Honiton and the vale of the Otter

by Captain J.R.W. Cockhead. 1949.

Cockhead 1949

Page 14. Risdon

With regard to the derivation of the name of the village of Luppitt, Risdon in his "Survey of Devon" writes:- "Luppitt, anciently "Love-pit" took its name of a religious order there, being in some low pit or valley, which was dissolved by William de Mohun; the monks whereof were translated to the abbey of Newnham, of which this William, with his brother Reginald, was a founder. William Mohun gave the lands belonging to the said cell unto the abbey aforesaid, which, by the surrender of such structures, became the King's."

Mohun

Newenham

There is no doubt that the name of the village was originally Lovepitte, because it is so spelt in the Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem, Vol. XI. Edward III. Entry No 389 (1327-1377) P43

Lovepitte 1327-77

King Roof

Page 90. Font

Luppitt is remarkable for fine old roof timbers and a wonderful font at least 1000 years old.

Page 27

In the neighbourhood of Luppitt Common to the north of Honiton, there is an area of ground containing a number of small depressions or craters measuring roughly eight feet across by about three feet deep. Tradition has it that these pits were used as bivouacs by men of the district while they were mustering before joining Monmouth's main force.

Monmouth

See P 167 of 'Legends of Devon' by Cockhead

1982 Ulmans 12/6/84

Cockhead died in 1982
Files to Exeter City Library — Westcountry Studies

See Cated entry on page 71

Page 155.

Sulgrave Church

Chancel

The beautiful Church of St Mary at Sulgrave is cruciform in shape, having a nave, Transepts and a particularly long Chancel.

Roof.

The two most noteworthy things in the building are the roof and the font. The roof of the Chancel is of modern workmanship, but the roof over the nave and Transept is supported by a magnificent set of original oak beams. It is a very ancient cradle roof and is supported at the intersection of the Transepts by huge ribs of oak, which crossing the nave diagonally, meet in a fine boss to form two horse-shoe arches resting on stone pillars at the four angles.

Font

The font is of outstanding interest and is considered to be of the Saxon Period, probably 10th Century, and a relic of the Celtic Church.

See also P. 21.

The bowl, the moulding beneath and about two inches of the shaft are original. The eastern side bears two figures clad in the ordinary garb of the Anglo-Saxon of pre-Conquest date. The left hand figure holds a large nail in his right hand above a detached human head, while the figure on the right wields a mallet. Both figures are holding a shield above their heads. The scene evidently represents a martyrdom. To the left of this central group there is another detached head, wearing a very imposing headgear which fills the whole depth of the sculptured band. On the right hand side of the central group are the hindquarters of an orc-centaur. The creature curves round the corner of the font onto the Northern side, where it will be seen that the hands are firmly grasping a spear. To the right of the centaur there is a very peculiar and fearsome looking monster, which appears to have teeth in its tail as well as its head. A rough foliage design is carved on the western side, which

probably represents a forest, and on the southern side there are several animals. The largest animal would appear to be a wolf, and beneath it a hound and a hare can be seen. The animals above the wolf are too indistinct to be identified. A very detailed description of this wonderful link with the past can be found in "Devon and Cornwall" Notes and Queries Vol VII - Part VI - April 1913."

1913 Registers 1710 The Baptismal Register starts in 1710 and the Marriage and Burial Registers date from 1711.

Bells The tower contains six bells, which are described below:-

Treble: } Made in 1928 by John Taylor & Co of
Second: } Loughborough

Norton Third Made by Robert Norton of Exeter.
Probably dates from the middle of the XVth century, and bears the following inscription:-
"Est michi collatum ihs illud nomen amatum"
- meaning "There has been conferred on me that beloved name Jesus".

Wroth Fourth: Made by Thos. Wroth of Wellington Somerset in [1748] 1774
and bears the following inscription:-
Edward Harrison * CH: WARDEN: T. WROTH: FECIT. [1748] 1774

Fifth: Of the same period as the Third bell.

Semson Tenor: Made by Roger Semson of Aish Priors near Taunton, early in the XVIth Century and bears the following inscription:-
"Ave Maria Gratia Plena"

Cookson Memorial On the south wall of the nave is a memorial tablet with the following inscription:-
To the Beloved Memory of
George Arthur Cookson
Major General, C.B. C.M.G.

Halsdon Of Halsdon, who worshipped
In this Church for many
Years +. Thou wilt keep him in

Perfect Peace whose mind is
stayed on Thee † 1869–1929.

1869-1929

Brass

On the west wall of the nave is a very interesting fragment of brass found by a former Vicar in a field hedge adjoining the churchyard in 1883. The following is a partial extract from "Devon

1907 Notes and Queries, October 1907"

The obverse shews a portion of a lady in a costume of the second quarter of the 15th century from shoulders to elbows. Special interest is the use of small shields or brooches to fasten cord to mantle. The shield on the right

Bonville shoulder bears the arms of Bonville — sable six mullets 3, 2 and 1, argent pierced gules. The shield on the left

Damarell shoulder bears the arms of Damarell — per fess gules and azure three crescents argent quartering Bonville. Sir William Bonville who died in 1408 married Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of Sir William Damarell.

To the issue of this match we must look for the lady commemorated. In addition to two sons Sir William left two daughters, Katherine and Elizabeth. Elizabeth

Carew became the wife of Thomas, Lord Carew and is most probably the lady to whose memory the brass was laid down. The brass is of English workmanship and appears to have been torn from its original slab with considerable violence"

Stone mem. On the floor of the north transept a stone slab bears the following inscription:—

Here lyeth the Body of
Elizabeth wife of William
and Elizabeth dee of this Registers P 65
Parish who died the...
(5th Day of September 1738 Aged 37)

See page 65 for correct reading 1738

In the churchyard to the left of the south door there is a tomb bearing the following inscription:

Hawker 1727 In memory of James Hawker Gent:
who died Sept. 9. 1727 Aet: 62
1738 Also of Willm Hawker Gent: who
dyed Jany 28 1738 Aet 37.

James ye Son of Willm Hawker
1736 dyed Feby 11th 1736 Aet 9. mos
Mary ye Daut. of Willm Hawker
dyed Decr 29th 17 - Aet 6 yrs

Vicar Rectors and Vicars of Luppitt

Here follows a complete list as page 11 up to 1937.

Exmouth Reference Library 718. 1877.

The Ancient Sepulchral Effigies and
Monumental and Memorial Sculpture
of Devon
by W. H. Hamilton Rogers F.S.A.

Page 156 Wynard. Luppitt. — "During the government
Ravenham of Abbot Trystram Ercheme of Newenham the
right of presentation to the Vicarage of Luppitt
was again disturbed (it had been a frequent source
of dispute) and the Abbot was compelled to
bring a writ of 'quare impedit' against Sir
Carew Nicholas Carew. The result, after a troublesome
litigation litigation, was in the Abbots favour, who
Wynard presented Richard Somerville to the living,
at the request it is said of William Wynard,
Sir Nicholas Carew, and others." (Davidson)
Davidson This was between the years 1432-56.
1432-56 In the South transept of Luppitt Church is
Floor stone the gravestone of Joan the wife of this
William Wynard, who was doubtless a man of
influence in the Parish.
"Hic jacet Johan uxor Willi Wenard et
filia Joh'is Beuyle, cujus aie ppiet ds."
There is good reason to suppose this to be the
grave of Joan Beville the wife of William
1404 Wynard, Recorder of Exeter in 1404, and
founder of the Alms Houses known as "Gods House"
in that City, and this is confirmed by the
Beville arms being quartered with Wynard in

the memorial tablet found in the Chapel of "Gods House" in Magdalen Street, Exeter. This tablet records as follows:-

1875 The Book of the Axe 1875
by George P.R. Pulman

abbot May 13 1338.
Walter de la Hove

Page 705 The abbot in July 1344 granted a perpetual rent of thirteen shillings and four pence to the new college of St Mary at Ottery, and was long involved in legal disputes with the Carews respecting the right to Luppitt church, which had been given to the convent by Reginald de Mohun, whose grandaughter Eleanor married John Carew, to whom the abbot finally consented to pay a hundred pounds to procure a disclaimer on the part of his family.

Mohun
Carew

Taunton Public library D42.35 54 3/-

The Little Guides. Devonshire

1907 by S. Baring Gould 1907

Page 150 Revised by H Ronald Hicks 1949

Roof. Luppitt, on the river Otter. The Church of St. Mary is crucifom and has a fine cradle roof. In the N. wall of the chancel is a rich tomb, with tabernacle

Carew work, of Sir John Carew, ob. 1320. There is a very

font. fine Norman font. The church once possessed

Screen a stone screen, but it has been destroyed and

scraps of it used to make mantlepieces in

some of the local houses. In the chancel is a

Piscina horn. Piscina of the 'pillar' type. Two of the bells

– the third and the tenor (13 cwt) – are pre-

Bells Reformation, the tenor being a 'Jesus' bell.

Not tenor The churchyard commands extensive views,

Now are including Dumpdon Hill with its ancient camp.

5th & 7th Mohun's Otery, built by Sir Reginald de Mohun,

Dumpdon c. 1325 or later, is but a shadow of its former

Mohun glory. Amongst the remains is an ancient

gatehouse (private) with an enormous fireplace

in what is now the kitchen, notice the richly

ornamented stonework with armorial bearings

on the spandrels of the four-centred arch under

the dripstone. These arms are on the one side,

Crecy those of Sir John Carew, a hero of Crécy (three

Carew lions passant gardant) to whom the house passed,

and on the other the device of Mohun, a hand

proper holding the fleur-de-lys.

Bells

Page 32 Ancient bells many with ancient inscriptions,

hang in the towers of —— do/it.

Devon Record Office

58 . In the Devon Record Office at the Castle in Exeter there are replies to Queries bound together in Volumes

References to Luppitt were found in

1744 Volumes for the years 1744. 1754. 1764. 1796.

John Windsor in 1744 and 1754 resided at Uffculme where he held the benefice. He had a licensed Curate who was his son in 1754.

Sacrament The sacrament was administered only 4 times a year. Easter Whitsunday Michaelmas Christmas

Listed Buildings Historic Buildings Lists.

Ancient cruciform Church, restored 1885 and 1923.

Screen Screens, monuments and mural tablets have gone.

Font but there is a very interesting 11th Century font with unusual carvings, and a tomb with foliaged arch

Brass said once to have had a brass to Sir John Carew,

Carew died 1320. Some norman and later relics are

(1324) 1320 preserved under glass including an accoustic

Jar jar. There is a fine oak cradle roof supported

Roof. at the intersection by massive ribs of oak which cross the nave diagonally and have a fine

Boss carved boss in the centre.

Exeter City Library (Reference) 59 1920

Notes on Devon Churches Deanery of Honiton
Vol I
by Beatrice F. Cresswell
1906 from original notes 1906 - 1917

Page 114 Luppitt Dedication The Blessed Virgin Mary

See also IV 352 This large parish extending seven miles is one of the most remote in the Diocese, approached by rough tortuous lanes, which constantly ascending at last afford a magnificant prospect of the valley of Honiton lying down below. On the hill above the village stands the church, stripped somewhat bare under the hands of the restorers but presenting features that carry its history back far beyond the foundations of the present fabric.

Ottery Mohun The ecclesiastical history of Luppit is inseparable from that of the manor of Ottery-Mohun in this parish. At the date of Domesday Lovapit belonged to Walter de Douai. The earlier holders of the Ottery manor were the Flemmyngs from whom it was known as Otery Flemmyng. It passed by an heiress to the Mohuns, and Henry de Flemmyng, rector, presented by Sir Reginald de Mohun, may have been the last of his name.

Domesday Lovapit

Page 115 Mohun

Reginald de Mohun, Lord of the manor in the 13th century, was the "son of Reginald" and Alice, daughter of William Brewer. From his mother Sir Reginald may have inherited a zeal for religious foundation. Her father had founded the Abbeys of Torre and Dunkeswell, and about 1246 Reginald de Mohun founded Newenham Abbey, also Cistercian, near Axminster.

Brewer

Dunkeswell A.

Newenham 1246

Risdon Cistercian cell

Risdon has a tradition for which there does not seem to be any proof that there was a monastic cell at Luppit, from which the monks were transferred to Newenham.

The Mohuns must have been patrons of the living in 1288, when Ecclesia de Lovepytt was valued

1288

£10 (libra) at xlv Sir Reginald settled Ottery Mohun on his second son, who as lord of the manor claimed the right of advowson. This claim was disputed

Newenham Litigation by the Abbot and Convent of Newenham and considerable litigation ensued. Eventually the monks secured the patronage, the church

1344 being appropriated to Newenham Abbey in 1344. The incumbents thence forward were Vicars; and the

Advowson advowson continued with the abbey until the dissolution.

Some years previously Ottery Mohun had become the property of the Carew family, by the marriage of Alianora daughter and heiress of Sir William de

Carew Mohun, with John son of Sir William Carew of Moulsford in Berkshire, from whom are descended the Carews whose names are famous in the history of Devon.

Page 116 Newenham A 1639 After the dissolution of Newenham Abbey, the advowson of Luppitt lapsed to the Crown and was purchased in 1639 by Thomas Southcott from King James I. He was then lord of the manor of Ottery Mohun through his marriage with Thomasine Kirkham, neice and heiress of Sir Peter Carew

1875 Until 1875 the parish was included in the deanery of Dunkeswell.

The church is built of dressed flint, with a

Tower western tower of three stages, buttressed at the angles, and a stair turret at the south side rising above the plain parapet table. The top of this tower was rebuilt, having been struct

15/3/1905 See p. 318 Gargoyle by lightning. One gargoyle was then destroyed the remaining three are very massive, one of the usual animal form, the two others resembling monstrous human figures one holding a hand against its ear, the other resting its chin on its hands, and thus watching with sinister looks from the corner of the masonry. The west doorway has a plain pointed arch. All the tracery has been renewed, and an inspection