In the East window of the Lady Chapel in
See P196 Pitminster Church one of the lights shows the coat of arms of WELMAN impaling HAWKER 18c.

The following was copied from "News Bulletin" published by the National Council for Christian Standards no 1. 1994

Back to Basics

By Laurie Twinam.

'Back to Basics' — that's the slogan
For our nation's way ahead;
"Back to Basics", cry our leaders,
Rescue Britain from the red!"
Back to Basics in the schoolroom,
Teach 3 R's and spelling too;
Back to basics in our prisons —
Softer measures just won't do!

Back to Basics! single mothers
Mustn't jump the housing queue;
If the scheme condones this practice,
All the rest get in a stew...
Back to basics in our families,
Children need their parents' care;
Should we wonder at the problems,
Caused when mum & Dad aren't there?

Surely we should heed these warnings.
Yet the cure lies deeper still;
'Back to Basics' in our lifestyle
Touches conscience — bitter pill!
What about the deeper basics —
Our relationship with God
Our Creator, the Almighty
Who supplies our breath, our food?

Are we troubled by abortions,
Soaring crime-rates, quick divorce?
Conscience tells us these are symptoms
Of our nation's downward course.
Step by step our feet have wandered
Far from Scripture's faithful word;
'Back to Basics' spells repentance
Seeking God, by conscience spurred.

Mixed

Dusty Bibles on our bookshelves
Tell how God can meet our need,
Can forgive our dire transgressions
If His mercy we but plead.
Back to Basics! sinful Britons
May find refuge in Christ's blood;
Humbled, He'll renew and guide us.
Full salvation He'll provide us,
For He is our fathers' God.

The Green Eye of the Yellow God.

By J. Milton Hayes.

There's a one-eyed yellow idol to the north of Khatmandu,
There's a little marble cross below the town;
There's a broken-hearted woman tends the grave of mad Carew,
Carew
And the Yellow God forever gazes down.

He was known as mad Carew by the subs of Khatmandu,
He was hotter than they felt inclined to tell;
But for all his foolish pranks, he was worshipped in the ranks
And the Colonel's daughter smiled on him as well.

He had loved her all along, with a passion of the strong,
The fact that she loved him was plain to all.
She was nearly twenty-one, and arrangements had begun
To celebrate her birthday with a ball.

He wrote to ask what present she would like from mad Carew;
They met next day as he dismissed a squad;
And jestingly she told him then that nothing else would do

But the green eye of the little yellow God

On the night before the dance, Mad Carew seemed in a trance,
And they chaffed him as they puffed at their cigars;
But for once he failed to smile, and he sat alone awhile,
Then went out into the night beneath the stars.

He returned before the dawn, with his shirt and tunic torn,
And a gash across his temples dripping red;
He was hatched up right away, and he slept through all the day,
And the Colonel's daughter watched beside his bed.

He woke at last and asked if they could send his tunic through;
She brought it, and he thanked her with a nod;
He bade her search the pocket, saying, 'That's from Mad Carew';
And she found the little green eye of the god.

She upbraided poor Carew in the way that women do,
Though both her eyes were strangely hot and wet;
But she wouldn't take the stone, and Mad Carew was left alone
With the jewel that he'd chanced his life to get.

When the Ball was at its height, on that still and tropic night,
She thought of him and hastened to his room;
As she crossed the barrack square she could hear the dreamy air
Of a waltz tune softly stealing through the gloom

His door was open wide, with silver moonlight shining through,
The place was wet and slithery where she trod;
An ugly knife lay buried in the heart of Mad Carew,
'Twas the 'Vengeance of the little Yellow God.

Repeat of the first verse again. B.

10/3/95

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Thomas.

Copied from 'The Devon Historian' April 1995
Devon History Society Silver Jubilee Edition.
With permission.

Fenny Bridges in Feniton and Gittisham

By D.L.B. Thomas.

See
III P92
III 53
IV 128
1539
IV 260

Fenny Bridges has rather a sad place in the history of Devonshire. The majority of people in the Westcountry were not much affected by the Reformation until 1539 when it was enacted that on Whit Sunday, 9 June of that year, the Latin mass was to be abandoned and the new

Prayer Book

Prayer Book in English used exclusively in its stead. This deprivation of a birthright by the state is the stuff that rebellions are made of and on Whit Monday, the parishioners of Samford Courteney 'persuaded' their priest, Father Harper, to don his vestments once more and say the mass in Latin. This was overt contempt for authority and the local magistrates hastened to the village to remonstrate with the people. But the rebels were in no mood to listen and burned their boats by slaying a local farmer who had rebuked them rather tactlessly. Mustered by their leaders and gathering strength as they went they marched towards Crediton, to be joined by a contingent from Cornwall, and on to Exeter where they called on the city to surrender.

There was sympathy with the cause from within the city walls but no one, least of all the mayor, wished to get involved and the gates remained firmly closed. Faced with this unexpected rejection, the rebels made a serious tactical blunder by laying siege to the city and wasting the advantage of time that they had. This gave the government the opportunity to despatch

Russell

Russell, the Lord Privy Seal, westward with an army of German and Italian mercenaries. By late July he was in Honiton, impatiently drumming his fingers and waiting for reinforcements, ammunition and money. On 28 July news reached Russell that a detachment of rebels had advanced on the

Fenny Bridges

London road to Fenny Bridges, where they were camped in the meadows on the northeast side of the bridges. Encouraged by the bloodthirsty

Barew Barews, Russell marched on Fenny Bridges, and after a fierce battle, forced the rebel army to retreat back to Fairmile. As they made the long climb up the Roman road to what is now called Straightway Head, they were met by 'a newe crewe of Cornyshe men to the number of two hundrethe or eighte score persons'. 11.
Taking advantage of the element of surprise, the combined force moved stealthily back towards the meadow and, under cover of the hedgerow, let off a fusilade of arrows followed by a concerted charge.
The mercenaries, who were engaged in plundering the dead and wounded from the earlier battle, fled leaving their casualties behind. But the rebels' triumph was short lived, for Russell, probably encamped somewhere north of Gittisham, rallied his troops and swept down on the enemy. A fierce battle followed until the Cornish arrows were spent and the superior training of Russell's troops won the day.
About 300 rebels were slain and probably the same number of Russell's men giving the battleground the well deserved name of Bloody Meadow.
Reinforced by Lord Grey of Wilton and his cavalry, Russell followed the rebels to Clyst St Mary and, after crushing them at the Battle of Clyst Heath, set about the grisly business of retribution 'without mercy and without form of Law'. 12.

References.

11. Vowell alias Hoker, John, 1580. The Description of the Citie of Excester. The Devon & Cornwall Record Society 1919. P 79.
12. Freeman, Edward A. 1886. Exeter. Longmans Green & Co, P 115.

The following is from 'Luffitt Packet. July 1995 P5.

Membership of every organisation is made up of BONES.
WISHBONES who spend their time wishing that someone else would do all the work.
JAWBONES who do all the talking and nothing else.
BACKBONES who get under the load and do all the work.
FUNNYBONES who see the bright side all the time and are good members of the organisation.
KNUCKLEBONES who knock every thing that any body tries to do.
Which BONES are you? From 'the garden club of

Churchyard Collapsed Vault in Luppitt Churchyard

July 2000 Grahame Smith says that on a yard mat at Exeter he saw it marked as a MANLEY vault.

On 2nd Dec 1993 visitors from New Zealand called at Little Rhems after a visit to see Luppitt Church. During their conversation they mentioned something about 'a big hole'. Mr Clapp went up to the churchyard to find out what they had referred to, and then rang me to explain what she had seen. Fairly close to the base of the steep bank to the North of the chancel there was indeed a large hole, the surface grass area about 3ft x 4ft was down about 3ft 6 ins from the surrounding surface. I went to the yard and it was obvious that there was a vault the roof of which had collapsed into the void below. The masonry walls were clearly visible and most were plastered internally, the exception being a part of the eastern end which would appear to have been the entrance, obviously stoned up from the outside. Internal measurements were approx. 7ft on the South and North sides and 6ft on the West and East, the width of the entrance being 32 ins, with 22 ins on its South and 18 ins on its North of this eastern end. Wedged roof stones could be seen under the overhanging turf near the west end. Partly visible on this west end a cross bar could be seen built into the side walls on its edge about 3 ins deep and 3/4 inch thick, and assuming a similar one under the fallen material on the east end it would seem they were used to rest coffins on. Measurements were taken from the main church walls to the south east corner of the vault walls. They were 34'6" from the buttress of the north east chancel corner, 28ft from the north east corner of the vestry, and 31ft from the north east corner of the north chancel wall.

Mr Pulman later covered over the hole with some sheets of galvanised iron nailed to cross timbers, to prevent any accident occuring.

Rev N. Wall, our Vicar made some enquiries and as a result Mr Bill Horner, archaeological assistant at D.C.C. County Hall at Exeter, came

to see the problem on 8th December and took photos and measurements, and said he thought it was probably a vault built in the 18 C. Our Rural Dean also saw it at his visit on 18th February 1994, and said that further investigation was permissable subject to no human remains being removed. Due to very wet weather and the water in the vault further work was delayed until 28th July. The turf was then removed as well as the large roofing stones and a small area at the South West corner cleared, but nothing was found which might help in identifying any family connections. Mr Homer again paid a visit on 1st August and confirmed his earlier dating, and agreed that we could nothing further except fill it in. The P.C.C. agreed that we ask Mr Simmonds to assist us with his small grave digging machine to fill wheelbarrows from the accumulated surplus to the south of the churchyard extension. And so on 15th September with a few helpers sufficient material was barrowed accross the churchyard to fill in the hole of the collapsed vault to the level of the surrounding area, and some grass seeds sown afterwards. Helpers were A Blaff, B Blaff, S Crabb, J Cunningham, B. Pulman S. Smith and J Sage. An unanswered question remains, how did they get to the entrance to the vault? By just a slope dug out, or were prepared steps made which might still be there? There are other areas in the yard which are somewhat rounded and are also clear of headstones, which suggest that there could be other similar family vaults.

Car park

Luppitt Church car park March 1995

The bank between the outside path and the car park was partially removed and hauled away, the remainder was pushed out slightly towards the path and resurfaced with turf, thereby reducing a little the width of the path but quite considerably enlarging the car park area. Large concrete curb stones were placed at the base of the bank to stabilise it, and the parking area resurfaced with scalpings.

Action Stations' Copied from 'Luppitt Packet' June 1994
Upottery, Devon.

'D' Day

known locally as Smeatharpe, the airfield of Upottery had a short career, with but one highlight: D-Day. Construction of the three runway station started in the spring of 1943.

See P208 P216

Upottery was opened on February 17 1944 but remained on care and maintenance until it became USAAF station 462. It was to be the base of the 439th TCG (91st, 92nd, 93rd and 94th Squadrons) of the 50th T.C.W. IXth Troop Carrier Command which arrived from Balderton on April 26th with its Douglas C-47 and C-53 Skytrains.

Training with Horsa and Hadrian gliders commenced immediately and on June 5th the 439th, led by Colonel Charles H Young, took off for Normandy. His group of 81 Skytrains carried paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division to a DZ near St. mere Eglise. Glider missions followed on the 7th June and then the C-47's were used on re-supply tasks. The 439th continued at Upottery until September 8th though the airfield had been transferred to RAF control during August. On October 1st it became a satellite of Weston Zoyland but was used by the United States Navy during November and December while Dunkeswell runways were being repaired. On January 7th 1945 it was transferred to 19 Group Coastal Command, and taken over by the United States Navy four days later. The Station was finally closed down during November 1945.

Action Stations. 5. Military airfields of the South West.

This publication was borrowed from Honiton Library after copying the articles on Smeatharpe airfield above and Dunkeswell Airfield opposite from Luppitt Packet, and extracts were then taken from the book on Culmhead opposite.

The book covers the area west of a line drawn from the Solent at Southampton to the Severn at Gloucester. A list of these airfields is on page 210.

List

Dunkeswell Airfield

Dunkeswell Airfield was built by Wimpey during 1941-42 as a standard three runway airfield. During construction it was on the books of 10 Group Fighter Command, but in May 1942 was transferred to Coastal, and it was given basic facilities to operate three maritime squadrons. Dunkeswell was opened for Americans in July 1943. The airfield grew into a major base. Liberators were first used and replaced by a specialised anti-submarine version of PB4Y-1. By May 1944 the three squadrons were capable of flying 18 aircraft a day, though shortage of crews meant that each had to fly every other day to achieve this high rate. The intensive operations over the D-day period resulted in many sightings by Dunkeswell aircraft.

From Action Stations by Chris Ashworth, Published by Patrick Stevens Limited.
This book can be obtained in Honiton.

Culmhead (Church Stanton)

Originally intended as an emergency landing ground and dispersal Church Stanton was actually a typical three-runway day fighter base when opened on August 1 1941. For almost a year the exclusive home of No 2 Polish Fighter Wing, Church Stanton became known as THE Polish Airfield. Although intended for the defence of Bristol and Exeter, the squadrons (302 and 306) were used mainly on convoy patrols.
On February 15 1942 a detachment of the RAF Farnborough called the Research Flight arrived at Church Stanton. They deliberately flew their Battle and Wellingtons aircraft into cables suspended from barrage balloons to test types of cable cutters. Czechs replaced the Poles in June 1942 and left in June 1943 replaced with 66 and 504 squadrons using Spitfire Vs for deck landing practice. Changes brought 126, 131 and 616 squadrons over the D day period, when they flew armed recce ahead of troops in France. A week later 616 was to become the first unit to fly jet propelled aircraft. Two Meteors arrived in July. Culmhead was closed in August 1946.

8/5/95

Alton Barnes	Wiltshire
Aston Down	Gloucestershire
Babdown Farm	"
Barnsley Park	"
Barnstable	Devon
Beaulieu	Hampshire
Bisterne	"
Bolt Head	Devon
Boscombe Down	Wiltshire
Brockworth	Gloucestershire
Calshot	Hampshire
Castle Combe	Wiltshire
Charlton Horethorne	Somerset
Charmy Down	"
Chedworth	Gloucestershire
Chickerell	Dorset
Chivenor	Devon
Christchurch	Hampshire/Dorset
Cleave	Cornwall
Colerne	Wiltshire
Coldrose	Cornwall
Culmhead/Bk Stanton	Somerset
Davidstow moor	Cornwall
Down Farm	Gloucestershire
Dunkeswell	Devon
Everleigh	Wiltshire
Exeter	Devon
Falmouth	Cornwall
Filton	Gloucestershire/Avon
Guernsey	Channel Islands
Haldon	Devon
Hamworthy/Poole	Dorset
Harrowbeer	Devon
Henstridge	Dorset
High Post	Wiltshire
Holmsley South	Hampshire
Hullavington	Wiltshire
Hurn	Hampshire/Dorset
Ibsley	"
Jersey	Channel Islands
Keevil	Wiltshire
Kemble	Gloucestershire
Larkhill	Wiltshire
Long Newnton	Gloucestershire
Lulsgate Bottom	Somerset
Lymington	Hampshire
Manningford	Wiltshire
Merryfield	Somerset
Middle Wallop	Hampshire
Moreton Vallance	Gloucestershire
Mount Batten	Devon
Needs Oar Point	Hampshire
Netheravon	Wiltshire
New Zealand Farm	"
North Stoke	Gloucestershire/Avon
Oatlands Hill	Wiltshire
Oakhampton	Devon
Old Sarum	Wiltshire
Overley	Gloucestershire
Perranporth	Cornwall
Portland	Dorset
Portreath	Cornwall
Predannack	"
Roborough	Devon
Rollestone	Wiltshire
St Eval	Cornwall
St Just - Lands End	"
St Marys	Scilly Isles
St Mawgan	Cornwall
St Merryn	"
Sandbanks	Dorset
Shrewton	Wiltshire
Staverton	Gloucestershire
Stoney Cross	Hampshire
Tarrant Rushton	Dorset
Thruxton	Wiltshire
Tilshead	"
Townsend	"
Trebelzue	Cornwall
Trelegga	"
Upavon	Wiltshire
Upottery	Devon
Warmwell	Dorset
Weston Super-Mare	Somerset/Avon
Weston Zoyland	"
Whitchurch	" /Avon
Winkleigh	Devon
Winkton	Hampshire
Worth Matravers	Dorset
Yate	Gloucestershire/Avon
Yatesbury	Wiltshire
Yeovil	Somerset
Yeovilton	"
Zeals	Wiltshire