A New Survey of England

1954.

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Devon

by W G Hoskins
Edited by Jack Simmons

Luppitt Page 426

Luppitt is a country of deep, winding lanes running from one ancient farmstead to another, haunted by buzzards in the valleys and by curlews on the heaths above, and full of flowers. One gets a wonderful view of this great field-patterned bowl on emerging from Honiton Tunnel, on the Southern Region line, going W. In the foreground of the view is the curious isolated round Dumpdon of Dumpdon Hill (855 ft), crowned by a fine flat-shaped earthwork, some 500 ft long from N. to S. and 370 ft. wide at its wide N. end. On three sides the hill slopes precipitously: at the more level N. end are additional defences. The earthwork has never been scientifically excavated, but it is probably a hill fort of late (pre-Roman) Iron Age date. The views from the summit are striking.

Luppitt itself is little more than a hamlet; the Domesday isolated farmstead is the characteristic dwelling. Greenway Of these, besides Luppitt itself, Greenway farm, Mohuns Ottery, and Shapcombe, are all mentioned Chapel in Domesday Book. Moorland farm had a 1308 chapel in 1308.

Mohuns Ottery lies on the rising of a cliff above the Otter valley, grey and fortress-like from a 1303 distance. By 1303 the Cakews had succeeded Mohuns the Mohuns here, and established a large house and a park. They lived here until the death of Carew Sir Peter Carew in 1575, when the estate came to 1575 the Southcotts. In the 16th century the Carews Southcott were among the leading Protestants of the county and were implicated in Wyatt's rebellion. Sir 1512 Peter Carew (1512-75) probably rebuilt the house: the initials P. C. appear in the spandrels of

Lysons

the front doorway. The mansion had become a farm house by Lysons day and was reduced in size. It was mostly burnt down about 1868, but a considerable part of the gatehouse remains.

1885-90 1923 Font. Roof.

Luppitt Church (St Mary) is a 14th century cruciform building with N. and S. transepts restored in 1885-90 and again in 1923. The two remarkable features of the Church are the sculptured font of the 12th cent., and the fine 14th cent. cradle roof in the nave and transepts.

Population Page 529 Vol II 24-152.

1801	1851	1901	1931	1949
675	761	467	401	423

The Lace Industry Page 141

The hill-parishes like Luppitt and Upottery were also important centres.

Medieval Clergy Page 228 Chapel 1308 Vicars

The earliest licence granted in Devon was that to Sir Simon de Montacute "to build an Oratory in his manor of la more in the parish of Luppitt" in 1308 and to have divine service celebrated there in his presence. The Rector of Luppitt gave his consent provided that no injury were done to the rights and dues of the mother Church. On the Rector's cessign or death, the consent of his successor was to be obtained, and in any event, the licence was only for Sir Simon's own lifetime.

Devon South Devon Quarries - Page 263

The roadscreen at Awliscombe is also made of Beer stone, and so probably was that at Luppitt, now destroyed.

1938 The Kings England 1938

DEVON

By Arthur Mee

Page 239 **Luppitt**. From its eyrie on the hill a medieval church in the shape of a cross watches over the village. Past it stretches the range of Hartridge Hills; below it winds the river Otter, and over there is Dumpdon Hill Dumpdon where ancient Britons lived before the Romans came and after they had gone away.

Roof. It is believed that the 12th century Church with massive oak beams in the cradle roofs of the nave transepts has Saxon stones in its walls, but something left behind by the Normans is the great treasure of this remote upland — an amazing font. Font whose bowl, square at the top and round below, is carved all over with fantastic creatures, with dragons and a centaur, and men with bobbed hair who look as though they might have come out of an ancient Egyptian frieze. A weird face looks out at each corner, and on one side is the tree of life, its branches going into the mouth of one face and into the ears of another. Next to it is a pack of long-eared animals. On another side a centaur stands by with a spear while two dragons snarl at each other. The last side of this astonishing 800-year-old font is most curious of all. But for the scarcity of any reference to the Old Testament in such early carvings we might say that it represented the story of Jael and Sisera for it shows the fearful spectacle of two people driving an enormous nail into a man's head.

Piscina The fine Norman shaft piscina is also richly carved, the bowl having the head of a man with leaves coming from his mouth.

Jar. An even rarer possession is part of a jar found in the masonry, where it is believed it was placed in the Middle Ages as a sound-amplifier, one of the primitive bits of science found in old church walls, an anticipation of our Loud Speaker Age. It is now protected under glass.

Showcase

Brass Also under glass is a fragment which is all that is left of the fine brasses on the canopied tomb of Sir John Carew. They were 14th century. The bold medieval gateway of the home of the Carews still stands.

Vicars We noticed here two notable records of service in the list of Vicars. Nicholas Lockyer needed only one more year to complete his half century, and then came John Cabell with 60 thrilling years, including the French

1796 - 1856 Revolution, from 1796 to 1856. His is one of the longest records of service in any church in Devon.

Some Old Devon Churches 1911.
By John Stabb Vol II.

1911
Page 115

Luppit.

St Mary (five miles from Honiton).

Bells

The church (see plate 10A) consists of chancel, nave, north and south transepts, south porch, and west tower, with four bells. Over the south porch doorway is a niche for an image with the image missing. There is a good

Roof

waggon-roof to the nave, and from four pillars at the corners of the transepts spring four immense ribs supporting the central portion of the roof, somewhat after the style of the roof at St. Michaels, Honiton. In the north

Piscina. Floor plate

transept there is a piscina, and in the south the tombstone of a former Vicar, Humphrey

Vicar 1639

Johnson, who died December the 25th 1639 aged 73.

Chancel Piscina

In the chancel is preserved the shaft of a piscina of early date, probably norman work. It was found embedded in a buttress during the carrying out of some restoration. At the top is ✱ carved a human face, beneath there is a cable moulding, and near the bottom two rows of dog tooth ornament. The whole shaft is carved, and it is an extremely fine and interesting piece of work.

Brass Vestry

In the vestry is preserved a palimpsest brass which was found by the vicar in a field Hedge adjoining the churchyard in 1883. Unfortunately there is but a fragment remaining, measuring about 12 by 11 inches. On the obverse side is part of a female figure in widows dress, which probably dates back to the second quarter of the 15th century. The figure is draped in wimple, gown with close sleeves edged with fur, and fur lined mantle; the cord of the mantle is fastened by

small shields instead of the usual brooches - The shield on the right has the arms of Bonville.

Bonville 1408 Damarell

Sir William Bonville, who died in 1408, married Margaret, daughter of Sir William Damarell, and it is probably their daughter who is commemorated on the brass. The reverse, which is the oldest side of the brass, has another female figure dating from about 1408, she is arrayed in a gown with tight sleeves, with small bands at the wrist ornamented with quatrefoils, the border of the mantle is similarly ornamented and the front part of the gown has a chevron charged with fleur-de-lis.

Font

At the west end of the church there is a very interesting Norman font, one of the finest specimens in Devonshire; the square bowl and part of the shaft are old, the lower part of the shaft and the base are modern. The bowl is elaborately carved on each of the four sides. On the east side, at the left corner, is a human face with grotesque mask above, in the centre is carved a beake of which it is difficult to give the meaning (see plate 105), and I should welcome any solution. In the centre is a human head on the left hand side of which is a male figure holding apparently a large nail just over the head in the centre; on the right is another figure holding a nail or hammer in the right hand, and a mushroom-shaped object above its head in the left hand. The right hand corner of the east side bears the tail and hind quarters of a Centaur, which is continued round to the north side. At the top of the corner, just over the back of the Centaur, is carved a human face, but without the mask that is on the south east corner. The Centaur holds in its hands a spear, and in front are two long necked animals, with their mouths open, and showing rows of long teeth (see plate 106) There is another face at the north-west

corner, and the west face of the font is covered with a design representing the Tree of Life (see plate 107). There is another face at the south west corner and the south side of the bowl (see plate 108) is carved with different animals; the largest is apparently a deer, and beneath is a dog hunting a hare, there seem to be two animals above the deer, but the remains are too worn to enable even a guess to be made as to what they are intended to represent.

1710 Register

The register dates from 1710.

Photos

Plate 104 Interior.
" 105-8 Font.

1926

D.C.C. Ref Library. Page 41

Black's Guide to Devon Pt II 1926

Roof

We now ascend to 4½ m. LUPPITT 1.5 m. Honiton; c 700 ft] on a ridge with sweeping views, with a good 14th cent. church. The roof above the crossing, an intersection of two barrels, should be compared with those at Ilsington and Honiton (p 3). Notice the panelled tower arch (Trans. to Perp.); the good Dec. chancel arch; the cinquefoiled niche on the N. of the chancel; the late 12th century pillar piscina, the two 17th cent. coffin stools, and the early norm. font. Bowl with rude carvings (one is perhaps a hunting scene).

Tower

Chancel

Piscina

Stools

Font

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Diocesan Library

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See P 306
1822
Lysons
VOL III P35
VOL III P99

Magna Britannia
being a concise topographical account of the several counties of Great Brittain.
by the Rev. Daniel Lysons M.A. FRS. F.A. and L.S.
and Samuel Lysons Esq. FRS. and F.H.S.
Late keeper of his majesty's records in the Tower of London
Vol. the sixth. Devonshire Part. II.

References to. Mohuns Ottery. Shapcombe. Shaugh a Dolish.

Carews Flemings, De Mohuns, Carews, Southcotts, Hawker.

Extract →

In the parish church are some ancient monuments of the Carew family without inscriptions.

Luppitt Parish:—

Population		Inhabited Houses	Families	Inhabitants
VOL III 24.152.	1801	109	124	675
	1811	110	141	639
	1821	130	152	739

Mohun
Page CIV Mohun, Baron Mohun of Oakhampton —

Page XCVIII 1628 Carew, Earl of Totnes — Sir George Carew died 1628

Devon Notes and Queries

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Page 269
Brass
Stephenson
Page 193

150. Fragment of Palimpsest Brass found at Luppitt — Brill. Stephenson

110. Fragment of Monumental Brass found at Luppitt — Beatrix F. Cresswell

Vol V Jan 1908 to Oct 1909

1908
Page 15

Z. Luppitt Brass — F. W. L. Boxon.

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Clarke
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Font

144. The Luppitt Font. — Kate M. Clarke

Extract. The story of the font, then, may be interpreted as follows: A holy man made his abode in a remote forest inhabited by barbarians, many of whom he converted to Christianity. The king of the country, a pagan, desired to put him to death; a pretended friend of the saint betrayed him, and guided the king and his following to his retreat. The saint was captured and murdered, the king standing by. The false friend with a congenial associate retired to a little distance, the other attendants of the king stood round; the Christian converts fled.

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Horiton Christian Review July 1990

Ten Little Churchmen

Poem

Ten little Churchmen went to church when five
But it started raining and then there were nine
Nine little Churchmen stayed up very late
One overslept himself and then there were eight
Eight little Churchmen on the road to Heaven
One joined a bowling club and then there were seven
Seven little Churchmen heard of Sunday 'Flicks'
One thought he'd like to go and then there were six
Six little Churchmen kept the place alive
The Vicar upset one of them and then there were five
Five little Churchmen argued more and more
One got fed up with it and then there were four
Four little Churchmen just could not agree
Who should take collections and then there were three
Three little Churchmen paid the service through
Got a hymn they didn't know and then there were two
Two little Churchmen disputed who should run
The next parochial concert and then there was one
One faithful Churchman knowing what to do
Got a friend to come to church and then there were two
Two faithful Churchmen each brought one more
So the number doubled and then there were four
Four sturdy Churchmen simply couldn't wait
Till they found four other and then there were eight
Eight eager Churchmen searching round for souls
Praying, working, witnessing, drew others in by shoals
Shoals and shoals at every service cramming every pew
O God, supply the grace to make the ending true