worlidge, presumably a lawyer, who was a witness of the will (1765)  
of Frederick, 2nd Viscount Bolingbroke.

Sir

I rec<sup>l</sup> theHoif of Yours ofthe27<sup>h</sup> of July, and according to Your Commands, have got  
an Assignin' of the Annuity Orders, and also of the Mortgages, duly executed by M  
Wike, in Your name; and have since carried the Orders to the Exchequer to have them  
Registered, where I got the enclosed Letter of Attorney Impowering me to receive the  
Interest due thereon; which I may do at any time after the Letter of Attorney is executed,  
which You will please do, (firstputting in the date) in the presence of two persons, and  
let them Subscribe their names as Witnesses thereto.

My Uncle has rec<sup>l</sup> of Bill from Sir Tho<sup>s</sup> Mostyn, dated the 25<sup>th</sup> July, payable at twenty  
eight days after date for £300, which Sr Tho<sup>s</sup> says was the Shortest date, and the most  
he then W<sup>l</sup> get any Bill for; but was in hopes in a post or two, to get another to make up  
thereof of Your halfyears Interest, and then my Uncle will send You a Rec' to sign for  
the Interest, and take Your directions how You will please to have the Mony Applied.  
I shall punctually observe Your Orders relating to M Wood, and Your Affairs at  
Battersea, and in whatever else You shall please to give me direction.

In Your last You was pleased to Order that the Annnuity Orders, after the Interest was  
rec<sup>l</sup> sho<sup>d</sup> be delivered to Miss Soames, but without Saying whether I sh<sup>d</sup> pay her the  
Interest, or carry it to Ace\* my self.



*I beg leave to offer a tender of my Compliments to Mrs S<sup>t</sup> John & Your self and am W<sup>th</sup> great respect Sir*

*4 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1741*

*Your Faithful and  
most Obed Servant  
Philip Worlidge*

56 A letter from William Jones

**St**

*Mrs Jones is much concerned that she cannot at this Time wait on Mrs S<sup>t</sup> John but She is now grown so big, & so near her Time, that the Midwife thinks it is not safe for Her to undertake so long a Journey; She therefore hopes that Mrs S<sup>t</sup> John will be so good as to excuse her, till another Opportunity.*

*As for my self, I am engaged the most part of next Week & Mrs Jones being alone, I shall leave Her as little as I can, but if I can conveniently, will wait on You before the Summer is over: should I not, I must trust to your good Nature, Sir, to forgive*

*Your Obedient  
Humble Servant*

*Mrs Jones joins with me  
in Compliments to Yourself  
& Mrs S<sup>t</sup> John.  
Aug: 8 1741*

*Will: Jones*

57 An order from Robert Long

*Wiltsto Wit} To All Constables Tythingmen & Other his Majestys Officers of the peace  
for the said County*

*Whereas Complaint has been made to me that the Woods & Coppices of the Rt Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Ld Viscount St John have been lately Cut and destroyed, these are therefore in his Majestys Name to require you forthwith to enter into and search the houses, outhouses & other places within your district, of all & Every person or persons whom you shall justly suspect or be informed to have Cut or Stolen the same & where you can find any such wood; W<sup>th</sup> the person in whose house you shall find it, cannot give a sufficient account how they came by the same to Apprehend the said person & bring him before me, or some Other of his Majestys Justices of the peace for the said County to answer the premisses Hereof fail not aty peril. Given under my hand & seal the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 1742*

*Rob\* Long*

[Arms on seal - a lion rampant between seven cross crosslets]

## THE WILL OF NICHOLAS ST.JOHN (d.1589)

Transcribed by F.T. Smallwood, with an editorial introduction

*Report* 12 (1979) included the transcription of the text of the will of Sir John St.John (d. 1594), kt. The hope was expressed at the time that transcriptions of the wills that were made by other heads of the family would be included from time to time. A summary of the will of George Richard (d. 1824), 3rd Viscount Bolingbroke, appeared in *Report* 22 (1989). The text of the wills of Henry (d.1742), 1st Viscount St.John, and John (d. 1748), 2nd Viscount St.John, appeared in *Report* 33 (2000). To accompany the transcription of the letters elsewhere in this *Report*, it seemed appropriate to include Nicholas' will in this issue.

There are two versions, with differences in spelling, of the will at the Public Record Office: the original will (PCC Drury 3) and an office copy (PROB 11/75). The office copy is the one that Mr Smallwood transcribed. In the original will Nicholas had written that the date (1589) was in the twenty-first year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In this he erred, for 1589 was in the thirty-first year. When the office clerk made his copy he realised the mistake and left a blank.

A will deals with disposable property as distinct from entailed property. Parts of early wills are tedious in the extreme as every eventuality is covered in ensuring their provisions. Other parts are of greater interest. The preamble often contains a statement of belief on the part of the testator. These credal statements have to be read with care, for they could express the convictions of the testator or they may have been copied from a will copy book or from the will of a previous member of the family. Information may be gained from wills about family members, the names of servants, items of furniture and other possessions, and, in Nicholas's will, the evidence that the hall was already divided into two floors by his time, with rooms over the hall.

Nicholas St.John married Elizabeth Blount, a daughter of Sir Richard Blount of Mapledurham. She predeceased him, on 11 August 1587, as did a son Michael, who is recorded on a monument at Purley as having been buried there. Nicholas died on 8 November 1589. Three sons survived him - Sir John St.John (d. 1594) his heir, Oliver (d. 1630) who was created Viscount Grandison, and Richard - as did five daughters.

The eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married Richard St.George (d. 1634, aged eighty and more) of Hatley St.George, Cambridgeshire. Knighted in 1616, Sir Richard was the first of three generations of heralds. He himself was successively Norroy and Clarenceux King of Arms, and as such, in person or by deputy, conducted Visitations in London and in nineteen counties. He compiled a presentation volume for the first Earl of Bolingbroke and one for his brother-in-law when he was created Viscount Grandison. He assisted his nephew, Sir John, with verses and heraldic and genealogical information for the polyptych (1615) in St.Mary's church. His son, Sir Henry St.George (1581-1644) became a member of the College of Arms in 1610 and was successively Richmond Herald, Norroy and Garter King of Arms. Three grandsons of Sir Richard were, Sir Thomas St.George (1615-1703) successively Somerset Herald, and Norroy and Garter King of Arms, Sir Henry St.George (1625-1715) successively Richmond Herald, and Norroy, Clarenceux, and Garter King of Arms, and Richard St.George who was Ulster King of Arms.

The second daughter, Catherine, married Edmund Richmond-Webb (d. 1621) of Rodbourne Cheney, Wiltshire. A grandson or great-grandson of theirs was the Colonel Edmund Richmond-Webb who was arrested with Henry St.John, later created 1st Viscount St.John, in connection with the murder of Sir William Estcourt in 1684.

-Eleanor, the third daughter, married Sir Thomas Cave of Stanford-on-Avon, Northamptonshire. The fourth was Dorothy who married, in 1590, George Egiock of Salford Prior, Warwickshire. The youngest daughter, Jane (d. 1608), married Robert Nicholas (d. 1602): a son of theirs, Sir Oliver, was cupbearer to James I and a daughter Catherine married Sir Thomas Brodrick (d. 1641/2) of Wandsworth, Surrey, in 1622. Sir Walter and Lady Johanna entertained the widowed Lady Brodrick and her son Sir Allen Brodrick more than once in the 1660s at Battersea, serving venison from Lydiard Park. After the death of her first husband, Jane married, in 1607, her second cousin once removed, 'Black' Oliver St. John (d.c. 1625) of Lambeth, Winchelsea, Marlborough, and Lydiard Millicent.

The text of the will

*In the name of god: amen the First Daye of November in the yere of oure Lorde god a thowsand Five hundred Eightie and Nyne and in the yere of the Raigne of our soveraigne Ladie Elizabethe by the grace of god of England France and Ireland Quene Deffender of the Faithe &c I Nicholas S' John of Lydiard Tregose in the countie of Wiltgs Esquyer beinge of good and perfect memorye allthoug at this present by the grace of god touched with a Danngerous disseasse for the which I yelde to hym moste humble thanks for his gracious visitacion Do nowe ordeyne and make this my laste will and testamente in manner and forme followinge and herein and by theise do utterlie revoke and make frustrate all and any other will whatsoever heretofore by me made Firste I bequeathe to Christe Jesus my only Savioure my synnefull Soule to be receyved into the holie companie of his Electe as he that trusteth by the meritgs of his precious blood only to be saved and by no other meanes whatsoever my bodie to the earthe from whence it came to be buried by the Discretion of my Executor hereafter named with as little pompe as may be wherein I woulde have a Funerall Sermon and Allmes to be given to the poore. Item I give and bequeathe to the poore of the parishe of Lydiard Tregose Fortie shillinges. Item I give and bequeathe to the poore of the parishe of Purley other Fortie shilling's bothe which Sommes to be bestowed by the Discretion of myne Executor. Item I give and bequeathe to my Sonne Oliver S' John one Annuitie or yerelie Rente of Fortie poundes of law full money of England to be yssuinge and goinge out of all my Messuages Landes tenementes and hereditaments set lyinge and beinge in Bincknell alias Bynell Cotmershe and Chaddington in the said countie of Wiltes or in either of them. To have and houlde the saied Annuitie or yerelie rent of Fortie poundes unto hym the saied Oliver and to his assignes for and Duringe his naturall life to be payed at Fower Feastes of the yere that is to saye at the Feaste of the birthe of oure Lord god the Feaste of thannunciacion of our Ladie the virgin the Feaste of the Nativitie of Saincte John the Baptiste and Feaste of S' Michaell tharchangell or within xxviiij Dayes next after every of the saied Feastgs by even and equall portions The firste payment thereof to begine to be made within xxviiij Dayes next after that Feaste of the saied Feastes which shall next happen after my Deceasse. Item I give and bequeathe my said Mannor of Bincknell alias Bynell with the appurtenances unto my sonne John S' John to hym and his heyers for ever uppon condition that if my saied Sonne John S' John or his heyers shall not to the true meaning aforesaid of this my laste will well and truly satisfye and paye unto my saied Sonne Oliver Seint John Duringe his naturall life the sayed Annuitie or yerelie payment at every the saied Feastes aforesaid or within xxviiij daies after everie of the saied Feastes aforesaide in manner and forme as is aforesayed that the same is payable at or in the mansion house of the saied Mannor of Bincknell alias Bynell. That then and from thence fourthe alter any suche Defaulte of paymente the state and intereste before Lymited to the said John S' John shall utterly ceasse and be voide. And that then the saied Mannor with the appurtenances shalbe to the saied Oliver and his heyers for ever Provided neverthelesse that if the saied John S' John or his heyers shall at the end of twoe whole yeres next after suche Defaulte of paymente of the saied Annuitie or any parte therof accomptinge three hundred three score and Fyve dayes to the yere paye or cause*

to be payed unto my saied Sonne Oliver the sayed Somme of Sixe hundred poundes of good and lawfull money of England at or in the mansion house of the saied Mannor of Byncknell alias Bynell. That then and from thenceforth the sayed Mannor with thappurtenances shalbe to the saied John S' John and to his heyers for ever Provided allso further that if at any tyme in the life of the sayed Oliver and Duringe the minority or Nonage of any heyer of the saied Nicholas or of any heyers heire of the said Nicholas or of any heyer of the saied Mannor of Lydeard Tregose the saied Annuities shalbe come behinde and unpaid as that the saied Mannor of Byncknell alias Bynell shalbe come forfeited unto the saied Oliver and his heyers by vertue of the former proviso aforesaid. That yet neverthesse if at any tyme within twoe yeres after the full age of twentie and one yere of suche heyer (if such heyer live to the age or els within twoe yeres after suche tyme as any suche heyer mighte have accomplished his sayed age if he had lived there shalbe payed by any heyer of the Mannor of Lydeard Tregose clayminge the name of S' John unto the saied Oliver or his assignes at or in the mansion house of Byncknell alias Bynell the somme of Sixe hundred poundes that then and from thencefourthe the sayed Mannor of Byncknell alias Bynell with thappurtinances shalbe to suche so payninge and to his heyers for ever. Item I give and bequeathe unto Walter S' John the sonne of my saied Sonne John S' John the Bedsted the teaster of Crimsen damask the Frynge of crymsen silke the curteyns of crimsen taffata with the Quilte of crimsen and allso the bed the boulster the Fustians with the twoe pillowes that Do usually belonge with the saied bed. Allso I give unto hym a cupbourd cloathe of Nedleworke Fyve cushions likewise of needleworke. Three chayres likewise of nedleworke with the hanginges glasse and SeelingQS whatsoever that ar or be in the chaumber over the hall of my house in Fydeard aforesaid. Neverthesse I moste earnestly charge of my blessinge the saied Walther that he do quyetly suffer my Sonne John S' John his Father to have the use and occupation of the thinges so bequeathed to hym for and Duringe the naturall life of hym the sayed John S' John his Father. Item I give to the saied Walther one greate Cheste or Standerd with the Focke and key thereunto belonging which is in the chaumber called the Brushinge chaumber next unto the greate chaumber over the hall. Item I give and bequeathe unto Anne S' George the Daughter of Elizabethe my Daughter all suche Sommes of money whiche Giles Forde Chandoyes oweth me by reason of a Judgment in a Recoverye which I the saied Nicholas had againste hym the saied Ford by the name of Giles Bridges Esquyer in an Accion of trespas of assaulte and Battrey of which sommes of money so recovered and concerning the execucion to be served uppon the judgments given in the saied Action I Do ordeyne and make the saied Anne onlie xecutrix by theise presents. Item I give and bequeathe unto my Sonne Richard St John one Annuitie or yerelie Rente of Fower poundes of lawfull money of England to be yssuinge or goynge out of all my Messuages landes tenements and hereditaments whatsoever within the Realme of England. To have and to houlde the sayed Annuitie or yerelie Rente of Fower poundes unto hym the saied Richard and to his assignes for and Duringe his naturall life to be payed at Fower Feastes of the yere moste usuall that is to say at the Feaste of the birthe of ou\_r Forde god the Annunciation of ou\_r Fady the virgin the Nativitie of S' John the Baptiste and S' Michaell the Archannge ll or within xxviij Dayes next after every the sayed Feastes by even and equall portions. The Firste paymente therof to beginne within xxviij dayes next of the Feastes aforsayed which shall next happen after my Deceasse. Item I give and bequeathe to my Servannte Ralfe Walker one Annuitye or yerely Rente of xxvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> of lawfull money of England to be yssuyng and goinge out of all my Messuages Fandes tenements and Hereditaments whatsoever within the Realme of England To have and to houlde the saied Annuitie or yerely Rente of xxvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> unto the saied Ralphe Walker and his assignes for and duringe the naturall life of hym the saied Raphe to be paied at the Feastes or dayes as the saied Richard S' John is to be payed as aforesaid by equall portions. Item I give and bequeathe to Katherine Webbe my Daughter a Tankard of Silver guilte. Item I give and bequeathe to my



Daughter Cave one Frenche bowle of silver for beer Item I give and bequeathe to my Daughter Nicholas a guilte cuppe with a cover which I praye her to keepe for her mothers sake. Item I give and bequeathe to my Daughter S' George One colledge cuppe of Silver and allso one potage dishe of silver. Item I give and bequeathe to Dorothe my Daughter my chayne of goulde and such apparrell of her mothers and other Lynnen accordinge to an Inventarye therof Delivered her under my hand in my life tyme with the cheste of wayneskott wherein the same apparrell and Lynnen is. Item I give to Oliver S' John my Sonne a spice box of Silver with a spoone in the same. Item I give and bequeth to my Sonnes Oliver and Richard S' John two gueldinges the one Roane whiche of late I had of John S' John and the other geldinge grey and the saied Oliver to take the choice of the saied geldinges. Item I give and bequeathe to Richard S' John my sonne my beste tablet of goulde enameled. Item I give to Johane Fulbrooke for her paynes takinge with me in my Sicknes xxvf viif. Item I give and bequeathe to Ralphe Walker for his paynes taken with me in my sicknes xxvf viif and to every of them the saied Ralphe and Johane their Liveryes and their wages at the Feaste of the birthe of oure Lorde god next Item I give and bequeathe to Johane Apparrye the little Nagge called grey Parrie. Item I give and bequeathe to Thomas Horsey either my blacke Cowche geldinge or Jennet Mare to be Delivered by the Discretion of my Executor. All the residue of my goodes and chattels not mencyoned given or bequeathed in this my laste will and testamente my Funerall expencgs discharged and payed I will assigne give and bequeathe them to the Disposicion of John S' John my sonne whome I ordeyne constitute and make my Executor of this my laste will and testamente. And I further do ordeyne constitute and make Michaell Blounte of Maple Dirham in the countie of Oxon Esquyre William S' John of Norton in the countie of Southhampton Esquyer and John S' John of Hatfield peverell in the countie of Essex Escf my Lovinge bretheren Supravisors of this my laste will and testamente beseeching them to take the payne to have due consideracion of the execution of this my laste will and testamente. And chiefly and above all to have care of Anne S' George for the recoveiy of suche Sommes of money as I have by this my laste will given and bequeathed to her as those in whome above all others I do repose my truste and confidence. And for their paynes takinge herein I give unto every one of them Fortie shilling's a peece. In witnes wherof to this my present laste will and testamente I have subscribed my name and set to my Seale. Theise whose names be hereunder wrytten being presente. Nicholas Seint John George Hungerfford Roger Brasgerdill Ambrose Webbe George Cleter Thomas Horsey

*Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro Magistro Willielmo Lewin Legum Doctore ad exercendum officium Magistri Custodis sive Commissarii Curiae Prerogativae Cantuariensis legitime Deputato vicesimo septimo Die Mensis Januarij Anno Domini iuxta cursum et computacionem Ecclesiae Anglicanae Millgesimo Quingentesimo Octogesimo Nono Juramento Francisci Clerke Notarij publici procuratoris Johannis Seintiohn Executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati. Cui comissa fuit Administraco bonorum Jurium et creditorum Died Defined De Bene et fideliter administrando Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Jurato.*

[The above-written will was proved at London before that venerable man Master-William Lewin Doctor of Laws duly appointed to exercise the office of Master or Commissioner of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the twenty-seventh day of the month of January in the fifteen hundred and eighty-ninth year of Our Lord according to the practice and reckoning of the English Church by the oath of Francis Clerk, notary public, procurator of John St. John the Executor named in tis will. To whom was committed the administration of the goods rights and credits of the said deceased, he having been sworn on the sacred Gospels of God about well and faithfully administering (the same).]



## SHORTER NOTES

Extract from the Will of Sir Allen Apsley (d.1630)

Sir Allen Apsley, Lieutenant of the Tower of London, married, as his third wife, Lucy St.John (d. 1659), youngest sister of Sir John St.John, 1st baronet. Lucy was very much younger than Sir Allen, and by him bore a number of children, one of whom, Lucy, married Colonel John Hutchinson, the regicide. Lucy Hutchinson wrote *Memoirs of the Life of Colonel Hutchinson*, and testified to the mutual affection and goodness of her parents:

*Never did any two better agree in marriage and in bounty than he and my mother, so little did she grudge any of his liberalities to strangers or he contradict any of her kindness to all her relations; her house being a common home for all of them and a nursery to their children. Sir Walter Raleigh and Mr. Ruthin being prisoners in the Tower and addicting themselves to Chemistry, she suffered them to make their rare experiments at her cost, partly to comfort and divert the poor prisoners and partly to gain the knowledge of their experiments and the medicines to help such poor people as were not able to seek physicians.*

*[Memoirs... (Everyman ed.)p. 11]*

In his will Sir Allen spoke of his faith in God in a way which does not sound like something taken from a will-maker's copy book and of his affection for and gratitude to his wife. Apparently, in the frustrations of his increasing infirmity, he had expressed himself in ways that others may misconstrue, comparing his present afflictions unfavourably with those he had endured in service overseas. (We are indebted to Elizabeth St.John Salazar for this transcription.)

*In the name of God Amen the [—] day of May in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand six hundred and thirtie and in the sixth year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign Lord Charles by the grace of God King of England Scotland Lrance and Ireland defender of the faith etc. I Allen Apsley Knight Lt. of his majesties Tower of London being sicke in body but whole in mind and of perfect memory thanks be to God doe make and ordayne this my last will and testament in manner and form following first I most humbly will and bequeath my sole unto almighty God my creator stedfastly believing that my Lord Jesus Christ who was crucified died and buried but also rose again the third day and ascended into heaven and shall come again at the last daie to judge both the quicke and the dead will have mercy upon mee the greatest of all sinners when my soul shall leave this corrupted body and at my resurrection will place me among his elect children [—] the malice of the devill who has made all my pilgramage here on earth a continual affliction and would pursue my soul to etemall destruction at my departure hence did not I assuredly believe that my God who created me did not make me to destruction nor will upon my repentence and stedfast faith in him suffer all the devills in hell to take me out of his hands to whom with his blessed sonne my dear savyour and the Holy Ghost my sanctifier bee all honor glorie praise and thanksgiving world without end amen amen My body I commit to the earth to be buried where I shall happen to dye in a silent manner for the Lady Lucie Apsley my wife I doe hereby declare and express that she hath beene a deere tender kind and loving wife unto me who (next unto God) hath saved my life thru several tymes by her continuall care and industry and for my sake endured many sorrows and evermore in times of my extremitie hath relieved and*

*comforted mee for which the God of Heaven comfort her in all her sorrows shee has been a most loving discreet and religious mother towards her children and broughtthem up in the feare of God and they likewise have stood in awe been obedient to her although she never corrected them shee is a woman virtuous and good I have in my raging sickness and distracion let fall some vayne wordes saying that my domestic afflictions were greater than my foreigne whereupon some have divulged that I should only meane my wife I spake of before my sonne and daughter that hee with his creditors she with hers and my steward with his did unnecessarily vexeme if my deare wife (unto whom never man was more bound) take any distastl doe earnestly entreat her to forgive mee and I desire all the world should know that shee is a religious and vertuous lady a most kind wife.*

[British Library, Add. 28016, f.6]

The Edward St. John Monument - anote by Alan Turton, which appeared in 'English Civil War Notes & Queries', no. 10 (1985), and is here reproduced by kind permission:

*The life-size, standing figure of Edward St.John (1617-45) is well-known from illustrations in several books on the Civil War. However, the lower section of his monument containing the relief described below seems to have been largely ignored.*

*The monument itself was constructed sometime between the deaths of Capt St.John, from wounds received at the Second Battle of Newbury, and that of his father, Sir John St.John, its commissioner, in 1648.*

*Edward appears to have been commander of a troop in Sir John Byron 's Regiment<sup>1</sup> - a unit which saw much action in the First Civil War. The bas-relief shows this troop on the march in a column of fours, preceded by its trumpeter and with Capt. St.John mounted on a very lion-like charger and wearing the three-quarters armour in which he isattiredin the main monument. The rest of the troop are shown wearing heavy riding cloaks with turned-down collars, their falling bands worn on the outside. There is an interesting collection of headgear depicted, ranging from the fashionable, fairly narrow-brimmed, befeathered hat of the captain, the more common, unplumed, broad-rimmed hat with the front cocked, and on the heads of the third trooper in the second, third, and fourth rank Monmouth Caps. These latter are perhaps the most interesting features of the whole scene as they are, as far as I know, the only contemporary illustration we have of this important item of military attire actually worn by troops. They are shown pulled well down on the head with the bottom edge rolled up.*



Fig. 1 The bas-relief on the monument to Edward St.John.

*With regards to the weaponry, the troopers are shown armed with pistols carried in open saddle holders strapped to the chest girths of the horses. There are no signs of swords or carbines - the regiment is known to have been partially equipped with the latter<sup>2</sup> - but these may be obscured by the drapery of the cloaks.*

*The horses, with the exception of the Captain's, all appear to be cobs.*

*The inclusion of the Post-Mill in the design is of interest. It may simply be the trademark of the unknown sculptor or it could possibly represent a feature on Newbury battlefield - a windmill is mentioned in his account of the action by John Gwynne. Alternatively - and the most likely - the whole design may show Captain Edward St. John parading his troop in the park - hence the railings - of his family home at Lydiard Tregoze where there is also a Windmill Hill on the estate.*

*The whole monument, while not unique, will repay a visit by anyone interested in armour and costume of the Civil War.*

#### References

<sup>1</sup> Peter Young, *Edgehill 1642*

<sup>2</sup> I. Roy, *The Royalist Ordnance Papers*

### **The altar rails in Lydiard Tregoze church**

In 2003 Mr Claud Blair, O.B.E., M.A., F.S.A. wrote to the editor:

‘You will recall that we had some discussion a few years ago about whether the altar-rails in Lydiard Tregoze church were of cast or wrought iron. I then gave my opinion that they were undoubtedly of the latter material, but promised to try to get Marian Campbell, the current V & A authority on ironwork, to give her opinion. I at last managed to get her to the church last Friday and this is to tell you that she entirely agrees with me. As I mentioned to you previously, it was not technically possible to cast fine detail of the kind found on the railings in iron at the period when they were made, and - as she pointed out to me - if you tap some of the thick, double-sided details, you will find that they are hollow, which would not be the case if they were cast. They were, in fact, made by embossing each side separately from sheet metal, and then welding or brazing them together.

‘Marian also agrees with me that the railings are the work of a smith of outstanding skill who was influenced, like a great many other smiths of the period, by the work of Jean Tijou, who published a book of engraved designs for ironwork. He was a Frenchman who worked for Christopher Wren in St. Paul's Cathedral [1689-99], and whose most famous surviving work is the great screen in the grounds of Hampton Court Palace [1694]. A smith who is well-known as a later exponent of his style was William Edney, who was operating in the first quarter of the 18th century in Bristol. (Older books in my own library provide firm working dates of 1701-26, but more recent information may be available.) For geographical reasons, therefore, he is a very likely candidate for authorship of the Lydiard Tregoze railings, and, judging from photographs only, a number of examples of his work in Bristol churches appear to be closely similar in style, notably the screen which he made for St. Mary Redcliffe in 1726.

‘You will find illustrations of Edney's work, and information about him in Maxwell Ayrton and Arnold Stock, *Decorative Wrought Ironwork*, (County Life, 1929), and J.

Starkie Gardner,, *English Ironwork of the 17th and 18th Centuries*, (Victoria & Albert Museum, 1927, facsimile reprint with supplementary biography by Marian Campbell, 1978).’

Editorial footnote: Jean Tijou (active 1688-1712) wrote *A NewBooke of Drawings Invented and Designed by Jean Tijou... for the use of them that will work iron in perfection and with art*. This was the first book of designs for ironwork to appear in England. It was of considerable importance in disseminating the Baroque style in ironwork which Tijou had established in England.

## SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER 2003

This year marks the **60th anniversary** of Swindon Corporation’s purchase of Lydiard Park in 1943. Fittingly, it also marks the announcement by Heritage Lottery Fund that Lydiard is to receive a £430,000 award to undertake vital design and development works, which will underpin restoration of the historic parkland.

Our application to the **Heritage Lottery Fund** for 75% of the development costs was submitted in January and was the first application HLF received on their new community-orientated Public Parks Initiative scheme. The Council’s partners in ‘The Lydiard park Project’ are **English Heritage** and **The Countryside Agency**, both of which regard the restoration scheme to be a national exemplar. During the course of the year both organisations strengthened their commitment to the project and were vocal in promoting its merits. The importance which English Heritage attaches to Lydiard was especially evident in their generously hosting the 60th anniversary celebrations at Lydiard House, alongside the Mayor of Swindon.

Friends of Lydiard Tregoz will have received newsletters about The Lydiard Park Project and know that our principal **business partners, West Swindon based energy supplier, RWE Innogy**, have taken a lively and decisive interest in its development. The company has invested over £ 150,000 in the scheme, and senior executives and employees have joined discovery walks and signed up for volunteer action around the park. The pioneering nature of the partnership was recognised by a £30,000 award from the Government-funded Arts and Business New Partners Scheme - the biggest award the agency has ever made and one which allows us to increase the number of opportunities for people to be able to participate in the project and associated events and activities.

In addition The Ernest Cook Trust have provided funds to employ an Education Officer, whilst members of the Friends, Anthony and Sonia St.John, have donated a St.John family history computer package to our local secondary school. Upper Thames Decorative & Fine Arts Society extended their support for Lydiard House with a successful fund-raising evening which will enable the conservation of Lydiard’s eighteenth-century sundial.

Lydiard benefits from so many **friends and supporting organisations** that have devoted time and energy to The Lydiard Project. It is sadly not possible to give everyone the thanks they richly deserve in a brief newsletter. However, the Council is especially grateful to members of the Lydiard Park Project Board: John Sales, national gardens advisor; Mike Bowden, Executive Director of Innogy; Denys Hodson, formerly a director of Arts and Recreation in Swindon; Bob Hook who coordinates English Heritage’s involvement in the project; and Andrew Burns of The Countryside Agency.

Whilst the restoration project has provided headline news for Lydiard this year, we have also had a very busy and varied programme of museum activities. Lydiard’s **team of museum staff**, Jenny Barnes, Maria Bastin, and Trudy Evans, have done a tremendous job in assisting this programme,



maintaining the museum's reputation and providing a welcoming and interesting visitor experience. The team also give talks to societies across the town, responding to public interest in the Lydiard Project and developing displays in the house.

The most exciting **acquisition of the year** has been the purchase of a painting by the eminent twentieth-century artist John Piper, entitled 'Bolingbroke at Lydiard Tregoze, 1940'. The picture, which is now displayed in the Library, shows the Golden Cavalier monument in the shadowy and evocative setting of St. Mary's church. Its purchase was made possible by grants from The National Art Collections Fund, resource V&A, together with assistance from the St. John family and public donations.

The cavalier theme was echoed during **Heritage Open Days** in September when Sealed Knot soldiers marched into the park and set up a tented Royalist garrison. Plumes of smoke rose over the park as they demonstrated cannon and musket fire to around 4,000 visitors.

**Inside the house**, Lydiard's Victorian past continues to be interpreted with the appearance of another 'character figure' - a lady who sits quietly embroidering in the Drawing Room. These figures, several of which are modelled on photographs of family members, have proved popular with visitors. Simon Jenkins refers to the Council's 'even daring a wax work effigy of Hooter St. John' in his latest best-selling book on England's best houses. He will be talking about this book at Lydiard House on 9 May, part of Lydiard's publicised programme of events.

Finally, and since it has been such an eventful time, I would like to say a huge thank you to the President and Committee of the Friends of Lydiard Tregoze and the many members who so effectively championed Lydiard House and Park in this important anniversary year.

*Sarah Finch-Crisp*

Keeper of Lydiard House

Project Officer Lydiard Park

*P.5. Those of you who have collected the Reports of The Friends of Lydiard Tregoze will be aware of their importance in contributing to the knowledge of Lydiard Park and the people connected with it. All unwanted back copies are always welcome here as there is a steady public demand for them.*

## **THE FRIENDS OF LYDIARD TREGOZ**

### **Officers for 2003-2004**

President: Mr H.G.M. Leighton, M.A., F.S.A.

Vice-President: Field-Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

Secretary: Mrs Sarah Finch-Crisp, B.A., [REDACTED]

Treasurer: Mrs Janet Porter, [REDACTED]

Committee: The Rev. Ann Mackenzie

Mr Robert Hook

Mr Anthony St. John

Mrs Sonia St. John

Editor of *Report*. Canon Brian Came, B.Com., F.S.A.  
[REDACTED]



## Obituaries

We regret to report the deaths of three members, **Mrs Daphne Bampton**, **Mr Brian Bridgeman**, and **Mr Joe Clay**. Also, not in membership for the last few years because of increasing infirmity but a founder member of the Friends, **Mrs Molly Woolford**, who died in January this year on her eighty-ninth birthday. Molly devoted her life to her family and Hook Farm, to St. Maiy's church and the local community. Molly was one of those wonderful people who are always ready to help in any way they can, willingly and with a smile.

## New Members

[REDACTED]

## Copies of *Report* are deposited with:

The British Library  
Bodleian Library  
Cambridge University Library  
Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William & Maiy, Williamsburg, USA  
The College of Arms  
The Society of Antiquaries of London  
The Society of Genealogists  
The Council for the Care of Churches  
The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England  
Battersea Library  
Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural Histoiy Society  
Glamorgan Record Office  
Wiltshire Record Office  
Wootton Bassett Historical Society  
Swindon Public Library  
Swindon Museum  
The Lydiard Park archive

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2003**

To		By	
<i>Report 3 6</i>	376.00	Subscriptions and Donations	595.53
Plate at Meeting	30.00	Plate at Meeting	39.00
Wiltshire Local History Forum	7.00	Bank Interest	3.72
 <u>ADD</u>			
Surplus Receipts over Expenditure	<u>225.25</u>		
	638.25		<u>638.25</u>

**BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 2003**

Accumulation Fund		Current Assets	
31 December 2002	684.11	Cash at Bank	
		Current	592.22
		Deposit	317.14
 <u>ADD</u>			
Surplus Receipts over Expenditure	<u>225.25</u>		
	909.36		<u>909.36</u>

Subject to audit

**Friends of Lydiard Tregoz**  
**15 May 2004**