

A PARTICULAR OF LUNDY ISLAND: THE CLAYTON MANUSCRIPT

by

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INTRODUCTION

This note provides further information and dating of the paper on which the Clayton Manuscript was written (Rowland *et al.*, 2018). The 2018 paper makes a connection between the Clayton manuscript and the 17th Century owners of Lundy, the Grenville/Granville family (hereinafter Grenville) of Stowe House in Kilkhampton.

In the section of the 2018 paper devoted to the medium on which the ‘Particuler’ was written, the size and form of the paper was described. This description includes the paper size; 14¾ x 11¾ inches (375 x 297 mm), the lines from the paper-making process and its watermark.

Purely serendipitously, during transcription of Bishop’s Transcripts for Kilkhampton in Cornwall, an identical piece of paper was identified.

BISHOPS’ TRANSCRIPTS (BTs)

BTs were supposed to be verbatim copies of original entries of births, marriages and deaths as entered into Parish Registers although not all are exact copies nor have they survived. The earliest existing examples date from 1561 but with new regulations introduced by an archiepiscopal order in 1598, more examples date from 1598. There was a hiatus in the Commonwealth Period of 1649-1660. (Fitzhugh 1985).

Archdeacons were expected to travel to each parish in the diocese at Easter to collect the BTs, but in practice the local clergyman would bring his copies to a more central location in the diocese where they were collected and taken back to the Bishop’s palace. Copies were most often made on any scrap of paper or parchment that could be acquired. Some of them were on scraps cut from blank areas of documents others were submitted on the back of old records.

Nowadays we are used to paper being freely available. Most households probably have a ream of printer paper ready for use. Until the middle of the last century, paper was not so common. Use was made of envelopes and the empty pages at the backs of books for shopping lists, recording card game scores or for immediate similar uses either due to this lack of paper or for good economic reasons.

VICARS OF KILKHAMPTON 1661-1672

Denis Grenville DD, was the youngest son of Sir Bevill Grenville. He was born in 1636/7. He was ordained deacon in March 1661 and in July 1662 instituted to the Rectory of Kilkhampton. He remained there until May 1664 when he became Dean of Durham.

From 1664, Daniel Bollen MA was presented to the living of Kilkhampton by John, Earl of Bath, the eldest surviving son of Sir Bevill Grenville. Bollen died, aged 67, in 1672. He was succeeded by Joseph Coryndon MA, again presented by John, Earl of Bath, and remained vicar up to 1711 (Dew 1926).

These appointments and places of worship and residence show the connection and continuity that the Grenvilles and Stowe House had with the vicars of Kilkhampton either with a direct relative or where the vicar was instituted, or recommended by a Grenville.

.. Burialls

William 1st son of John 1 st	April 10
Elizabeth 1st daughter of Richard 1 st	April 29
Thomas 1st son of Reginald 1 st	May 19
William 1 st son of	29
William 1 st son of	30
Richard Hooper	June 15
Ann Kingland	August 9
Margery Grounway	September 4
Thomas 1 st son of	September 14
Andrew Taylor	October 27
Robert 1 st son of	February 5
Robert 1 st son of	12
William 1 st son of	24
Thomas 1 st son of	more 5

Plate 1: The Bishop's Transcript (BT) from Kilkhampton. Reproduced by kind permission of Devon Archives & Local Studies, DHC Early Bishop's Transcripts, Cornwall, Kilkhampton.

THE RETURN

Plate 1 shows a BT from Kilkhampton, discovered by the first author, of one side of the folio of returns for the year and is headed "*Kilkhampton the 17th of Aprill 1672 A True Coppy taken out of the Regester Booke of all the Christnings + Maraiges and Buriels of the last yeare 1671 as followeth ...*". This title (reproduced in italics above) and the Baptisms and Marriages are on the reverse of the illustrated page of Burials and cover the period 9th April 1671 to 5th March 1672.

The BT is on a sheet of paper 14³/₄ x 11³/₄ inches (375 x 297 mm) folded lengthwise in half of the same size and form as that used in the Clayton paper and bearing the identical watermark which appears to be a three element candlestick supporting stacked circular elements. The marks created during the paper-making process are easily discernible and match the Clayton manuscript.

It is not unreasonable to assume that Coryndon, the vicar, would have asked for any paper that could be spared from the manor of Stowe House. Stowe had been in the possession of the Grenville family since 1620 and they still lived there at the time of this return and it could be reasonably assumed that he was given this folio for his use. Other BT returns around this entry in the archives look similar, but only this example has the distinctive watermark.

That there were many papers at Stowe is evidenced by Baring Gould (1899) who quotes the wife of Rev. R.S. Hawker. She noticed a document at Stowe signed by Sir Bevill Grenville wrapped around a mutton bone. This led Hawker to the discovery of a large chest full of letters dating from the 16th and 17th centuries. Dew (1926) then records that, a mass of original documents and letters from Stowe, relating to the Grenville family, were sent to Baron Carteret in London in 1854, where they were "committed to the flames".

Given that paper was not commonly available at this time and the fact that the vicar of Kilkhampton had to find something on which to write his returns to the Bishop, it is possible that his source of paper was from the local landed gentry. The family of his patrons, at Stowe, would have been disposed to support a request for spare paper from the vicar they had recommended who had a need for paper to make his returns and for which they apparently had little need.

Baring-Gould (1899) and Dew (1926) record that a large volume of paper was stored at Stowe throughout the 18th and 19th centuries and that no great value was attached to it. The size and appearance of the paper together with the distinctive watermark suggests that the BT and the Clayton manuscript originated from the same source. The date of the BT supports the origin of the paper as being 17th Century and that the Clayton manuscript dates quite possibly around the late 17th Century.

REFERENCES

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