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## GRENVILLE RESEARCH

This report has been produced to accompany the Historical Research and Statement of Significance Reports into Nos. 1 to 5 Bridge Street, Bideford. It should be noted however, that the connection with the GRENVILLE family has at present only been suggested in terms of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Bridge Street.

I am indebted to Andy Powell for locating many of the reference sources referred to below, and in providing valuable historical assistance to progress this research to its conclusions.

In the main Statement of Significance Report, the history of the buildings was researched as far as possible in an attempt to assess their Heritage Value, with a view to the owners making a decision on the future of these historic Bideford properties. I hope that this will be of assistance in this respect.

David Carter

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## **Executive Summary:**

- This report and detailed research proves beyond reasonable doubt that the celebrated explorer Sir Richard GRENVILLE was born in Bideford on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1542.
- The location of the Manor House of the GRENVILLE's has also been established, this having been on the site of the present No's 1 to 3 Bridge Street, thereby establishing Sir Richard's birthplace.
- The buildings which now occupy this site were erected around 1630 ( $\pm$  10 years) – this having been proved from dendro-chronological analysis of original timbers.
- Historic features within this building have been linked conclusively with the GRENVILLE family.
- There are suggested elements of an earlier building (foundations, sections of wall, etc.), which are presumably remnants of the mediaeval manor house formerly on this same site.
- This report also attempts to identify the location of the 'grand mansion' which Sir Richard GRENVILLE is known to have constructed on Bideford riverfront in 1585. The site of this house has also been established within reasonable probability.
- None of the above facts have previously been established.

I am grateful to the present owners of No's 1 to 5 Bridge Street for commissioning this research. It is hoped that this will lead to the restoration of these buildings, and for a fitting purpose being established for them.

David Carter

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## Who were the GRENVILLE family?

In 1895, the then vicar of Bideford, Rev. Roger GRANVILLE M.A., researched and published a history of the GRANVILLE's ('The History of the Granville Family, Traced back to Rollo, First Duke of Normandy', published 1895, 495 pages). The exhaustive work is certainly the main reference book on the subject of this family, but may contain suppositions now proved incorrect. It could also not have taken account of historical sources unknown at the time of writing.

However, it does include transcripts of GRENVILLE documents which have subsequently been lost to us (mostly Wills, etc, destroyed during WW2), so the book is of unique value in this respect.

The following summary of the GRENVILLE lineage illustrates their role in Bideford's history. Whilst this summary starts with the first-known GRENVILLE to have associations with Bideford, this family's lineage can be shown to have come from the Normans in Rouen, France, and prior to that, the Royal families of Norway ('Normans' being a contraction of 'Norsemen' – the Viking settlers who invaded and settled Britain and northern France in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries).

To have a continuous recorded lineage is remarkable given the period of history in question, and with a few possible anomalies, it does appear to be valid. The standard generational gap is generally calculated to be about 25 to 30 years (but in practice could be anywhere from 15 to 55).

Generational gaps of prima-genitor decent are shorter, in that they usually relate to the first-born male, who continues the descent passing land and property down through the years.

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N.B. Some years are written in this report as a 'split year', eg: 1549/50.

This is the conventional way of identifying years in the period prior to 1752, when New Years Day was celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

eg: A date of 20<sup>th</sup> March would in the original documents have been recorded as 20<sup>th</sup> March 1549, whereas in today's calendar we would know this as being 20<sup>th</sup> March 1550.

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## Generation 1:

<p><b>Richard de GRANVILLE</b>  <i>Knight Crusader.</i>  <i>Bideford and Stowe 1126.</i>  <i>Living at Bideford by 1129.</i>  <i>Built Neath Abbey 1129.</i></p>	<p>= Isabel GIFFORD (<i>dau of Earl of Buckingham</i>).  Known children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Richard</b></li> <li>• William (<i>Archbishop of Canterbury in 1123</i>)</li> <li>• Robert</li> <li>• Gerard (<i>Descendants became the Grenville's of Buckingham</i>)</li> <li>• Ralph</li> </ul> <p>= Constance (<i>dau of Caradoc ap ARTHUR of Glyn Nedd</i>)</p>
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The Domesday Book tells us that at the time of the Norman Conquest the Manor of Bideford was owned by Brictric, along with a dozen other manors. These were seized in 1068 and given by William the Conqueror to his wife Matilda. When Matilda died in 1083, the lands reverted to the Crown.

Some references then say that these lands were then given to Richard de GRANDVILLE by William the Conqueror as a reward for his services.

Other sources say that the lands were given to Sir Richard de GRANVILLE by William Rufus (ie: William the second, who ruled 1087 to 1100).

*[White's Devonshire Directory of 1850].*

If the former is correct, then this grant of land was probably in thanks for services rendered in the invasion of Glamorganshire with his brother Robert FITZ-HAMON. This Robert FITZ-HAMON is believed to have established a settlement in South Wales around 1093, but more recent research suggests that Cardiff was established much earlier, around 1081 with the invasion by the Normans, so a grant in 1083 would appear to be about right.

Either way, it is clear that this Richard de GRANVILLE was the first person to own the manor of Bideford. As a young man he assisted the King and was rewarded with land, but as an older man nearing his end, he probably felt the need to save his soul and founded an Abbey at Neath in Glamorganshire in 1129 (on lands that Richard was known to have been granted earlier). However, from the following source we know that Richard was living in Bideford at the time:

*"Sir Richard Greenvil, Knight, lived and was richly landed at Bediford in this County. He was one of twelve peers which accompanied Robert Fitz-Haimon in his expedition against the Welsh, when he overthrew Rhese ap Theodore .... and divided the conquered country betwixt his assistants. This Sir Richard .... though in his partage, good land was at Neath in Glamorganshire allotted unto him .... erecting and endowing a monastery at Neath for Cistercians, bestowing all his military acquests on them for their maintenance. Thus having finished and settled this foundation, **he returned to his own patrimony at Bediford in this County, where he lived in great repute, 1100, under the reign of King Rufus, and may seem to have entailed hereditary valour on his name and still flourishing posterity.**"*

*[History of the Worthies of England, by Thomas Fuller (1608-1661), published 1662, reprinted 1840].*

It is interesting to note that recent discoveries in the ruins of Neath Abbey discovered floor tiles upon which appeared a representation of the GRENVILLE arms.

### Generation 2:

<b>Richard de GRANVILLE</b> <i>Knight Crusader; killed on Crusade 1147.</i>	= Adelina de BELLEMONT ( <i>Family descendants became the Earls of Leicester</i> ) Known children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Richard</b></li></ul>
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### Generation 3:

<b>Richard de GRANVILLE</b> (d.1204) <i>Knighted 1200.</i> <i>Lord of Bideford and Kilkhampton.</i>	= Gundreda ( <i>dau and Heir of Thomas de MIDDLETON</i> ) Known children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Richard</b></li></ul>
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### Generation 4:

<b>Richard de GRANVILLE</b> (d.1217) <i>Paid five marks to have the privileges of inhabitants of Bideford made equal to those of Exeter.</i>	= ( <i>Unnamed dau &amp; Heir of Thomas Fitz NICHOLAS de Middleton</i> ) Known children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Richard</b></li></ul>
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### Generation 5:

<b>Richard de GRENVILE</b> (d.1240). <i>Buried in Tewkesbury Abbey.</i>	= Jane ( <i>dau of William TREWENT of Blisland</i> ) Known children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Richard (<i>Obtained the First Town Charter of 1272. d.1310 without issue</i>)</li><li>• <b>Bartholomew</b></li><li>• Robert (<i>d.1314</i>)</li><li>• William (<i>First Chancellor of England; Archbishop of York. d. 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 1315. Monument in York Minster</i>)</li></ul>
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### Generation 6:

<b>Bartholomew de GRENVILE</b> (d.1325) <i>at Bideford</i> <i>Described as being 'decrepit' when he died, aged at least 85.</i> <i>First reference to the Long-Bridge at Bideford ~ Bishop Quivil gives money for its maintenance in 1294.</i>	= Amy ( <i>daur of Sir Vyell VYVYAN Knight of Treviddren</i> ) Known children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Henry</b></li><li>• Richard</li><li>• Isabel</li><li>• Joanna</li></ul>
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### Generation 7:

<b>Henry de GRENVILE</b> (d.1327) <i>Earliest known inhabitant of Stowe, Kilkhampton.</i>	= Ann ( <i>dau and heir of family of Wortham, near Lifton</i> ) Known children: <b>Theobald</b>
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### Generation 8:

<b>Theobald de GRENVILE</b> (d.1377) <i>Lord of Bideford in 1361. At Bideford in 1367.</i>	= Joyce ( <i>dau of Thomas BEAUMONT, Earl of Mellent</i> ) Known children: <b>Theobald</b>
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### Generation 9:

<b>Theobald de GRENVILE</b> (d.before 1381)	= Margaret ( <i>dau of Sir Hugh COURTENAY, of Hacombe</i> ) Known children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>John</b></li><li>• <b>William</b></li></ul>
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### Generation 10a:

<b>John de GRENVILE</b> (d.1410/11) <i>Resided at Stowe. First Grenville to hold office of High Sheriff of Devon.</i>	= Margaret ( <i>dau of Sir John BURGHERSH</i> ) No Issue. <i>Succeeded by younger Brother <b>William</b></i>
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### Generation 10b:

<b>William de GREYNVILL</b> (d.1449) <i>At Bideford in 1449.</i>	= Thomasine ( <i>dau of John COLE</i> ) No Issue  = Philippa ( <i>Sister to William, Lord BONVILL of Chuton</i> ) Known children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Thomas</b></li><li>• Margaret</li><li>• Ellena (<i>Married William YEO of Heanton Sackville, ancestor of Lord CLINTON</i>)</li></ul>
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**Generation 11:**

<p><b>Thomas GREYNVILE</b>          (born c.1420, d.1509)  <i>High Sheriff of Gloucester 1462.</i>  <i>High Sheriff of Cornwall 1465.</i></p>	<p>= Anne (<i>dau of Sir Phillip COURTENAY of Powderham</i>)  <i>Married in Umberleigh Parish Church 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 1447</i>          No Issue</p> <p>= Elizabeth (<i>Sister to Sir Theobald GORGES, Knight</i>)          Known children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thomas</b></li> <li>• John (<i>Priest of St Mary's Bideford 1504</i>)</li> </ul>
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**Generation 12:**

<p><b>Thomas GREYNFIELD</b>          (d.1513)  <i>Monument in St Mary's, Bideford.</i>  <i>Lived at Stowe, but in later life at Bideford.</i>  <i>Took part in first (failed) insurrection against Richard III.</i>  <i>High Sheriff of Cornwall.</i></p>	<p>= Isabella (<i>dau of Sir Otes GILBERT of Compton</i>)          Known children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Roger</b></li> <li>• Richard (<i>High Sheriff of Cornwall four times</i>)</li> <li>• Jane (<i>Married Sir John ARUNDELL of Trerice</i>)</li> <li>• Mary (<i>Married Sir Thomas St AUBYN of Clowance</i>)</li> <li>• Agnes (<i>Married John ROSCARROCK of Roscarrock</i>)</li> <li>• Philippa (<i>Married Francis HARRIS of Radford, Plymouth</i>)</li> <li>• Honor (<i>Married Viscount LISLE, Lady-in-Waiting to Anne BOLEYN</i>)</li> <li>• Katherine (<i>Married Sir John ARUNDELL of Lanherne</i>)</li> </ul> <p>= Jane (<i>'dau of HILLS of Taunton'</i>)          Known children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John</li> <li>• Jane (<i>Married Wymond RALEIGH, Grandfather of Sir Walter RALEIGH</i>)</li> </ul>
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### Generation 13:

<p><b>Roger GREYNFIELD</b> (d.1524) <i>Lived at Stowe.</i> <i>High Sheriff of Cornwall (twice).</i></p>	<p>= Margaret (<i>dau of Richard WHITEIGH of Efford</i>) Known children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Richard</b></li><li>• John (<i>Privateer</i>)</li><li>• Digory (<i>Had nine sons and four daughters</i>)</li><li>• Agnes (<i>Married John FITZ of Tavistock</i>)</li><li>• Jane (<i>Married Edmund SPECOTT of Merton</i>)</li><li>• Philippa (<i>Married Thomas TREMAYNE of Collacombe, and had sixteen children</i>)</li><li>• Mary (<i>Married John BEAUCHAMP</i>)</li><li>• Christiana (<i>Married John ERISAY</i>)</li><li>• Amy or Ann? (<i>Married John DRAKE of Ashe, Axminster</i>)</li></ul>
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### Generation 14:

<p><b>Richard GREYNFELDE</b> (d. 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1549/50) <i>Buried at Kilkhampton</i> <i>Lived at Stowe.</i> <i>M.P for Cornwall 1512.</i> <i>High Sheriff of Devon 1515.</i> <i>High Sheriff of Cornwall 1526.</i> <i>Marshall of Calais.</i> <i>Purchased Buckland Abbey 26<sup>th</sup> May 1541.</i> <i>Bequeaths it to his wife Maud.</i> <i>Leaves his "Mansion house in the town of Bideford..." (and other lands) to his Grandson Sir Richard GRENVILLE.</i></p>	<p>= Matilda/Maud (<i>Daughter of John BEVILL of Gwarnock</i>) Known children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Roger</b></li><li>• John (<i>Died in Infancy</i>)</li><li>• Jane (<i>Married Robert WHETALL of Calais</i>)</li><li>• Mary (<i>Married John GIFFARD of Brightley</i>)</li><li>• Margaret (<i>Married Sir Richard LEE, Knight</i>)</li></ul>
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### Generation 15:

<p><b>Roger GREYNFELDE</b> (d.1545) <i>Drowned as Captain on board the 'Mary Rose', Portsmouth.</i> <i>Must have lived at Bideford as his father was at Stowe.</i> <i>Outlived by his father so did not inherit lands etc.</i></p>	<p>= Thomazine (<i>dau of Thomas COLE of Slade, Ivybridge</i>) Known children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Richard</b></li><li>• John (<i>died in Infancy</i>)</li><li>• Charles (<i>died 1544</i>)</li></ul>
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**Generation 16:**

<p><b>Sir Richard GRENVILLE</b>          (b. 1542 ~ d.1591) <i>Buried at sea following the Battle of Flores</i></p> <p><i>M.P for Cornwall 1570.          Founder of Bideford Town Council 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 1574 and Alderman of the first council.          High Sheriff of Cornwall 1577.          Founder of American Colonies at Roanoke 1585 – 1588.</i></p>	<p>= Mary (<i>dau of John St LEGER of Annery</i>)          Known children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bernard</b></li> <li>• John (<i>Sea Captain. Died 1595, Guyana, during voyage with Sir Walter RALEIGH</i>)</li> <li>• Roger (<i>died 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 1565, buried at Kilkhampton</i>)</li> <li>• Bridget (<i>Buried Bristol Cathedral, 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1627</i>)</li> <li>• Son (<i>Unnamed, presumed died in infancy</i>)</li> <li>• Catherine (<i>Married Justinian ABBOT, Hartland Abbey</i>)</li> <li>• Ursula (<i>Died unmarried, Buried St Mary's Bideford 1643</i>)</li> <li>• Rebecca (<i>Died aged 16, Buried St Mary's Bideford 9<sup>th</sup> June 1589</i>)</li> <li>• Mary (<i>Married Arthur TREMAYNE of Collacombe</i>)</li> </ul>
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**Generation 17:**

<p><b>Sir Bernard GRENVILLE</b>          (d.1636)  <i>Resided at Stowe then at Tremeer and Bideford in later life.          High Sheriff of Cornwall 1596.          M.P. for Bodmin 1597.          Alderman of Bideford Town Council 1619.</i></p>	<p>= Elizabeth (<i>dau and Heiress of Phillip BEVIL of Brinn, Lostwithiel</i>), married 1592.          Known children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bevil</b></li> <li>• Bernard (<i>Presumed died sometime shortly after 1619</i>)</li> <li>• Richard 'Skellum' (<i>exiled to Ghent, d.1659</i>)</li> <li>• John</li> <li>• Roger (<i>Baptised at Bideford 1603; drowned during reign of Charles I</i>)</li> <li>• Son (<i>unnamed, presumed died in infancy</i>)</li> <li>• Elizabeth (<i>d.1605</i>)</li> <li>• Gertrude (<i>Married Sir Christopher HARRIS of Lanrest, died aged 86</i>)</li> </ul>
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### Generation 18:

<p><b>Sir Bevil GRENVILLE</b>          (b.1596; d.1643) <i>Killed at Battle of Lansdowne.</i>  <i>Lived at Stowe, noted resident at Bideford 1631.</i>  <i>M.P. for St Germans.</i></p>	<p>= Grace (<i>dau of Sir George SMITH of Heavitree, Exeter</i>) married 1620.          Known children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richard</li> <li>• Elizabeth (<i>Married Peter PRIDEAUX</i>)</li> <li>• Son (<i>Unnamed, presumed died in infancy</i>)</li> <li>• Daughter (<i>Unnamed, presumed died in infancy</i>)</li> <li>• <b>John</b></li> <li>• Barnard</li> <li>• George (<i>became Lord LANSDOWNE</i>)</li> <li>• Dennis</li> <li>• Grace (<i>Married Robert FORTESCUE of Filleigh</i>)</li> <li>• Bridget</li> <li>• Joane</li> <li>• Mary</li> </ul> <p>(<i>Reputedly Bevil and Grace had 14 Children</i>)</p>
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### Generation 19:

<p><b>Sir John GRANVILLE (Baron, Viscount, &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Bath)</b>          (b.1628; d.1684)  <i>Lived at Bideford, moved to Stowe from 1656</i>  <i>Served with his father during the Civil War.</i>  <i>M.P. for Newport (Wales) 1657.</i>  <i>Warden of the Stannaries.</i>  <i>High Steward of the Duchy of Cornwall.</i>  <i>Principal part in the restoration of Charles II.</i></p>	<p>= Jane (<i>dau of Sir Peter WYCHE (Married. Oct 1652)</i>)          Known children:          Jane (<i>b. Aug. 1653, Christened at Kilkhampton</i>)          Grace (<i>b. Aug 1654, Christened at St Giles in the Field</i>)  <b>Charles</b>          John (<i>d.1707</i>)          Catherine</p>
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### Generation 20:

<p><b>Charles GRANVILLE (2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Bath)</b>          (b.1661; d.1701) <i>Committed suicide.</i>  <i>M.P. for Cornwall 1685.</i>  <i>Ambassador to Spain.</i></p>	<p>= Lady Martha OSBORNE (<i>Daughter of 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of LEEDS</i>)          No Issue</p> <p>= Isabella (<i>Sister of Henry, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of GRANTHAM</i>)          Known children:          William Henry (<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of BATH. b.1692; d.1711 aged 19 of Smallpox</i>)</p>
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When the last of the direct male line of the GRENVILLEs died out with the death of the Earls of Bath in 1711, the title transferred to George GRANVILLE of Cornwall (son of Sir Bevill GRENVILLE – generation 18). In the same year, King James III bestowed various titles onto George GRANVILLE, including ‘Baron Lansdowne of Bideford’, although four years later he was imprisoned in the Tower of London suspected of being a Jacobite. He died in 1734 and is buried in St Clement Danes, London.

The GRENVILLE estate was eventually carved up between the 1st Earl of Bath’s daughters Jane and Grace, whose descendants include the Duke of Sutherland, Earls of Clarendon, and Viscount Althorp, and therefore to the present Royal Family’s children.

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From the above lineage, we can see that the GRENVILLE family have had associations with Bideford since time immemorial [that’s actually a correct usage of this phrase, as the legal definition of this term was decreed in 1275 to be ‘any time prior to 1189’ – the date Richard I came to the throne, and therefore before living memory].

As Lords of the Manor of Bideford, they would have had an established Manor House (legal place of business and probably of residence) in a central location, although earlier residences would be more like a fortified home. Such later manors were generally sited next or near to the Parish Church, although the farm and estate-lands could be spread anywhere within the vicinity.

What this report will now illustrate, are subsequent references to the GRENVILLE’s landholdings, activities and residencies in Bideford.

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## The early GRENVILLEs in Bideford:

### 1126:

The first GRENVILLE was known to be living in Bideford in 1126 (generation 1), although they were probably allocated land there in 1083.

### 1204:

A Charter was granted to Bideford by Sir Richard GRENVILE (generation 4) somewhere around 1202-1204, possibly the latter as this was the year that his father died. This Charter refers to Common land on the western side of the river Torridge, and also further land on the east side of the river.

[For a full transcript of this Charter, see Appendix 2]

### 1232:

A small Saxon church was known to be in Bideford at this time: *“Henry de TRACEY (and 3 other named people) are appointed Justices of the Assize on the presentation on the morrow of the close of Easter, between Richard de GREINVILL petitioner, and the Abbot of Tewkesbury deforciant. 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1232.”*

[Inkerman Rogers: Concise History of Bideford, page 8; taken from Calendar of State Papers, British Museum]

### 1256:

From the year 1256, we have the following reference:

*“The Archbishops eldest brother Richard, the sixth in succession of that name, held in the 40<sup>th</sup> of Henry III. (1256) ‘viginti libratas terrae in com: Devon,’ by Knight’s service, and very large possessions elsewhere, and not being at that time a Knight was summoned to take that degree. As ‘Sir Richard de GRANVILLA, Knight’ he grants Yrania, daughter of Thomas de GRENVIL, and to her heirs and assigns, two burgages and six acres of land in Bideford, which escheated to him from Roger de BOTELEK, of Great Cleve, and **‘lie on the east of Bideford High Street,’** the tenement of William BOTREAUX south, and that of William WHING north.’ In 1261 he presented to the living of Bideford, Henry de BRATTON or BRACON, as the name is usually spelt, a celebrated lawyer as well as a divine.”*

[Rev. Granville’s History of the Grenville Family, 1895, page 48.]

The above quote refers to ‘Bideford High Street’, but this is unlikely to refer to the High Street named as such today. Streets did not have such names in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, although the above reference may have referred to the main commercial street of Bideford, in which case this would probably be Allhalland Street or Mill Street. The High Street leading up the hill is unlikely to have been fully developed until the 17<sup>th</sup> century, similar to Bridgeland Street, which was laid out in 1684. However, we still appear to have reference to the main centre of Bideford, so from the above we can infer that William WHING owned the land on the north side of Bideford, with the GRENVILLEs owning land near the centre, and the BOTREAUX family having land further up river to the south. This could suggest that ‘Old Ford’ in Bideford was built by the BOTREAUX family (they were known to be wealthier than the GRENVILLE’s at that time, and Old Ford is believed to date back to at least the 1300s. The William BOTREAUX mentioned is part of the family from Boscastle and long-time owners of Hartland Abbey before the dissolution).

This should place the GRENVILLE lands in the area near the commercial centre of Bideford, and in control of the local Parish Church, ie: right in the Bridge Street area.

**1259:**

Bideford's Parish Church was completed in this year, and dedicated to St Mary, although earlier chapels almost certainly existed on or near the same site. However, this completion date cannot be a coincidence just 3 years after the GRENVILLEs had further lands granted here.

[Inkerman Rogers: Concise History of Bideford, page 8]

**1261:**

The first recorded Rector of Bideford was appointed on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1261 (Henry Le BRATTON), his Patron being Richard de GRANVILLE (of generation 6, but who died without issue).

[Inkerman Rogers: Concise History of Bideford, page 9]

**1272:**

In 1272, Sir Richard GRENEVYLE (same person as above) obtained a new Charter for a market for Bideford on Mondays, and a fair at the Feast of St Margaret the Virgin. The original Charter does not exist, but a copy is in the National Archives.

The Burgesses paid Sir Richard GRENEVYLE four marks of silver for this Charter. At this time, it was found that Sir Richard held 'antiquas furcas' and 'an assize of bread and water at Bideford' and free warren on the east side of the Toryz (Torridge) water.

[Rev. Granville's History of the Grenville Family, 1895, page 48.]

**1280s:**

It is generally accepted that a primitive Bridge was constructed at Bideford in the late 1280s. There is a reference that Bishop QUIVIL paid money for maintenance of a bridge. If that is the case, then the construction of this crossing can probably be ascribed to the same Richard de GRENEVYLE who gave Bideford its 1272 Charter. Rev GRANVILLE in his history (page 53) speculates that this Bridge may have suffered from lack of maintenance, or was more likely swept away by flood. A stronger bridge was believed to have been built about 40 years afterwards.

**1297:**

In 1297, Sir Richard GRENEVYLE (of generation 6, but who died without issue) was summoned to London with other Devon men, to 'Go with the King beyond the seas for their honour and the preservation and profit of the Kingdom'. In 1301, his services were again summoned, to march against the Scots from Berwick-upon-Tweed, with Edward I.

[Rev. Granville's History of the Grenville Family, 1895, page 49; taken from Ryley's Pleadings in Parliament, p.483]

**1299:**

The Cartulary of Launceston Priory confirms that Richard de GREYNVILE was writing from Bideford on 20<sup>th</sup> May this year, confirming the grant of a charter regarding estates near Kilkhampton in Cornwall.

[Lambeth Palace MS.719, t's published by Devon and Cornwall Record Society, ed. P L Hull, 1987]

**1318:**

Bartholomew GREYNVILE (generation 6) appears with the title: 'Lord of Bideford'.

[Rev. Granville's History of the Grenville Family, 1895, page 49; quoting deed granted at Bideford]

**1327:**

The Long Bridge at Bideford is thought to have been built around this time, and is attributed to Theobald de GRENVILE (generation 8), although there is evidence that an earlier Bridge existed across the Torridge here. Given that we believe the site of the GRENVILLE main Manor House to be adjacent to the Church, it seems highly significant that Theobald would have had this bridge constructed at the most convenient location near to his property. The River Torridge has no particular narrowing point at this location, and seems to remain the same width for a couple of hundred metres in either direction. Its construction at the bottom of the road below the Manor seems highly significant, and an attempt to highlight the importance of the GRENVILLE's manorial status.

The original Ford river crossing over the Torridge was about a third of a mile upstream from the present bridge, close to where Old Ford house stands. We believe that this was owned by the BOTREAU family in the 1250s, who would have controlled this crossing point. The construction of a Bridge on lands owned by the adjacent GRENVILLE family, may have represented a power-struggle between these two families.

The river-frontage at Bideford has been pushed outwards over the years, and Allhalland Street is named after the All Hallows Chapel which existed at the western end of the Bridge. This Chapel would probably have been on the site of the present-day Bridge Buildings or the Town Hall (ie: adjacent to the Manor), and an important cross-roads was created at this location.

**1332:**

In 1332 a Tax Assessment showed that there were 30 Burgesses paying rents to Theobald de GRENVILE, Lord of the Manor at Bideford.

[History of Early Bideford]

**1340 onwards:**

From the various sources above, we can see that the GRENVILLES lived continuously at Bideford from the date of the manor being granted in the 11<sup>th</sup> century to about 1340, when the first mention of 'Stowe' (a manor within the parish of Kilkhampton) appears. Between 1340 and 1541, Bideford and Stowe are the only houses from which the GRENVILLE family appear to write.

There is an interesting correlation between father and sons over the generations whereby the young family GRENVILLES write from Stowe, whereas when they get older they tend to write from Bideford.

**1376:**

Theobald GRENEVILLE is recorded as being having a tenement in Bideford.

[Inkerman Rogers: Concise History of Bideford, page 9; taken from Inquisitions, Feudal Aids, British Museum]

**1449:**

Thomas GREYNVILLE (generation 11) is recorded as granting a tenement in Bideford to a Richard ASHRIGGE. Four years later in 1453, there is a further grant of land in Bideford to a Richard REDE.

**1513:**

This dual home-owning is illustrated by Sir Thomas GRAYNFIELD (d.1513 Bideford – generation 12) who is at Stowe with his large family until at least 1504, when his uncle is known to be a priest at Bideford [Rev Granville's History, page 58]. The Will of Sir Thomas GRAYNFIELD [see Appendix 3 for verbatim transcript] shows the affection that Thomas had for Bideford rather than Stowe. He chose to be buried at Bideford, and to make an altar there in his memory. Also to appoint a priest at Bideford to pray there for his ancestors and his descendants.

This is good evidence of the earlier lineage, and of hopeful later lineage of the GRENVILLEs at Bideford.

**1541:**

Shortly before 1504, Thomas's heir Roger GRENVILLE (generation 13) is living at Stowe, whereas Richard (generation 14) remained at Stowe till his death. This means that his son Roger GRENVILLE must have been at Bideford during his early married life at least until Oct 1541, the date of the lease signing for Buckland Abbey.

With the purchase of Buckland Abbey in 1541, the home of the GRENVILLEs becomes more uncertain, as they then have three possible places of abode.

**1542:**

The celebrated Sir Richard GRENVILLE (generation 16) is born. His father Roger died 3 years later in 1545 whilst serving as Captain on the 'Mary Rose'.

**1548:**

Authority is granted by Lord SEYMOUR High Admiral of England, to three people in Devon to commission 'privateers' to take French ships and goods. These were Sir Peter CAREW, Sir Thomas DENYS, and Sir Richard GRENFELDE (generation 14). This is further confirmation of the maritime background of the GRENVILLE family.

**1575:**

A Charter of Bideford is agreed this year by Sir Richard GRENVILLE.

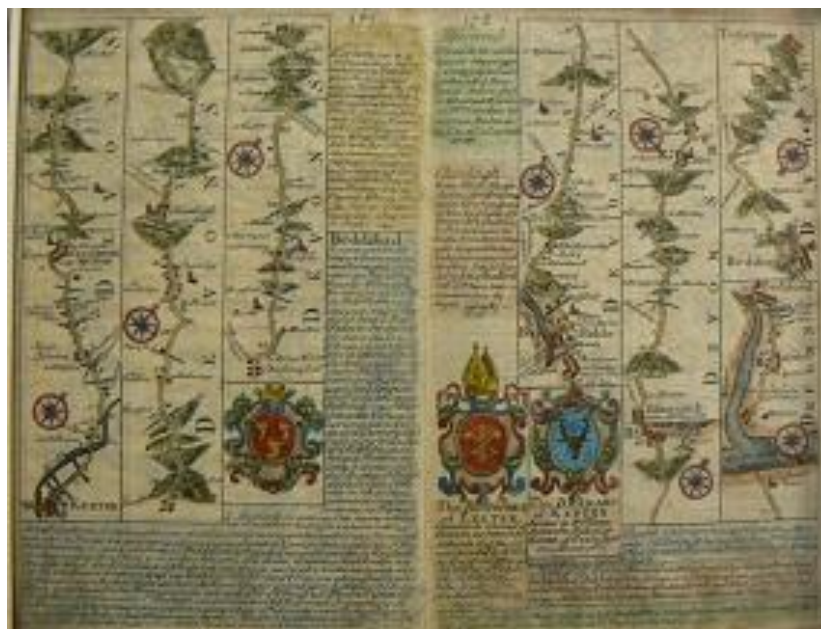
Bideford's original Charter of 1272 had fallen into disuse by this time, and the Town was very run down. Sir Richard GRENVILLE could apparently see a good economic future for Bideford, and in 1572 (the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original Charter) applied for a modern new Charter to take Bideford forward into the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. This was given Royal assent in 1575, and was instrumental in transforming Bideford from a provincial coastal settlement, into a thriving port of national importance.

[For a full transcript of this 1575 Charter, see Appendix 6].

**1577:**

'Sir' Richard GRENVILLE (generation 16) is Knighted.

1600s:



[Ref: NDRO 246/32]

The GRENVILLEs have been held in high regard in Bideford for many centuries, not just in modern times. This road map (undated, but from the 1600s) contains the following text in its description of Bideford:

“The GRANVILS have been Lords of the Town ever since ye Conquest of which great & honourable family was Sir Richard GRANVILLE Knight was so instrumental in ye conquest of Glamorganshire after many brave feats against the Welsh founded an Abbey at Neath in that County and so returned hither.

Another Sir Richard of the same name and family in Queen Elizabeth’s lifetime maintained a very extra ordinary sea fight against ye Spaniards for with one ship having on board but 180 soldiers he fought 24 hours with 54 Spanish Galleons of which 30 sail were aboard at several times & yet at last yielded upon honourable terms after his powder was spent having slain above 1000 Spaniards & sunk 4 of their stoutest ships.

Theobald GREENVILLE founded ye noble Bridge of Biddeford which equals if not excells all other in England admitting a passage for a ship of 50 or 60 tun thro’ some of its arches. Concerning which Bridge it is strangely related that ye inhabitants of ye Town had several times attempted to build it but in vain, not being able to find a firm foundation. At last one Richard GORNARD Priest of ye Place was admonished by a vision to found it near a rock which he should find rolled from ye higher ground upon ye Strand who finding ye rock was represented in his dream presently informed ye Bishop of ye Diocese & Sir Theobald GREENVILLE Lord of ye Town of it Whereupon Sir Theobald laid ye foundation & ye Bishop granted indulgencies to all such as should be contributors to so usefull & necessary a work which effectually raised mony sufficient to compleat ye Bridge & also to keep it in perpetual repair.”

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## Buckland Abbey:

From an Internet Guide to Buckland Abbey, we have the following text:

*"Intending to pass Buckland Abbey on to his son Roger, Sir Richard GRENVILLE [senior] left the property mostly in its original state. Roger GRENVILLE was never to enjoy this benevolence as his life was cut short with the untimely sinking of Henry VIII's favourite flagship, the Mary Rose. However, his son (named Richard after his grandfather) would convert the monastic buildings of Buckland Abbey into a stately home. In a move far ahead of his age, the undeviatingly Protestant, Sir Richard GRENVILLE decided to convert Buckland Abbey's church into his home. Retaining Buckland Abbey's square tower and much of its intrinsic architectural structure, he inserted three floors and a great hall. A spectacular room, Buckland Abbey's great hall was decorated with bizarre plaster and wooden friezes now deemed by many to be grotesque rather than artistic. Merely four years after finishing his reconstruction, financial constraints [see: 1\*] led Sir Richard GRENVILLE to sell Buckland Abbey to his cousin, Sir Francis DRAKE in 1581 [see 2\*]."*



The Great Hall at Buckland Abbey created by Sir Richard GRENVILLE (1542-1591).

### Comments on the above:

1\*: By 1574, GRENVILLE had amassed a fortune to finance his plan to sail to the South Sea (Pacific Ocean). When he was turned down, he purchased Upcott and Landcross estates (south of Bideford). It was also at about this time he petitioned Queen Elizabeth for Bideford's charter. He created the port of Bideford in 1575 (of which he had complete control over revenues), and became an Alderman of Bideford's first council. He was also High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1577. Therefore any suggestions that he was short of cash, is somewhat misplaced.

2\*: The sale actually took place in 1580 to a Christopher HARRIS from Radford in Plymouth. He in turn sold the Abbey to Francis DRAKE the following year.

## Biography of Sir Richard GRENVILLE:

At this point, the following summary-biography of Sir Richard GRENVILLE (taken from Wikipedia) will probably be of background use: *[some comments have been inserted thus, in brown]*

**Sir Richard Grenville** (6<sup>th</sup> *[should be 15<sup>th</sup>]* June 1542 – 10<sup>th</sup> September 1591) (sp. var: *Greynvile, Greneville* or *Greenfield*) was an English sailor, sea captain and explorer. He took part in the early English attempts to settle the New World, and also participated in the fight against the Spanish Armada. He died in 1591 at the Battle of Flores, characteristically fighting against overwhelming odds, and refusing to surrender his ship to the far more numerous Spanish. He was the grandfather of Sir Richard Grenville, *[should say Sir Bevill Grenville]* of English Civil War fame.

### Early life:

Grenville's birthplace is unknown, but he spent much of his childhood at Clifton Arundell House after his mother remarried Thomas Arundell following the death of his father Sir Roger Grenville, who was Captain of the *Mary Rose* when it sank in Portsmouth Harbour in 1545. He was a cousin of Sir Walter Raleigh and the privateer Sir Francis Drake. At age 17, Grenville began law studies at the Inner Temple. On 19 November 1562, he was in an affray in the Strand in which he ran Robert Bannister through with his sword and left him to die. He was pardoned for this crime. At age 18 he inherited his estates at Stowe in Cornwall, and Bideford and Buckland Abbey in Devon, England. This year he was also made Member of Parliament for Launceston. In 1565 Grenville married Mary St Leger (who outlived Grenville, dying aged about 80 on 9 November 1623. She lies buried at St Mary's Church, Bideford.) The family initially lived at Buckland Abbey before moving to a newly built house at Bideford.

### Career:

In pursuit of his military career, Grenville fought against the Turks in Hungary in 1566. In 1569, he arrived in Ireland with Sir Warham St. Leger to arrange for the settlement of lands in the barony of Kerricurrihy. These had been mortgaged to St Leger by the Earl of Desmond. At about this time, Grenville also seized lands for colonisation at Tracton, to the west of Cork harbour. Sir Peter Carew had asserted his claim to lands in south Leinster. St Leger settled nearby, and Humphrey Gilbert pushed westward from Idrone along the Blackwater River. All of these English efforts to take over land in the south of Ireland led to bitter disputes. They escalated into the first of the Desmond rebellions, led by James Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald.

As sheriff of Cork, Grenville witnessed the rebellion in which Fitzmaurice, along with the Earl of Clancar, James Fitzedmund Fitzgerald (the Seneschal of Imokilly); Edmund Fitzgibbon (the White Knight); and others, attacked Tracton. They overcame the English defence with pickaxes and killed nearly the entire garrison. The three surviving English soldiers were hanged the next day by the Irish. Fitzmaurice threatened the imminent arrival of Spanish forces. Having robbed the citizens of Cork, he boasted that he could also take the artillery of the city of Youghal.

In June 1569, soon after Grenville's sailing for England, Fitzmaurice camped outside the walls of Waterford and demanded that Grenville's wife and Lady St Leger be given over to him, along with all the English and all prisoners; the citizens refused. His forces put local English farmers to the sword. As Cork ran low on provisions, the people of Youghal expected an attack at any minute. The rebellion continued, but Grenville remained in England. Grenville sided with the Earl of Arundel and the Duke of Norfolk in 1569 against the Queen's secretary. "Undeviatingly Protestant", he arrested the Catholic priest Cuthbert Mayne at the home of the Tregians in 1577. Mayne was martyred as a result.

During this period Grenville played a major role in the transformation of the small fishing port of Bideford in north Devon into a significant trading centre. A Charter had been granted to a former Richard Grenville in 1272, creating the Town's first Council. *[Not quite true: the Charter was granted in 1272, the First Town Council was created in 1577]*. In 1575 he created the Port of Bideford.

Grenville was never elected as Mayor of Bideford, preferring instead to support John Salterne in that role, but he was Lord of the Manor, a title held by the Grenville's since 1126 and finally ceded to the Town Council Richard Grenville created, in 1711. He was also High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1577.

Following a period of supporting Sir Walter Raleigh's venture in America (see below) he returned to Munster to arrange the estate granted him under the plantation of the province. Following the suppression of the Second Desmond Rebellion in 1583, he had purchased some 24,000 acres (97 km<sup>2</sup>) in Kinalmeaky and brought settlers over. His renewed efforts beginning in 1588 yielded little success, and Grenville returned to England late in 1590.

### **New World and the Spanish Armada:**

In 1574 Grenville submitted a proposal to the Privy Council to take a single ship to plunder Spanish treasure ships in South America and from there to sail across the 'South Sea' (The Pacific Ocean) in the hope of finding a short cut to the Spice Islands. He was denied on the grounds that England was still using diplomacy with Spain. It was this plan that was eventually executed by Sir Francis Drake when he circumnavigated the world in 1577.

In 1585, Grenville was admiral of the seven-strong fleet that brought English settlers to establish a military colony on Roanoke Island, off the coast of modern North Carolina in North America. He was heavily criticised by Ralph Lane, General of the expedition, who referred to Grenville's "intolerable pride and unsatiable ambition". This description has remained of Grenville to this day but must be considered with the knowledge that Lane was involved in a bitter legal feud with Grenville at the time. On his return, Grenville took a Spanish Ship, the 'Santa Maria de Vincenze', which he later brought to Bideford to be converted into the 'Galleon Dudley'. The cannons from that Spanish ship are thought to be those erroneously labelled 'Armada cannons' in Bideford's Victoria Park.

In 1586 Grenville returned to Roanoke to find that the surviving colonists had shipped out with Drake. Grenville left 15 of his own men to defend Raleigh's New World territory. During his return to England, Grenville raided various towns in the Azores Islands. At about this time, a description was given of his behaviour while dining with Spanish captains:

"He would carouse three or four glasses of wine, and in a bravery take the glasses between his teeth and crash them in pieces and swallow them down, so that often the blood ran out of his mouth without any harm at all unto him." *[This event is only found in the writings of Charles KINGSLEY in his novel 'Westward Ho!', and is therefore highly spurious at best!]*.

In 1587 he was asked by the Privy Council to organize the defences of Devon and Cornwall in preparation for the expected attack by the Spanish Armada the following year. In 1588, Grenville equipped seven ships at Bideford with supplies and more Colonists for Raleigh's 'Planters' Colony settled at Roanoke the previous year. However, a stay of shipping due to the impending arrival of the Spanish Armada meant that the fleet did not sail. Grenville led five of these ships to Plymouth to join the English defence and returned to Bideford where he provisioned the remaining two ships for Roanoke. A voyage that later turned back after being raided by the French. Later that year, Grenville was commissioned to keep watch at sea on the Western approaches to the Bristol Channel in case the Spanish Armada returned.

[The following section on the Death of Grenville has been written by Andy Powell, to replace the now-considered less accurate version on Wikipedia]:.

### **Final command and death:**

In 1591, as part of a plan to strangle Spain's trade with its West Indian empire, England decided to blockade the Azores. Grenville was appointed vice admiral of the *Revenge*, one of Lord Howard of Effingham's ships, which was owned by the Queen. It was regarded as one of the finest in the fleet, recognition surely of Grenville's skills as a sea captain.

What happened during that fateful event has largely always been thought to follow closely Raleigh's report on the Battle of Flores, but we know now that this report was inaccurate. There exist a number of primary sources including a first-hand Spanish account from onboard Don Alonso de Bazan's flagship, and the testimony of the Captain of the 50-tonne *Foresight* (the only ship that came back to help the *Revenge*).

The Spanish fleet knew the English were at anchor on the northward side of the island of Flores and thus decided to split into two flotillas and circumnavigate the island to catch the English in a pincer movement. On sight of the Spanish, Lord Howard, having been caught unawares, fled.

Accounts state the English fleet had left many men on the island of Flores, some to seek water and others to gain some respite from a sickness that had swept through the fleet. In Sir Richard Hawkins' book *Observations* he records that 'Grenville would not leave his men ashore for the Spanish to take'.

The Spanish records on Sir Richard Grenville state: 'Almirante Ricardo de Campo Verde gran corsario y de mucha estimacion entrellos' (Admiral Richard Grenville, a great corsair and of great estimation among them). And the record on the *Revenge* after she was finally taken states, 'This Admiral Galleon was one of the best there were in England; they called her the Revenge. She was the flagship that carried Drake to Corunna'.

The first attempt to take the *Revenge* came from the *San Felipe*, which boarded her with nine or ten soldiers. In the following hand-to-hand combat, seven of them were killed. The ships then broke free. Aramburu's flagship then tried boarding the *Revenge*, but was repelled and, according to the Spaniard's own admission, badly damaged in the engagement. It was then the turn of the *Ascencion* under Don Antonio Manrique to try to board the *Revenge* but she, too, was beaten off.

The Spanish accounts go on to state that by this time, the *Revenge had* become unrigged and dismasted but was still fighting. She continued to fight and in the continuing battle sent the Vice Admiral Luis Cuitinho's ship, the *La Serena*, and the *Ascencion* to the bottom of the sea. These accounts also record that several other ships in their fleet were badly damaged in the engagement.

Grenville was wounded in the head by a Spanish marksman's musket shot just before midnight. By the following daybreak, the *Revenge was* almost out of powder, and was recorded as having no pikes left to repel boarders, and decks littered with the bodies of forty men. The ship was also slowly sinking from a catalogue of cannon and artillery shot.

It is at this point in the fight that Grenville is recorded by the subsequently repatriated mariners as commanding his men to arrange for the ship to be split asunder and sunk so she would not be taken. The crew said no, probably because they hoped to save themselves by handing over the

*Revenge* to the Spanish as the prize they so evidently wanted. With his crew not prepared to sink the ship and having nothing left to fight with, Grenville had no choice but to surrender.

Grenville was taken onboard the *San Pedro*, the Spanish flagship. There his 'multiple wounds' were dressed and he was given a meal of his choosing. The Spanish account states that while Grenville sat at the table, 'Don Alonso would not see him yet all the rest of the captains and gentlemen did visit him to comfort him and to wonder at his courage and stout heart, for that he showed not any sign of faintness nor changing of colour.'

Sometime after Grenville's death, the Spanish admiral, Don Alonso, wrote, 'El Almirante de los mayors marineros y cosarios de inglaterra gran hereje y perseguidor de catholicos' (The admiral of the master mariners and corsairs of England [was] a great heretic and persecutor of the Catholics). He added, 'Mas la herida era grande y murio otro dia' (But his wound was grievous and in a day or two he died).

Grenville was buried at sea on the way to Terceira. The *Revenge* also sank en route. Some accounts state that the *Revenge* was left to dash against the cliffs of Terceira following a storm, but this is not recorded in the Spanish records.

The Spanish quoted their official losses as a hundred men and two captains; only two ships were declared lost, but many were subtly noted as having been severely damaged. English accounts suggest that up to fifty-three ships were involved but this is incorrect. There may have been many more ships in the Spanish fleet as a number did not engage in Don Alonso's attack, but what is certain is that a total of twenty-nine ships in two flotillas (of eighteen ships and eleven ships respectively) attacked the *Revenge* in that pincer movement around the island of Flores. [Coleccion Navarette XXV (Nos: 48, 49); A. de I., 54-1-34, Santo Domingo 1 18. 1 pliego, Cf. Document No. 10, ante].

The Battle of Flores had a consequence that rippled through the Spanish Empire for many years afterwards. The single-handed battle Grenville had fought not only severely hampered their expansion plans but also provided sufficient delay to the arrival of their treasure ships from the West Indies that they were caught in the worst storms for a century. Spanish maritime power never recovered.

In his book *Considerations Touching a War with Spain*, (imprinted 1629) Francis Bacon described Grenville's actions as "that memorable fight of an English ship called the *Revenge*, memorable I say even beyond credit and to the height of some heroic fable".

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## The Birthplace of Sir Richard GRENVILLE:

Firstly, it should be stated that there is no record anywhere of the Birth or Baptism of Sir Richard GRENVILLE.

However, his age and birth-year have been calculated from the note on his portrait hanging in the National Portrait Gallery in London, which states (in Latin) that the painting was made in 1571 when Sir Richard was aged 29 – ie: Richard must have been born in 1542.

His exact birth-date was recorded in the Inquisition Post Mortem of his grand-father Richard (generation 14), where it states that Richard (generation 16) was aged 8 on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1550.

[Ref: National Archives C-142, Vol.90, No.12, page 3, bottom line].



The case for Sir Richard GRENVILLE (1542-1591) being born in Bideford, is as follows:

There are three possible places where his birth could have taken place in the GRENVILLE family homes at this time:

- Buckland Abbey
- Stowe House, Kilkhampton
- Bideford Manor

The Parish Baptism Registers for **Buckland Monachorum** (which includes Buckland Abbey) only survive back to 1552, although the Marriage and Burial Registers survive back to 1538 when the law required Parish incumbents to record all Baptisms, Marriages and Burials performed in the parish. We are therefore unable to consult Baptism Registers for the period around 1542.

The Parish Baptism Registers for **Kilkhampton** survive fully back to 1539. These have been searched for a baptism entry for Richard GRENVILLE in or shortly after 1542 – none was recorded there.

The Parish Baptism Registers for **Bideford** only survive fully back to 1561, so do not survive for the period in question.

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Sir Richard GRENVILLE's father Roger GRENVILLE (generation 15) was married to Thomazine COLE, and had three children:

- Charles, born c.1541, died 1544
- Richard, born 1542, died 1591
- John, born 1545, died: unknown (presumed in infancy as there is no further mention of him)

There were no known earlier children, so Roger and Thomazine probably married just prior to the birth of Charles around 1541. There would probably have been subsequent children, but Roger was killed in 1545.

There is no surviving record of their marriage. However, Parish Registers survive for both Buckland Monachorum and Kilkhampton for the period from 1538 onwards, and no marriage is recorded in either of these. So Roger must have married Thomazine either in her home parish, or in Bideford.

Roger GRENVILLE died in 1545, in the sinking of the 'Mary Rose' whilst leading an attack on the French in the Solent on 19<sup>th</sup> July. His position on board the vessel was 'Captain', but whether he was captain of the vessel or captain of the marines serving on board the vessel is not clear. Either way, Roger must have had a sound knowledge of ships, and could not have reached that position without a lifetime's background of being on-board a variety of vessels. Kilkhampton is unlikely to have provided such opportunities for a young man, but the established port of Bideford would have been ideal for giving him this background knowledge and experience.

The GRENVILLE family bought Buckland Abbey in 1541. The Abbey had recently been dissolved by Henry VIII and at that time it was a monastic building not a family home, so Richard GREYNFELD (generation 14) commenced work converting it to suit his tastes. Much work was done, and it was his grand-son Richard (generation 16) who finally completed the work, with much money being spent on it in 1576, transforming it into mansion (this date being on the fire-place frieze in the great hall).

Regarding the purchase of Buckland Abbey, we have the following sources:

(a) In 1541 'in consideration of the good, true and faithful service which our well-beloved servant Richard GREYNFELD ... heretofore done to us' [the King] sold him Buckland Abbey for £233.3s.4d and an annual fee of £2.6s.4½d to the Court of Augmentations. [Guide to Buckland Abbey by Crispin GILL, page 44, published by the City of Plymouth 1951].

(b) The whole demesne was granted by Henry VIII to Sir Richard GRENVILLE of Bideford, in capite, for the twentieth part of a knight's fee. [The Family and Heirs of Sir Francis DRAKE, by Lady DRAKE, 1911, page 56].

(c) GRENVILLE bought the reversion to Buckland Abbey in Devonshire, for which on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1541, he paid the sum of £233.3s.4d. [Sir Richard GRENVILLE of the Revenge, by A I ROWSE, 1937, page 36. L. and P., XV1, no. 878 (68)].

(d) To Sir Richard GRENVILLE of Bideford, 26<sup>th</sup> May 1541, the site, church, etc and demesne of Buckland Abbey (L.P. xvi 429: the grant also included some Cornish property). m.3 The site and demesne of Buckland Abbey: Farm of the site with orchards, gardens, meadows, etc, called Calves parke and Barne parke, 5 ac; Dedeham, 70 ac; Quarry Park, 11 ac; Conyger, 26 ac; Wyndemyll parke, 8 ac; Long parke, 17 ac, together with a small meadow adjoining; Longlandes, 60 ac; Vyntens, 18 ac; Oxenham, 4 ac; Sowthefelde 40 ac; Penmarshe parke, 5 ac; Okewell, 2½ ac; Hyer Bickeham and Lower Bickeham, 110 ac; arable land called Hayleball, 60 ac; Long parke, 7 ac; Ruggemyll parke, 2½ ac; meadows called Cawsey mede, 1 ac; Shepewaishe, 1½ ac; pastures, 120 ac; and woods called Halieball wood, £23 3s 5d. Certified by Mathew COLTHURST. (LM) 'Nota lucu' Supervis; boscorum pro boscis ibidem'.

Immediately after the surrender of the Abbey in the Spring of 1539 ARUNDELL had farmed the site and demesne to George POLLARD of London at a rent of £23.3s.5d (Receivers Accounts 1538-9) and in the following December this was formally confirmed by the Crown for 21 years (A.O. Misc Book 212, fo.33). It is odd that the auditor does not cite POLLARD's lease but it is mentioned in the letters patent. At what date he was bought out by the GRENVILLEs is not known, and in fact there is no proof that POLLARD's lease did not run its full term. Sir Richard GRENVILLE paid £130 of the

purchase money on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1542, and £102.7s.7d on 24<sup>th</sup> June following (A.O. Misc Book 336, fos. 8, 15) but the remaining 15s.9d was still unpaid at least as late as 1551 (A.O. Treas. Accts 7, m. 62) and in 1554 his heirs were five years – ie: £11.11s.8d – in arrears with the rent reserved to the Crown (R.A. 1554-4).

A.O. = PRO Exchequer Augmentation Office.

[Devon & Cornwall Record Society, vol 1, page 19. Calendar of Particulars for Grants. No.24].

It is highly unlikely that the Abbey would have been suitable accommodation for Roger's (generation 15) expectant wife, and for her to give birth there to son Richard in June of 1542. From the above, we can also see that although the purchase was made on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1541, no money changed hands until 12<sup>th</sup> May 1542 (first installment), and 24<sup>th</sup> June 1542 (second installment). Buckland Abbey cannot have been a family home until after the money changed hands and refurbishment works had been undertaken. However, we do know that by 1544 the family appear to be staying there, as their first-born son Charles (who sadly died young) was buried in Buckland Monachorum on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1544 [recorded in Parish Register].

The archives of Buckland Abbey have no record of the family living there at that time, and it is believed that the buildings in the early days of the GRENVILLE ownership were just used as a hunting lodge.

There was a further son John (both birth and death unrecorded) who is believed to have died in infancy, as there is only mention of Richard in the will of his grandfather Richard GREYNFELDE who wrote his will shortly after his son Roger's death on the 'Mary Rose' in 1545. Had John been alive in 1545, he would almost certainly have merited a mention. He doesn't appear in the Buckland records, so it is therefore most likely that the family moved back to Bideford, and John was born and died there.

The GRENVILLE manor house at Bideford would have been big enough for Sir Roger GRENVILLE and his small family between his marriage around 1540, and his death in 1545. It is unlikely that they were living at Stowe, as Roger's father Richard was still alive, and known to be in residence there. He made codicils to his will, dated at Stowe: 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> March, and 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1549/50, the last being just three days before his death. [For transcript of the Will of Richard GREYNFELDE (generation 14) who died at Stowe on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1549/50, see appendix 4].

After the death of Roger GRENVILLE in 1545, his wife Thomazine re-married to Thomas ARUNDELL, and moved to his estate at Clifton Arundell in Cornwall, where her only surviving son (Sir) Richard GRENVILLE was raised.

In 1565 Sir Richard GRENVILLE (generation 16) married Mary St Leger from Annery in the parish of Monkleigh. There is no record of their marriage, and the Marriage Registers for both Bideford and Monkleigh survive for this date, but given the noble connections of these two families, this couple could have married almost anywhere by special licence.

In later life, Sir Richard spends his time moving between Buckland, Stowe and Bideford. Bideford appears to be an administrative office during the period 1563 to 1585. Then from late 1585 there is a permanent shift of the GRENVILLE family to Bideford, until Richard's son Bernard appears at Stowe shortly after his marriage at Kilkhampton on 10th July 1592.

#### **Interim Conclusion**

**The above evidence suggests no other option, except that Sir Richard GRENVILLE was born in the family home in Bideford on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1542**





Henry VIII's flagship the 'Mary Rose', in which Roger GRENVILLE (father of Sir Richard) died in 1545

Depiction of Sir Richard GRENVILLE on stained-glass window in Kilkhampton Church



Linen & silk pillow cover made in 1592 to commemorate the marriage of Bernarde GRENVILLE and Elizabeth BEVIL  
[Victoria & Albert Museum]

## 1585: Sir Richard GRENVILLE builds a new house at Bideford:

We know that at the time of Sir Richard GRENVILLE's first voyage to set up a colony in America (1585), he was also engaged in constructing a new house for himself and his family in Bideford.

[Examination of Pedro Diaz; Havana, 21 March 1589 - Spanish Archives 'Coleccion Navarette']

By 1585, Richard had seven surviving children that we know of, so would have needed a substantial residence. Only two of these were male children, and they are the only of his children mentioned in his will/indenture written in the same year, but we also know that he had five daughters, one of which (Rebecca) died young and was buried at Bideford in 1589. There would have been many servants the quantity of which are unknown, but we do know that Sir Richard GRENVILLE's widow Mary, virtually living alone at the end of her life, mentions three servants in her will, so the number of servants for a large family must have been considerable.

During Sir Richard's voyage of 1585, he captured a Spanish vessel called the 'Santa Maria de Vincenze' at Bermuda on his way back to England. Such 'privateering' was permitted, and indeed encouraged by the Monarch, and the captains who captured such vessels were allowed to keep the proceeds from anything they captured. However, GRENVILLE was not known to have engaged in privateering – the Santa Maria simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time, and GRENVILLE took advantage of the situation in order to help pay for his voyage. In the case of the 'Santa Maria de Vincenze' we know that she was valued at £50,000, which in today's terms would have been something over £8 million. Sir Richard therefore had plenty of money at this time, and investing this in a grand house would have been a sensible move.

On board during Sir Richard GRENVILLE's voyage back home to Bideford in 1585, was a captured Spanish Captain called Pedro DIAZ, and a quantity of other captured Spanish sailors. In a later deposition made to the Spanish authorities, Pedro DIAZ describes his time as a prisoner being brought to Bideford. He also describes being made to help build GRENVILLE's house at Bideford. The Calendar of Spanish state papers also says that GRENVILLE held Spanish prisoners as slaves, and that they were made to carry stones on their backs all day for a building operation of GRENVILLE's. This does appear to be another reference to the construction of GRENVILLE's new house at Bideford. Pedro DIAZ was able to escape in 1588, and in 1589 wrote this above account about his incapacitation at Bideford.

[Examination of Pedro Diaz; Havana, 21 March 1589 - Spanish Archives 'Coleccion Navarette']

At this time Mary GRENVILLE (nee St LEGER), would probably also have wanted to be nearer her brother and troubled father at Annery, so since Stowe was not favoured and Buckland Abbey had been sold, a new home at Bideford would have been most desirable.

**1586:** Sir Richard GRENVILLE was based in Bideford in this year, and was obviously a person of extended local renown, both in terms of his name and his foreign explorations, as Adam Wyatt the Town Clerk of neighbouring Barnstaple records. *"On 16<sup>th</sup> April 1586, Sir Richard GREYNVYLL sailed ('out of Barnstaple' crossed out) over the Barr with his flee boat [fly boat] and friget."* This was the voyage to take supplies to the colony in Virginia established the previous year. Later on that same year, the Barnstaple Chronicle states that *"In December, Sir Richard GREYNFILD came home bringing a prise with him laden with sugar ginger and hyds."* It was on this return voyage that GRENVILLE acquired more Spanish prisoners from the Azores, which it is believed he used to help in the building operations for his new house at Bideford.

We also know that Sir Richard GRENVILLE was resident in Bideford in 1586, as a letter written by him there has survived:..

Sir Richard Grenvile to Dr Julies Caesar (in London):

*“Good Mr Doctor, I do understonde by my servaunt and others how troublesome come causes which ptely concerne me have bene unto you, and with all your good will professed towards me .... etc ....*

*... thus having laid open the estate of this cause unto you as to him who I am pswaded is my very good frende in ony my iuste accons, assuring you that I will not be unmindfull of your courtesies towarde me, with my very hartie Comendacons I praing you to pdon my boldness with you, I comitte you to the protection of the almightie.*

***Bedyforde this 27 of February 1586.***

*Your assured loving frend*

*R. Greynvile”*

[British Museum Lansdown Manuscripts. Ref: 158, fol.48 & 49].

A further letter of 1589, was written from GRENVILLE’s house at Bideford...

Sir Richard Grenvile to Dr Julies Caesar:

*“Good Mr Doctor, I muste nowe crave yow to stande frendlye for my kynesmanm that made seasure on the shippe and wynes at Padstow, for that theree are others which ptend right unto it .... etc .... yow shall always fynde me Juste to the most of my power. And so I beseech god for ever to prosper yow.*

***At my howse in Bediford this 19<sup>th</sup> of Maye 1589.***

*Your assured poore frend*

*R. Greynvile”*

[British Museum Lansdown Manuscripts. Ref: 143, fol.264 & 265v].

Given the rising status of Sir Richard GRENVILLE, and his need for a large imposing residence, the old Manor House would have been too small by this time, and not able to give him the elevated status of someone undertaking voyages to settle new lands in the name of the Queen. He must have been resident there by February 1587 (the ‘February 1586’ date above would be February 1587 using today’s Gregorian calendar – New Year’s Day prior to 1752 was on 25<sup>th</sup> March), so these letters were written from his new residence, and he was proud to show it.

We know that there were two separate houses belonging to the GRENVILLEs, generally known as ‘**(New) Place House**’ and ‘**Old Place House**’. We also know that GRENVILLE had servants, and accommodation would be needed for these. In April 1589, the Bideford Burial Registers report the burial of ‘*Lawrence, servant of Sir Richard GREYNVILLE Knight*’. It is interesting to speculate that as this servant had no last name, that he might be an imported servant (probably black) who was named by GRENVILLE but would not have had a last name. We know that black servants had appeared in Barnstaple by this date. In 1588, Queen Elizabeth granted licences to permit trading to the coast of Guinea in West Africa, and this included Richard DODDERIDGE from Barnstaple. In the Barnstaple registers there are a number of baptisms or burials for a ‘nyger’ or ‘nigor’ in the 1590s. Sadly, the native American (Rawley) who Sir Richard brought back to Bideford in 1588, was also buried in April 1589, two days before Lawrence. These entries are possibly the first confirmed records we have of immigrant people being buried in this country.

#### **Interim Conclusion:**

**The Old Manor (known as the ‘Old Place’) was on the site of numbers 1, 2, and 3 Bridge Street, and probably other additional adjacent land besides.**

**The New House of Sir Richard GRENVILLE (known as the ‘New Place’) was constructed on Bideford Quay in 1585.**

**1670s:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> EARL OF BATH (in the 3<sup>rd</sup> re-awardment of this title) was Sir John GREVILLE, 1628-1701 (generation 19), who was given this newly created title in 1661, after his services in helping the restoration of Charles II to the throne of England. As such, he was a direct descendant of the owners of both Old Place House and New Place House, and it appears that he was still able to transfer land belonging to the Old Place House in 1670.

A reference has been found\* stating that the EARL OF BATH purchased a house and garden in Maidenstreet in 1670, and formed a new road, which we today know as Buttgarden Street. At the same time though, he is also recorded as giving *“a plot of the garden of the old Place House for enlarging the churchyard on the north side thereof”*. Whether this land was ever used for burials, or was eventually used to construct the properties which now appear in this vicinity, is unknown.

[\*Inkerman Rogers, Concise History of Bideford]

The 1672 Church Rates (see main Statement of Significance Report for No.1 Bridge Street for details), state that the owners of ‘Place House’, situated on Bideford Quay, are to pay 4d in rates. It also states that a Mr John HILL is to pay 2d in rates for the ‘Old Place House’ situated next to the Churchyard.

The rating value for other houses in Bridge Street was 1d, so being charged 2d does indicate that this was a significant property. John HILL is known to have been Town Clerk at this time, and his ‘Mr’ status denotes him as gentry, and gives him status.

Having a rating value of 4d for the other property on the Quay shows that this was a grand dwelling, although the name of the person responsible for it at that time, was sadly not recorded.



This map from 1842 shows a regimented boundary structure for the properties in question.

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## Where was GRENVILLE's house on The Quay?

The location of GRENVILLE's Quay House has long been the subject of speculation and research.

In 1922, a correspondent writing in the North Devon Journal stated that Rev. GRANVILLE investigated a claim that the Old Castle Inn in Allhalland Street was formerly GRENVILLE's house, but that he was unable to find any proof of this. [ref: North Devon Journal: 17<sup>th</sup> August 1922, page 6, col.a].

In 1929, R Pearse Chope suggested that Place House was on the site of the Bideford Gas and Coke Company Building [No.8], where '*a handsome fireplace with the Grenville Arms is still preserved.*' [ref: Devon Notes & Queries: Vol.15, page 105 (1929)].

Following further investigation and analysis, it is concluded that there are elements of truth in both the above statements, but that neither is completely correct.



**No.8 The Quay** (a building with an Art Deco frontage, formerly the showrooms of the Bideford Gas and Coke Company), does indeed contain an impressive plaster fireplace overmantel, attributed to, and supposedly depicting Sir Bevill GRENVILLE.

The listing description of this building is as follows:

No.8 The Quay. Public House, now shop and offices. Late C19, refronted probably in 1930s; incorporates important C17 detail from house formerly on the site. Solid rendered front. Steeply-pitched hipped slate roof. Rendered chimney on each side-wall. 3 storeys; 3-window range. Ground storey altered, but upper storeys retain simple Art Deco design with metal windows and large stepped projection to centre of upper floor.

INTERIOR: first-floor front room contains an early/mid C17 plaster overmantel with the Grenville arms and a high-relief figure, popularly believed to be Sir Bevil Grenville (died 1643), whose town house is said to have occupied this site. The 1973 list description refers to a date of 1643 on the overmantel, but this does not seem to have been noticed by local historians commenting on the house. For part of C19 this was the Three Tuns Inn.



This photograph from 1863, clearly shows the Three Tuns Inn (No.8), adjacent to the Kings Arms (No.7, which still exists) on Bideford Quay.

The building which occupies the site of No.8 today, is a replacement building, and therefore this overmantle must have been placed there in more recent times. There is no evidence to suggest that it came from the previous building on the site of No.8 (ie: the one depicted above), although in Muriel Goaman's Book on Bideford, she says that this was "*covered by panelling for many years after the house became the Three Tuns Inn*". However, an overmantle of this size would have originally have been positioned so the soffit was about 2.0m above floor level. The floor-to-ceiling heights in the Three Tuns would have been sufficient to accommodate such an extravagant feature.



Adjacent to the overmantle were 2 additional features not mentioned in the Listing Description.

These were 2 doors and frames flanking the fireplace and positioned at angles to contain cupboards.

They are believed to be genuine, and date from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, or possibly late 16<sup>th</sup> century.



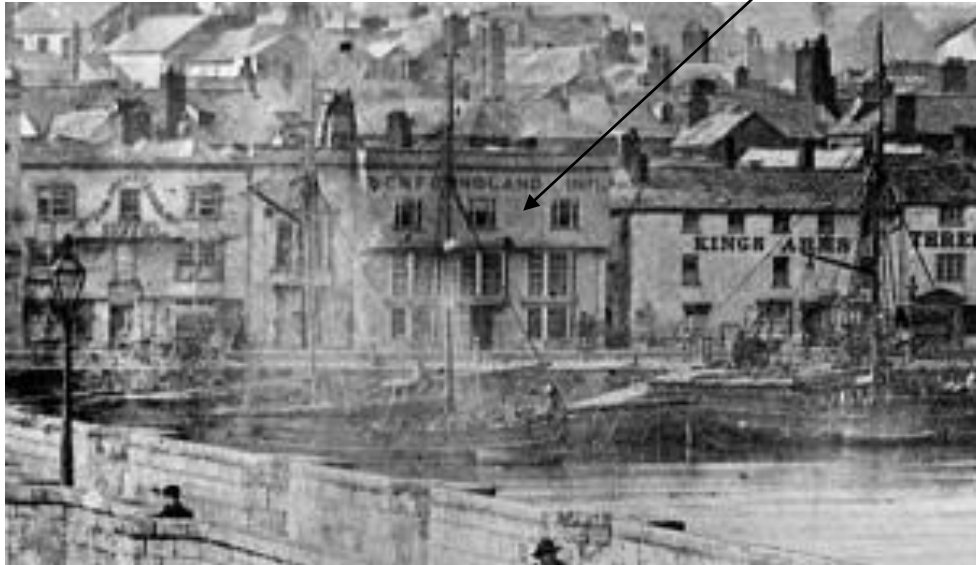
Each of these doors has different pairs of frame-stops, elaborately carved. The doors and frames have again been resited here from another building, probably the same one as the overmantle.

Further research is continuing to try and date these features, and to determine their origin.

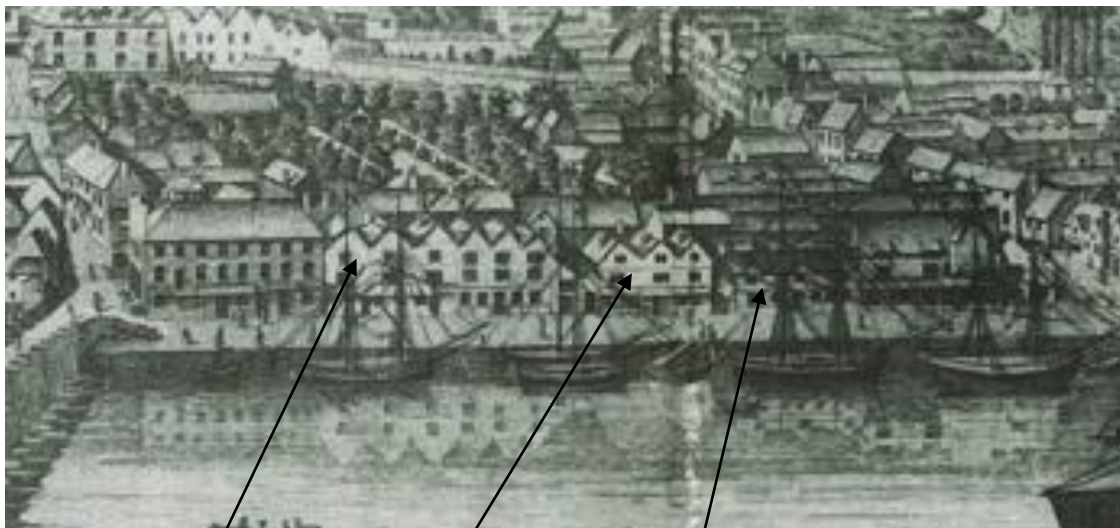
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## 6 The Quay:

Another building suggested as being the Quay House of the GRENVILLEs, is the 'Rose of Torr ridge' building at No.6 The Quay. Below we can see it in 1863, signed as the 'Newfoundland Inn'.



This building is undoubtedly ancient, and the sunken floor shows that the surface of the Quay would originally have been about 2'0" lower in order to suit the ground floor level of this structure. Heresay evidence reports that there are a mass of timber piles driven into the mud underneath this building, forming its foundations.



This painting from c.1760 shows the whole Quayside frontage of this part of Bideford. No.6 is the 3-gabled building just right of centre.

To the right of No.6 is: Conduit Lane, followed by the Kings Arms public house.

To the left of No.6 is a 6-gabled building, followed by the Grammar School (now Bridge Buildings).



An inspection was carried out of No.6 in order to determine if there were historic details which might date back to 1585. Sadly none were discovered, although decorative door-frame stops and the joints of roof-timbers did suggest a date of around the 1630s. No other significant dateable features were able to be discovered. Given the lack of dateable features from the Elizabethan period, and the evidence of the development of Bideford Quay at this time, this seems to preclude this building from further investigation.

For information: the Listing Description of this building is recorded as follows:

House, now restaurant and offices. Early or mid C17 (possibly a remodelling of an earlier structure), altered in C19 and with C20 addition at rear. Solid rendered walls (some stone rubble visible internally in ground-storey left side-wall and adjacent rear wall); front of third storey may be timber-framed. Pantiled roofs; there were probably 3 roofing-spans originally lying at right-angles to the quay, but the right-hand span appears to have been replaced by a flat roof. No chimneys.

Double-depth plan, 3 rooms wide. 3 storeys; 3-window range, the top storey jettied and finished with 3 triangular gablets corresponding to the original roofing-spans behind. The ground and second storeys have a pilaster at each end; these may be a C19 addition, but it could be that they are the ends of the side-walls, the timber-framed front wall between them having been rebuilt in brick. At the top of each pilaster, under the jetty, is a large foliated corbel, probably C19. Ground storey has late C19 or early C20 canted display window at each end.

Entrance in centre flanked by piers with moulded capitals; 2 angled doors recessed within a lobby, each with a solid moulded panel at the bottom and a glazed upper part with margin-panes. Continuous entablature above both display windows and entrance.

In second storey 3 wooden mid C19 canted bay windows with sashes; 4-paned sashes in centre, 2-paned ones at the sides, all with margin-panes. Third storey has mid or late C20 three-light wooden casement windows with transom-lights.

Right side-wall (visible from public alley) has C20 wooden casement windows in upper storeys, those in second storey with glazing-bars. 2 short ground-storey window with ogee-moulded wooden mullions, each of 4 lights. The left-hand window has the 3 original centre mullions and the left end-mullion, but the remainder, including both sill and lintel, are C20 replicas; the right-hand window is in a similar condition, except that the original lintel with pegged joints survives.

At the right-hand end, just beyond the back of the original building, is a square-headed C17 door-frame with ovolo and hollow mouldings, these finished at the bottom with large vase-stops; the feet of the jambs have been cut off and replaced in replica.

INTERIOR: little original work can now be seen, and there are several C20 beams and joists, together with some imitation panelling. The left-hand second-storey front room has an original ovolo-moulded ceiling-beam with no visible stops and a rear square-headed door-frame, also with ovolo mouldings and elaborated scroll-stops; adjoining it in the lobby outside is a matching door-frame with C20 door opening into the left-hand rear room. The left-hand roof-span has old trusses with collar-beams and purlins; middle roof-span not accessible. 2 recesses in the left side-wall may be blocked windows, suggesting perhaps that the building was originally free-standing.

Although altered, this building is a type of high-class early post-medieval town house that is rare in Devon. It is likely to contain original fireplaces, partitions (possibly panelled) and door-frames at present concealed by later plastering and boarding. WH

Rogers has suggested that this building was erected in 1633 at the rear end of a garden belonging to a house in Allhalland Street. In 1842 Wood's plan shows it as 3 separate properties marked 'Western' but 20 years later (before 1864) it had become the Newfoundland Inn. It was subsequently renamed The Old Ship Tavern. Old photographs show it with a very high parapet, wholly concealing the roof-gables.

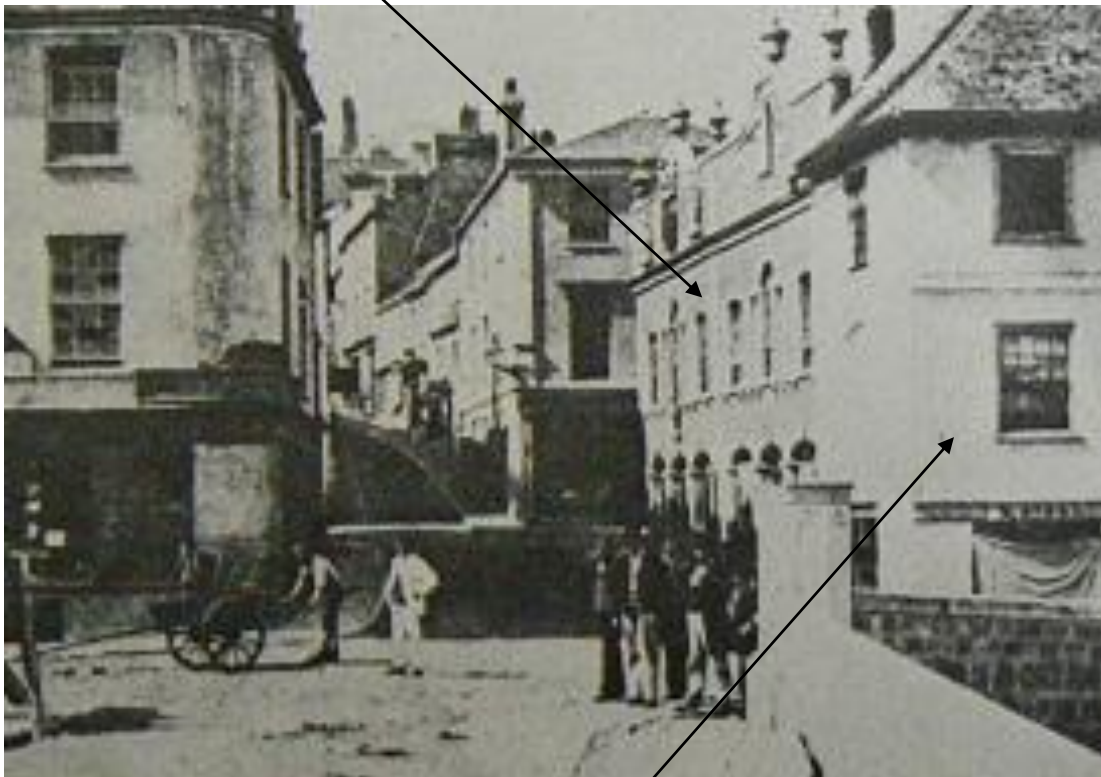
In this description we have an unsubstantiated reference that this building was constructed in 1633, which matches the dateable features noted during our inspection of this building. Given the comment in the above description about blocked-up windows in the south-facing (left-hand side) wall, and that the 1760 image shows this building to be mostly free-standing, it would appear that this building retains its original size, and is therefore not large enough to be GRENVILLE's mansion.

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### 1 & 2 The Quay:

At the far left-hand end of this quayside row of buildings, adjoining Bridge Street, currently sits 'Bridge Buildings'. These were constructed in 1882.

Prior to that, a Grammar School stood on the site. This was known to have been built in 1657.



In front of the Grammar School stands a shop, window screened off, probably waiting for demolition.

We have little knowledge of what occupied this site prior to 1657. What we do know is:..

a) There are records of a Chapel situated at the western end of Bideford Bridge. The exact site of this Chapel is unknown, but we know it was dedicated to All Hallows, from which Allhalland Street got its name. This Chapel may have occupied part of the site of Numbers 1 & 2 The Quay.

b) Only one known painting exists showing this site prior to 1657 – see below:

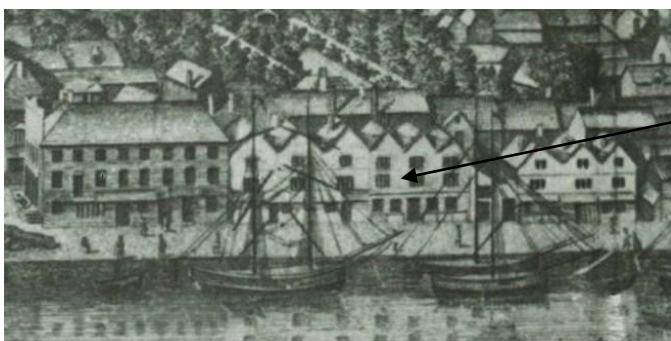


[Detail taken from portrait of John STRANGE, mayor of Bideford, dated c.1642].

Looking over the shoulder of Bideford mayor John STRANGE, we can see Bideford Bridge on the left. In the foreground are some vessels on the Torridge, standing in front of a narrow wharf-frontage. (Bideford Quay was not extended across the front of these buildings until 1663).

The buildings at the end of Bideford Bridge are a couple of small properties, one of which may even depict All Hallows Chapel.

But it is the 6-gabled building in the centre which is significant in this picture. This is a huge building, which must have been built to impress, and which we know was in existence around 1642.



The same building is seen here in this 1760 picture by a Mr. Jewell.

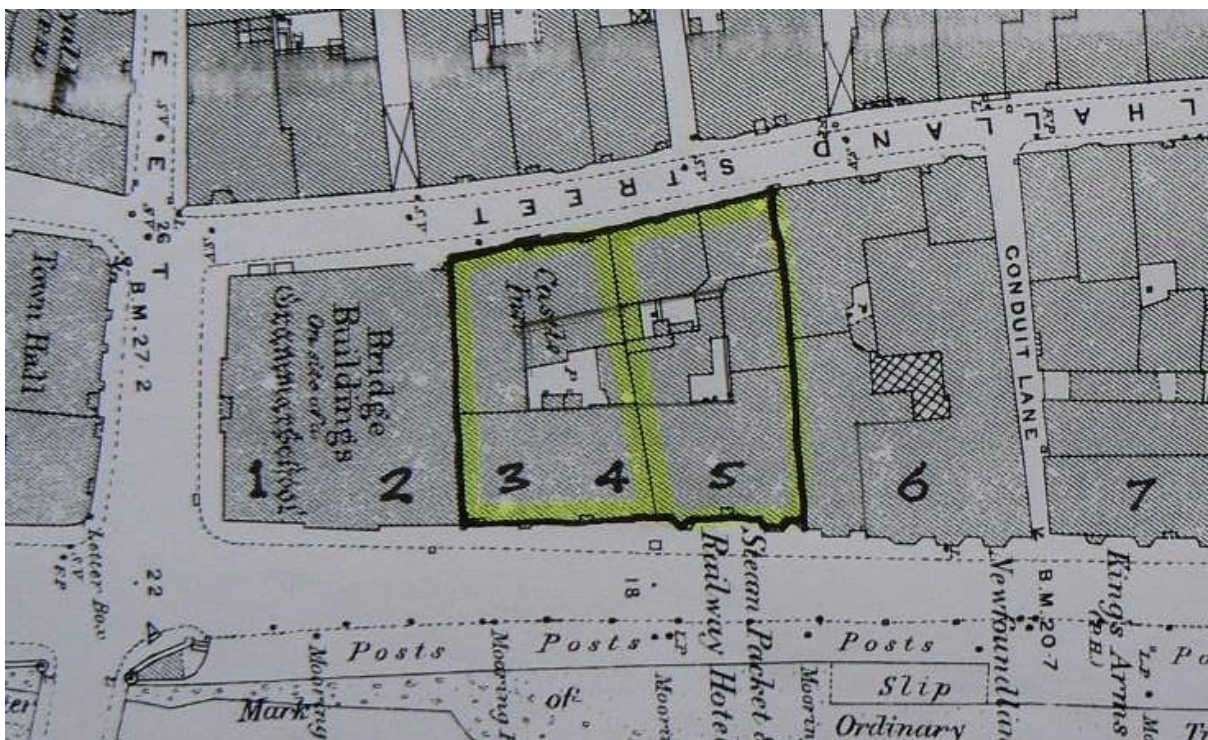
### 3-5 The Quay:

The colonnaded lower level, and two further upper stories of this building can easily be seen in the above paintings. Plus a series of gabled ends on the roof, which make it look most ostentatious. This is a building built for show.

The 1760 painting does not show it in such great detail, but it is sufficient to identify it as the same structure, and that it still existed in 1760.

What rich person would have been able to build such a grand quay-side building like this, prior to 1640? We can speculate about this being the house that Sir Richard GRENVILLE built in 1585, however looking at all the other sites in this area of Bideford, we must come to the conclusion that this building is the only viable possibility.

This was a town mansion befitting a Knight, a wealthy adventurer & explorer, and friend of Queen Elizabeth.

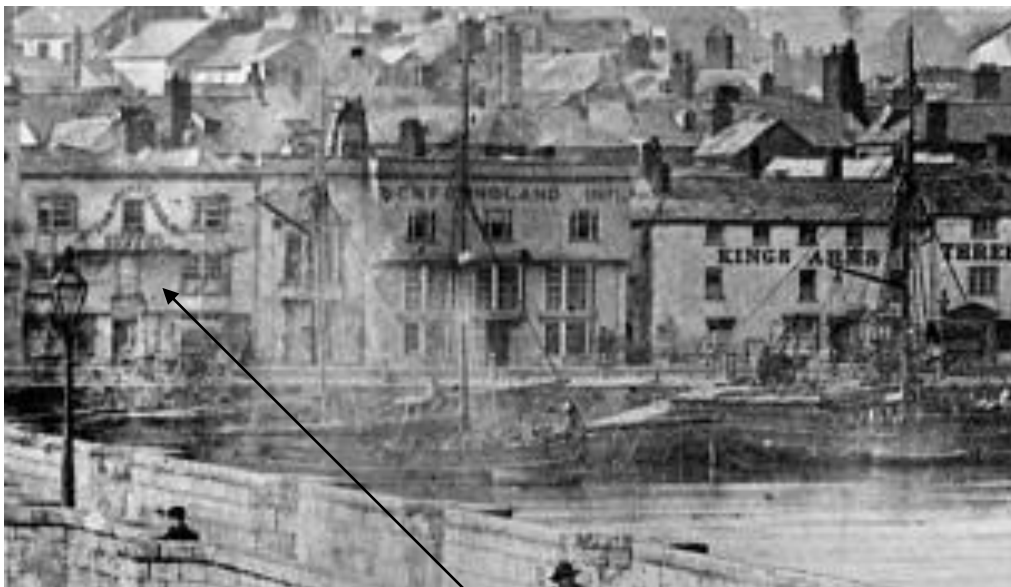


Looking at the 1886 ground-plan of the space which this building would have occupied (although the buildings shown here are replacements, with the possible exception of No.5) we can make out a building block which would have extended all the way back to Allhalland Street, and which would have had a courtyard in the middle. Road access would have been from Allhalland Street with an archway, through which carriages and horses could pass. No doubt stables and cellars occupied the ground floor levels.

The 'Castle Inn' occupied the rear part of this site. This was the building which Rev. GRANVILLE investigated in 1895 as being rumoured to be the house of Sir Richard GRENVILLE, but that he found no direct evidence. It appears that he may have been partly right.

There is also hearsay evidence that a wall painting existed above a fireplace in the Castle Inn, which was said to depict 'Grenville's colony on Roanoke'. This early 20<sup>th</sup> century reference has yet to be verified.

It is believed that the Castle Inn and all the other buildings which formerly occupied this site have since been demolished and replaced. Therefore any surviving structure which can be attributed to Sir Richard GRENVILLE has probably been lost forever. Unless you count the artifacts which appear in other buildings such as No.8 The Quay, which may have come from this mansion.



The 'mansion house' built by Sir Richard GRENVILLE may possibly just have survived into the age of photography. On the left we have a building marked 'Hotel' (actually the Steam Packet and Railway Hotel). This is the right-hand half of Numbers 3-5 The Quay.

If this is the same building, then gone are the gables, and the lower colonnade, and the façade has been refaced and bay windows added. But underneath it may have lain the GRENVILLE house.



Looking at this slightly later photograph above – to the left of the Steam Packet and Railway Hotel stands next to a more modern building. However the Hotel has a sunken ground floor level, just like other early buildings in this row. The slightly twisted nature of the façade, suggests an underlying timber structure which has warped with age. We also have a suggestion of 3 hipped ends on the roof – perhaps a remnant of the gables known to have adorned the building here. There is a strong case for this being a remnant of GRENVILLE’s mansion. It is thought that this building survived until being demolished in 1937.



Demolition of the Steam Packet Hotel in 1937.

We know from the Will of Sir Bevill GRENVILLE written in 1639 that he was living at Stowe in Cornwall, although the ‘Burrough and Manor of Bideford’ was still on the top of his portfolio of properties, so it would appear that the GRENVILLE properties were still in his hands at this time. Whether this included the Quayside Mansion, is not stated. This may have been sold off prior to 1639, Sir Bevill having no need for a grand river-front property. Or it may have been sold off after Sir Bevill’s death in 1643 (the same year as the death of Ursula GRENVILLE, un-married daughter of Sir Richard, who was still believed to have been living here). Either way, we have evidence that by the 1670s, this building was no longer in GRENVILLE ownership.

[For a full transcript of the Will of Sir Bevill GRENVILLE, see Appendix 14].

**Interim conclusion:**

**1 to 3 Bridge Street has been shown to be the site of the original manor house of the GRENVILLE family, and therefore is a significant site in Bideford's history, and the location of the birth-place of Sir Richard GRENVILLE himself.**

**Later references in GRENVILLE and other documents, which refer to the 'Burrough, Manor, or Barton' of Bideford are believed to centre on the Bridge Street properties – these being the original 'Manor' – and not the grand (now sold-off) Quay-front house, which was only ever known as 'Place House' [See Appendix 1 for an assessment of the terminology of these terms in this context].**

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## The Overmantle:

Returning to the question of the GRENVILLE overmantle found in No.8 The Quay...

This building has an Art-Deco facade, and the Listing Description suggests that the building is:

*“Late C19, refronted probably in 1930s; incorporates important C17 detail from house formerly on the site.”*

In 1929, W Pearse Chope suggested that:

*“Place House was on the site of the Bideford Gas and Coke Company Building [No.8], where ‘a handsome fireplace with the Grenville Arms is still preserved.’”*

In about 1935, William Henry Rogers ‘Notes on Bideford’ page 77, says that:

*“In the Board Room of the Gas Company’s office is a plaster mantelpiece and frieze. In the centre is a full-length figure of Sir Bevil GRENVILLE with the GRENVILLE arms on either side. This mantelpiece was discovered when the house, then the Three Tuns Tavern was dismantled and re-edified by the Gas Company. The house was Sir Bevil’s Town House, and was known as ‘New Place’ to distinguish it from ‘Old Place’, the original manor house at the west end of the Bridge.”*

It appears that the overmantle had already been in its current location for quite some time in 1929. The insertion of this feature would therefore pre-date the Art-Deco façade, but for how long had it been there.

It is not mentioned in Rev. GRANVILLE’s book on the GRENVILLE family, published in 1895 – a serious omission if this architectural feature had been visible and known-about at that time. We can deduce that it was discovered sometime between 1895 and 1929. This house is also not believed to be the ancient house belonging to the GRENVILLEs, and we can also demonstrate that this feature cannot have been original in the ‘Three Tuns’ building:.

When viewed in the 1863 photograph, the building at No.8 has 3 floor levels which line through with the King’s Arms next door.



A modern view of the Quay Frontage shows that the present building at No.8 has much greater floor-to-floor heights, so must have been completely re-built since 1863.

The overmantle is clearly not in its original location, for the following reasons:



- It dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but it is situated in a building constructed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, however there is hearsay evidence that it was previously in the Three Tuns Tavern formerly on this site.
- It is at the wrong height for an overmantle – it would have originally have been much higher.

As has been previously stated, the floor-to-ceiling heights in the Three Tuns Tavern formerly on this site, would have been insufficient to accommodate an overmantle of this quality, at its originally intended height.

In every publication concerning this overmantle, it has been attributed to Sir Bevil GRENVILLE (who died in 1643), and is sometimes said to have been re-sited in the Town House belonging to him, formerly on this site. Perhaps it came from the Quay Mansion of Sir Richard GRENVILLE, constructed in 1585, but no direct evidence has been found of this, and this is just speculation. Indeed we now have evidence to the contrary:..

The design of the overmantle has been examined by Peter HOOD (a leading authority on the English Civil War, historical consultant to Bideford 500 Heritage Group, and mastermind behind Torrington 1646. He has a large network of enthusiasts who earn a living making civil war paraphernalia, and is fastidious about detail). Mr HOOD has stated that the coat which the man on the overmantle is wearing is called a 'Dutchcoat'. They originated from the Netherlands before the Civil War but were originally much shorter, almost like a waistcoat. It was only after the Restoration that a new design emerged of a much longer three-quarter length. This is known as the 'Jacobean Dutchcoat', and is what we see the figure wearing in this overmantle. The shoes depicted here, are also of a fashion from a period later than 1660.

Therefore, the image on this fireplace cannot have been made until after the restoration of the monarchy (1660). Its attribution in numerous sources to Sir Bevill GRENVILLE therefore appears to have been in error, and has been compounded by all who have subsequently written about this.

No evidence as to the origin of this overmantle has ever been suggested, apart from speculation that it was from a house on the same site. Logically though, we certainly have an item which was created by the GRENVILLE family (it has their Coat of Arms on it), and if so, then there are limited places where this could have come from:..

- (a) Old Place House, Bridge Street
- (b) New Place House, The Quay
- (c) Buckland Abbey
- (d) Stowe House, Kilkhampton

Old Place House (a) in Bridge Street, is known to have been reconstructed in the 1630s, but is not grand enough for such a feature. Neither are there any fireplaces of sufficient width or height to accommodate an overmantle of this size. The building also appears to have left GRENVILLE ownership sometime in the 1660s.

New Place House (b) left the GRENVILLE family ownership some time before or during the Civil War, and could therefore not have been home to this overmantle.

Buckland Abbey (c) was sold by the GRENVILLE family in 1580, so a feature created in the 1660s could not have been made here.

The leaves us with (d): Stowe House near Kilkhampton.

Known to be a country seat of the GRENVILLEs since at least the 1300s, the building at Stowe had become draughty and out-dated by the 1670s. A new house was built there between 1676 & 1679 in the latest style, designed & built by Thomas FITCH. The old mediaeval manor was then demolished.



Having had all his debts cleared by Charles II, John GRENVILLE showed his renewed status by building a grand mansion for himself at Stowe, as shown in this contemporary engraving. The building was completed by 1680, and it seems highly likely that the GRENVILLE overmantle was created for this house.

After the death of the last direct GRENVILLE descendant in 1711, Stowe House became redundant, and was not wanted by the female GRENVILLE descendants who had inherited this through the line of their now-deceased cousins. In 1739, the unwanted house had become a financial burden to maintain and so was demolished and all the contents sold off.

“The expense of supporting the house was great, the mason, the hellier, the carpenter, the painter & other artificers had so much annually for keeping it in repair, they took their money and neglected the house, the continual expense was tiresome. At last it was determined to take it down, and an undertaker, as I have been informed, purchased all the materials as they stood for about £2000.”

[taken from ‘Excursions of William BORLASE’ in Royal Institution of Cornwall – he visited Kilkhampton on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1757]

Many items from the house were used in the Guildhall at South Molton, as described in their accounts below:

“The house (Stowe) was famous, and it would be if we heard today that Blenheim was to be pulled down. The committee of five had an eye for a bargain, and as recorded in detail, it appointed one of its members Joshua BAWDEN to attend the sale, and but suitable materials for the new Guildhall. Joshua was a Magistrate and a man of repute in the community. He kept a particular account of his transactions noting on July 10<sup>th</sup> [1739]:

Things bought at Stowe in Cornwall by Joshua BAWDEN by ye order of the Mayor and Burgess’. The demolition sale must have taken place at the end of June or early in July, for BAWDEN came back to South Molton to make up his accounts before returning to Stowe on August 8<sup>th</sup> and again on the 14<sup>th</sup> to organise the carriage of materials. Among many things that he bought are a number which we can identify in the Guildhall today: Ladies fine bed-chamber and planching £35 (the chimney piece is comparatively simple, ornamented with the carved flowers and fruit), nine sash windows 10s.6d and two at 11s.6d, No.27 ye wincott without ye chimney and door casings £11.13s, seven pairs of wincott window shutters 8s.0d, 172 rustic quoins at 1s (total £8.12s), four Corinthian capitals and pilasters £2.2s, ye casing and ornament of three windows £1.11s.6d, three architraves with pediments for doors, and twenty seven yards of wincott in the lobby £2.2s, a carved cornish [cornice] and triumph of King Charles II £7.7s, two eight-panel doors £1.1s. (ms expenses of building, the present Town Hall, archives the Borough of South Molton). These things with much else were carted the six miles from Stowe to Bude, shipped up the coast via the River Taw to Barnstaple, and thence carted to South Molton. Payments are recorded to tradesmen from the Town who went over to Stowe,

for the hire and keep of horses and of oxen, to 'ye Custom House officer for permit, 10s.6d', to 'Mr COAT's Captain for his care 5s', 'to ye sailors in ale 2s', and for BAWDEN's own travelling and lodging expenses. The purchase and carriage of the materials from Stowe cost £171.8s.3d.

The new Guildhall was started in 1740, and by the time it was finished in 1743, it had cost just of £1000. The nine sash windows are still there, the 172 rustic quoins for the arcade and the front of the building, and the full Corinthian capitals and pilasters frame the niche in which is the bust of Hugh SQUIER a great benefactor of the town. Beneath the niche are the Borough Arms, flanked by curving swags of fruit and flowers which must surely be those which flanked the GRENVILLE Arms on the pediment of Stowe. The keystone of the arches in the arcade, and perhaps also of the windows of the ground floor are certainly from Stowe. Grotesque masks were much used in the 19<sup>th</sup> century – there are many such keystones elsewhere in South Molton – but those of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century are clearly distinguishable in character. One such mask survives at Stowe, above the GRENVILLE Arms over the front door of the farmhouse.

There is no record in the Borough accounts of the balustrade round the roof having come from Stowe, but there was such a balustrade on the east front round the basement area, and it seems likely that this was the 'parapett' which the accounts record as being erected on the Guildhall in Aug 1741."

Charles HENDERSON, in his papers now in this Institution, noted that Denys WADDON of Tonacombe, that enchanting little 15<sup>th</sup> century house in the adjoining parish of Morwenstow, had acted as agent for the GRENVILLE family. In WADDON's Letter Book (then at Penstowe) he recorded a "paper showing plan of bricks sold at Stowe arranged in heaps, c.1750. Note: 10,000 bricks sold to John HEAD to build a cottage in Robers Church Wood'. No doubt it took years to dispose of the materials. Some of them were bought by the Churchwardens of Kilkhampton, whose accounts record payments for carrying '24 seams of flooring stones from Stowe' (1738) '36 foot of coping stone at 6d per foot' (1739), and '80 foot of stone at 6d, 500 bricks at 5s.6d, timber at 2s.6d, 10-foot of stone steps at 3d' (1740)."

[taken from 'The Great House of Stowe', by Michael TRINICK FRICS, reprinted from the Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, New series, vol.8, pt.2, 1979]

There is no mention in the above accounts of a plaster fireplace overmantle matching the description of the one in Bideford, but the above accounts only list the items reused at South Molton, so this is not surprising. A description of the exterior and interior of Stowe is found as follows:

A large Square Pile projecting 2 wings which are not longer than to contain one window on a side... Fretwork ceilings elegantly performed to some of the rooms (ie: elaborate plaster ceilings), and very good carving in the wood to adorn the chimney pieces of fruit, fowl, flowers etc. The Chapel is wainscoted and fitted up with cedar. The grand staircase is adorned on three broadsides with views of this house, Plymouth and Biddiford, the three places most dear to Lord Bath... (I also saw) the bed that Charles II dyed in, of crimson velvet.

[taken from diary of John LOVEDAY, 1711-1789, published by Sarah MARKHAM – he visited Kilkhampton on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1736].

From this description it appears that whilst there were ornate plaster ceilings in Stowe, there was a lot of wood carving (also recorded in the diary of Daniel DEFOE in 1739, who says that they were

done by London carvers: father & son Stephen & Michael CHUKE, and are not excelled by Grinling GIBBONS himself) including some to fireplace overmantles.

Other items from Stowe House are known to be scattered elsewhere in various Gentlemen's houses in Devon and Cornwall:

- 'Marhayes' in Marhamchurch near Bude – quoins stones, plinth moulding, window cases.
- 'Place' at Padstow – carved cherubs.
- Stowe House in Buckinghamshire – chapel interior.
- Rosemount and West Cottage in Kilkhampton – stonework.
- 'Cross', Little Torrington – staircase, timber panelling, 6-panelled doors, round-headed window.
- Molford House, South Molton – a complete room in pine panelling with overmantle painting, and Lord BATH's coronet carved on a chimney piece.
- Guildhall, South Molton – sash-windows, rustic quoins, Corinthian capitals, 8-panelled doors, wainscoting, plaster mouldings, large painting of Charles II. The complete Mayor's parlour (formerly a ladies bed-chamber from Stowe) with chimney piece of carved flowers and fruit.

So one of Cornwall's grandest houses only stood for about 60 years, before being 'recycled'.

A man of Stratton indeed lived long enough to see its site a cornfield before the building existed, and after the building was destroyed, a cornfield again.

[Richard POLWHELE, History of Cornwall, 1808]

A subsequent examination of the ABBOTT family 'Pattern Book' has revealed an interesting image. This Pattern Book was used by the famed family of ornate plasterwork designers and installers, for a period of about 150 years, so dating the drawings found therein, is not exact. However, much of this work appears to have originated from John ABBOTT (born 1639/40, married 1677, died 1727). There is a note in the front of this book: "*John ABBOTT, his booke, 1665*".

The following design was found therein, which when compared to a section of the overmantle, demonstrates a very similar match.



In the above side-by-side images you can see matching scrollwork, roundels and a central square enclosure with a shield ready for the customer's own coat of arms. Flowers are sited at the boss-points where strapwork comes away from the square feature.

The only difference is towards the right-hand side, where a man's figure has been inserted in place of the cameo-face suggested as part of the ABBOTT design. Arranging for the man's hands to hold onto something linked to the square feature can explain any subsequent differences in this area. But apart from that, these images are virtually identical.

It seems almost certain that this is a previously unacknowledged item of ABBOTT workmanship, and possibly dates from the time in the late 1600s when John ABBOTT was doing some of his best work. This links well with the construction date of Stowe House in 1679.

If this overmantle did come from Stowe House and was removed in 1739, we can speculate that it was purchased (as many other items were), and placed in the building which became the Three Tuns Tavern on Bideford Quay. It later became hidden behind panelling, only to be rediscovered nearly 200 years later, and an assumption incorrectly made that the building was formerly a GRENVILLE town house.

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## How extensive were the Bridge Street Manor Lands and Buildings?



The exact extent of the GRENVILLE manorial lands is unknown, but would have originally been wide reaching. We can easily surmise that their lands included all the lands in the block enclosed by the surrounding streets, in which the church sits centrally. Historically, the Church and Manor were inextricably linked. Over the passage of time, various parcels of land would have been built on, or sold off at various times, so that today we end up with just the basic ground-floor footprint of the original Manor House. However, we have good evidence of other nearby land-holdings:..

### Glebe Lands:

John WATKINS 'An Essay towards a History of Bideford' (published 1792) reported that in 1623 there was a Church House within the Churchyard, which in 3-Henry-VIII [ie: 1511] had been donated to trustees for the benefit of the parish. One of these trustees was Thomas GRENVYLE Knight (generation 12). This building appears to have fallen into disrepair, as it is later recorded that *"the present lord of the manor, by what right is not generally understood, caused the principal materials to be removed for the repair of a mill belonging to him"*. However, this same source reports that there were about 48 acres of Glebe-Land belonging to the Church. Although we have no documents showing the GRENVILLE (EARL of BATH's) lands, we can get some indication from these descriptions:

- Parsonage Field (13 acres) is bounded on the east by the Parsonage, and on all other side by the Rt. Hon. EARL OF BATH's lands.
- Bean Close (quarter acre) is bounded by the highway, and on the west by the said Earl's lands.

- Orchard Close (three quarters of an acre) is bounded on the west by parsonage field, and on the north by east, by the said Earl's land and the town.
- Middle Catts-hole (7 acres), bounded by the highways, and the said EARL OF BATH's land.
- Eastern Catts-hole with Cleve, all bounded by the highways, and the said EARL OF BATH's land.
- Sanctuary (11 acres) bounded by the highways on all sides except one, which is the EARL OF BATH's land.
- Chappel Hays (3 acres) bounded by the said EARL OF BATH's land, and the highways.

Catshole Lane still exists and is over half a mile from the Bridge Street site, so the lands of the EARL OF BATH obviously extended a considerable distance.

### The Grange Estate:

In the 1690s, a surveyor called Joel GASCOYNE, was commissioned by the GRENVILLE family to survey their lands and estates in Cornwall, which ended up being the first large-scale map of that County. Around 1700 he started work on the GRENVILLE lands in Devon, working first on their estate called 'Grange' East-the-Water at Bideford [see Appendix 25 for details]. However the death of the EARL OF BATH in 1701 curtailed this commission, so no more maps were produced.



When compared with modern maps, we can show the exact location and extent of this Grange estate.

Torrington Lane forms the southern boundary. Grange Road, Chudleigh Avenue, Ayres Close, Heathfield Road, Southfield Road, Northfield Road, and Mines Road are some of the streets which now occupy this site.





The feature on the map (bottom left) which looks like a house, is when viewed in detail, actually a small road/hardstanding, screened from the main road by a gate. Around this are possibly indicated some agricultural lean-to's, but it is clear that there is no large house as part of this estate.

The only large house in the vicinity is this one shown on the 1717 plan of Bideford (now the Royal Hotel). The left-hand (northern) part of this is reputedly of ancient origin. This could well be the house associated with the Grange Estate.



### **Church Rates:**

A list of properties upon which Church Rates were levied, has survived for 1672. This document contains the following locations and descriptions of properties upon which the EARL OF BATH was charged rates:

#### **Eastland**

The Right Hon'ble John EARL OF BATHE for Great Putshole, late in the possession of Mr John DARRACOTT – 4d

#### **East the Water on the East Side**

The said Earle for late John HALSES house – 2d

The said Earle for late BERRYMANS house – 1d

The said Earle for late Kings house by escheate – 1d

#### **Backes and Kaye, from the north to the south end**

The foresaid Earle for TALLAMEYS Shopp & Courtledge – 3d

The foresaid Earle for the Courtledge behind PRUSTS house – 1d

#### **Tower Street**

The said Earl for late Mr TRAVENS House – 2d

#### **Bridge Street**

The said Earle for a stable – 1d

#### **Buttgarden**

The said Earle for two gardens – 2d

The said Earle for a garden in possession of Mr HAMAN – ½d



**Bullhill**

The said Earle for a house & garden – 1d

**Maiden Street**

The said Earle for a house in hand – 1d

**Westland**

The foresaid Earle for East Winsford – 4d

The said Earle for Newhall – 3d

The same for Uppacott – 1s.3d

It is interesting to see that a Stable was mentioned in Bridge Street. The Old Place House was also mentioned (see earlier section of this report), but rates on this were being paid by a Mr John HILL (Bideford Town Clerk). It is not clear what type of properties qualified for Church Rates, so there was no doubt more GRENVILLE land than is suggested above.

In the above Rates list, we did also have these entries:

**Eastland**

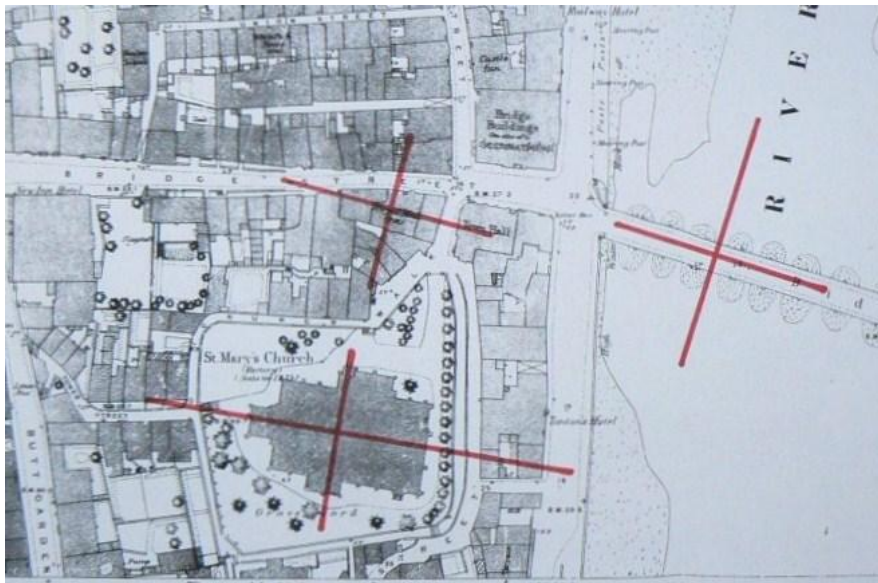
Henry BERRY for Porte – sixe pence

Samuell JOHNS for Granghouse & grounds – eight pence

This ‘Grangehouse & grounds’ could refer to the House and Estate mentioned above.

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**Alignments:**



The above 1884 large-scale map of Bideford faces north/south in the traditional manner. The street plan and Quay of Bideford follow this orientation pretty closely. However, we have three features on this map which appear to share a different alignment, these being the only ancient features on this plan.

1 to 3 Bridge Street indicated here as the extended 'Royal Mail' Public House, are on a different alignment to anything else in the street, apart from the Town Hall whose later construction obviously mirrored the older buildings it sits next to. In particular they appear to have little relationship with No's 4 & 5 Bridge Street, which are also being investigated as part of the main report.

It is interesting to note that 1 - 3 Bridge Street share virtually the same alignment as the Church and the Longbridge. This shared alignment is several degrees offset from a true east/west direction, and is good evidence of their shared earlier origins. The Churchyard is largely square and in a north/south orientation, completely different from the church itself. This suggests that the confinements of this churchyard were established in a later period, along with the rest of Town.

Early calculations for an East/West alignment (essential for all churches), were once made using the North Star (Polaris) but during the 13th century this star was several degrees offset from its present position today, meaning that an East/West alignment would appear to oscillate slightly. In the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, magnetic lodestone compasses became available and would have appeared to be more accurate. However, unknown to the user at that time, the position of magnetic north was also offset several degrees east of the present north pole.

Either of these methods of calculating a true East/West alignment would therefore have resulted in structures with a present day alignment appearing to be slightly WNW of today's due West. This is the case with all three of these structures and therefore a strong indication of their common build date. Since we know that the Church and the Longbridge have a similar build date of the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century, this appears to confirm a similar build date for an early property on the site of 1-3 Bridge Street.

When considering why the Longbridge has such an alignment, we must remember that it was commonplace to give thanks for a safe crossing on any bridge in Medieval England and the existence of the Allhallows Chapel at the western end of the Longbridge provides ample evidence of the Bridge's religious connections.

When considering why the GRENVILLEs built their Manor at 1-3 Bridge Street on this religious alignment, we need only look at their pious credentials in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Not only did they have their own chapel and dedicated crypt within the church being built adjacent to their house, but it was the GRENVILLEs who championed and no doubt considerably invested in the building of the Bridge. In addition to which, there is the not inconsiderable fact that by the end of the 13th century, the GRENVILLE family had already built Neath Abbey and two of their number had served as Archbishops (Canterbury and York).

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## Coat of Arms:

The key to understanding No.1 Bridge Street and its historical associations was felt to lie in the Coat of Arms which was discovered on the wall of an upper room.

Whose Arms were they, and what were they doing on this wall?

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The Coat of Arms found on the wall of No.1 Bridge Street, was believed to depict the Arms of MARWOOD of MARWOOD. Research was undertaken into this family, looking at possible links with the GRENVILLEs or for any other reasons why this would be here. No valid reason for this was able to be discovered (see main Statement of Significance Report for details of this abortive research).

The Listing Description of this property stated the following:

*“INTERIOR not inspected, but description by WH Rogers refers to early C17 broad-rib ceiling divided by inserted partitions: 'on the walls of a bedroom are the arms of Marwood of Marwood, a chevron between 3 goats heads caboshed, horned or'. (Rogers WH: Notes on Bideford: P.76).”*

An 1890 edition of Burkes Peerage details four variants of MARWOOD, each of which describes the three goats erased as argent [silver] and the background as gules [red]. The Arms on the wall of No.1 are displaying neither silver nor red colours.



Other similar images found, are these Arms for the Company of Cordwainers (left). However, these are on an azure [blue] background – again not the same as at Bridge Street.

On the right the Arms of a branch of the WHITE family of Pembrokehire (colours not known).



However, these are not connected to this Bideford property.

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The Arms at 1 Bridge Street are now believed to be those of William MEREDITH of Stansty near Wrexham – as per this illustration.

The reason for these Arms being on the wall of this property in Bideford will now be explained.

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Therefore the Coat of Arms could not be earlier than John and Jane's marriage of 1652, and was probably put there shortly afterwards, to commemorate the joining of these two families.

The MEREDITH and GRENVILLE families were not unconnected, as the following text describes:

*In 1559, Warham St Leger [Sir Richard GRENVILLE's father in law] inherited Leeds Abbey in Kent from his father. In 1573, Warham St Leger transferred the estate to Sir William MEREDITH of Stansty, Denbighshire. In 1581, MEREDITH's son, also named William, purchased lands from Warham St Leger that had previously formed part of the estate. The estate passed through Sir Richard MEREDITH to Sir Roger MEREDITH in 1723.*  
[Hasted, Edward, 1798. The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 5. Canterbury: W Bristow.]

*The MEREDITH Baronetcy, of Stansty (Wrexham) was created in the Baronetage of England on 13 August 1622 for Sir William MEREDITH Knight, of Leeds Abbey in Kent; treasurer and paymaster of the army under Elizabeth I and James I.* [Wikipedia]

The following Estate Map of Leeds Abbey was created by Thomas BADESLADE in 1719, and reproduced in 'Harris's History of Kent'.



Although unclear in this reproduction, the Coat of Arms (top-centre) are 8-quartered, and the top-right of these shows the MEREDITH Arms – identical to those on the wall in No.1 Bridge Street.

The MEREDITH and GRENVILLE families had been connected for a couple of generations, and this was re-confirmed by the marriage of John GRENVILLE (1<sup>st</sup> EARL OF BATH) to Jane WYCHE (a MEREDITH descendant) in October 1652.

## The 1600s:

The 'New Place House' constructed by Sir Richard GRENVILLE in 1585, was still in family hands in 1623, as it is believed that this was where Sir Richard's widow was living until the time of her death. Sometime after 1623, the house must have been sold out of GRENVILLE ownership, as there is no mention of a Bideford mansion in the Will of Sir Bevill GRENVILLE, written 1639. His 'mansion house at Stowe' is mentioned, but for Bideford we only have mention of the manor and its associated properties.

However, we know that a generation later in 1670, John GRENVILLE (EARL OF BATH) was still in control of land in Bridge Street, as some of this was donated to the Church. If there was still a Manor House in Bideford in the 1640s and 1650s, this must have been the property in Bridge Street.

From dendro-analysis of timbers in this property, we know that someone spent considerable money on 1 and 2 Bridge Street around 1630 (give or take 10 years). At this time the property was largely rebuilt, using timber which almost certainly came from GRENVILLE estates in Cornwall. If the 'new manor' at 6 The Quay had been disposed of at that time, then investment was needed in a replacement, and the 'Old Place' was significantly modernised to become the administrative manor once again.

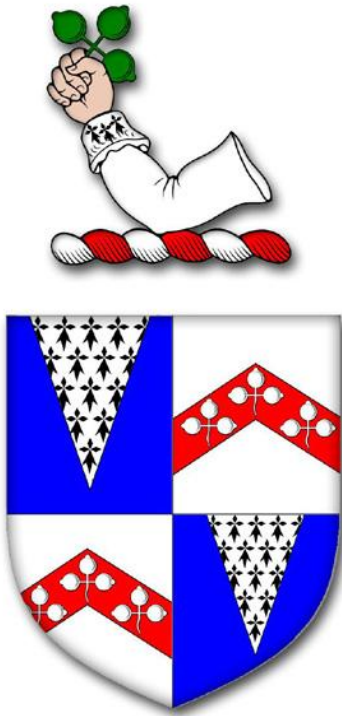
After the death of Sir Bevill GRENVILLE in 1643, his widow Grace is seen selling off some of the ancillary GRENVILLE property (document G-3129 - 1645) in Devon and Cornwall. No significant properties were sold, and the main estates at Bideford and Stowe remained intact. When she dies in 1647, Grace GRENVILLE mentions no property in her will, the GRENVILLE estates having already been passed to male heir John in the will of her late husband Sir Bevill.

In February 1650, document G-3205 [see Appendix 17] suggests that John GRENVILLE was raising money for the Royalist cause in the Civil War, by mortgaging the Manor and Barton of Bideford, and all its ancillary properties. Two years later, document G-2892 tells us that these matters were settled, by John having shown his worth to the Royalist cause, and being thought worthy of marrying heiress Jane WYCHE the daughter of Royalist Sir Peter WYCHE.

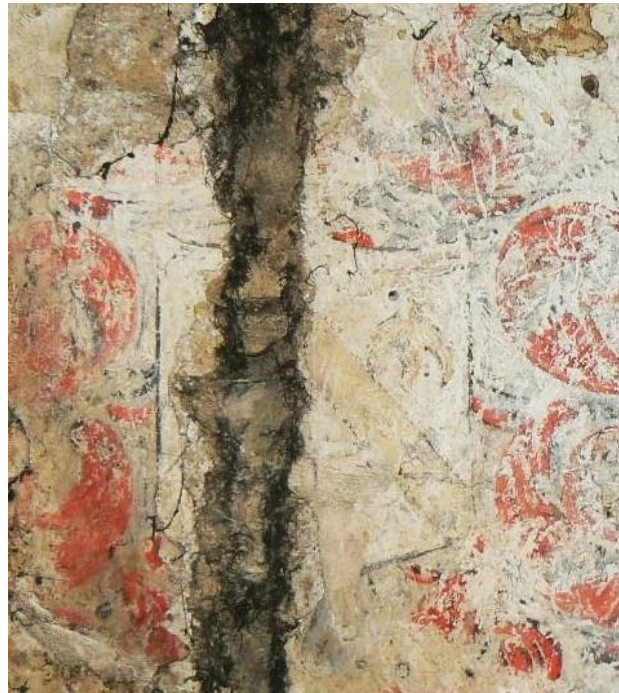
Jane's grandfather Sir William MEREDITH is mentioned in the Agreement to Levy Fine in 1657, when he is lending money to his grandson-in-law John GRENVILLE. In this year, the Manor of Bideford (and presumably the house there) was apparently not being used by John & Jane, as a document was drawn up leasing this to Jane's brother Cyril WYCHE, presumably being used as collateral for the loan of further monies in the Royalist cause.

In 1652, John GRENVILLE and his new wife Jane were setting up homes for themselves. John had inherited both Stowe and Bideford, and like his ancestors before him, chose to stay in both places. It is believed that the upper room at 1 Bridge Street was decorated in or soon after 1652, and that the room in question may have been the boudoir of Jane GRENVILLE (nee WYCHE).

Only the Arms on the right-hand side of the fireplace wall survive. There would almost certainly have been a balancing Coat of Arms on the left-hand side, and we can speculate that these two sets of Arms would have been those of Jane's paternal and maternal lines.



WYCHE Arms



MEREDITH Arms

The left-hand side would have been the male line, and have depicted the WYCHE family Arms. The right-hand side depicted the female line – this being the MEREDITH Arms.

Research is being undertaken by the Royal College of Arms to determine whether this particular version of the MEREDITH arms was registered, as there are differences in colour between the accepted MEREDITH Coat of Arms, and this version. The background colour of the accepted Arms is red (gules), whereas the background colour here is white or silver (argent).

It is generally the case that red was the colour for valour, and would therefore naturally apply to a male lineage. However, as these Arms were being used on a female line, this would have been inappropriate and a white background denoting purity would be far more acceptable.

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By 1657, the Civil War was effectively over, and Parliament was in charge of the Country. However, it wasn't working well, and there were political moves to bring back Prince Charles (later to be King Charles II) and reinstate him as monarch. More money was borrowed by John GRENVILLE for this cause. He was living at Stowe at this time, and rented the un-used parts of his estate (ie: the Manor of Bideford) to his wife's brother Sir Cyril WYCHE [see document BRAB-328/8 in Appendix 19, and G-2885 in Appendix 20]. Discussions took place with a friend and colleague William MORICE, who undertook discussions with Richard CROMWELL (son of the now-deceased Oliver CROMWELL) to start the process of arranging for the return of King Charles II.



In 1663, after Charles had been reinstated as Monarch, a large GRENVILLE estate in Bideford was let to Nicholas MORICE (possible son of William MORICE). This was an estate East-the-Water at Bideford, probably the same one referred to as 'Grange' in a previous document of 1633 [See document G-2932 in Appendix 13, and Map of Grange Estate in Appendix 25].

In 1665, John GRENVILLE's debts had all been settled by Charles II, and it was confirmed that the Bideford Town Council's claim on the manorial rights was annulled [see document G-3221 in Appendix 22, and G-3222 in Appendix 23].

A further document dated 1666 (BRAB-328/19 in Appendix 24) indicates that John GRENVILLE had not paid off all his debts on properties that he owned. It can be seen that he wasn't particularly good with money, and his son Charles committed suicide over financial matters. His grandson died young of smallpox in 1711, and the unbroken line of male GRENVILLES in Bideford finally came to an end.

The Manor of Bideford passed down female GRENVILLE lines, and after the death of Countess GRANVILLE in 1744 it was bought by the Earl and Countess of GOWER, who in turn sold it to the CLEVELANDs of Tapeley in 1751. They in turn sold it to the Corporation of Bideford in 1881.

[For a transcript of this 1881 sale document, see appendix 26]

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## **Conclusions:**

### **GRENVILLE Heritage:**

The GRENVILLE family have held land and estates in Bideford since the 11<sup>th</sup> century. They were Lords of the Manor and were instrumental in turning Bideford into a thriving port and commercial centre. They gave Charters to Bideford in 1204, 1272 and 1575; they built the Parish Church there in 1259; and bridges across the river Torridge in the 1280s and the 1320s. In 1340 they also acquired the manor of Stowe near Kilkhampton in Cornwall, and from thence they inhabit both Stowe and Bideford. They appear to have had both a 'country estate' and a 'town estate'.

### **The GRENVILLEs in Bideford:**

Sir Roger GRENVILLE grew up at Bideford, and gained a maritime background, leading to his appointment as Captain of Henry VIII's flagship the 'Mary Rose'. This ill-fated vessel foundered in 1545 killing him and over 400 other sailors. His father died six years later, and all the GRENVILLE estates including the manor of Bideford, passed in trust to the celebrated Sir Richard GRENVILLE. He was aged just eight at the time.

### **Birthdate of Sir Richard GRENVILLE:**

There is no surviving record of the birth or baptism of Sir Richard GRENVILLE, but we know from other documents that Richard was 'aged eight (and no more)' on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1550, thereby giving us his exact birthdate of 15<sup>th</sup> June 1542.

### **Birthplace of Sir Richard GRENVILLE:**

The estate of Buckland Abbey was purchased in 1541, but we have shown conclusively that Sir Richard GRENVILLE could not have been born there. Neither can he have been born at Stowe House, as the Kilkhampton Registers do not record any of the GRENVILLE children there. The Bideford Registers have not survived for the 1540s, but it is almost certain that these would have recorded the birth and baptism of 'Sir' Richard. The son of the Lord of the Manor would certainly have warranted a fine entry.

### **Bridge Street:**

From research into the properties which currently occupy the land at the bottom of Bridge Street, we have shown that these have historically been identified as the location of 'Place House', the ancient manor house of the GRENVILLE family. Historical features found within these premises, and subsequent dendro-analysis of the earliest timbers have shown that this property was largely reconstructed around the 1630s, using timber from the GRENVILLE estates in Cornwall.

In No.1 Bridge Street, there is evidence of walls which pre-date the 1630 reconstructions, so remnants of the mediaeval manor may well still survive. But this site can be the only place where Sir Richard GRENVILLE was born.

The Coat of Arms found painted on a bedroom wall in number 1 Bridge Street, has been shown to commemorate a marriage in 1652, so cannot date from before that year. The fireplace wall upon which it is situated, is about 20 years earlier, so this painting must have been part of a redecoration scheme for John & Jane GRENVILLE in the early 1650s.

After the Civil War and restoration of the monarchy in 1660, the building no longer appears to have had GRENVILLE occupants. Later GRENVILLEs lived at Stowe House, and the direct line of GRENVILLE descent died out in 1711.

**Sir Richard's House:**

By 1585 Sir Richard had made himself a fortune, and there are records to show that he built himself a grand mansion on the riverfront at Bideford, using captured Spanish prisoners as labourers. The location of this building has been shown with a good degree of certainty to be where numbers 3-5 The Quay are now (see page 36), with the house reaching back as far as Allhalland Street.

**Architectural feature:**

The plaster overmantle with the GRENVILLE Coat of Arms in number 8 The Quay, has been resited from elsewhere. The supposed date of this (c.1630s) is incorrect, and that the only house this feature could have come from, is Stowe House. This house was constructed in 1679 and demolished in 1739. It appeared later in Bideford having been part of the sale of items from Stowe, and built into number 8 The Quay.

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## **Appendix Documents - Index:**

Various original documents formed part of the overall research undertaken in respect of the GRENVILLE family, and their land-holdings in Bideford, and other parts of England.

The documents have been included here transcribed in full for the benefit of further research and interpretation. Comments on each one have also been added. The documents have been included below in date order.

- 1) Terminology
- 2) 1204: Charter of Bideford
- 3) 1514: Will of Sir Thomas GRAYNFIELD
- 4) 1550: Will of Richard GREYNFELDE
- 5) 1551: Inquisition of Richard GREENFIELD
- 6) 1575: Charter of Bideford
- 7) 1585: Will of Sir Richard GRENVILLE
- 8) 1592: Inquisition of Sir Richard GRENVILE
- 9) 1592: Assignment of lands at Cork, Barnard GREINVILE, to John GREINVILE
- 10) 1623: Will of Dame Mary GRENVILLE (nee St LEGER)
- 11) 1624: Copy of lease for land at Bideford
- 12) 1624: Agreement to levy fine, Cornwall manors
- 13) 1633: Grant of Annuity, Bevill GRENVILLE to Anthony HILL
- 14) 1639: Will of Sir Bevill GRENVILLE
- 15) 1645: Bargain and Sale of lands at Bideford, etc.
- 16) 1647: Will of Dame Grace GRENVILE
- 17) 1650: Mortgage for £3250 for land at Bydeforde
- 18) 1652: Assignment of land Burrough, Barton, Manor at Byddeford
- 19) 1657: Agreement to levy fine, Cyrill WYCHE, Jane MEYRICK, William MEREDITH
- 20) 1657: Lease for a year of the Burrough, Manor and Barton at Biddeford
- 21) 1664: Lease for 99 years of land at Bydeford
- 22) 1665: Release of claims by Borough of Bideford on EARL OF BATH
- 23) 1665: Release of debts, EARL OF BATH to Borough of Biddeford
- 24) 1666: Declaration of Trust, Cornwall manors
- 25) 1700: Map of Grange Estate, East-the-Water, Bideford
- 26) 1881: Sale of Bideford Manor to Bideford Corporation

# Appendix: 1

## Terminology:

In the following transcribed documents and other research, we have references to the: Manor / Barton / Grange / Borough / Old Place / and New Place all of which belonged to the GRENVILLE family in Bideford. The following assessment of the meaning of these terms, and what they refer to, may be of use in understanding these sources further:

### Manor:

'Manor' would be the general term for the estate, house and lands of GRENVILLEs in Bideford – used until references appear for 'Borough' in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The 'Manor House' would have specifically referred to the properties at 1 to 3 Bridge Street, from the 13<sup>th</sup> century until 1585. (Once the Quayside house had been built in 1585, the Manor House transferred to the new property).

Sometime in the mid 1600s, after 1-3 Bridge Street had been rebuilt, and the Quayside property was sold, if there was a need to mention a 'Manor House' this would have referred to the Bridge Street property.

### Barton:

'Barton' generally refers to the associated farm buildings of a Manor House, often helping to enclose a courtyard.

In the case of the associated documents below, we find this term mentioned in 1624, 1633, 1639, 1650, 1652, and 1657.

The exact property being called by this name is unclear, but could refer to the Bridge Street properties, given that 'New Place House' still existed on Bideford Quay, and the GRENVILLEs probably no longer needed a 'Manor House' at Bideford.

### Grange:

This term appears to apply to a GRENVILLE estate East-the-Water at Bideford. The location of this land has been identified (see earlier research notes), and a possible location for the associated building is the Royal Hotel (left-hand part), which was known to be a significant property in 1717.

### Borough:

The Borough of Bideford is referred to in sources almost as far back as the GRENVILLEs go, but this can be taken to mean a 'Manorial Borough'.

Generally though 'Borough' is a term used from a point in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the GRENVILLEs start handing over control and possible assets to a Town Council, and which then sent MPs to Parliament. From thence, this would refer to the Town Council's lands and assets.

### Old Place House:

This referred to the properties at 1 to 3 Bridge Street from 1585.

We know that these properties were also known by this name in 1672.

### New Place, or Place House:

This refers to Sir Richard GRENVILLE's quayside mansion built in 1585.

At this time it effectively became the new 'Manor House'.

It was still referred to as the New Place, even after it had left GRENVILLE ownership in the 1670s.

## **Appendix: 2**

### **Charter of Bideford (undated) c.1204**

This undated early Charter, written in Latin, is translated and transcribed in full in Rev. GRANVILLE's History of the GRENVILLE family (pages 32 & 33).

Let all men that are present and to come, know that I Richard the son of Richard of GRENVILE, have granted and confirmed, for me and my heirs forever, the writing of Richard of GRENVILLE, my grandfather, made to the Burgesses of Bideford, in these words: Let all men that are present and to come, know, that I Richard de GRENVILE have granted, and by this my present writing confirmed, to all those who do or shall hold a burgage within the town of Bideford, as well as on the east part of the water of the Torridge, as on the west part, all liberties of Britolia, as far as in my power doth lie, to defend to them and to whomever they shall assign, to be holden and had of me, and of my heirs for ever; that is to say, in such manner, that every one holding one messuage or a garden with six acres of land abroad of my lordship, shall pay for the same on the feast of St. Michael, to me or my bailiff, in the town of Bideford, twelve pence; and he that holds one messuage with an orchard only, shall yield to me for the same sixpence the same day, for all services and exactions, excepting only homage. And if it happen that any of the aforesaid burgesses shall make default, or offend in any thing in my court, they shall for sixpence be clearly discharged thereof. And if they will wage law, they shall do it with their hands. And I have also granted to the said burgesses common of pasture with their beasts throughout, one on the west part of the river Torridge, where, in the time of Richard my father, they were wont to common: And that every one may give or sell his burgage, or otherwise alienate, saving to me and my heirs the rent of assize of every such burgage: And that every one for his or their burgage against me and my heirs, shall pay for a release twelve pence and no more. And I have also granted to the aforesaid burgesses of Bideford, toward the enlarging of the liberties aforesaid, that they shall do suit to my court from month to month, or for a shorter time, upon reasonable warning, on Tuesday: And that the portreeve of the town be at the court to shew forth the attachments and plaints belonging to the lord, as it hath been used and accustomed. And I have also granted that all the burgesses of Bideford, and every of them, in fairs and markets throughout all my lands, town, and waters, they shall be quiet and free from all toll, custom, censary, or stallage, to be given to me or to any of mine. And on the Tuesday next after the feast of St. Michael, all the aforesaid burgesses shall come to my aforesaid court (except those of whom it shall be faithfully testified that they are beyond the sea, or on pilgrimage, or in doing their affairs and merchandizing without the country): And then they shall chuse one burges to be head officer; and the same head officer shall have, throughout the year, toll and censary of the town by land and water, to the year's end for ten shillings to me to be paid, saving to me and my heirs the toll of my market on the Monday. And for this my grant and confirmation, the aforesaid burgesses of Bideford have given to me four marks of silver. And this my present writing, with the impression or print of my own seal I have made effectual for ever, these being witnesses, Sir Richard COFFIN, Richard of SPEKCOT, knights, Peter of Halsberry, Richard SNELLARD, Wellan DAKE, Osbert of Bury, Richard of Kokematon, and many others.

To this charter is appended a circular seal in green wax on which is a heater-shaped shield charged with the GRANVILLE arms, the inscription surrounding it being "SIGIL RIC DE GRENVILE."

## Appendix: 3

### Will of Sir Thomas GRAYNFIELD, 1514

Proved 12 May 1514

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PROB 11/17, Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Fetiplace

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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Will of Sir Thomas GRAYNFIELD

(Gt gt grandfather of the celebrated Sir Richard GRENVILLE)

Written: 20<sup>th</sup> March 1513/14

Proved 12<sup>th</sup> May 1514

In da Nomine Amen. The 20<sup>th</sup> day of March the yere of our Lord god 1514, I Sir Thomas GRAYNFELD Knight in my hoole mynde make my Testament in maner and forme folowing.

First I bequeth my soule to almighty god and to our blessid lady and to all the hooly saints in hevyn, my body to be buryed in the church erthe of Bedyford in the South est parte of the chancell dore where my mynde is yf I lyve to make an altare and a preste to sing there to pray for me and myn annsetos and heires for ever, the saide preist and poremen to be put in by the discretion of myn heires and executor.

Farther I will that my said chappell whenne so ever it be made and the church of Bedford the meane season have my Cope of Tissue and my vestment of the same and a suet of blake velvet to be made of such velvet golvinys(?) as I have by the discretion of myn heires and executors. Also I will that John GREYNFELDE yf he be disposed to be a preste to have the next avoydance of one of the benfic of Bedyford or of Kykehmtton and yf he wilbe noo preste that thenne my sonne Roger GRAYNFELDE and his heires see hym have sum reasonable leving of landes by theyr discretions.

Item: I will that my sonne Roger shall mary my daughter Oner and to gyve her in mariage CCC markes in money to be levied of my lands and goods.

Item: I will that my daughter Jan which I had by my last wyff to have CC marks in lyke maner to be leveyde of my goods and lands provided allway that yf the said Oner and Jane fortune to dye or ever theybe maryed of ellis yf they mary contrary to the mynde consent and agreement and will of my saide sonne Roger that thenne they to have nothing of the saide money, byt thenne the said money whenne it is so levied to be disposed for my soulle by the discretion of my sonne Roger.

Item: I geve to the church of Bedyford and to the Brige of Bydyford £6.13s.4d.

Item: to the church of Kilkhapton £4.

Roger sonne I well desyr yow as my trust is in yow to doe this my will performed and fulfillid and yow I make myn executor.

Probate granted 12<sup>th</sup> May 1514.

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### Summary and Comments:

This Will of Sir Thomas GRAYNFIELD (generation 12) shows the affection that he had for Bideford, even though the family also had their estate at Stowe at this time.

Sir Thomas requests to be buried within the Church at Bideford, in the south-east of the chancel where an altar is to be made in his memory, and a chantry-priest appointed to pray for his soul.

His uncle was already priest at Bideford, and his will was that his son John should also become priest there or at Kilkhampton when a position became available if he wanted. Money was also provided to make vestments for the priest.

Thomas's eldest son and heir Roger is mentioned, and appointed executor. Roger is given jurisdiction to see his sister Oner (Honour) married. Honour married John BASSETT of Umberleigh & had seven children, but after his death she married again to Viscount LISLE (Arthur PLANTAGANET). In 1532 she became lady-in-waiting to Anne BOLEYN, and was later charged with looking after her daughter Elizabeth, later to become Queen Elizabeth.

Also mentioned is daughter Jan (Jane) who married John ARUNDELL of Trerice.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 4

### Will of Richard GREYNFELDE, 1549/50

The original Will of Richard GREYNFELDE appears to have been lost/destroyed in WW2, but this transcript has been taken from the History of the GRANVILLE Family, by Roger GRANVILLE, 1895. The first part is verbatim, the latter an abstract summary.  
Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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Will of Richard GREYNFELDE  
(Grandfather of the celebrated Sir Richard GRENVILLE)  
Written: 8<sup>th</sup> March 1545/46  
Died at Stowe, Kilkhampton: 18<sup>th</sup> March 1550/51\*

“Perceiving by faith and creation my naturall lyf to be transitory, holie mynding repentance, in my most humble maner aske of Almightye God forgivenessse, and also of all the world. And under the protection of God make and declare here my last Will and Testament. First, I bequeath my soule unto Almightye God, my bodie to be buryed in such holie place, where it shall please Almightye God to provide.”

He wills to Dame Maud his wife during the term of seventy years, if she so long live, his mansion and lands called Buckland, otherwise Buckland Graynfield, in as ample manner as he had by letters patent, dated 26<sup>th</sup> May 1542\*. And after her decease he leaves them to Richard GRAYNFELD, son of Roger GRAYNFELD his late son and heir apparent, deceased, and his heirs male. Remainder to Degory GRAYNFELD, his brother. Remainder to John GRAYNFELD, his older brother.

The other mansions, viz: his mansion house in the town of Bideford, and all the residue of his town and borough of Bideford in com. Devon; his mansion place of Stowe, together with all gardens, orchards and ponds therewith, Stowe Park in com. Cornwall; his house and borough of Kilkhampton and his mansion of Woodford in the same county, together with all his other lands in Devon and Cornwall, he leaves to Richard his grandson and his heirs male.

Remainder to his brothers John and Digory and their heirs male.

Remainder to his right heirs.

He bequeaths to his daughter Mary 300 marks for her portion.

To his son-in-law Sir Richard LEE and Margaret his wife 100 marks.

To his son-in-law Robert WHETTALL, esq, and Jane his wife 100 marks.

To his brother-in-law John DRAKE and Amy his wife 20 marks.

The rest of his will shews him to have been a person of sound judgment and a master of economy.

His executors were Dame Maud, his wife, his brother-in-law Edmund SPECCOTT esq, John BEAUCHAMP, his brother-in-law John KILLIGREW, and John BEVILL esquires.

He made a codicil to his will, dated at Stowe, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1550/51\*, and another on 10<sup>th</sup> March, and another on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1550/51\*, which was but three days before his death.

*[taken verbatim from Roger GRANVILLE's 1895 History of the GRENVILLE family]*

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### Summary and Comments:

\* the dates marked above are incorrect. Rev GRANVILLE must have wrongly calculated these.  
The Will and Death dates should be 1549/50, not 1550/51.  
And the Buckland property was purchased in 1541, not 1542 as stated in this transcript.

The GRENVILLE estates were extensive, and here we have one of the first references to the ownership of Buckland Abbey, herein called Buckland Graynfiled (ie: the home of the GREYNVILLE's at Buckland).

Richard's son and heir Roger was killed on the 'Mary Rose' in 1545, and this house was to be left to his grandson (the celebrated Sir Richard GRENVILLE), after the death of his wife Maud.

Of almost equal importance were the other principal properties:

- Mansion House in Bideford, including the rest of the Town and Borough.
- Mansion House at Stowe in Cornwall, with its estate.
- Mansion at Woodford in Cornwall.

All the above were also left to his grandson Sir Richard GRENVILLE.

The the final codicil was dated 15<sup>th</sup> March 1549/50, and Richard is said to have died 3 days later. His burial was on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1549/50, so a death on 18<sup>th</sup> March, and burial 4 days later is about right.

Whilst the body of the above will is a summary, the majority of this will was recorded verbatim in the subsequent Inquisition Post Mortem held for Richard GREENFIELD – see Appendix 5 below.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 5

Document Catalogue Description: Inquisition Post Mortem.  
Greenfield, Richard, knight: Cornwall  
4 Edward VI [1550]  
National Archives ref: C 142/90/12  
Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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### Notes:

An Inquisition Post Mortem (examination after death) was undertaken when a deceased person was believed to have held Crown Lands, and to determine what rights and income were due to the Crown. Although these documents were returned to Chancery, this was a local matter, and if a deceased person had lands in more than one County, a separate I.P.M. was held for each region. They are mostly in Latin and follow a standard format:

- Names of the officials and Jurors.
- Name of the deceased and date of death.
- Brief description of landholdings and approx value.
- Extracts from any Will confirming inheritance of lands (in English).
- Name of the next heir, and their age.

When the heir was under age, the King kept possession until the heir came of age, and received the rights of wardship and marriage. Where there was no rightful heir, the lands reverted to the Crown. These feudal tenures and rights were abolished from the time of the Civil War onwards.

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Richard GREYNFELD of Kilkhampton  
Inquisition held at Stratton, Cornwall, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1550 [4 Edward VI]  
Details included from Will written: 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 1546

*[PREAMBLE HERE IN LATIN CONFIRMING THE NAME OF THE DECEASED PERSON BEING EXAMINED, AND AN OVERALL ACCOUNT OF HIS LAND HOLDINGS. THE TRANSCRIPTION OF THE LATIN SECTIONS IS STILL WORK IN PROGRESS]*

**In the name of** the blyssed Alymytie Father sonne and holy goost y Sir Rychard GREYNFILD knight beyng in perfect mynd and memorie thanks be given to Almightye God my saviour and only redeemer percyving by faith and creation my naturall lyff to be transytorie holye myndyng repentance yn my most humble manner aske of Allmigtie God forgyvenes and also of all the wordell and under the protection of god make and declare this my last wyll and testament in this manner folowyng. Fyrst y bequethe my soule unto Almythie God my body to be buried in such holy place. Where is shall please Almytie god to provide.

**And** y wyll that Dame Mawde my wyffe shall have all my messuages lands tenements rents revertsions appurtenances and hereditaments called Buckland Graynfiled otherwise called the demeane of Buckland in as ample ~[faded]~ manner as y have the same by the Kyngs letters patente bernyg date the xxvi day of May in the xxxiii yere [ie: 1541] of the kynge majesties most graceous and victorious reign that nowe ys to have and to hold to the said Dame Mawde and her said assignes duryng the time of thre score and ten yers yf she lyve so being in ptt [perfect?] of recompence of such title and interest of connctre(?) as the said Dame Mawde my wyffe had in certain others my

hereditament And also in recompense of such lands as y ~[faded]~ sould of hers wherin she att my request by order of the kyngs lawes hath extinguishid her right for necessities of my affairs to do the kyngs maiestie service provided that the said Dame Mawde may allways cut downe as many trees and as muche tymer as she list growing yn and upon the premisses to be employed in the performins of the buyldyng of the mansion place of Buckland aforesaid. Also shall have and greyve during her lyffe wood and fewell sufficyent for her to bryne in the said mansion house paying yerly for the same twentie pounds sterling unto John SERVYNGTON gentleman during time of xiii yere next comyng att such days and place as ys agreed between hym and me and in recompense of his p'tensid(?) in the said demeans lately preteyned also by George BALLARD esquier whose interest now y have att the wyll of the said John SERVYNGTON paying hym yerly £xx and discharging of the rent to me due which is £xxiii the assurance in d~~~ meaning in the deed letters patent.

**And y Wyll** that after the decese of the sayd Dame Mawde my wyffe and the time afyesaid expired that all the said messuages land and tenements rents reversiones services and heriditaments with the appertenance in Buckland Greynfild aforesaid shalbe and holy remain unto Rychard GREYNFELD the sonne of Roger GREYNFILD my sonne and heire apparent deceased and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten yn as ample and large manner as y the said Sir Richard had the same by the kyngs letters patente aforesaid paying yerly for the same unto the said John SERVYNGTON during the time afyesaid twentie pounds sterling as ys afyesaid.

**And for** default of such yssue of the bodye of the said Richard GREYNFILD begotten then y wyll that all the said messuages lands tenements and heredytaments and other the premisses with the appertenance shalbe and holye remayne unto Dygorie GREYNFILD my brother ~[faded]~ and to the heirs males of hys body lawfully begotten yn as ample and large manner as the said Richard GRAYNFILD had the same. And for default of such yssue then y will that all the said heredytaments and the premisses with the appertenance shalbe and holy remayne unto John GREYNFILD one other of my brothers esquier and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten yn as large and ample manner as the said Digorie GREYNFILD had the same. **And** by default of such issue then y will that all the said heredytaments and other the premysses shalbe and holie remayne unto the right heire of me the said Sir Richard GREYNFILD for ever.

**Item: y will** for cosmothe(?) as the said demeane of Buckland ys no sufficyent and condgue recompense unto the same Dame Mawde my wyffe for her ioincture and dower of all my manors and heredytaments that she shall also have ymmedyately after my death all my manor of Bedyford my mansion place yn the towne of Bedyford Groever and Sharleshooke with the fyshing therof with the appertenance and all the residue of the towne of Bedyford and all other of my lands tenements and heredytaments called Abbettysham with all and singler thepptenance duryng the lyfe of the said Dame Mawde.

**Item: y will** that for lyke concyderation and ys before expressed the said Dame Mawde my wyffe shall have during her ~[faded]~ my mansion place of Stowe within the Countie of Cornewall togivher with all the gardeyns orchards and ponds there and the ground namyd Stowe parke whytebery and pasture of the woods for her horses when she shalbe ha~~[faded] lye there to the intent that she shall with the yssues and profitts comyng and growing of the same well and sufficiently repaire and maynteyn my said house and ponds duryng the same aforesaid.

**And also y will** that the said Dame Mawde shall have the conyes there att such pryces as y was accustomed to have and yf hitt fortune that the said Dame Mawde do marie then y wyll that she shall have the greatest pownde in Stowe aforesaid together with the said lande next unto the same adioynyng in the west parte To have and to hold all and singlar the said heredytaments yn manner and forme abovesaid unto the said Dame Mawde and her issyue duryng her natural lyffe yn recompense ~[faded]~ full satisfaction of all such title of ioncture and dower as the said lady Mawde meight by any manner of meane demand of any of my lands and heredytaments.

**Also y wyll** that such of my executors yn this my wyll ~[faded]~ to be namyd shall have all my closes pastures and fields called Bethem Close Northparke Colland Close Bydgway parke and Sandeway(?) parke worthen the West Parke Belle the borough of Kylkehmp-ton and the mansion of Woodford

lying in Cornwall aforesaid and the borough of Bedyford in the Countie of Devonshire aforesaid and all reversions and rents goying out of the same to have to them and ther heirs to such uses and entenements as herafter shalbe declared. first my said executor and their heirs shall with the yssues and ~[crease]~ and yssue thereof pay him the kynge's maiestie all such duties as his maiestie shalbe intitlid to have by his highnes lawes as yvere pryiner ~?~fore or otherwyse for any mannors lands rents and heredytaments expressed in this my last will did after my said executours and the heires shall with the yssues rents covennts and proytts therof well and truly content a ~[faded]~ unto my daughter Marye att such tyme as she shall come to marrye or yn as convenient tyme as itt may be levied by the direction of my said executours thre hundred marks of lafull mony of England upon this condition that she be rulyd ~[faded]~ g~~(?) Mawde my wyffe and honestly kype herselfe unto such tyme as she be married and yf she otherwise doe then she to have for her advancement yn mariage butt a hundred pounds provided that yf my said daughters marie f~[faded]~ during the lyff of the said Dame Mawde then she shall have for her advancement in marriage fowre hundred marks upon such conditions as before is expressed.

**And y will** that my said daughters shall have yerly of my ~[faded]~ provided always that yf hitt fortune my said daughters to be married duryng my lyffe or that y devyse other advancement and performt for my said daughter that thes as well the sum of thre hundred marks before expressed as the said fower hundred marks and all other things before mentioned for her performt yn mariage to be utterly voyd any cause article or sentence heretofore expressed to the cont'rne notwithstanding.

**Also y will** that my said executours and their heires shall with the residue of the rents yssues reversiones and profitts as itt may be levied and by ther discretion pay or cause to be paid all such detts as y nowe owe or hereafter may fortune to awe yf the same detts may so ~[faded]~ executours to be ~?~ [faded] ~?~ byll or obligation assigned with my lands and delivered as my dede or by any other declaration of wyll signed hereafter with my hand to such suits as y nowe have or hereafter shall have to d~[faded]~ majesties servyce under me in his maiesties warres or therwyse provide to be my true wyll and dett by the depositions of twoo credible persons.

**And y wyll** that my executours shall well and truly covenant and paye of the yssue reversiones and profitts of the said heredytaments to them assigned as as aforesaid to be son yn lawe Sir Richard LEGH knight and Dame Margaret his wyff one of my daughters one hundred marks aswell yn recompense of ~[faded]~ many as y gave unto them yn consyderation of the said mariage and yn recompense of the ~hiles partt of any other of ~?~ goodds to be demanded by the said Dame Margaret in her right as also in full satisfaction of all other ~all(?) de~~(?) and due to be demanded by my said son yn lawe of me my heirs executours or administrators.

**Item: y wyll** that my son yn lawe Robert WHETTALL esquire and Jane his wyffe one other of my daughters shall have one hundred marks in full recompense and satisfaction of such mariage money as y gave unto them in concyderation of the said mariage and also in recompense of the ohilds(?) partt of any other of my goods to be demandid by the said Jane as is her right.

**Item: y wyll** and remytt release and uterly discharge for me myne heires and executours the said Robt WHETTALL and Jane my daughter and their executours of all such duties as y can by any mannor of meane demand of them for ther bord(?) and fyndyng(?) of them with me.

**Item: y wyll** that my said executours pay unto my brother in lawe John DRAKE and Anne his wyffe my sister twentie marks sterlyng in recompense of all such sumes of mony as y promsed them in mariage.

**Item: y wyll** that my said executours shall yerely paye unto Nicholas GRAYNFILD my nephew of the rents reversiones issues and profitts of the said lands to them assigns five marks sterlyng to have and peeve to hym duryng his naturall lyff.

**Item: y will** that my said executours shall yerely pay unto Alice GRAYNFILD my nyce of the rents reversiones issues and proffits of the said lands to their assigns fourtie shillings sterling to have any payde unto her during her naturall lyffe.

**And y wyll** that my executors shall yerly paye unto Edmond SPECOTT my fyne of the rents issues and proffits of the said lands to them assigned £xx sterlyng to have and p'teyne unto her during her natural lyff.

**Item: y wyll** that yf hitt fortune from hensforth that she said Dame Mawde my wife refuse to h~ne in servyce one Thomas COOKE nowe my chaplyn and late chaplyn to my father by reson of age impotency or other disability then y wyll that my said executors shall yerly of the rents revertisiouns yssues and profits of the said lands to them assigned pay unto my said chapleyn five pounds one shilling and eight pens sterlyng according to the last wyll of my said father and also to pemytt(?) hym to dwell yn the house that he dwelleth ynne any thing conteyning in this wyll to the cont're notwithstanding.

**Item I wyll** that my said executors shall y~r~ ~[faded]~y ~?~ John ~?~ xxxii.s John HORDE a xxvi.s viii.d John HICHCOOK xxvi.s viii.d Jamys CEYMAN xxvi.s viii.d Willm CRONNDE xxvi.s viii.d John APRYSE xx.s and Richard CADY xv.s sterlyng of the rents revertisiouns issues and profitts of the said lands to them assignd to have and peeyne to them and everie of them yn manner and forme aforesaid during ther naturall lyffes upon condition that they and only of them shall do the ~?~ ~[faded]~ ~?~ Mawde during her naturall lyffe and after her decesse to the said Richard GRAYNFILD and his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten yf itt be ther pleasure to have them in servyce yevyng(?) also ~?~ ~[faded]~ and ~?~ And yf itt be nott ther pleasure to have them in servyce with them then hitt shalbe lawfull to my said ~'nnts(?) and evry of them to ~ue?? yn any other place att ther libertie and also to have ther w~ ~[faded]~ provided always that upon one halff yere warnyng they shall retorne and she again the sayd Dame Mawde and Richard GRAYNFILD as ys aforesaid ~?~Is notto have ther said wage nor no parte therof ~[faded]~ them be ~b or ~ayheyund or havyng any other impedynce and be nott able to come(?) then y wyll that they shall lye att the above houses or ther frendes houses and have ther wage notwithstanding.

**Item: y wyll** Thomas B~SETT shalbe kyper of my parke of Buckland aforesaid and receyvoir of the rents there and shall have paid hym yerly for his ffee for doying of the ~[faded]~ during his lyff fourtie shillings of ~[faded]~ said executor yn manner and forme afore mentioned.

**Item: y wyll** that Willm MERHOLE shall have yerly paid hym during his lyffe by the hands of my said executors of the yssues and profitts aforesaid as befo~[faded]~ xiii.s iiiii.d upon condition that he shall as lyke ~uite(?) to the said Dame Mawde and Richard GRAYNFILD as is aforesaid as he hath byn accustomed to do to the said Sir Richard.

**Item: y wyll** that the residue of my mannors messuages lands rents fyshings parke ponds warrens woods pastures mylls and all other hereditaments of what name of addition so on they be of other then the said mannor of Buckland Graynfield otherwise called the demeans of Buckland and all the said manours meases lands and hereditaments with the appertenances and every parcell thereof before expressed and wyllid unto myne executors for the performans of this my wyll shall ymmedyately after my decease before the use of the said Richard GRENFILD and to the heires males of his body lawfully begotten and for default of such yssue to remayne unto the said John GRENFILD and to the heires males of his body lawfully begotten and for default of such yssue to remayne unto the said Digorie GRAYNFILD and to the heirs males of of his body lawfully begotten upon this condition that yf the said John GRAYNFILD and the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten have and ~[faded]~ all the said mannors messuages lands rents and hereditaments to hym before willed by way of remainders as is aforesaid do well and truly content and paye unto my said thre daughters and ther heires ?x score pounds of lawfull mony of England equally to be devydid between them payable att foure principall feasts of the yere that is to wyte att the feasts of the anunciation of our blessed lady natyvitie of seynt John the baptist seynt Mychell thearchangell and the natyvitie lord or within thre monethes yerely next after any of the said feasts so that itt be lawfully demanded of the said John and his heires males and also itt shalbe lauffull unto all my said thre daughters and ther heirs to entre into all the said residue of my said manors lands tenements and hereditaments for default of payment of the said yerely rent att any of the said feasts and to disporeyis(?) for ther severall portions daezdyngd to the tenet and true meaning of this my said will.

**And over this** y wyll that yf the said John GRAYNFILD fortune to dye without heires males of his body laufully begotten so that the said Digorie and the heires males of his body laufully begotten do have and enioye all the residue of the said manors meases lands tenements and hereditaments by force of the remaynder as ys aforesaid that then the said Digorie and his heires males shall upon like condition as the said John GREYFILD and his said heires males well and ~[faded]~ content and pay unto my said thre daughters and ther heirs all such yerely rents as ys before expressed att such days tymes and time as ys before lymytted.

**Item: y wyll** that after such tyme that my executors have fully executed performed and observed my wyll as ys aforesaid that then ymmediately after all the said manors meases lands tenements and hereditaments before lymytted and assigned unto the said executors shall holy be to the only use profits and behof of the said Richard GRAYNFILD and to the heires males of his body lawfully begotten and for default of such issue to remayne unto the said John GRAYNFILD and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten and for default of such issue to remayne unto the said Digorie GREYNFILD and to the heirs males of his body laufully begotten and for default of such issue to remayne to the right heirs of me the said Sir Richard GRAYNFILD provided always that if hitt fortune the said John GREYNFILD and his heirs males or any of them do any act or acts yn any of the kings courts thereby this my last wyll or any partt thereof shalbe interuptid ad~thilated(?) or made void that then y wyll that all the said mannors messuages lands tenements and heredytaments before e~~[blotted] assignid to the said Richard shall remayne unto the said Digorie GRAYNFILD and to the heires males of his body lawfully begotten so that the said Digorie and the heires males of his body lawfully begotten do well and truly observe perfyme and execute(?) this my last will accordyng to the tenet and true meanings of the same.

**Also y wyll** that yf any of my said daughters or ther heires or any of them do any act or acts yn any of the kyngs courts wherby this my last wyll or ~[faded]~ therof shalbe interuptid ad~thlatid(?) or made void that then y wyll that sych of my said daughters and ther heires that shall fortune to doe any such act or acts shall lose from thensforth his or ther proptions of the said ~[faded]~ before by me to them wyllid and all ther title and interest yn and to the same for evermore as though y had nen(?) declared wyllid ne(?) assigned any such yerely rent unto them.

**Item: y wyll** that yf ~?~ appere? ~[faded]~ ?? said executor that my fathers detts whose ~nle(?) then pardon to be as yet nott contented and paid yn such due manner and fine as y before have declared of my awne detts that then y wyll the~~~~~ ~[faded]~ paid by my said executors of the issues and proffitts aforesaid.

**Also y wyll** and bequeath to the said Dame Mawde my wyffe all my plate lynynnge and beddyng during her lyffe and wy~~w~d and after that to be to the said Richard GREYNFILD for on and if she fortune to marie then y wyll she shall have butt beddyng and other stuffe nowe att Buckland aforesaid.

**Item y wyll** ordeyn and make the said Dame Mawde my wyffe Edmond SPECCOTT my brother yn lawe John BEAUCHIMP one other of my brothers yn lawe John KYLLGREWE and John BEVYLL esquires to be my executors and to see this my wyll performed provided that the said Edmond John DEDYHAGE(?) ~[faded]~ KYLLYGREWE and John BEVYLL shall nott have the admynistrations nor medlyng with no parte of my personall goods butt only my said wyffe and the said Edmond John John (sic) and John BEVYLL to have the hole and full power to have r~~~e(?) and take all the said rents issues revenues and profitts of all the said lands before lymytted and assigned unto me executors and wherof y have enfeefferd them to do only partt of my said wyll performed according as y before have declared and expressed in this my wyll and that the said Edmond SPECCOTT John BEAUCYING John KYLLYGREW and John BEVYLL shall have yerely only of there xx.s sterlyng goyng out of the premisses unto such tyme my wyll be performed and also shalbe allowed of the issues and profitts therof of the such expence and charge as they and every of them shall susteyne and bere in executing and performyng this my last wyll provided always that hitt shalbe laufully to ~?~ the said Sir Richard att any tymes hereafter to adde or inynisth(?) that my wyll any thing therein conteyned to the con'tre nott withstanding.

**Y eowen(?)** the eight day of marche in the xxxvii yere of the reyn of our Sovraign lord Henry the eight by the grace of god kyng of England france and yrland defender of the faith and yn erth of the church of england and also of Irland the supreme hed.

...[ONE LINE OF LATIN IN HERE]...

**If be hitt knowen** to all men that wheras y Syr Richard GRAYNFILD knight have made my wyll and testament signed and sealed with my seale of armes beryng date the eight day of marche in the xxxvii yere of the reign of the late kyng of famous memorie kyng henry the eight as yn the said wyll plainly apereth(?) whereunto this codcile of this my ferder mynd and wyll y do ameynd fyrst that where in the said wyll have wyllid and given that for default of the heirs males of the body of Rychard GRAYNFILD son of Roger GREYNFILD my late son and heire apparent that all the mansion place Barton and demean lands in Buckland Graynfiled shold remayne to Dygorie GREYNFYLD my brother and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten and for default of heirs males of his body lawfully begotten all the premisses namyd Buckland Graynfiled aforesaid holy shold remayne to John GREYNFILD my other brother and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten did for default of such issue male all the said premisses in Buckland Granyfiled holt shold remayne to the heires generall of me the said Sir Richard GRAYNFILD for ever.

**Nowe therin** this my very wyll and mynd ys that all the said manners with the demeanes of Buckland aforesaid shall holy remayne as ys therein before written to the said Buckland Graynfiled myne heirs and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten and for default of such heires males of the body of the said Richard all the said mansion and the said hole demeanes of Buckland aforesaid shall holy remayne to my said brother Dygorie GREYNFILD and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten and for default of such issue male of the body of the said Dygorie all the said mansion of Buckland Graynfiled aforesaid with the demeane lands therto belongyng shall holy remayne to the heires generall of me the said Sir Richard GRAYNFILD knight for ever.

**And Wherof** ferder yn the same wyll y have also given and declared by the said wyll that the Barton and Manner of Bedyford otherwise called Bydford and the Borough of Bedyford that the members and appertenance of the same and the mannor and burgh of Kylkehampton with the appertenance and certen others of myne inheritans should after my decease and Dame Maud my wyff remayne to the said Richard GRAYNFILD my heire and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten and for default of such issue males of the body of the said Richard all the said Barton Mannor and Brygh of Bedyford and other the premisses shold remayne to my brother John GRAYNFILD and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten yeldyng and paying therefore yerly for the same to myne heirs generall one annuytie as annuell rent of £xx stelyng and for default of such issue male of the body of the said John GREYNFILD all the premisses with the appertenances holy to remayne to Dygorie GRAYNFILD my other brother and to the heires males of his body lawfully begotten beryng the said yerely annuytie as yerely rent of £xx to myne heires generall.

**Nowe my wyll** ys also therin that as concernyng the said Barton and Manner of Bedyford and the Burgh of Bedyford with the appertenances and all other the premisses shall ymmediatly after the death of me and Dame Maude my wyffe holy remayne unto my said heire the aforesaid Richard GRAYNFILD and to the heirs males of his body lafully begotten and for default of such issue male y wyll that the only Barton and Manner of Bedyford and the Burgh of Bedyford with the appertenance shall holy remayne unto my brother John GREYNFILD and to the heires males of his body lafully begotten without paing of the said annuell rent of £xx expressed in the said former wyll or paying of any partt other of and for default of such issue male of the said John GRAYNFILD y wyll that all the said Barton Manner and Burgh of Bedyford with the appertenance holy shall remayne to the heirs generall of me the said Sir Richard GREYNFILD knight for ever and that all the said manner and burgh of Kylkehampton and other myne inheritance shall for default of issue male of the same Richard GRAYNFILD myne heire remayne holy and go for on to myne heirs generall and that neither my brother John GREYNFILD nor Digorie GREYNFILD nor none of ther heirs shall clayme any therof otherwise then for default of issue of my heires generall Also ferder wherapon concyderation of mariage yn my said former partt of my wyll declared that Mary my daughter now the wyff of John



GYFFORD esquier shold have had certain sumes of mony for her mariage which is sahens(?) maried and according to certain covenante fully satisfied and paid of her matrimony except the sume of foure score marks of lafull mony of England which sume of foure score marks of lafull mony England.

**Y wyll** by this partt of my said wyll that my xecutors shall truly content and paye my said son yn lawe John GEFORD and my said daughter ~[crease]~ to ther assigns out of the issues and profitts of the lands apoynted for the payment of my detts and legacies.

**Also y wyll** that my said executors shall yerely paye or cause to be paid to Thamaris TRENWITH my aunt during her lyffe twenty?? ~[faded]~ of lafull mony of England as yn my said former wyll ys mentyond for the payment of other of my aunts.

**Also y wyll** and bequeathe to any of my aunts nowe yn my servyce one hale yere ways to be paid to them ymedyatly of my deth yf y do nott dehn itt then yn my lyff tyme provided always that all other things conteyned yn my said former wyll nott altered in this codcile shall mend and be in full serenght(?) and power.

**And also provided** that all such grants and gifts that the said Sir Richard GRAYNFILD knight have given or shall herafter happen to gyve before sufficient wyttnes or by bylls assyged with my hand shalbe essentiall to hym or them ther have of me any such gift to every(?) and have the same any thing yn my former wyll nottwithstandyng.

**Also y do gyve** to Dame Mawde my wyffe all my goods and cattells nott given nor bequeved as ys mentioned yn my former wyll except any gifts as y the said Sir Richard shall happen to gyve and delyn yn my lyff tyme with myne awne hand yn wyttnes whereof to this codcile of my former wyll and mynd yn all things yn my former wyll and herin conteyned written att stowe in the Countie of Cornwall in the presens of John GRAYNFILD clerk, Thomas ARUNDELL esquier, Willm HERDER, John KYMPWORN, Water SKYNNER, and others y have ousorvid this attine(?) codcile annexid to my said wyll with my awne hand and sealid hitt with my seale of armes the third day of January in the third yere of the reign of our Soverayn Lord Edward the Sixt by the grace of god of england france and yrland by defender of the faith and yn erth ymediently under god the chief and supreme hed of the church of England and yrland.

... [LATIN SECTION HERE]...

**Providid** also that yff my brother John GREYNFILD or his heires do int~ew(?) or trobell with myne heires for any of the lands that y the said Sir Richard GREYNFILD had of hym att any tyme hereafter that then my wyll ys that he the p'tine(?) John GREYNFILD my his heires shall have no benefytt of any thing conteyind yn in my said wyll.

**Not withstanding** pthis proviso y the same Sir Richard GREYNFILD knight am contented and my wyll is that yf my said brother John GREYNFILD or his heires do make to me myne heires or to such as y have or shall gyve the att'd(?) lands that y had of hy~~(?) unto bes-es(?) the manor of Woodford a thislde(?) the feast of croer(?) next admynystr(?) after this present ca~e? by p'fyne(?) and reeony(?) or by such other assignis as the lawe can devise that then y am contented and my wyll ys that my said brother John GREYNFILD shall have the said manor of Woodfyd with the appertence to hym and his heires for ever.

**Item: y do gyve** unto Richard BENNETT and unto William BENNETT my rents durying their lyffes xxd a pece of them quarterly to be paid by my feoffees as other my rents be apoyntid to be paid for the good servyse to me don beyond the seay and also here that is to wete to every of them xx.s yerly. ... [LATIN SECTION HERE]...

**Be hitt knowen** to all men that it is the wyll of me Sir Richard GREYNFILD that Johan BITOTT(?) of Kilkhampton shalbe discharged of her rent of xiii.s iiiii.d durying her lyffe. **Mndd** that the x<sup>th</sup> day of March in the fourth yeare of the reign of our sovereign Lord Edward the syxt by the grace of god of England France and yreland King Defender of the faith and yn erth ymediatly under god the chyef and supreme hed of the Church of England and yreland y Sir Richard GREYNFILD knight have given to myne Uncle John GREYNFILD parson of Kylkehmp-ton after my decesse asnoog(?) of my certaine of the woode in Powehill ~?~ called Heywood which y had of the gins(?) of the house of Clive as long as

the same John GREYNFILD parson of Kylkehampton shall like and as long he to have the woods ther growing to his awne use and the resydue of the said t~[crease]~ after his deth to myne houses.  
...[SEVEN LATIN WORDS HERE]...

**All christen** people to whom this present wrytyng shall come rede hir or understand knowe ye that y Sir Richard GREYNFILD of Kylkehamton in the countie of cornwall knight being of full mynd and good memorie this present x<sup>th</sup> day of Marche in the iiiii<sup>th</sup> yeare of Kyng Edward the sixt by the grace of god of Ingland France and yreland Kyng defender of the faith and of the Church of England and also of yreland the supreme hed do wyll this codcile written yn manner and form folowyng to be aimeynd unto my former wyll saind the viii day of marche in the xxxvii yeare of the reign of the late Kyng of famous memorie Kyng Henry the eight and to stand as parcell of my last wyll and testament where y have nominated yn my sayd former wyll Edmond SPECCOTT, John BEAUCHAMP, John BEVYLL and John KYLLYGRAWWE esquyers myne executors and have apoynted them to receive the proffitts of sertain lands mentyond yn my former wyll for the performins of the same and for payment of my debttis and other legacyes this my wyll and mynd y farder that my said brother Edward SPECCOTT and other executors shall make evry yere a true accompt of all rents revenues and other profitts by my sayd executors to be received before my brother John GREYNFILD, Digorie GREYNFILD and Thomas ARUNDELL esquires by my apoynted of especiall trust and yerly upon the said accompt ~de the proffitts by my said executors receyind to be contented and payd ymmediately ~[faded]~ the term of my last wyll and testament the said yerly accompt to have contynuans unto the tyme that Richard GRAYNFILD the son of Roger GREYNFILD my late heir apparent be of the full age of xxi years. **Furder** my wyll is that all profitts received by my said executors in wyll and legacies performed shall go to the use of Richard GREYNFILD my heire and sett yn save kypynng to the most profitts of the said Richard GRAYNFILD.

...[SEVEN LATIN WORDS HERE]...

**Memorandum:** that y Sir Richard GRAYNFILD of Kylkehampton in the countie of cornwall kniyght being of hole mynd this xv day of marche anno domini mcxlix thanks be unto the lyving lord myndyng to have myne wyll approvid accordnyg to the comyn good usage of this realme of yngland do wyll that yf Edmond SPECCOTT, John BEACHAMP, John BEVYLL and John KYLLYGREWE esquires appoyntid to be myne executors or any of ther re~~~ to prove my last wyll and testament then y wyll that Dame Mawde my wyffe prove the same my said last wyll and testament and yf Dame Mawde my wyffe refuse to prove the same my wyll and testament then y wyll my brother John GRAYNFILD and my brother Digorie GREYNFILD and Thomas ARUNDELL shalbe myne executors to prove my mynd wyll and said last testament and have for ther costs payne and charge as y apoynted to my brother Edmond SPECCOTT and others my executors provided always that who so on do prove my last wyll and testament that they shall yerely accompt for hitt as expressed and resitid in it stedule(?) to my wyll limydid(?) yn wytnes wherof y have signed this byll.

...[LATIN SECTION HERE]...ending with...

The rightful heir being Richard GRAYNFILD, son of Roger GREYNFILD deceased, who was...

*[“...et XV die junii ultimo predictus idem Richardus GREYNFELD sunt etato otto annorum et non amplius”]*

...on the 15<sup>th</sup> June last the aforesaid same Richard GREYNFELD was aged eight years and no more.

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### Summary and Comments:

The Will summary in Appendix 4 gives us the same background information about the wishes of this Sir Richard GREYNFELD. However, this fuller version of Sir Richard's will gives us some better information about the property at Buckland.

This will was written in 1546, and it specifically mentions building operations being undertaken to construct his Mansion at Buckland. This is further evidence that this was not a family home at this time. Richard's widow Dame Mawde is being given permission to take as much timber from the woods on the estate to undertake these works, and then further wood to use as fuel in the house for the rest of her life. If Buckland is not sufficient for her, then she is also to have the mansion house at Bideford, and all the residue of the Town of Bideford.

The three codicils to this will are:

- (i) undated, but understood to be 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 1549 [ie: 1549/50]
- (ii) 10<sup>th</sup> March 1549 [ie: 1549/50]
- (iii) 15<sup>th</sup> March 1549 [ie: 1549/50]

This Inquisition was held to investigate the landholdings of this person in Cornwall. Richard GREYNFELD also had landholdings in Devon, and a separate inquisition was held to investigate these. This was held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1550, the day before the Cornwall inquisition. The document is filed in the National Archives ref: C 142/90/26.

The content of the document appears similar to the above, but more faded, and less easy to read. It does however give corroborative information about the birth of his heir (Sir) Richard GRENVILLE, the details again stating that he was aged eight on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1550.

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## Appendix: 6

### Charter of Bideford: 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 1575

Transcribed by [David Carter](#) taken from: An essay towards a history of Bideford in the County of Devon, by John Watkins, 1792, in Bodlean Library, Oxford.

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And first the said maior, aldermen, and burgesses of the burrough and town of Bydeford, do covenant and grant, for themselves and their successors, to and with the said Richard Grenvile, his heirs and assigns, by these presents: That the said Richard Grenvile, his heirs and assigns, shall and may peaceably and quietly have, hold, occupie, and enjoy, all and singular such revenues, issues, profits, and commodities within the said manour, town, and burrough of Bydeford, as the said Richard before the making of the said letters patents, hath lawfully occupied and enjoyed, or of right, of might, have occupied or enjoyed, the said letters patents, or any thing or things therein conteyned notwithstanding, saving and always expected, one yearly rent of ten shillings and sixpence, which the burgesses or inhabitants of the said burrough of Bydeford, by the hands of the portreeve there, have heretofore payd to the said Richard Grenvile, together with the office of a portreeve; which yearly rent of ten shillings and sixpence, together with the office of the title of a portreeve, the said Richard Grenvile, for him and his heirs, doth by these presents give grant and release to the said maior, aldermen, and burgesses of the burrough and town of Bydeford, and to their successors, for ever – And also the said maior, aldermen, and burgesses, do covenant and grant, for themselves and their successors, to and with the said Richard Grenvile, his heirs and assigns, that if any revenues, issues, profits, or commodities, do at any tyme or tymes hereafter arise to the said maior, aldermen, and burgesses, by reason of the said markets, fairs, or of any of the liberties or franchises to them granted by our soveraigne Lady, by her Grace's letters patents, as shall happen to be employed and bestowed by the said maior, aldermen, and burgesses, as well in reasonable wages and fees, as also in such other matters and things, whereby they, in the right of their corporation, shall be charged, that then the said Richard Grenvile, his heirs and assigns, shall yearly, hereafter for ever, receive and enjoy the moiety of all and singular the said revenues, issues, profits, and commodities, to his and their only use and behoof. And for the true levying the revenues etc, aforesaid, according to the intent and meaning of these patents, the maior of the said town of Bydeford for the time being, with the assent of the said Richard, his heirs and assigns, shall yearly at the law court, to be holden within the said burrough and town of Bydeford the Munday next before the feast of Simon and Jude, nominate and appoint one sufficient man to be receavor within the said town and burrough, which said receavor shall take a corporal oath to receive the issues and profits arising within the said town and burrough and rightfully belonging to the said maior, aldermen and burgesses, by reason of the letters patents aforesaid, and thereof to make a true accompt before the maior of the said town for the time being. And that the said Richard Grenvile, his heirs and assigns, shall and may from time to time nominate and appoint one honest person to be present and hear the accompt of the said receavor and receavors, if the said Richard, his heirs or assigns, shall so think meet and convenient.

And further, the said maior, aldermen, and burgesses do covenant and grant, for themselves and their successors, to and with the said Richard Grenvile, his heirs and assigns, by these presents, that the maior, aldermen, and burgesses, shall not erect any house, messuage, nor other building, in or upon the premises for or concerning the sayd market or fayres, or shall grant to paie any wager or other thing touching the said corporation without the assent, advise, or agreement of the said Richard, his heirs or assigns, first had and obtained. And the said Richard Grenvile doth covenant and grant for himself, his heirs and assigns, to and with the said maior, aldermen, and burgesses of the burrough and town of Bydeford, and their successors, by these presents, that the said maior,

aldermen, and burgesses, and their successors, for picage, stallage, and standings only concerning the said fayres and markets, for the use of their guildhall, prison, or other convenient room for any prison, or other convenient purpose concerning the corporation, shall and may have the use of a certain house in Bydeford, commonly called the Chappell, being neer the west part of the bridge end there, and of certain land and ground in Bydeford aforesaid, whereon certain lymekilns sometimes stood, and where a key, or wharfe, is now latelie builded; and also of all the streets, lanes, ways, and waste soyle within the said manour, burrough, and town of Bydeford, without any molestation, lett, trouble, suit in law, or vexation of the said Richard Grenvile, his heirs or assings, etc.

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### Summary and Comments:

Sir Richard GRENVILLE applied for the charter in 1572, probably knowing that this date was in celebration of his ancestors' original charter for Bideford of 1272. It was recorded that by the early 16th century Bideford's Markets and Festivals as granted by the original charter, had 'fallen into disuse'. It was also reported that the town was somewhat rundown by the time Sir Richard took over.

Charters were pretty much a Royal assent to a town to run its own affairs and generate its own revenue from Royally-permitted festivals and markets, and by whatever other means were similarly granted. GRENVILLE clearly knew that by re-instating and extending the rights granted under a Charter, he would be able to raise revenue from enacting various controls over the town, all no doubt designed to encourage commerce from which he as Principal would prosper.

The Port was also created more or less as part of the same Charter by Sir Richard. This was almost certainly done because he saw it as the primary route by which he expected to increase trade. Bideford was already trading extensively with the English settlements in Munster (Southern Ireland) by the time of the creation of the Port. (The Charter talks about a 'Portreeve' or 'Port Sheriff', a role specifically designed to ensure rules and taxes were not dodged by the ships using the port). Since GRENVILLE was something of a visionary, he saw the potential to raise revenue by making Bideford the primary English port for trading with the planned expansion of English settlements in Ireland. It may not be so far-fetched to assume that GRENVILLE also saw the Roanoke venture as an opportunity to add to that trade.

To achieve his grand design though, GRENVILLE knew he needed to have the support of the town's wealthies. He probably selected most of them himself to be part of 'his' town council. As if to prove a point, John SALTERNE the first Mayor was a Merchant Venturer and clearly would have seen a personal benefit from GRENVILLE's plans too. In effect the Town Council was initially a club for the wealthy of Bideford.

As to what rights the Council (the participants) had, it seems initially they were pretty much only what Grenville consented to or they mutually agreed with him on. In about 1610, there was a revision to the Charter brought about by the Council itself and directed against the GRENVILLEs. It removed several powers from the GRENVILLEs and gave them to the Town Council, in the realisation by the Council that they needed to be able to invest more heavily in their ever burgeoning charge.

As to what rights the public had, they could sell goods twice weekly to an ever increasing passing and port trade, and it gave them a security and degree of wealth.

Without the vision and drive of Sir Richard to create something out of Bideford, the town would never have had the prosperity it enjoyed for more than 200 years following his untimely death.

[David Carter and Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 7

### 'Will' of Sir Richard GRENVILLE, 1585

The celebrated Sir Richard GRENVILLE of Bideford (1542-1591) is not known to have left a Will. However, before he left Bideford on his 1585 voyage to establish the first colony in America, he made the following indenture, giving details of his lands and what was to happen to them in the event of his death.

The original document does not appear to have survived, but this transcript produced by [David Carter](#) from the 1895 book on the GRENVILLE Family by Roger GRANVILLE, appears to be genuine and verbatim.

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Will (in the form of an indenture) of Sir Richard GRENVILLE (1542-1591)  
Written 16<sup>th</sup> March, 27 Eliz I (1585)

This indenture, made the syxtenthe daye of March, in the seven and twentieth yere of the Raigne of our Sovraigne Ladie Elizabeth, by the grace of God, of England, France, and Irland, Queene, defender of the Faithe, etc.

Between Sir Richard GREYNVILL of Stowe, in the countie of Cornwall, Knight, of the one parte, and Sir Walter RAWLEY, Sir Arthur BASSETT, Sir Francis GODOLPHIN, Knights, Henry KILLIGREW, Richard BELLOW, John HEALE, and Christopher HARRYS, esquires; Thomas DOCTON and John FACIE, Gents, of the other parte. Witnesseth that the said Sir Richard GREYNVILL for diverse good causes and considerations now espialle moving. Hath given, graunted, and enfeoffed, and by these presents for hym and heirs, to give, grant, and enfeoffe unto the saide Sir Walter RAWLEY, etc, and their heires.

All that mansion howse and demayne landes of Stowe, lyeing and beinge within the parishe of Kilkchampton in the countie aforesaid. And all that the Manor of Kilkchampton, together with all the landes tenements, hereditaments, rents, reversiones, and scisins [sic. probably 'service'], lyeing or beyinge within the parish of Kilkchampton aforesaid.

Together with all his landes, tenements, and hereditaments, rents, reversiones, and service, lyeing or beyinge in the parish of Stratton in the countie aforesaid.

Together with one tenement called Berrage, and all other his landes, tenements, and hereditaments, rents, reversiones, and service, lyeing or beine within the parish of Morewenstowe in the county aforesaid.

And all those his two manners of Woolston and Wydermouth in the countie aforesaid. Togeather with all his landes, tenements, and hereditaments, rents, reversiones, and service, lyeing or beyinge in the parish of Gwynape in the countie aforesaid.

And all that his manner of Swan'cott and Wykeborough. Togeather with all his landes, tenements, and hereditaments, rents, reversiones, and service, lyeing or beyinge in the parish of Saint Marie Weke, or ellswere within the county aforesaide.

And all that his mannor of Bediforde, and all his landes, tenements, and hereditaments, rents, etc, in the countie of Devon. And all that his mannor of Lytelham togeather with all his landes, tenements, etc, lyeing or beyinge within the parish of Lytelham, in the countie of Devon aforesaid.

And all that his manor of Lancras alias Lanchras, or ellswere, within the countie of Devon aforesaid. And also all that his mannor, territorie of iland, commonlie called or knowen by the name of the ile of Lundye, within the precincte or libertie of the countie of Devon aforesaid, and all other his lands tenements and hereditaments within the Realme of England.

To have and to hold, all and singular, the said manors, landes, tenements, and hereditaments, and all other the presmisses, with the appurtenances unto the said Sir Walter RAWLEY, Sir Arthur BASSETT, etc, etc, and their heires, and of the survivors of them for and during the term of the natural life of the saide Sir Richard GREYNVILLE. And that after the death of the saide Sir Richard GREYNVILLE, the saide Sir Walter RAWLEY, etc, shall stande and bee seased of the saide Mansion Howse and demesne landes of Stowe, in the countie of Cornwall, and alsoe of the saide mannors of Kilkchampton, Woolston, Wydemouth, and all landes and lyeing or beying in the severall parishes of Kilkchampton and Poundstock, with all and singler the appurtenances in the saide countie of Cornwall, to the use and behoof of Dame Marie GRENEVEILE, now wife of the said Sir Richard, for and during the term of her naturall life, if she shall soe longe live, sole and unmarried, in full recompence of the jointer or dower that the saide Marie shall or maie anye waye claime or demande, after the death of the saide Sir Richard, or anye landes tenements, hereditaments, whereof the said Sir Richard is, hath been, or shall be, seased of anye estate of inheritance whereof the saide Dame Marie is or may be dowable. And that after her decease, or if she happen to marie, then the said Sir Walter RAWLEY, etc, and the survivor or survivors of them and their heires, and anie of them, shall stande and be seised for and during the terme of twentie years, to be accompanied from the tyme of the death of the saide Sir Richard GRENEVEILE, of all and singular the foresaid premisses with the appurtenances, whereof the use is before lymyed to the said Dame Marie to the use and intente of for the payment of the detts, marriage of the daughters, and performans of the will of the said Sir Richard GRENEVEILE, accordynge to the last will and testament of the saide Sir Richard, and after that to the use and behoofe of Bernarde GRENEVEILE, sonne and heire apparent of the saide Sir Richard, and of the heires males of the body of the said Bernarde lawfullie begotten. And in defaulte of such issue to the use of John GRENEVEILE, second son of the saide Sir Richard, and of the heires males of his bodie lawfullie begotten. And in defaulte of such issue to the use of Nicholas GRENEVEILE and of the heires males of his bodie lawfullie begotten. And in defaulte of such issue to the use of Humfrie GRENEVEILE, brother of the saide Nicholas, and of the heires males of his bodie lawfullie begotten. And for defaulte of such issue to the use of Arthur GRENEVEILE, and other brothers of the said Nicholas, and of the heires males, etc. And for defaulte of such issue to the use of Thomas GRENEVEILE, one other brother of the said Nicholas, and of the heires males, etc. And for defaulte, etc, to the use of Digorie GRENEVEILE, one other brother, etc. And for defaulte of such issue, etc, to the use of the ryght heires of the saide John GRENEVEILE, second son of the saide Sir Richard, etc. After the death of the saide Sir Richard GRENEVEILE, the saide Sir Walter RAWLEY, etc, and their heires, shall stande and be seized of the foresaide mannor of Lanchas alias Lanchras, in the county of Devon, and of all the landes tenements, and hereditaments, rents, reversiones, and services, lyeing or beying in parish of Lanchras aforesaid. And all those landes, etc, etc, knowen by the name of Upcote, lyeing or beying within the parish of Byddeford, aforesaid. And also of the saide mannor, territorys, or lland of Londye aforesaid, with all and singler the appurtenances for and during the term of twentie years, to the use and intente of, and for the payment of the detts, marriage of the daughters, and performance of the will of the saide Sir Richard GRENEVEILE. And after that to the use of the saide John GRENEVEILE, second sonne of the saide Sir Richard, and of the heires, males, etc. And for defaulte, etc, to the use of the same Bernard Arthur GRENEVEILE, eldest sonne of the said Sir Richard, and heires males, etc. The remainder to the use of heires males of the bodie of the saide Sir Richard, lawfullie begotten.



And for defaulte, etc, to the use and behoof of George GREYNEVILE, etc, of the heires males, and for defaulte to the use of the saide Humfrie, and of the heires. And for defaulte, etc, to the other brothers. And for defaulte, etc, to the use of the ryght heires of John GREYNEVILE for ever.

And of all the residues of the foresaid mannors, lordships, lande, tenements, hereditiments, resnts, reversiones, and services, and all other the premisses with appurtenances lyeing or beying within the countie of Cornwall, whereof there is no use lymited to the same Dame Marie.

And alsoe the saide mannor of Bediforde and Littleham, and all other premisses before specyfyed, with the appurtenances, lyeing or beying within the Realmes of England, whereof there is use intaile before lymited, the saide Sir Walter RAWLEY, Sir Arthur BASSET, etc, for and during the terme twentie years next after the death of the saide Sir Richard GREYNEVILE, accordinge to the last will and testament of the saide Sir Richard.

And after that to the use and behoof of the saide Bernarde GREYNEVILE, and of the heires males, etc.

And for the defaulte to the use of the saide John GREYNEVILE, seconde sonne of the saide Sir Richard, and of the heires males, etc.

And in defaulte to the use of the heires males of the bodie of the said Sir Richard.

And for defaulte to the use of the saide George GREYNEVILE, of Penheale, and of the heires, etc.

And for defaulte to the use of William GREYNEVILE, heires, etc.

Then to the saide Nicholas GREYNEVILE, heires, etc. And for defaulte to the saide Humfrie and heires, etc. And for defaulte to the saide Arthur and heires etc. And for defaulte to the saide George, brother of the saide Nicholas and heires etc. And for defaulte to Thomas and heires etc. And for defaulte to the saide Digorie and heires etc. And for defaulte to the ryght heires males of John GREYNEVILE for ever.

Provided, nevertheless, that if it shall happen that the saide Sir Richard do die, leveng the saide Dame Marie, and she do take of marrie a seconde husband, by reason whereof her estate, use, interest, to her lymitted in the premisses aforesaid shall cesse and determine. That then the intente and full meaning of the saide Sir Richard, and of all the parties to these presents, is that the saide Sir Walter Rawley, etc, shall stand and be seized of all and singular the foresaid premisses, with the appurtenances, to the use and intente, that the saide Dame Marie shall have and pay out of the said premisses quarterlie during her life, the some of two hundred pounds of lawfull Inglyshe money, from the tyme of her marriage so accomplished, to be paide at the fourre most usual daies of Feasts in the yere, by geven portions in lew and recompense of her jointer and dower as aforesaid.

Provided always, and itt is covenanted, graunted condescended, and fullye agryed by and between all the saie parties that if the saide Sir Richard at anie tyme or tymes during his naturall life, by himself of in his own proper personne, or by anie other personne by him speciallye warranted by writing under his hand and seale of armes, at or in the saide parish church of Kilkchampton aforesaid, require or demand of the said Walter RAWLEY, etc, etc, the some of fyftie thousand pounds of lawfull Inglyshe money. The ~~~~ shall not be to him then and there fullie satisfied, contented, and paide according to his demande on that behalf to be made as aforesaid.

That then and from thenceforth all and singular estates, conditions, lynyations, and other things before in these presents, declared or expressed, shall cease and be utterlie voyde, and from thenceforth the saide Sir Walter RAWLEY, etc, etc, shall stande and be seized of all and singular the foresaid premisses with the appurtenances to the onlie use and behoof of the saide Sir Richard GREYNEVILE, his heires and assigns for ever.

And to no other use, intente, or pp're, anye thinge in these presents contained to the contrarie, in anywise not withstanding.

In witness whereof both of the parties to the ~~~~ indenture have enterchang~~~ sett their seales. Given the daye and yere firste above written.

[Richard GR]EYNEVILE (Seal wanting).

Sealed and d by dc'd the daye and yere within, and wryten in the presence of those whose names are subscribed.

Thomas ROSCARROCK Degorie TREMAYNE  
Phyllph COLE Degorie NED~~~~  
A ARUNDELL Josh Deg. GREYNVILL  
Thom. C. Geo GREYNEVILL

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### Summary and Comments:

GRENVILLE was a legal eagle of some repute, having studied law at the Inner Temple. The reasons for leaving his last wishes in the form of an Indenture rather than a Will, had probably been well thought out. With so many family connections woven into his complex affairs, any Will could have been contested for years. An indenture was probably a legal soft option to avoid that risk. He obviously didn't plan on dying at Flores in 1591, so he might have got round to writing a Will in later life, but it is not believed that he ever left anything except this indenture expressing his wishes.

Sir Richard's two surviving sons, Bernard and John, are mentioned, so that if Dame Mary did not survive, then the GRENVILLE inheritances would be administered for them by appointed trustees, of which Sir Walter RAWLEY (RALEIGH) was principal. The other people mentioned, ie: Nicholas, Humfrie, Arthur, Thomas, and Digorie, were all relatives through Sir Richard's cousins and uncles and aunts, of which there were many.

The twenty-year period referred to in the above document, was probably an arbitrary period sufficient to ensure that all his children had reached maturity and therefore none of them (or their inheritance) could be subjected to any disputes that could have been held in the Ward of Court for Minors. In earlier life GRENVILLE was made a Ward of Court and that may have influenced his decision to avoid that risk.

Sir Richard's wife Dame Mary GRENVILLE appears rather indomitable, and there are several periods of their life when she demonstrated considerable resolve. The fact that all of Sir Richard's manors, etc, were left to Mary (rather than the children), showed that she was considered to be of sufficient wisdom to make her own decisions regarding provisions for their children.

[David Carter and Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 8

Document Catalogue Description: Inquisition Post Mortem.

Grenville, Richard, knight: Cornwall

34 Elizabeth I [1592]

National Archives ref: C 142/233/119

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

Note: The right-hand edge of the page is decayed and torn, so one or two words are missing at the end of most lines.

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Inquisition held at Bodmin, 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 1592

Before: William GLYNN armiger, John SAVELL armiger, John COPLESTON armiger, John NICOLLS gent, John BLIGHT gent, John PARYE gent, John HENDY gent, William STANBURYE gent, William FURZE gent, Richard MATHEWS gent, John FETHERSTON gent, John FLAMACKE(?) gent, and Degory HOLLMAN gent.

*[PREAMBLE HERE IN LATIN CONFIRMING THE NAME OF THE DECEASED PERSON BEING EXAMINED, AND AN OVERALL ACCOUNT OF HIS LAND HOLDINGS]*

**To all true** Christian ...[torn] this present writing indented shall come Sir Richarde GRENVILE of Stowe in the Countye of Cornewall knight sendeth greetings in our Lorde god ever lasting.

**Knowe** yee that the said Sir Richarde GREINVILE aswell for the fathyrye love and affection ...[torn] Burnarde GREINVILE his sonne and heire apparant as also for the p'serut(?) of the said Burnarde in mariage with Elizabeth BEVILL daughter of Phillip BEVILL of Brinde in the countie of Cornewall esquire and for the jointure of Dame Marye wife of the said Sir Richard ...[torn] for divers other good causes and considerations therein moving such geven graunted enfeoffed and confirmed and by these presents doth give grannt enfeoffe and confirme unto said William BEVILL of Kelligarth in the countie of cornewall knight Willm daughters of ...[torn] Christopher HARRYS of Radbro, Richard BELLEWE of Braunton, Arthur TREMAINE of Collocombe in the Countye of Devon esquire, John FARYER of Tamerton in the said Countye of Cornewall gent, Peter BEVILL of Rosillin in aforesaid Countie of Cornewall esquire ...[torn] Brynde in the said Countie of Cornewall esquire, Humfrye PRIDEAUX of Kirton in the Countie of Devon aforesaid esquire, John BEVILL of Kelligath aforesaid in the said Countye of Cornewall esquire, all that his mannors of Kilkhampton with the appurtenances ...[torn] tents rents revisions services and heritaments with all said singular the appurtenances within the parish of Kilkhampton in aforesaid Countie of Cornewell and all that his mannor of Woolston in the parish of Poundstocke in the aforesaid Countie of Cornewall with all and singular ...[torn] and all other his lands tents rents revertisons services & hereditaments with all and singular the appurtenances within aforesaid parish of Poundstoke and all that his mannors of Biddeford in the Countie of Devon with the the appurtenances and all his lands tenements rents revertisons ...[torn] hereditaments with all and singular the appurtenances within the parish of Biddeford in the said Countie of Devon.

**To have and to holde** all and singular the aforesaid mannor with the appurtenances and all and singular lands tents rents revertisons services and hereditaments ...[torn] singular the appurtenances in the aforesaid severall parishes of Kilkhampton Poundstock and Biddeford aforesaid unto the said Sir William BEVILL, William LANGHORNE, Xpfer [Christopher] HARRYS, Richard BELLEWE, Arthur TREMAYNE, John HACHE, Peter BEVILL, Philip BEVILL, ...[torn] and John BEVILL their heires and assignes forever to the only uses Intents Lymitations and purposes in these presents hereafter expressed and declared and to none other use intent or purpose, That is to saye, First that the and

all ...[torn] cofeoffes and the survivor and survivors of them and his and their heires shall stand and be seised of all and singular the above said premisses and everye parte thereof with the appurtenances to the use and behoof of the said Sir Richard GRENVILLE ...[torn] of his natural life without impeachment of anye manner of waste And immediatlye after the death or deseasse of the said Sir Richard GRENVILLE then the said manors of Kilkhampton and Woolston with the appurtenances and all other lands and tenements ...[torn] of Kilkhampton and Poundstocke to the use and behoofe of Dame Marye wife of the said Sir Richard GREINVILE for and during her natural life if the said Dame Marye doe so long keepe herself sole and unmarried for and in the name of the [torn] and after the deseasse of the said Sir Richard GRENVILLE the said mannor of Biddeford and all the said lands tents and hereditaments in the said parish of Biddeford and the said mannors of Kilkhampton and Woolston and all other the premises after the de~~...[torn] Sir Richard and the said Dame Marye of after th~~[blotted] the said Dame Marye shall happen to marriye and take another husband or refuse to accept and take the same, then to the use and behoofe of the said Barnarde GREINVILE for terme of his natural life ...[torn] of waste. And afterwards to the first issue male of the said Barnarde GREINVILE begotten on the bodye of the said Elizabeth and to the heires males of the said issue males lawfully begotten of the body of the said issue male. And afterward to the second issue male ...[torn] Barnarde GREINVILE begotten on the bodye of the said Elizabeth and to the heires males of the said issue male lawfullie begotten of the bodye of the said yssue male and she to everie issue male of the said Barnarde GREINVILE begotten on the bodye of the said Elizabeth ...[torn] heires males of everie such issue male lawfully begotten of the bodye of everye such issue male successivelye one after another And likewise to the said Barnarde GREINVILE and the heires males of the said Barnarde of his body lawfully begotten ...[torn] to John GREINVILE second sonne of the said Sir Richard GREINVILE for terme of his naturall life without impeachment of issue And afterwards to the first issue male of the bodye of the said John GREINVILE lawfullie begotten and to the heires males of the said ...[torn] begotten of the bodye of the said issue male. And afterwards to the second issue male of the said John GREINVILE and to the heires males of the said issue male lawfully begotten of the bodie of the said issue male and so to everye issue male of the said John ...[torn] heires males of everie such issue male lawfully begotten of the bodye of everie such issue male successivelye after another. And afterwards to the use and behoofe of the heires males of the bodye of the said Sir Richard GREINVILE lawfully begotten ...[torn] of such issue to the use of George GREINVILE of Penhele in the Countie of Cornewall esquior and of the heires males of his bodye lawfully begotten and for default of such issue to the use of Arthur GREINVILE of Tresquare in ...[torn] ~?~ gende and of the heires males of his bodye lawfully begotten. And for default of such issue to the use of George GREINVILE brother of the said Arthur and of the heires males of his bodye lawfully begotten and for default of such ...[torn] of Degorye GREINVILE one other brother of the said Arthur and of the heires males of his bodye lawfully begotten. And for default of such issue to the use of Thomas GREINVILE one other brother of the said Arthur and of the heires males of his ...[torn] begotten and for default of such issue to the right heires of the said Barnard GREINVILE eldest sonne of the said Sir Richard GREINVILE forever etc.

...[LATIN SECTION HERE]...ending with... Heir: Bernard GREINVILE armiger, son, aged 24.

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### Summary and Comments:

The Latin preambles and conclusion have not yet been transcribed and translated. However, we know the type of information contained in these sections.

The central section in English confirms that the manors and lands at Kilkhampton, Woolstone, Poundstocke, and Bideford are to be held by trustees for the use of Dame Mary the widow of Sir Richard. If Mary marries, then these properties are to go to Richard's eldest son and heir Bernard.

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## Appendix: 9

Document Catalogue Description: Assignment of lands at Cork, Ireland, Barnard Greinvile of Stowe, Cornwall, Esq, to John Greinvile, Esq, 8 June 1592.

Grafton Collection

Northamptonshire Record Office ref: G 3228

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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This Indenture made the eighte daie of June in the fower and twentieth yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Ladye Elizabeth by the grace of god of England France and Ireland Queene defender of the faith etc.

Between Barnard GREINVILE of Stowe in the countye of Cornwall esquire sonne and heire of Sir Richard GREINVILE Knight of the one parte And John GREINVILE esquire youngest sonne of the said Sir Richard GREINVILE of the other parte.

**Witnesseth** that the said Barnard for and in consideration of the brotherly affection and love which the said Barnard GREINVILE beatehe(?) towarde the said John GREINVILE hath demised letten assigned and sett over and by theis presents dothe demise lett affirme and sett over unto the said John GREINVILE all serymonies lordshipps manors castells forts messuadgs howses milles meadows lands pstures woods rents reversiones tenements privilage(?) vicaridges channteryes chappells wastes(?) fishings wreckes warrens comons leets rights liberties ~~o l~~th(?) proffits and heredytaments whatsoever with all and singler the appurtenance situate lyinge and beinge in all and eache(?) place or places either townes villadges or elsewhere in~~~ the countie of Corcke in the Realme of Irelande, or any other parte or place in the said realme, whereof or wherein the said Sir Richarde GREINVILE Knight att the time of his deathe was possessed of for tearme of yeire or yeires together with all deeds leasses assignes in land writings only concerning the premisses nowe bellonginge or apperteninge to the said Barnard(?) and which nowe hath or maie lawfully come by **To have and to hold being** all and singular the premisses which appurtaine to the said John GREINVILE his executors administrators and assignes for and during such estate and interest as the said Sir Richard GREINVILE Knight had therein att the time of his death unexpired And for and during such terme and yeares as nowe are to come therein, **And farther** the said Barnard GREINVILE for the consideration aforesaid dothe covenante and grannt by theis presents for him his heires executors and assignes and for eache of them to and with the said John GREINVILE his heires and assignes and to and with eache of them by theis presents that whensoever the Righte Worshippfull Sir Warham St LETER Knight one of her Majesties Privye Counsell in her highness realme of Irelande shall convey and assine unto the said Barnard GREINVILE any manor of estate of inheritance either in fee simple or fee sayle(?) or any maner of estate tearme or termes of or in such moytie parte or parcel of the cartheral(?) cuntrye or ~igmory(?) of Kerry Wherry [ie: Kerrycurrihy] in the said county of Corcke and the said Sir Warham St LETER by his writings under his seale hath covenanted(?) to convey and passe unto the said Sir Richarde GREINVILE or unto the heires of the said Sir Richard GREINVILE of or in such moytie parte or parcel according to the ~?~ and true patente purportes and meanings of such a covenante or covennants that then after made uppon reasonable request to be made to the said Barnarde GREINVILE or to his heires or assignes att Stowe in the County of Cornwall aforesaid in the realme of England by the said John GREINVILE his heires or assignes or deputies he the said Barnarde GREINVILE or his heires or assignes will att the costs and chardges in the lawe of the said John GREINVILE and ~~ heires males of his bodye lawfully begotten by his and their counsell shalbe advisors(?) convey and assure the sume(?) to certen persons to be nominated by the said John GREINVILE or any the heires males of his body lawfully begotten to the use of the said John GREINVILE and the issues males of the bodye of the said John GREINVILE lawfully begotten in suche

maner and forme and with the like limitations conditions and provisos as the lands tenements and heredytaments whereof the said Sir Richard GREINVILE dyed seised of any estate of inheritance siytuat and lyinge within the said countie of Corcke are alreadye assured or agreed to be assured by the said Barnard to feoffees to the use of the said John GREINVILE and the issues males of his body lawfully begotten by a deed of feoffements beearinge the date of these presents So that for doinge(?) thereof the said Barnarde GREINVILE nor his heires be not compelled to leave(?) ll(?) or goe out of the counties of Devon and Cornwall, **And the saide** John GREINVILE doth covenante and grannte for h~~ his heires executors administrators and assignes to and with the said Barnarde GREINVILE his heires and assignes to acgnite(?) and dischargde or sufficyently from tyme to tyme and att all tymes hereafter so longe as the said John GREINVILE or any issue males of his bodye shall live to have females(?) the said Barnarde GREINVILE and his heires of for and concerning all and suche obligation covenenate and grannte mad by the said Sir Richarde GREINVILE in his best(?) time to and with and person and persons whatsoever for and concerninge and rente profitt or chardge whatever made to be intended(?) or grannted by the said Sir Richard to be p'lade(?) or performed out of any mannors lands tenements or hereditaments whereof or wherein the said Sir Richard GREINVILE dyed seised of any estate of inheritance in the countie of Corcke in the Realme of Ireland And also to acquite and dischargde or otherwise save(?) hlr(?) meles(?) the said Barnard GREINVILE his heires executors & administrators of and from all rents arrerags(?) of rents and other chardges or incumbrances w't s~en~(?) wherewith the said Barnard GREINVILE his heires executors or administrators ~~~ be chardged for or conc~~~~e the premisses or any parte hereof dymised by their presents. **And the saide** Barnarde GREINVILE doth for himself his heires executors and administrators covenante promise and grannte unto and of the said John GREINVILE his heires executors administrators and assignes by theis presents that he the said John GREINVILE his executors administrators and assignes and eache of them shall or maye have hold and enioye all and singler the foresaid premises ap~~(?) in and by theis presents demised and assigned or mentioned to be demised and assigned with the appurtenances with ant(?) any lawfull let or denial to be said or made of or by the said Barnarde GREINVILE his assigne or assignes according to the purpose to and trewe meaning of these presents. **In witness thereof** the foresaid parties to theis present indentures theire seales interchandgeable have sett the above the date and yere first above written.

Signed and delivered to the lady Mary GREINVILE to the use of the within named John GREINVILE in presence of:

Humfrey PRYDEAUX  
Wm(?) POMEROY  
Phillip BEVILL  
~??~ LEGGE(?)  
John ~~~  
Hen(?) ARSCOTT

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### Summary and Comments:

This document was written the year following the death of Sir Richard GRENVILLE on the Revenge at Flores.

The Irish estates were tied up in legal dispute even before Sir Richard's death in 1591, so the brotherly love mentioned here, is perhaps ironic. But this is an important document in resolving a long standing problem with Sir Richard GRENVILLE's estates in Ireland. It is documented elsewhere that three years later in 1595, Warham St Leger & others petitioned Elizabeth I, that John GRENVILLE (2<sup>nd</sup> son of Sir Richard) should have the right of title to Sir Richard GRENVILLE's estates in

Ireland. But here we have legal confirmation that Sir Bernard gave their fathers Irish estate to his younger brother John in 1592.

The tragedy is that more or less at the time the wrangle was resolved in John GRENVILLE's favour in 1595, he was a dying captain on board one of Raleigh's ships at Guyana.

The mention of Mary GRENVILLE, (nee St LEGER) wife of Sir Richard GRENVILLE receiving this document on behalf of her son John, is one of the few documentary references we have to her.

The signatory Phillip BEVILL is Sir Bernard GRENVILLE's father-in-law, who lived at Killigarth near Looe in Cornwall, although actually this was his wife's inheritance (Elizabeth BEVILL) from her family. The Killigarth Estate was handed down to Sir Bernard GRENVILLE, who probably used it as a holiday home and/or planned to make it his retirement abode.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 10

### Will of Dame Mary GRENVILLE (nee St LEGER), 1623

Born 1543 at Annery, died 9th November 1623 at Bideford.

The original document does not appear to have survived, but this transcript produced by [David Carter](#) taken from the Oswyn Murray collection of Wills, Vol.13 (located on microfilm in Salt Lake City Family History Library), appears to be genuine and verbatim.

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Will and Inventory of Dame Mary GRENVILLE  
(Wife of Sir Richard GRENVILLE of Bideford)  
Written 11<sup>th</sup> November 1619  
Proved 24 November 1623

In the Name of God, Amen, the eleaventh day of November in the sixteenth yeere of the Raigne of Our soveraigne Lord James by the Grace of God Kinge of England, Fraunce and Ireland, Defender of the Faith cr. And of Scotland the three and fiftieth.

I Dame Mary GRENVILLE beinge in perfecte and good remembrance (thanks be given to Almightye God) and mynded according to the Christian usage to dispose of my goods and chattels, Landes, tenements, and hereditaments in such manner and forme as after my departure out of this vale of misery there should be no controversie concerning the same, do make and ordayne this my Last Will and Testament, in manner and forme following.

First I doe comytte my soule into the hands of Almightye God my Creator and to Jesus Christ his sonne my sole redeemer by whose death and passion I doe with a true and lively faith undoubtedly trust to be saved and made heire of his heavenly kingdome which he hath purchased by shedding his most precious blood for all those that believe in him and my body to the grand (sic) to be buried where and as it shall seeme good unto my Executrixes hereafter in this my Last Will and Testament nominated and ordained.

Item: I doe give and bequeath to the poore of the Parish of Winkleigh forty shillings.

Item: I doe give and bequeath to the poore of the Parish of Broadwood Kelly forty shillings.

Item: I doe give and bequeath to the poore of the Parish of Monckeokehampton forty shillings. And to the poore of Byddeford forty shillings. All which several somes of forty shillings my will and desire is should be distributed by the direction of my overseers hereafter mentioned unto the poore of the sayd parishes within one moneth next after my decease.

Item: I doe give and bequeath unto Abigall STONNINGE(?) my late servant, a ringe of twenty shillings to be delivered unto her within one yeere next after my decease.

Item: I doe give and bequeath unto Grenville WEEKES my godsonne the some of Five pounds sterling to be payd him within one moneth next after my decease.

Item: I doe give and bequeath unto Mary BURGES Five pounds sterling to be payd her within six months next after my decease.

Item: I doe give and bequeath unto Mably BAKER my servaunt twenty nobles sterling to be payde her within six months next after my decease.

Item: I doe give and bequeath unto George DODGE my servaunt one yeerly annuytie of fortie shillings stirlinge during his life.

Item: My will and desire is that my daughter Ursula shall after my decease remaine and be under the government and tuition of my daughters Katherine ABBOTT and Bridgett GRENVILE and they to have and receive her yeerly rent or annuytie of theretie pounds from her brother for her maintenance.

Item: I doe will devise give and bequeath unto my two daughters Katharine ABBOTT and Bridgett GRENVILE and to their heires and assigns for ever all my lands howses messuages tenements and hereditaments whatsoever situate lyinge and beinge in the Parish of Monckokehampton in the County of Devon.

Item: The residewe of all my goods chattels and cattles landes tenements and hereditaments not before given or bequeathed (my funeral expenses and debtes being payed) I doe give and bequeath unto the sayd Katherine ABBOT and Bridgett GRENVILE my daughters and do make and ordayne them my sole and joynt executrixes of this my last Will and Testament.

And I doe constitute and point my Cosen Symon WEEKES Esq (Esquier) to be overseer of this my last Will and Testament requestinge him to see the same instly. performed.

In Witnesse whereof I have to this my Last Will and Testament sett my hands and seale the day and yeere first above written, 1619.

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of Simon WEEKES, John DIBLEY, Amey WALKER.

The Signe of Mary GRENVILE.

1623 Nov 12 Oaths of Executrixes Katharine ABBOTT and Bridgett GRENVYLE.

The Inventory of the goods and chattels of the Lady Mary GREYNVILE late of Byddeforde in the County of Devon, deceased, taken and prised by Digory TREMAYNE of Poundstock in the County of Cornwall and Thomas TAYLOR of Byddeforde in the County of Devon, gentlemen the xi day of November in anno Domini 1623 as followeth (there are set out various items of household goods, furniture and plate with the values attached).

Sworn at £144.10.0.

1623 ix March. Executrixes oaths exhibited.

Inventory of the goods and chattells of the Lady Mary GREYNVILE of Byddeforde in the County of Devon, deceased. Taken and priced by Digory TREMAYNE of Poundstock in the County of Cornwall and Thomas TAYLOR of Byddeforde in the County of Devon, geaven the xi<sup>th</sup> day of November in anno dmn. 1623 as followeth:-

	Li.
Beddinge valued and priced at	xl.
Plate valued in	xv.
Coverlette and quilte priced in	x.
Cheste and trunke priced in	iii.
Potts and pans valued in	iii.
Woodden vessel priced in	xl.s.
Lynninge valued in	v.li.
Boarde and Bedsteads val. in	v.li.
Formes and stooles val. in	xx.s.
Pewter priced in	xl.s.
Other utynsells, valued in	xx.s.
Money owinge unto her	lvix.li.

S'm'a Toll. cxliij.x.s. (£144.10s.0d)

Exhtn fuit et est prs hei Invnty purend Johem Clefford (or Clifford) de Dowland yen noce? exquit cr. pro vero cr. ru extephana de addendo si. cr.

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**Summary and Comments:**

Although this Will doesn't tell us precisely where Mary lived, it is possible to understand a bit more about the GRENVILLE family.

Mary's date of birth is unknown but is generally accepted to have been about 1543 at Annery near Weare Giffard. Mary was probably christened at nearby Monkleigh. She died 9<sup>th</sup> November 1623 and was almost certainly buried in the Crypt at St Mary's Bideford, aged 80. There is a plaque on the wall of what was originally called the GRENVILLE chapel in the present church which gives testimony to this, and it is consistent with the Parish records and other sources. It should also be noted that the inventory of her goods was made just two days after her death, probably before her burial had even been carried out.

She appears to have lived fairly simply, although three servants are specifically mentioned. Her effects are mostly household items, and no responsibility for property is referred to, this having been passed down the male line many years previously.

Given that Mary's daughter Ursula GRENVILLE is mentioned as being specifically placed under the care of her two sisters (Katherine and Bridget), it is possible that she might have had some kind of disability. We do know that she died unmarried, and was buried at Bideford twenty years later, in 1643.

Katherine GRENVILLE went on to marry Justinian ABBOT of Hartland Abbey.

Bridget GRENVILLE married John WEEKS the Rector of Shirwell, and she is buried in Bristol Cathedral. We also note from the Will, mention of Grenville WEEKS and cousin Symon WEEKES.

The TREMAYNE family of Poundstock also referred to are one of the numerous cousins of the GRENVILLE family.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 11

Document Catalogue Description: Copy of lease for land at Bideford 21 Feb 1624.

Grafton Collection

Northamptonshire Record Office ref: G 3209

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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**This indenture** made the one and twentyeth day of February in the years of the raigne of our Sovereaign Lord James by the grace of God of England France and Ireland Defender of the faith etc, the two and twentieth, and of Scotland the eight and fiftieth, Between Sir Barnard GRENVILE of Stow in the Countie of Cornwall Knight of the first parte, Bevill GRENVILE esq sonne and heire apparent of the said Sir Barnard and Grace the wife of the said Bevill of the second parte: And John ARUNDELL of Trerise in the County of Cornwall esq, Anthony DENNYS of Orleigh And Edmond TREMAYNE of Cullacombe in the County of Devon esquires of the third parte. Witnesseth in consideration that he the said Bevill GRENVILE should pay or otherwise discharge all the true and inst. Debts contained in the schedule to these presents annexed And for diverse other good causes and considerations it is covenanted granted, concluded & fully agreed uppon, by & between the parties to these presents that the said Sir Barnard GRENVILE, Bevill GRENVILE and Grace his wife shall and will at the costs and charges in the law of the said Bevill GRENVILE before the feast of Pentecost next ensueing the date hereof acknowledge and levy one or more fyne or fynes sur cognizans de droit come ceog ils ount de lour donne ~?~ ~heruppon proclamation shall or may bee had and made according to the forme of the statute in that behalf made, and provided unto the said John ARUNDELL, Anthony DENNYS and Edmond TREMAYNE, And to the heires of one of them, by such name and names, And in such manner and forme as by the said Bevill of his Councell learned in the law shall bee advised or devised of all that the Burrough Mannor and Barton of Bideford in the said countie of Devon, with all the rights members appurtenances whatsoever. And of all that the mannor and aforesaid Island of Lundey, in the said countie of Devon, with all the rights members and appurtenances thereof whatsoever And of the advowson donation and free disposition and right of patronage of the Rectory and parish of Bideford in the said county of Devon, and also of all that the mannor of Knights Hayes in the said countie of Devon, with all the rights members and appurtenances thereof whatsoever. And of the Burrough and mannor of Kilkhampton, The mannor of Wolston, Timell, Stratton, als(?) Benamie Stratton, Widmouth, Woodford, Lanow als Lanowmere, Renwyn, Killygarth als Killigath, Bodmin als Bodman, and Trewithlicke in the said countie of Cornwall, with their and every their rights members and appurtenances whatsoever, And also of all the Capital messuage, Bartons and demesnses of Stow, Dinsmouth, Wolston, Clifton, Brynn, Great Brynn, Little Brynn, Lee als North Leigh, and Killigarth als Killigath with their [~several words hidden in crease~] premises in the said countie of Cornwall, And of [~several words hidden in crease~] of the manors of Trenndant with the rights members and appurtenances thereof [~several words hidden in crease~] all meassuage(?) [~words hidden in crease~] with the appurtenances in the said county of Cornwall, And also of all the D~~sons, Denacans(?), free dispositions and rights of patronage of the Rectories, Prebends, Vicarages and parish churches of Kilkhampton, Neeth(?) [~words hidden in crease~] Talland in the said countie of Cornwall, And of one messuage and meadow with ~ew appurtenances lyeing and being in Andover in the county of Southampton now or late in the Tenure or occupation of John WILDE his assigne of assignes, And of all messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, and hereditaments whatsoever, whereof or wherein the said Sir Barnard GRENVILE, and Bevill GRENVILE or either of them, are or is seized of any estate of inheritance lyeing and being within the Realme of England And of all messuages, tofts houses, mills, orchards, gardens, lands, meadows, pastures, woods, underwoods, warrens, parks, commons, waters, watercourse,

fishings, rents reversions, services, courts, courtes leete, viewes of frankpledge, liberties, franchises, priviledges, profits, commodities and hereditaments whatsoever, now or at any tyme heretofore to the said Borroughes, Mannors, Bartons, Lands, Tenements and premises every or any of them, or to any parte or parte of them, every of any of them belonging or in any wise appertaining, or now, or at any tyme heretofore reputed, esteemed, taken used, occupied, demised, or enjoyed, to or with the same, as any parte parcel or member thereof, Or within or uppon the same lawfully to bee had taken exercised or enjoyed, which fyne or fynes so to bee had and levied shall bee acknowledges or levied to the said John ARUNDEL, Anthony DENNYS, and Edmond TREMAYNE or any of them by the said Sir Barnard GRENVILE, Bevil GRENVILE and Grace his wife, or any of them of the said premises or of any parte or partes thereof shall bee and in vre (sic), And shall bee adindged construed, and taken to bee and in vre, And to the said John ARUNDEL, Anthony DENNYS, and Edmond TREMAYNE, and every or any of them, their every of any of their heires shall stand and bee seized of the said premises in such fyne or fynes to bee comprized to the uses and behoofe hereafter in these presents lymitted expressed and declared. That is to say, of for and concerning the said mannor of Killigath with the appurtenances and all lands tenements and hereditaments whatsoever thereunto belonging or appertaining or used occupied demised or enjoyed to or with the same as any parte parcells or member thereof, to the onely use and behoofe of the said Sir Barnard GRENVILE and his assignes, and during the terme of his natural life without Impeachment of any manner of wast, And after his decease then to the onely use and behoof of the said Bevill GRENVILE his heires and assignes for evermore. And of for and concerning the said mannors of Kilkhampton, Stratton als Benamy Stratton, Woodford, Widmouth, and Wolston, and the said Bartons and Demesne lands of Stowe and Lee als North Leigh, with their and every their rights members and appurtenances, And all messuages, tofts, houses, mills, orchards, gardens, lands, meadowes, pastures, rents, reversiones, services, liberties, franchises, and hereditaments, whatsoever to the said mannors of Kilkhampton, Stratton alias Benamy Stratton and Woodford, Widmouth and Wolston, the said Bartons and demesne lands of Stowe and Lee als North Leigh, ~ery(?) or any of them belonging or in any wise appertayning, Or now or at any time heretofore, reputed, esteemed, taken, used, or occupied demised or enjoyed to or with the same as any parte or parcel of member thereof to the onely use and behoofe of the said Bevill GRENVILE and Grace his wife, during their natural lives, and the longest liver of them, afterwards to the heires males of the said Bevill lawfully begotten, And for default of such issue, to the right heires of the said Bevill for ever. And all and singular other the said mannors bartons advowsons lands tenements rents reversions, services, hereditaments, parties, purp'ts, and premises whatsoever (whereof noe use is before in or by these presents lymitted or appointed,) To the onely use and behoofe of the said Bevill GRENVILE his heires and assignes for evermore. Provided it bee lawfull to and for the said Bevill GRENVILE, from time to time at all tymes during his natural life, By his writing or writings deed or deeds indented under his hand and seale to demise grant or lease the said mannors of Kilkhampton, Stratton and Benamy Stratton, Woodford, Widmouth and Wolston, or any other of the premises any parte or parts of them, every or either of them & all messuages, lofts, houses, mills, orchards, gardens, lands, meadows, pastures, rents, reversions, services, and hereditaments whatsoever to the said mannors of Kilkhampton, Stratton als Benamy Stratton, Woodford, Widmouth and Wolston, or any other of the premises belonging or in any wise appertaining or now or at any tyme heretofore reputed esteemed taken used occupied or enjoyed to or with the same as any parte parcel or member thereof at his free will, and pleasure to any person or persons, for and during, one, two, three or fower lives, as well of and in reversion, or remainder is~?~ possession. Or for any number of years determinable uppon one, two, three, or fower lives, As well in reversion or expectation & possession, was in the whole any one tenement bee not charged at any one time with any more then fower lives, or any number of years determinable uppon the decease of one, two, three, or fower persons at the(?) ~?~. And so that uppon every such lease the antient and accustomed rent [~words lost in crease~] reserved and made yearly due and payable during the conveyance of such use to such person and persons, as shall have the immediate reversion of

remaynder of the said lands so leased, during such lease or leases by virtue of these presents, And each and every such lease at any tyme hereafter to bee made by the said Bevill GRENVILLE, shall be good and avayleable in law, to all intents and purposes, according to the tenour and true meaning thereof against all person and persons before in these presents mentioned their heires and assignes, And that the said fine and fynes soe to be levied as aforesaid shall bee, And shall bee adjudged conscrued and taken to be, And the cognisee and cognisees in such fyne or fynes to bee named, his and their heires and assignes shall stand and bee hereof seized after the said premisses, or any parte, or partes thereof shall happen to be so leased And as the shall from time to time bee leased by the said Bevill GRENVILLE as aforesaid to the use of such person and persons to whom any lease or leases shall bee so made, there executors and assignes, for and during the continuance of such lease and leases, according to the purporte effort and true meaning of such lease and leases, And of and in the reversion and reversions remaynder and remainders of the premises so to bee leased, And of the rents duties and services theruppon to bee reserved, due or payable to the onely use or behoof of such person or persons to whom the premises or any parte of partes thereof shall or ought by the purporte or true meaning of these presents, defend remayne, revert, come or bee, if noe such lease or leases were thereof soe made, Any thing in these premises contayned to the (con?)trary thereof notwithstanding And the said Sir Barnard GRFENVILE doth for himself his executors and administrators and for every of them covenant and grant, to and with the said Bevill GRENVILLE his heires and assignes by these presents That the said premises and every parte and parcel thereof shall from tyme to tyme and at all tymes for ever heerafter, bee, remayne and continue to the severall person and persons, uses, and behoofes, before, in and by these presents named lymitted and appoynted, exonerated, acquitted, and discharged or other sufficiently saved, and kept harmlessly by the said Sir Barnard's executors or administrators, of from, for and concerning all and all manner of sales, leases, grants, or estates whatsoever heretofore made by the said Sir Barnard of or out of the said premises, or any parte of partes thereof, all leases and estates heertofore made before the first day of November last past, of the said premises or of any parte, or partes thereof heertofore usually demised, or letten to farme, for the terme of the life of lives, of any person or persons, or for any number of years, determinable uppon the life or lives of any person or persons, And wheruppon the old and accepted yearely rent or more is reserved, and made yearely due payable, during the contynuance of every such lease or leases, or estate respectively onely expected and foreprized Ann and every which said leases and estates to bee made, The said Bevill GRENVILLE for himself his heires executors and administrators doth covenant and grant to and with the said Sir Barnard his executors and administrators to satisfie allow and confirme. And that hee the said Sir Barnard GRENVILE shall and will, at and uppon reasonable request, And at the costs and charges in the law of the said Bevill GRENVILLE, doe, make, acknowledge, and execute & permit, and further to bee had, made, done, acknowledge and executed, all and every such lawfull and reasonable act and acts, thing and things, assurance and assurances, in the law whatsoever, for the better and further assuring and conveying of the premises and every parte thereof to the person and persons, uses and behoofes aforesaid, or any of them, according to the true intent and meaning of these presents as by the said Bevill GRENVILLE, or his councill learned in the law, shall bee reasonably devised or advised and required. Soe as the same contayne noe other or further warrant ye~ther(?) is before in and by these presents expressed and declared. And soe as the said Sir Barnard for the doeing thereof bee not compelled to travell from the place of his abode, at the tyme of such request. And the said Sir Barnard GRENVILE doth by these presents grant to the said Bevill his heires and assignes, all and all manner of deeds, evidences, charters, writings, counterparts of leases, and leases, exemplifications, letters, patents, transcripts of fynes, and recoveryes, court rolls, court books, surveyes, presentments, boundaries, escripts, and miniments whatsoever, touching, or in any wise concerning the premises, or any parte or partes thereof, All which of as many of them as now are, in the hands, custody or possession of the said Sir Barnard or of any other by his delivery, consent, or appoyntment. The said Sir Barnard GRENVILE doth for him selfe his executors and administrators and for every of them covenant and grant to and with the said Bevill GRENVILLE, his

heires and assignes, uppon reasonable request to bee made, to him the said Sir Barnard, by the said Bevill, to deliver to the said Bevill, safe, whole, uncanceled, undefaced, as the same now are. In witness whereof the parties have set their hands and seales yeaven the dau and years first above written. 1624.

This is a true copy of the originall deed and also of the schedule of debts heerunto annexed examined by us whose names are underwritten.

Raph BYRD  
Wm HUTCHINGSS  
William TOLLER  
Josua BLARTON(?)  
Richard ROBERTSS

Witnesses to the original deed as followeth:

Ric: LOWER  
John TREFFRY  
John PRYDEAX  
Symon WEEKS  
Degory TREMAYNE  
Raph BYDR  
Reynold BYLLING  
Christopher BILL  
John GEALARD  
Nath STEPHENS  
Der~~(?) BLAN~~D(?)  
John JACKMAN(?)

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### Summary and Comments:

This document was written the year after the death of Mary GRENVILLE (nee St LEGER), widow of Sir Richard GRENVILLE. It appears to be a Deed of Inheritance, produced by Sir Bernard GRENVILLE who was living at Stowe at the time, and refers to a large number of properties, ie:

**Devon:** Bideford, Lundy Island, Knightshayes.

**Cornwall:** Killigarth, Kilkhampton, Wolston, Timell, Stratton, Widmouth, Woodford, Lanowmere, Renwyn, Bodmin, Trewithlicke, Stow, Dinsmouth, Clifton, Brynn (Great & Little), North Leigh, Trendant, Talland.

**Wales:** Neath.

**Hampshire:** Andover.

All of these properties are being passed from father to son, ie: from Sir Bernard GRENVILLE to his first-born son Sir Bevil GRENVILLE.

Of the above properties and manors, only two are mentioned in detail, these being **Bideford, and Killigarth**. Everything else (Stowe included) is termed as being the remainder of the GRENVILLE estate, so that on the death of Sir Bernard, Sir Bevil is free to do as he sees fit with these ancillary estates. This suggests that Stowe was not a favoured residence by the time of Sir Bernard, indeed his father (Sir Richard GRENVILLE) was also rather condemning of Stowe.

**Killigarth** is favoured, and was perhaps seen as a holiday or retirement home for later in life, this estate having been passed down to Sir Bernard's wife by her father Phillip BEVILL, so not a traditional GRENVILLE inheritance.

The **Bideford** estate is mentioned first, and is discussed by Sir Bernard in specific context with Sir Bevil his son and heir, who we can probably assume, was resident in Bideford at that time. This reinforces the theory that the first-born sons were given Bideford as their first family home following marriage. Thus Bideford's claim as the birthplace of Sir Richard GRENVILLE becomes even stronger, as his father (Sir Roger GRENVILLE) by this same process would have been given Bideford. In respect of the description of the Bideford estate, we have reference to the Burrough Manor and Barton, and later of the Advowson and Rectory.

The 'Manor' is largely an administrative term, giving rights to the Lord of the Manor over (in this case) whatever has been agreed in the Town Charter. It may or may not include a traditional Manor House, as Lords of the Manor did not necessarily live within the parish, although they probably had an administrative office there where Courts could be held. The 'Barton' was originally the term for the ancillary farm buildings around the Manor, but in the case of a town 'Barton' its use is a little less clear. Presumably it refers to other ancillary buildings in the town belonging to the manor. The 'Advowson' gives the estate-owner the right to appoint a parish priest. The 'Rectory' became part of this appointment, and enabled the priest to earn his living from income derived from lands associated with this position.

The other names mentioned in the Deed (John ARUNDELL, Anthony DENNYS and Edmond TREMAYNE) appear to be Trustees in respect of this inheritance, and were all known to be in-laws, cousins, & uncles of the GRENVILLE family). One of the witnesses Symon WEEKES may have been a relative of John WEEKES who married Sir Richard GRENVILLE's daughter Bridget.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 12

### Document Catalogue Description:

1624. AGREEMENT TO LEVY FINE:

(i) Sir Barnard Greinville [Grenville] of Stowe

(ii) Bevill Greinville [Grenville] (son of (i)) and Grace his wife

(iii) John Arundell of Trerise [Trerice, Newlyn East], [and 2 others]

Borough, manor and barton of Bideford, Island of Lundy; manor of Knighthayes, Advowson of Bideford [all in Devon]

Also Manors of Kilkhampton, Wolston, Stratton, Wodemouth, Woodford, Lanow, Killigarth, Bodmin, Trewithlick, etc.

Also Advowsons of Kilkhampton, Week St Mary, Duloe and Talland [all in Cornwall]

To provide jointure for Grace and payment of debts.

Royal Institution of Cornwall reference: BRAB-328/3

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

The document was worn and faded in many places, making parts of the text illegible.

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### On outside wrapper:

Stowe.

Sir Barnard GRENVILE Esq and others to John CRERISE and others.

Marriage Settlement on Grace the wife of Bevill GRENVILE Esq of several manors in the Counties of Devon and Cornwall.

Dated 21 February 1624

### Inside document:

This indenture Tripartite made the one and twentieth day of February in the yeare of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord James by the grace Of God of England, France and Ireland, Kinge and Defender of the Faith the two(?) and twentieth and of Scotland the eight and fiftieth. Between Sir Barnard GRENVILE of Stowe in the Countie of Cornwall Knight of the first part, Bevill GRENVILE sonne and heyre apparant of the sayde Sir Barnard, and Grace the wife of the sayde Bevill of the second parte, and John ARUNDELL of Trerise in the sayde countie of Cornwall equire, Anthony DENNYS of Orleigh ~?~ ~?~ desmayne of Cullacombe in the countie of Devon esquires of the third part, Witnesseth that aswell for the better versern(?) ~?~en~ent heretofore made between the sayde Sir Bernard, and the f?~ ~?~ the things that hee the sayde ~~~would, or should pay, or ~?~ fee oftherne all the true and ~?~ debts conteyned in the ~?~ to these ~~~sents ~~~yed, as asloe for a competent jointure to bee made and assi~?? ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ Grace yf thee shall for~~ne to wer~~~ the sayde Bevill, ~?~ ~?~ other good causes, and considerations It is p~~~ gr~?~ ~?~laded and fully agreed uppon by and betweene the sayde parties to these ~?~ ~?~ of ~?~ the sayde Sir Barnard GRENVILE, Bevill GRENVILE, and Grace his wife shall and will ~?~ the coste and charges in the l~~~ ~?~ Bevill GRENVILE before the feast of Pentecost next res~~~e the ~?~ ~?~ one or more Fine or Fines, Sur cognizans de droit come ceog ils ount de lour donne as whereuppoin ~?~ Proclamations ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ the ~?~ ~?~ ~raints in this ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ John ARUNDELL, Anthony DENNYS, Edmund TREMAYNE ~?~ other of them by such n~~~ ~?~nam ~?~ in such manner and forme as the same Bevill or his counsel learner in the lawe shall be advised, or devised ~?~ that the Burrough, Mannor and Barton of Bydeford in the Countie of Devon with all the rights, members, and appurtenance therefore(?) whatsoever, and of all that the mannor of the Island of Lunday in the sayde Countie of Devon with all the Rights, members and appurtenances ~?~ thereof whatsoever, and of the advowson, donation, free disposition and ~~~th of patronage of the Rectory and parish Church of Bydeford the sayde

countie of Devon, and alsoe of all that the mannor of Knights Hayes in the sayde countie of Devon aforesaid ~?~ ~?~, and appurtenances thereof whatsoever, And of the Burrough and Mannor of Kilkhampton, the mannors of Wolston, ~?~ Stratton als Benamy Stratton, Wodemouth, Woodford, Lanow als Lanamere, ~enwen(?), Killigarth, and ~?~ Bodwyn als Bodman and Trewithlick in the sayde countie of Cornwall with their, and every their rights, members and appurtenance whatsoever And alsoe of a ~?~ Capital Messuage, Barton and Demesne of Stowe ~?~?~ ~?~ Clifton, Bryn, ~?~ Bryn, Little Bryn, Lee als Northleigh and Killigarth als Killgah with their appurtenances, rights, members, and appurtenances in the sayde countie of Cornwall And of Two parts in three parts ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ and appurtenances ~?~ the sayde ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ and of the ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ messuage and Barton of Tremidare(?) with the appurtenance in the sayde countie of Cornewall, And alsoe of all the ~?~ ~?~sons, donations, free dispositions and rights of patronage of the ~?~ories, prebend, viccareges and parish churches of Kilkhampton, Weeke St Marie, Duloe and Talland in the sayde countie of Cornwall, and of one mesuage and meadow ~?~ appurtenance lying and being in Andever in the couty of Southampton, now or lately in the tenure or occupation of John W~~LOE(?) his assigne or assignes, and of all mesuages, lande, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments whatsoever whereof or wherein the sayde Sir Barnard GRENVILE and Bevill GRENVILLE, or either of them are or is seised of any estate of Inheritance lying and beinge in Kilkhampton, Bodman, Saltash, Tre~~oe, St Nyott Polint, Tregony Pomeroy, Trewithlick, Westloe(?) every or any of them in the sayde countie of Cornwall, And in Bydeford, Okewell, Churchill, Knighte Hayes, Yartham(?) Uplowman, Collompton, Colliton, Mes~~ye, Broadwood Kelly, Ilfardcombe, and Braunton every or any of them in the sayde countie of Devon, and in Stoke Collyer in the countie of Dorsett, or elsewhere whereforever in the countires of Cornwall, Devon, Dorsett and Southampton, every or any of them, or elsewhere within the Realme of England, And of all messuages, tofts, howses, mills, orchards, gardens, lands, meadows, pastures, woods, underwoods, warrens, parks, commons, waters, watercourse, fishings, rents reversions, services, courts, courte leete, veiwes of franckpledge, liberties, franchises, priviledges, profits, commodities and hereditaments whatsoever nowe or att any tyme heretofore to the sayde Borroughes, Mannors, Bartons, Lands, Tenements and premises every or any of them, or to any parte or partes of them, every of any of them belonging or in any wise appertaining, or nowe, or att any tyme heretofore reputed, esteemed, taken, used, occupied, demised, or enjoyed, to or with the same as any part parcell or member thereof, or within or uppon the same lawfully to bee had taken exercised or enjoyed, which fyne or fynes so to bee had and levied, and all and every other fyne and fynes which att any tyme or tymes before the sayde feast of Pentecost shall bee acknowledged, or levied to the sayde John ARUNDELL, Anthony DENNYS, and Edmund TREMAYNE, or any ~?~ tha~ by the sayde Sir Barnard GRENVILE, Bevill GRENVILE and Grace his wife, or any of them of the sayde premises, or oth~~ ~?~ ~?~ thereof shalbe, and more, and shall bee adind~red, conserved, and taken to bee, and more, And the sayde sayde John ARUNDELL, Anthony DENNYS, and Edmund TREMAYNE and every or any of them their every or any of theire heyres shall stand and be siesed of the sayde premises ~?~ fyne or fynes to bee comprised to the use and behooffe hereafter in these presents lymitted, expressed, and declared ~?~ ~?~ other use, behooffe or purpose whatsoever, that is to say, or for, and concerning the sayde Burrough Mannor and Barton Bydeford, Island of Lundye ~?~ of ~?~ll, with the appurtenance, and all lands tenements and hereditaments wheresover thereunto belonging or apperteyninge, or used, occupied, demised, or enjoyed to, or with the same as any part parcel or ~?~ To the only use, and behooffe of the sayde Sir Bernard GRENVILE and his assignes ~?~ and during the terme or his naturall life without ympeachment of or for any manner of waste; And after his decease then to the use and behooffe of the sayde Beville GRENVILE, his heyres and assignes for evermore, And of for and concerning the sayde mannors of Kilkhampton, Stratton als Benamy Stratton, and Woodford, And the sayde Bartons, and demesne land of S~~ and Lee als Northleigh with their and every their rights members and appurtenances, And all messuages, tofts, howses, mills, orchards, gardens, lands, meadows, pastures, rents, reversions, services, liberities, franchises and hereditaments whatsoever in the sayde mannors of Kilkhampton, Stratton als Benamy Stratton, and Woodford the lande Bartons and

d<sup>r</sup> of Stowe and Lee als Northleigh every or any of them <sup>r</sup> in any wise apperteyninge or now or att any tyme heretofore reputed, esc<sup>ed</sup>, taken, used, occupied, demised or enioyed to or with the same as any parte & parcel or member thereof To the only use and behooffe of the sayde Bevill GRENVILE and Grace his wife duringe their naturall lives, and the longest liver of them, afterwards to Richard GRENVILE esquire eldest sonn of the sayde Bevill and Grace and <sup>r</sup> lawfully begotten or <sup>r</sup> bee begotten, and for default of such issue <sup>r</sup>[crease]<sup>r</sup> of the said Bernard GRENVILE <sup>r</sup>[crease]<sup>r</sup> <sup>r</sup>iler <sup>r</sup> the sayde <sup>r</sup> <sup>r</sup>ons, advowsons, lands, tenements, rents reversions, services, hereditaments, parts, purports and premises whatsoever whereof nor use is before in, or by these presents lymited, appoynted To the only use and behooffe of the sayde Bevill GRENVILE for tenure of his use afterwar<sup>re</sup> the said Richard GRENVILE, and to his heires males lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the right heires of the said Richard GRENVILE for ever Provided it bee lawfull to and for the sayde Bevill GRENVILE from tyme to tyme, and att all tymes during his natural life, by hys writing or indenture, deede, or deeds, indented under his hand and seale to demise, grannte, or lease the sayde mannors of Kilkhampton, Stratton als Benamy Stratton, and Woodford, or any other the premises, or any part or parts of them every or any of them, and all messuages, tofts, howses, mills, orchards, gardens, lands, meadows, pastures, rents, reversiones, services and hereditaments whatsoever to the sayde mannors of Kilkhampton, Stratton als Benamy Stratton, and Woodford or any other the premises belonging, or in any wise apperteyninge, or now, or att any tyme heretofore reputed, esteemed, taken, used, occupied, or enioyed to, or with the same, as any part, parcel, or member thereof att his free will and pleasure to any person or persons for, and during one, twoe, three or fower lives, aswell of and in reversion, or remainder as possession for any number of years determinable uppon one, two, three, or fower lives, aswell in reversion, or expectancy as possession Soe as in the whole any one tenement bee not charged att any one tyme with any more than fower lives or any number of years determinable uppon the decease of one, two, three, or fower persons att the most, And soe that uppon every such lease the ancient and accustomed rent, or <sup>r</sup> be <sup>r</sup>erved, and made yearely due, and payable during the continuance of the leass to such person, and persons as shall have the ymmediate reversion, or remaynder of the sayde lands soe leased, during such lease, or leases by virtue of these presents, and each and every such lease att any tyme hereafter to bee made by the sayde Bevill GRENVILE shall bee good, and available in lawe to all intente and purposes according to the tenor, and true meaning thereof against all person, and persons before in these presents mentioned their heyres and assignes, And that the sayde fyne and fynes fortobee levied afoewsayde shall bee, and shall bee adindged, construed, and taken to bee and the cognisee and cognisees in such fine or fynes to bee named, his and their heyres, and assignes shall stand, and bee thereof seised after the sayde premises, or any part, or part thereof shall happen to bee soe leased, and as the same shall from tyme to tyme bee leased by the sayde Bevill GRENVILE as afoesayde to the use of such person, and persons whom any lease, or leases shall bee soe made, their executors, and assignes or and during the continuance of such lease, and leases, according to the purport, effect, and true meaning of such lease, and leases, And of and in the reversion and reversiones, remainder, and remainders of the premises soe to bee leased And of the rents, duties and services thereuppon to bee referred sue or payable to the onlie use, and behooffe of such person and persons to whom the premisses or <sup>r</sup>, or parte thereof shall, or ought by(?) the purport, and true meaning of the <sup>r</sup>sente descend, remayne, revert, come or bee yf now such lease or leases w<sup>re</sup> thereof for made, any thinge in these presents conteyned to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding, And the sayde Sir Barnard GRENVILE doeth s<sup>r</sup>himself <sup>r</sup> executors and administrators and for every of them covenannte and <sup>r</sup>u<sup>r</sup>te by and with the sayde Bevill GRENVILE his heyres and assignes by these presente that the sayde premisses and every part, and parcel thereof shall from tyme to tyme and att <sup>r</sup> for ever hereafter bee remayne and continue to the severall person and persons use and behooffe before in and by these presents <sup>r</sup> <sup>r</sup> and appoynted exonerated, acquitted, and discharged, or otherwise sufficiently saved, and kept harmelesse by the sayde Bernard his executors or administrators of from for, and concerning all, and <sup>r</sup> manner of sales, leases, grannts, or estates whatsoever <sup>r</sup> made by the

sayde Sir Barnard of or ~?~ of the sayde premisses or any part or parts thereof (All leases and estates heretofore made before the first day of November last past (of the sayde premisses or any part, or parts thereof heretofore ~aly demised or h~~ to farme) for the terme, or terms of ~?~ or lines of any person, or persons, or for any number of years determinable upon the life of lives of any person or persons and whereuppon the olde and accustomed yearely rent, or more is reserved and made yearely due and payable ~?~ the continuance of every such lease or estates respectively only excepted, and foreprised) All and every which sayde leases ~?~ estates soe made by the sayde Bevill GRENVILE for himself his heyres, executors and administrators doeth(?) covenante and grannte to and ~?~ the sayde Sir Bernard his executors and assigns ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ all~~~~ and ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ Bernard GRENVILE shall and will att and ~?~ the ~~~~~able ~?~ and ~?~ the cost and ch~~?~ the ~?~ of the s~~?~ ~?~ GRENVILE doe make acknowledge and exec~?~ ~?~ and suffer to bee h~~ ~?~ done acknowledged and execute ~?~ every such lawfull, a~~~~ reasonable actt and actts, thinge, and things of assurance and assurances in the lawe wherefor~~~~ for ~?~ better, and further assuring, and convey~?~ of the premisses, and every part thereof to the person, and persons ~?~ ~?~ aforesayde, or any of them, accordinge to the true intent and meaninge of these presents, as by the sayde Bevill GRENVILE, or his counsel learned in the lawe shall bee reasonable devised, or advised and required Soe as the for~?~ contayne ~?~ ~ther or further warrentes(?) than is before in and by these presents expressed, and declared, and for as the said ~?~ Barnard for the doinge thereof bee not co~~elled to travell from the place of his abode att the tyme of such ~?~ And the sayde Sir Barnard GRENVILE doeth by these presents grannte to the sayde Bevill his heyres and assigns all, and all manner of deeds, evidences, charters, writings, counterparts of leases, and leases, exec~~~~ ~?~ debts, patents, transcripts of fynes and recoveries, court rolls, court books, survices(?) presentments, boundaries, scripts, and minnancements(?) whatsoever touchinge, or in any wise concerninge the premises, or any part, or parts thereof, all which ~?~ as many of them as nowe are in the hands, custody or possession of the sayde Sor Bernard, or any other by his delivery, consent, or appoyntment ~?~ the sayde Barnard GRENVILE doeth for himself his executors and administrators and for every of them covenannt, and grannte to and with the sayde Bevill GRENVILE his heyres and assigns upon reasonable request to bee made to him the sayde Sir Barnard by the sayde Bevill to deliver to the sayde Bevill, safe, whole, uncanceled ~?~ ~?~ as the same nowe are In witness whereof to the first part of these indentures tripartite remayning to, and with the sayde Bevill GRENVILE and Grace his wife, and the sayde Sir Bernard GRENVILE, John ARUNDELL, Anthony DENNYS, Edmund TREMAYNE have sett their hands and seales, ~?~ ~?~ part, remayninge to and with the sayde Sir Barnard GRENVILE, the saide Bevill GRENVILE & Grace his wife, John ARUNDELL, Anthony DENNYS, Edmund TREMAYNE have sett their hands and seales, and to the thirs(?) past remayning to and with the sayde John ARUNDELL, Anthony DENNYS, Edmund TREMAYNE the sayd Barnard GRENVILE, and Bevill GRENVILE and Grace his wife have sett their hands and seales yeapon ~?~ and yeare first above written, 1624.

Signed:  
Bevill GRENVILE  
John ARUNDELL  
Anthony DENNYS  
Edmund TREMAYNE

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**Additional document:**

A further document was attached to the above:  
Catalogue description: Schedule of debts owing [list of c.55 names with amounts].  
Total £22,174.10s.0d

This document is mostly illegible, only small sections could be read.

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**On back of document:**

The eighteenth day of October 1656.  
Between Thomas BLUNT and others compl~~?  
John GRENILE and others disendts(?)  
This deed was shwed unto Andrew CORY gent  
Nicholas SHARZELL & John JACKEMAN ~?~  
at the time of their nominations taken before me.  
C(?)rist ARSCOTT  
Robert PEARSE

The two and twentieth day of September 1657  
Between Marke COTTLE gent and another Comp'lts(?)  
And John GRENVILE esquire, defendant  
This deed was served unto John JACKEMAN gent  
Andrew CORY gent, Thomas PRUST gent, Richard  
POMEROY gent, and Nicholas SHERZELL at the  
tyme of their examinations taken before us com'.  
~?~II FRENCH  
John PREST  
John WHEARY  
John SYMONS

The 6<sup>th</sup> of October 1657  
Between Mark COTTLE gent & another comp'te And John GRENVILE esq defendant.  
This deed was shewed unto John TRESSRY esqr at the tyme of his examination taken before us  
comissioners  
~?~II FRRENCH  
John WHEARY

Signed sealed and delivered by the within named  
Sir Barnard GRENVILE, Anthony ~~NYS, and  
Edmond TREMAYNE in presence of  
Nic: LOLER(?)  
John TRESSRY  
Jo: PRIDEAUX  
Symon WEEKES  
Degorie TREMAYNE  
Raph BYRD  
Christ: OSMOND  
Reignold BILLINGE  
Christop: BYLL  
John GEALARD  
Herbert BLANCHARD  
Nath: STEPHENS  
John JACKMAN

The first daye of October 1657  
Between John SAYNTAWBYN esq & other compl'ts  
And John GRENVILE & another defn't  
This deed was shewed unto Andrew CORY, John JACKEMAN  
Richard POMEROY, Thomas PRUST, Nicholas SHARSELL  
gentlemen att the tyme of their examinations taken before us  
Nicholas ORCH~HY  
Joh: (Jas:?) PRUST  
Ry~? F~~~?  
Anthony ~?~

The ? day of April 1659  
This deed was ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ [bottom of page]

Sealed signed & delivered by the within named John ARUNDELL of Trerise of~ in the presence of  
Francis FULFORD  
Rich BULLER  
Herbert BLANCHARD  
John TINGCOMB  
John JACKMAN  
Bevill POLLARD  
Richard ROWE

The two and twentieth day of August 1655  
between James FARENTT and other comp'ts and John  
GRENVILE and other defendants  
This deed was shewed unto ~?~ Francis FULFORD  
Right at the tyme of his examination to the chins(?)  
~?~ fowerth interrogatories on the behalfe of John  
GRENVILE or of the defendants before us com'rs.  
Geo GILES  
Robert PEARCE

The 30<sup>th</sup> of August 1655  
This deed was likewise shewen unto John  
TRESSRY esq & John JACKMAN at the tyme of their several examinations to the Jatern'l(?)  
~?~ said on ~?~ behalf of the said ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ ~?~.

Against whose yeuto(?) ~?~ ~?~ ~?~  
Taken before us comm'rs. Joh: PREST, Ry~~ ~?~  
Nicholas ORCHARD, Antho: C~~?~.

The ninth day of April 1659  
Between John GRENVILE esquire and another defendante  
And John Saynt TAWBYN esquire & other compleynants  
This deed was shewed unto Degory TREMAYNE esquire at  
The tyme of his examynation taken before us commisioners  
Jos: PREST, Nicholas ORCHARD, Antho: C~~~SS

The fourteenth day of April 1659

Between John GRENVILLE esquire and another defendant  
And John Saynt TAUBYN esquire & others complaynants  
This deed was shewed unto Elizabeth PRIDEAUX the wife  
of Peter PRIDEAUX esquire at the tyme of her  
examination taken before us commisioners.  
Antho: CO~~S, Job PREST, Nicholas ORCHARD.

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### Summary and Comments:

Although damaged, and written in extreme legalised language, the meaning of this document can just about be determined, but it is felt that the document is not quite 'what it says on the wrapper', or in the catalogue.

It appears neither to be an Agreement to Levy Fine, or a Marriage Settlement (Bevill GRENVILLE and Grace SMITH's first child was baptised in March 1620/21, so they were probably married in 1619 – five years before this 'settlement' was written).

It is described as an Indenture, and is between Sir Bernard GRENVILLE, and his son Bevill, and Bevill's wife Grace. There are three witnesses (John ARUNDELL, Anthony DENNYS, Edmund TREMAYNE), all of these being related by marriage to the GRENVILLE family.

This could in effect be a Last Will and Testament in a similar way as Sir Richard GRENVILLE wrote his in the form of an indenture in 1585. It must have worked well for the family, and his son Bernard made this similar arrangement, to confirm what should happen to his estate.

The list of debts (or fines), are clearly monies owed that Sir Bernard was evidently not ruthless enough to want to collect in some form during his tenure (Sir Bernard gave up much of the powers his father had created, to the Town Council in the Charter of 1610).

At the time of writing this indenture (Feb 1624), the head of the GRENVILLE family had recently died (Dame Mary GRENVILLE) in Nov 1623, and Sir Bernard had already lost three sons and a daughter by this time. His remaining children were as follows:

- Bevill.
- John, who took to religion and would probably have forsaken all worldly goods and inheritances.
- Richard 'Skellum', who was already a somewhat risky investment for the estate.
- Gertrude, who as a female didn't count whilst there were other male siblings, although she did live to be 86.

Bevill was Sir Bernard's only practical heir, and this document confirmed this. An indenture naming in-laws and cousins in the event of Bevill's death seems to have been his only choice to ensure the security of the GRENVILLE Inheritance.

As regards the examinations on the back of the document, these appear to suggest that checks were being made as to his right of title, possibly because of John GRENVILLE's increasing need to borrow monies or seek sureties after the Civil War.

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## Appendix: 13

Document Catalogue Description: Grant of an annuity of £120, Beville Grenville of Stowe to Anthony Hill of Podland, Gloucester for the surrender of land at Bydeforde, 19 April 1633.

Grafton Collection

Northamptonshire Record Office ref: G 3002

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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**This indenture made** the nineteenth daie of Aprill **Anno Dni 1633** In the nineth yeere of the Reign of our sovraigne Lord Charles by the grace of God Kinge of England Scotland France and Ireland defender of the faith, etc. Betweene Anthony HILL of Redland in the countie of Gloucester esq of the one parte And Bevill GRENVILE of Stowe in the countie of Cornewall esq of the other part, **Witnesseth** that the said Anthonie HILL for and in consideration of one annuitie of one hundred and twenty pounds yeerely to be graunted by the said Bevil GRENVILE unto the said Anthonie HILL for terme of foure yeeres yf the said Anthony so longe shall live?? and also for diverse other good causes and considerations thereinn the said Anthonie HILL hereunto especially moveinge hath given graunted assigned to transferred surrendred and yielded upp and in and by thes present doth give graunt assigne by an forre(?) surrender and yield ?? unto the said Bevill GRENVILE and his heires All that the capital Messuage Barton Grange farme and demesnes of Bydeford with the appurtenance and which are called or comonly knowen by the name or names of the Barton Grange or farme of Bydeford situate lyinge & beinge within the parish of Bydeford in the countie of Devon and all the Messuages houses buildings meadows Lands pastures Feeding woods Mores Marshes Comons and other hereditaments whatsoever used occupied or enioyed to or with the said Barton or farms all parte of parcel thereof of so comonly reputed esteemed or taken and all which premises now are of lately were in the tenure possession or occupation of one Nicholas EYRE or his assignes And also the fishings and benefit of the rivers or waters of Torridge and the Bridge Poole at Bydeford aforesaid And also all the estate right title terme of yeeres and interest whatsoever of him the said Anthony HILL of in and to the said premises and of in and to every parte and parcel thereof **To have hold and enioye** the said capitall Messuage Barton Grange and farme of of Bydeford with the appurtenance and all and singular other the ~?~ ~?~ unto the said Bevill GRENVILE his heires and assignes for ever to and for the onely use benefit and behoofe of the said Bevill GRENVILE his heires and assignes for ever. **And the saide** Anthony HILL doth for himself his executors and administrators covenante promise graunt and agree to and with the said Bevill GRENVIE his heires and assignes and to and with every of them by these presents that by the said Bevill GRENVILE his heires and assignes shall and may for ever quietly and peaceably have hold occupie possesse and enioye all and singular the said premises and only parte and parcel thereof with their and only of their appurtenances free and cleere and freely and cleerely exonerated acquitted and discharged of and from all and all manner of forms and other graunte leases assignments rente charge rente socke(?) nomine pene penalties judgements executions extent fortetures burthens charges and incumbrane whatsoever had made done or suffered by the said Anthony HILL or by Sir William DILLON Knight deceased or Robert DILLON esq or by anie other person or persons whatsoever lawfully haveinge or claymenge anie estate right title terme interest trust or demand whatsoever by from or under the said Anthonie HILL esq William DILLON and Robert DILLON or anie or other of them. **And the saide** Bevill GRENVILE doth for his selfe his heires executors and administrators covenant promise graunt and agree to and with the said Anthonie HILL his executors and administrators and every of them by these presents that whereas there are certayne coale works or coale mynes now found and discovered and in workeinge in and upon the foresaid premises or some parte or parcel thereof That he the said Bevill GRENVILE shall and will permitt and suffer the said Anthonie HILL or such other as the said Anthonie HILL shall



apoynt to have receave and take the one moitie and halfendeale of all the profit and benefit which shall accrue happen or growe unto the said Bevill GRENVILE or his heires out of for or by reason of the said coale works or coale mynes for and during the terme and time of fower score yeeres from the date of these presents (yf the said Anthonie HILL shall so longe happen to live) the said profit and benefit to be had and yielded upon a iu~t and true account to bee made by the bailife or other agent to be employed there about by the said Bevill GRENVILE or his heires. **In witness whereof** the parties above named to thes present indentures interchangeably have putt their hands and seales the daie and yeere first above written.

Sealed and delivered in or upon the said Capital Messuage Grange Barton and farme within mentioned and the same then surrendered to the within named Bevill GRENVILE in presence of

Anthonie DENNYS	John STRANGE
William CLAVELSHAY?	Nicholas KANE?
William ERNLE	John GRALAND?
Jo SALTERN	

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### Summary and Comments:

In 1633, it appears that one of the leased GRENVILLE land holdings in Bideford was being re-assigned. Nicholas EYRE's lease on this property has ended, and it is being let for four years to an Anthony HILL. Income from such a considerable property was obviously of great benefit to the GRENVILLEs, and £120 a year, indicates that this was a sizeable estate (probably around £250,000 per annum in today's terms).

We have a specific reference to the property in question, this being the 'Barton Grange or Farm', although the exact location of this Barton is unknown, apart from it being in Bideford. However, the rights associated with this Barton included: fishing in the pool of the river near the bridge, and part of the income from the coal workings on this land. The only known coal outcrops within Bideford appear at Pitt, and on land East-the-Water. Assuming the land was contiguous, we are probably talking about an East-the-Water property here.

This document only appears to refer to a particular individual property (ie: the Barton) and not to any other manorial lands or rights controlled by the GRENVILLEs.

Anthony HILL of Redland in Glos (not Podland, as stated in the catalogue description) appears to have control of many other lands, particularly in Timberscombe in Somerset. In 1638 Captain Anthony HILL of Redland in Gloucestershire took an Oath of Allegiance before Charles I, and was given permission to travel abroad for 3 years, particularly to the 'Low Countries'. He died around 1646, and his Will from this date survives in the Somerset Record Office collection of Timberscombe deeds.

Whether there is any connection between this Anthony HILL, and the John HILL (Town Clerk) who later appears living in the Bridge Street properties, has been unable to be determined.

John STRANGE and John SALTERNE are members of the Town Council of the period.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 14

### Will of Sir Bevill GRENVILLE, 1639

The original Will of Sir Bevill GRENVILLE (born 1596, killed at the Battle of Lansdowne on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1643) was thought to have been lost/destroyed during WW2.

However, a note found in the Royal Institution of Cornwall Archives refers to *“The Will of Sir Bevill GRENVILLE, 10<sup>th</sup> April 1639/40, made prior to his service in Scotland, Sold at Bloomsbury Auctions 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006, purchaser unknown. MS on vellum, lacks seal, 640mm x 700mm. Estimate £200-£300, sold for about £450. Lot 45.”*

This transcript produced by [David Carter](#) was taken from the 16 volume set of ‘Historical Collections relating to the History, Antiquities and Families of Devonshire, by Robert Dymond’ (Vol.9, pages 125-131, obtained from Westcountry Studies Library in Exeter). It appears to be genuine and verbatim.

There is no mention of the Grant of Probate in this transcript, but we assume that this did happen, probably soon after July 1643.

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Will of Sir Bevill GRENVILLE (1596-1643)  
(Grandson of the celebrated Sir Richard GRENVILLE)  
Written 10<sup>th</sup> April 1639  
Proved 1643 ?

In the name of God, Amen. The tenth day of April in the fifteenth year of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, Fraunce and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc.

I Beville GRENVILLE of Stowe in the countie of Cornwall esquire, being in good health of Body and of sound and perfect mynde and memory, (for which I heartily thank Almighty God) Doe make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in writing.

And First I commend my soul into the Hands of Almighty God my maker and Redeemer, in full assurance that all my sons are washed away by the precious blood of Jesus Christ my Saviour who is the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world, and that at the last day I shall be presented to him without spot, and received into his kingdom of glory there to live forever. My Body I commend to the earth from whence it came to be decently interred.

And whereas I have by my Deed indented bearing date the ninth day of April in the fifteenth year of the raign of our sovereign Lord King Charles [ie: 1539] conveyed and assured the Burrough and Mannor of Bydeford in the County of Devon with the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, and the right of patronage of the Parish Church of Bydeford, with the Burrough and mannor of Kilkhampton in the said County of Cornwall, with the rights members and appurtenances thereof, with the right of patronage of the Parish Church of Kilkhampton, and the Capital Messuage, Bartons and Demesnes of Stowe and Densmouth, with the appurtenances in Kilkhampton aforesaid, and the mannor, Capital Messuage Barton and Demesnes of Wolston, and the mannors of Wydmouth and Woodford in the said County of Cornwall with the members and appurtenances thereof. And the Mannor Capital Messuages Barton and Demesnes of Northleigh in the parishes of Kilkhampton and Moorewenstowe with the rights members and appurtenances thereof. And all the messuages lands tenements and hereditaments in the parishes of Kilkhampton Moorewenstowe and Stratton in the said County of Cornwall which I purchased of Nicholas SMYTH esq deceased, and were sometime parcell of the mannors of Michell Morton in the said county of Cornwall, And the advowson or patronage of the Rectory and Parish Church of St Mary Weeke in Cornwall aforesaid, unto my loving

friends, John ARUNDELL of Trerise esquire, John ACLAND of Colume John esquire, Arthur BASSETT of Heanton Punchardon esquire, Anthony DENYS of Orleigh esquire, Richard PRIDEAUX of Thurborough esquire, and William MORRICE of Thurstom(?) esquire, To have to them and their heirs to the use of them and their heirs for ever. Nevertheless to the Intent and purpose and upon condition that they and the survivors and the survivor of them and his & their heirs should demise, lease, grant, convey, assure, or otherwise dispose of the same and such and so many of them and such parts and parcells of them or any of them in such manner and for such estate and for such uses intents and purposes as I by my last Will and Testament in writing should limit appoint and declare as by the same deed whereunto for more certentie therein I refer myself. And forasmuch as Grace my wife hath always been a most loving & virtuous wife unto mee and her deserts farr exceed and ~g~ital which my fortune can afford I do limit appoint & declare that my said wife shall and may during her life quietly have and enjoy such and so much of the mannors, messuages, land, tenements & hereditaments before mentioned as are by any deed or assurance limited to her for a jointure, and that my feoffees John ARUNDELL esquire, John ACLAND esquire, Arthur BASSETT esquire, Anthony DENYS esquire, Richard PRYDEAX and William MORRICE esquire, and the survivors & survivor of them and his & their heirs shall upon request after my death sufficiently assure unto the said Grace, my beloved wife, all those messuages, mills, lands, tenements & hereditaments called or known by the name of Stowe Mills or used or enjoyed with the same messuages and mills in Kilkhampton aforesaid and the reversion thereof. And also all these several Grounds and Parcels of Land called or known by the several names of Cleve and of Colworthy all which I have lately annexed to my Barton and Demesnes to be therewith used and enjoyed. To have to her the said Grace for and during the term of her natural life in augmentation of her jointure, and as a remembrance of my love to her, and my desire to my said feoffees is that my said wife may not be troubled or molested in quiet enjoyment of her said jointure and lands aforesaid but may be by them aided and assisted as much as they may. And I do hereby further declare, limit and appoint & my will and meaning is that my said feoffees John ARUNDELL, John ACLAND, Arthur BASSETT, Anthony DENYS, Richard PRYDEAX and William MORRICE and the survivors & survivor of them and their and his heirs out of the Rents, Issues and Profits of my said manors, manors (sic), lands, tenements & hereditaments or by demising or leasing all of any part of parts thereof in Possession, Reversion, Remainder of Expectancy at their wills and pleasures and by such sum or sums of money as shall be raised and had by the granting and selling of the inheritance in fee simple of any part of parts thereof shall satisfy, pay and discharge all the just and true debts and sums of money which I do owe or am indebted to any person or persons for mine own proper debt and also the annuities and yearly sums, legacies, gifts, portions, sum or sums of money given, limited, or appointed to any person by this my last Will & Testament and for that the particular accidents which may happen to my said manor lands and premises in the value thereof I do therefore limit appoint & declare and my will & meaning is that my said feoffes John ARUNDELL, John ACLAND, Arthur BASSETT, Anthony DENYS, Richard PRYDEAUX and William MORRICE and to the survivors and survivor of them their and his heirs shall and may from time to time and at all times demise and lease or grant, convey and sell the inheritance of the said manors messuages, lands and premises or such or so much of them or any of them and such parts and tenements, parcels of them, for such uses, intents & purposes as are in this my Will & Testament limited, appointed or declared and the performance and execution of the tment(?) in them uposed and they and the survivors and survivor their and his heirs shall in their wisdom think fit and convenient for the same. And I do limit and appoint and my will is that during the time of payment of my debts and legacies and until the same be fully paid and discharged that my said feoffees and the survivors and survivor of them their & his heirs shall pay and satisfy unto my son and heir apparent Richard GRENVILLE gentleman an annuity or party Rent of one hundred pounds yearly to be issuing and going or of such of the premises as my said feoffees and the survivors and survivor of them their and his heirs shall lymit and appoint to be yearly payable at the Feats of St John Baptist, St Michael the Archangel, The Birth of our Lord God and the Annunciation of our blessed Lady St Mary the Virgin by equal portions. And I

do hereby give and appoint the said annuity unto my son Richard to be received in manner aforesaid.

Item: I do give limit and appoint to each of my younger sons (viz.) John GRENVILE, Bernard GRENVILE, George GRENVILE, and Denys GRENVILE one annuity or yearly sum of twenty pounds yearly apiece to be paid to each of them at the four feasts aforesaid until each of them respectively shall attain to his several age of seventeen years and as each of them shall attain to his several age of seventeen years, then the payment of the said annuity of twenty pounds yearly of him so attaining to his age of seventeen years to cease and determine. And I do further limit appoint & declare and my will is that within some short time after each of my younger sons shall severally attain to his said age of seventeen years and as each of them respectively shall attain to his said age of seventeen years that one annuity & yearly rent of fifty pounds be granted and assured to each of my said younger sons John, Bernard, George & Denys respectively to be issuing to each of them during his natural life respectively with clauses or distress, the same to be done in such manner as Counsel learned in the Law shall reasonably devise by the appointment of my said feoffees and the survivors and survivor their and his heirs.

Item: I do give, limit, appoint and declare to my eldest daughter Elizabeth GRENVILE the sum of one thousand five hundred pounds of lawful money of England portion, and to each of my other daughters (viz.) Bridget GRENVILE, Joane GRENVILE, and Mary GRENVILE the sum of one thousand pounds of lawful money of England apiece, so to be raised out of the rents issues and profits of the said manors messuages lands and premises or by demising and leasing or by sale of the inheritance of some part thereof as my said foeffes and the survivors and survivor their and his heirs shall think fit & convenient the said several portions to be paid to me said daughters respectively as they shall accomplish their several ages of twenty years or sooner if conveniently the same may be raised and until their said several portions shall be fully paid unto them I do give, limit and appoint to each of them the sum of forty marks yearly to be paid to them respectively for their maintenance and livelihood out of the rents, issues & profit of the said manors messuages lands tenements and hereditaments aforesaid, Provided always and I do hereby limit, appoint and declare that of Grace my said wife and Richard my son or such other of my said sons as shall be my right heir the time or one of them shall within one year next after the death of Dame Grace SMYTH widow by sufficient assurances in law convey & assure All the manors messuages, land, tenements and hereditaments with the appurtenances in the said County of Cornwall which the said Dame Grace SMYTH now holdeth & enjoyeth by conveyance and assurance from Sir George SMYTH Knight deceased her late husband and also the mansion house and lands therewithal used & enjoyed called or known by the name of Maydworth situate and being in the Parish of Heavitree in the County of Devon unto me said feoffees John ARUNDELL, John ACLAND, Arthur BASSETT, Anthony DENYS, Richard PRYDEAUX and William MORRICE and to the survivors and survivor of them their and his heirs or such other person or persons as shall be in that behalf appointed to be sold or disposed of by them or any of them for and towards the payment of my debts and legacies aforesaid and performance of the trust and uses in this my last Will mentioned that then the said feoffees John ARUNDELL, John ACLAND, Arthur BASSETT, Anthony DENYS, Richard PRYDEAUX and William MORRICE and to the survivors and survivor of them their and his heirs shall and may at the same time will and sufficiently as Counsel in the law shall reasonably advise convey and assure unto my said son Richard GRENVILE and his heirs or such other of my sons as shall be my heir if my said son Richard be dead and to his heirs such and so much of the said manors, messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments of the said Dame Grace SMITH as both parties shall and [space] and [space] unto. And I do hereby further [space] and declare and within some convenient time after my said debts and legacies before mentioned be satisfied and paid as aforesaid. That they my said feoffees and the survivors and survivor of them and his heirs shall by good assurance in the law at the charge of my heirs convey and assure unto my said son Richard GRENVILE and his heirs or unto such of my sons as shall be my heir All such and so many of the said manors, messuages, hereditaments and premises by me to them conveyed and assured as aforesaid as shall then remain unsold and undisposed of for the uses and purposes

aforesaid if any do remain unsold and not disposed of charged nevertheless unto the several annuities to my said younger sons during the continuance thereof respectively And I do will give and appoint that all my plate lynen and other utensils of household and household stuff and the furniture of my house at Stowe aforesaid to remain and continue in my said house and to come to my son and heir which shall be owner of my said house. Nevertheless I do will and appoint that Grace my beloved wife shall have the use and occupation thereof during her life and her the said Grace my wife I do hereby make and ordain to be [space] and sole executrix of this my last Will and Testament. And I doe will my said feoffees to pay such debts and somes of money for which I have mortgaged any of my lands manors or premises or any part thereof and redeem the said mortgages if they shall think fit.

In witness whereof I the said Bevill GRENVILLE to this my Last Will and Testament have hereunto set my hand and seal given the dau and year first above written. Anno Dni.

Signed: Bevill GRENVILE

Sealed & published in the presence of:

Robert CARY  
Thomas PRIEST  
Richard POMEROY  
And: CORY  
William MAISTERS  
F COTTELL  
Jo: VERYNGE

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### Summary and Comments:

This document confirms that Sir Bevill GRENVILLEs main residence was at Stowe in Cornwall, but that amongst his many other inherited and land-investments, the Burrough and Manor of Bideford was top of the list of importance.

The Will refers to the personal effects of Sir Bevill being at his house at Stowe, and that his wife was granted rights to live her remaining life at Stowe (just as Dame Mary GRENVILLE was granted at Bideford).

Since Sir Bevill's son and heir was Richard GRENVILLE (who failed to inherit), this strongly suggests that his second son & heir John GRENVILLE (1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Bath) must have lived at Bideford, even though at least two of his children were born elsewhere. We are continuing to see a repeat of the pattern where the inheriting son has to settle for whichever house his parents chose not to live while they remained alive.

Of the foeffes mentioned:

ARUNDELL, ACLAND, BASSETT, and DENYS, were cousins through Bevil GRENVILLE's forefathers. Richard PRIDEAUX was the father in-law of Bevil's daughter Elizabeth who married Sir Peter PRIDEAUX.

William MORRICE was described by Bevil as '*my dear and noble friend*' and also as '*cousin*', but their exact genealogical connection is unclear, although he does appear to have been a fellow Civil War officer.

But in effect all these 'feoffes' are family members simply looking after the family estates.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 15

Document Catalogue Description:

Bargain and Sale of lands at Bideford and other places, Devon, 11 July 1645.

Grafton Collection

Northamptonshire Record Office ref: G 3129

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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**This indenture made** the eleventh daye of July in the one and twentieth yeare of the raigine of our soveraigne Lord Charles by the grace of god of England Scotland France and Ireland Kinge defender of the faith. **Between** Dame Grace GRENVILE of Stow in the county of Cornwall widow the sole and only daughter and heir of Dame Grace SMITHE widowe deceased of the one parte And Symon COTTELL of the parish of Morewinstowe in the said county of Cornwall all gen of the other parte. **Witnesseth** that the said Dame Grace GRENVILE for and in consideration of the sume of three hundred pounds of lawfull money of England to her in hand paid by the said Symon COTTELL att and before the ensealinge and deliverie of these presents whereof the said Dame Grace GRENVILE acknowledges the receipt. **Hath** given and granted bargained and sold and confirmed, and by these presents doth geve and granunt bargaine and sell and confirme unto the said Symon COTTELL, all those Messuages lands and Tenements with the appurtenances lying and being within the Towne and parish of Bideford and county of Devon nowe or late in the tenure or occupation of John HEARD his assigne or assignes, together with the rents reversions and services thereof, And all that the third parte of two closes of land called Moorepkcs late parcel of the Barton of woode lying and beinge within the parish of Alwington and said county of Devon nowe or late in the tenure or occupation of John GYFFORD, William GYFFORD and Anthonie GYFFORD, gentlemen, or of some or one of them, their or one of their assigne or assignes, Togeather with the rents reversions and services of the same, And all those Messuages lands and tenements with the appurtenances comonly called or known by the name of Haypauls lying and being within the parish of Littleham and said county of Devon nowe or late in the tenure or occupation of [blank] SHURTE, Togeather with the rents reversions and services thereof, And all that one parcell of land called North Stert with the appurtenances lying and beinge within the parish of Parkeham in the said county of Devon nowe or late in the tenure or occupation of Anthonie LEMON and all that cottage or tenement with the appurtenances called Stert in Parkham aforesaid nowe of late in the tenure or occupation of Agnes TRICKE her assigne or assignes, Togeather with the rents revertions and services of the same premises, And all those Messuages lands and Tenements called Belliford lying and beinge in Buckland Brewer in the said county of Devon nowe or late in the tenure or occupation of John TURNER his assigne or assignes, and one meadowe called Babely meadowe in Buckland Brewer aforesaid, Togeather with the rents reversions and services of the same premises, And all those two closes of land with the appurtenances comonly called by the name of Scarletts Wells conteynge by estimation eight acres be hit more or lesse lying and beinge in the Burghe and parish of Bodmyn within the said county of Cornwall nowe or late in the tenure or occupation of Elizabeth COCKE her assign or assignes, Togeather with the rents reversions and services of the same. And all that one Messuage or tenement with the appurtenances in Bodmyn aforesaid nowe or late in the tenure or occupation of George HELLYER his assigne or assignes, with the rents reversions and services of the same. And all that one Messuage or Tenement with the appurtenances in Bodmyn aforesaid nowe or late in the tenure or occupation of Johane LANE her assigne or assignes, with the rents reversions and services thereof. And all that one Tenement with the appurtenances lying and beinge in a Streete called Bar~~ [~crease~] and two orchards thereunto belonging or there with all enjoyed in Bodmyn aforesaid sometimes in the tenure or occupation of Ralphe MICHELL his assigne or assignes,

Togeahter with the rents reversiones and services thereof, And all other the Messuages lands tenements rents reversiones and services and hereditaments whatsoever of heires the said Dame Grace GRENVILE situate lyeinge and beinge in the severall Burghes Townes Villadges and parishes of Bideford, Alwington, Littleham, Parkham, Buckland Brewer and Bodmyn within the said counties of Devon and Cornwall, or in any or either of them, all with demisses lately were or are accounted to be the lands and inheritance of the same Dame Grace SMYTHE deceased. **To have and to holde** all and singular the said Messuages lands tenements rents reversiones services and hereditaments and all other the premises unto the said Symon COTTELL his executors administrators and assignes for and during the full and whole terme of one thousand years fully to be complete finished and ended, The said terme to comence and begine in the demisses imediately from and next after the thirteenth daye of July which shall be in the yeare of our Lord god according to the computation of the Church of England one thousand five hundred fourtie and seaven, **And** the said Dame Grace GRENVILE for her selfe her heires executors and administrators and for evrie of them doth covenante promise and agree to and with the said Symon COTTELL his executors administrators and assignes and to and with evrie of them by their partes(?), That shee the said Dame Grace GRENVILE nowe is and standeth lawfully seized in her owne right of a good perfect and indeferible estate in the lawe in fee simple of the inheritance of all and singular the said Messuage lands and premises and of evrie part parcel thereof, And that he the said Symon COTTELL his executors administrators and assignes and evrie of them shall and may from and after the comencement of the said terme and duringe the continewance of the same peaceably and quietly have holde use and enjoye all and singular the said Messuages lands rents reversiones and demisses and evrie parte and parcel thereof without any maner of lett denyall chardge on encumbrance of her the said Dame Grace GRENVILE her heires or assignes or any of them or any other person or persons whatsoever (such leases and graunts as have bine heretofore made of the demisses or of any parte or partes thereof by the said Dame Grace SMITHE deceased or by her auncesters or predecessors or any or either of them and the highe and cheif rents and services herefourth to be due and payable unto the highe and cheif Lords of the fee of the said demisses for and in respect of the same demisses or of any parte or partes thereof only excepted and fore prised). **Provided** alwayes and it is conditioned, That if the said Dame Grace GRENVILE her heires or assignes or any of them doe well and truly content satisfie and paye or cause to be paid unto the said Symon COTTELL his executors administrators or assignes or to any or either of them the full and whole sume of three hundred forty and eight pounds of lawfull money of England on the twelvth daye of July which shall be in the yeare of our Lord god according to the said computation one thousand six hundred fortie seaven att or in the nowe dwelling house of the said Symon COTTELL situate in Wolleighe within the parish of Morewinstowe aforesaid **That then** and from thence fourth theis indentures evrie thinge and things herein conteyned to cause end and determine and to be utterly voide frustrate and of noe effect, And that then and from thence fourth it shall and maye be lawfull to and for the said Dame Grace GRENVILE her heires and assignes into all and singular the said messuages lands tenements and demisses to reenter and the same to have againe repossesse and enjoye as in her or their former estate. Theis pu'tes(?) or any thinge herein conteyned to ~son the contrary in any wise not withstanding. **In witnes** whereof the said parties to theis presents ~?~ sealed interchaungeably have sett, **Yeonen**(?) the daye and yeare first above written.

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### Summary and Comments:

After the death of Sir Bevil GRENVILLE in the Battle of Lansdowne in 1643, his widow Grace is seen here selling off various land investments inherited by her. These seem to be ancillary properties, and consist of the following:

- House and land in Bideford, in occupation of John HEARD.
- Land and woods in Alwington, in occupation of John, William & Anthony GYFFORD.
- House and land called Haypaules in Littleham, in occupation of Mr SHURTE.
- Land called North Stert, in Parkham, in occupation of Anthonie LEMON.
- Cottage called Stert, in Parkham, in occupation of Agnes TRICKE.
- House and land called Belliford in Buckland Brewer, in occupation of John TURNER.
- Land called Scarletts Wells in Bodmin, Cornwall, in occupation of Elizabeth COCKE.
- House in Bodmin in occupation of George HELLYER.
- House in Bodmin in occupation of Johane LANE.
- House in Bodmin in occupation of Ralphe MICHELL.

They are being sold to a gentleman called Simon COTELL. He was probably the man of the same name who was Treasurer of Cornwall during the Civil War. The above document confirms his house being at Wolleigh in Morwenstowe.

This document confirms the exchange by 'Bargain and Sale', ie: when the seller offers such properties on the same basis as they were owned, there being no guarantee regarding good title. The properties were being offered for 1,000 years, to start on 13th July 1547.

John GYFFORD is almost certainly the son of the John GYFFORD who married Mary, daughter of Sir Richard GRENVILLE, although there were seemingly hundreds of GYFFORDs spread from Weare Giffard as far as Chittlehampton and Tiverton, to Milton Damerel and Parkham.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 16

### Will of Dame Grace GRENVILE, 1647

Will of Grace GRENVILE, widow

Proved 15th June 1647

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PROB 11/200, Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Fines Quire Numbers: 63 – 128

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Will of Dame Grace GRENVILE, 1647

(Widow of Sir Bevill GRENVILLE)

Written 19<sup>th</sup> April 1647

Proved 15<sup>th</sup> June 1647

In the name of God Amen.

The nineteenth daie of Aprill One thousand six hundred fortie seaven. The Lady Dame Grace GRENVILE widow being very weake in bodie, but in sounde and perfect memorie did make and declare the last will and testament ~~~capatible in manner and forme following:

I doe binde all my landes to paye my three youngest sons six hundred pounds a pease & to pay all my mother & my owne debts and legacies, And my eldest sonne is not to have my lande until the said debts and legacies shall be payed, And I doe charge my two eldest daughters whome I make my sole Executors to see all the said debts and legacies payed. And my goods to be devided amongst you. These two jewells or pictures I give one to you keapeing(?) to her daughter Prudence, and the other for my daughter Fortescue, I give forthye pounce to Mrs Gardtrud MILL, I give ten poundes to Elizabeth HOOPER, I give to Stephen ORCHARD twenty poundes, I give to Agnes MARTYN five pounds, I give to Rebecca TROTT five pounds, I give to Julian meaning Julian DARBIE her servant ten pounds, I give two years wages to all my servants, and their wages too be payed for I leave enough to paie all, Then and there being present Bredget GRENVILE, Gertrude MILL, Katherine ODELL, Agnes MARTYN, Margaret TOMPSON, Richard GRENVILE with others whom she desired to testefie what shee had declared.

Probate granted in London 15<sup>th</sup> June 1647.

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### Summary and Comments:

This is a fairly basic nuncupative will (ie: death-bed statement recorded by witnesses), not giving much, expect the social-colour of Grace still having a number of servants.

There is no specific mention of lands or property, indeed it doesn't even say that Grace was of Bideford, so she may well have been living at Stowe at the time of her death.

Grace's Will was probably written at a time when the GRENVILLE fortunes had declined for a while; certainly between Sir Richard's death in 1591 and around the Civil War.

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## Appendix: 17

Document Catalogue Description:

Mortgage for £3250 for land at Bydeforde, Devon, 3 Feb 1650.

Grafton Collection

Northamptonshire Record Office ref: G 3205

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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**This Indenture** tripartite made the third day of February in the yeare of our Lord God according to the accompt now used in England One Thousand Six hundred fiftie and one. Between the right honorable John Lord POULETT Baron of Hinton St George in the countie of Sommersett and Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY of Cheswick in the countie of Middlesex widow of the first part, Sir John GRENVILE of Stow in the countie of Cornwall Knight of the second part, And Raph WILD of London gentleman of the third part, **Witnesseth** that for the full satisfaction of a great debt due to the said Lady CHOLMELEY, for which the Burrough Mannor Barton and Demesnes of Bydeford herein after mentioned were by former conveyances by Sir Bevill GRENVILE deceased father of the said Sir John GRENVILE conveyed in Mortgage to John late Lord POULETT and the said now Lord POULETT and their heires in Trust for the said Lady CHOLMELEY, And for the performance of an award made under the fifteenth day of November now last past by John ASHBURNHAM and Thomas PIGGOTT esquires touching the said mortgage **It is** hereby covenanted grannted concluded and agreed by, and betweene all and every the said parties to these presents for them and their heires, And the said John Lord POULETT Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY and Sir John GRENVILE for them and their heires doe covenannt and grannt to and with the said Raph WILD his heires executors administrators and assigns by these presents, That they the said John Lord POULETT Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY and Sir John GRENVILE or their respective heires shall and will before the end of Easter terme now next ensuing the date hereof acknowledge and levie in due forme of law **One fine** Sur Conusans de Droit come ceo etc [ie: upon the acknowledgment of the right of the cognizee] to be ingrossed recorded and med(?) forth with proclamations according to the statutes in that case made and provided and the usuall course of fines with proclamations in such cases used unto the said Raph WILD and his heires. **Of all** that the Burrough Mannor Barton and Demises of Bydeford in the countie of Devon with the rights members and appurtenances thereof, And of all messuages mills lands tenements rents reversions services courto view of franckpledg liberties profitts commodities and other hereditaments whatsoever to the said Burrough mannor barton and demesnes or any of them belonging or appurteyning as part or parcell thereof used enjoyed reputed or taken with their and every of their appurtenances, And of all other the messuages lands tenements and hereditaments now or at any tyme heretofore the inheritance of the said John GRENVILE in Bydeford aforesaid, By such apt and convenient name and names numbers of overssuages [?? in a crease] and acres quantities and qualities of land and other things as shall be fitt and requisite. **And it is alsoe** hereby covenanted & concluded and agreed by and between said parties to these presents for them and their heires and all the said parties to these presents doe hereby declare, That the said fine herein before covenanted to be levied as aforesaid, And all and every other(?) fine and fines whatsoever to be had and levied by and betweene the said parties to these presents or any of them or whereunto they or any of them shall be partie or parties shall be and euvre(?) and shall be c~traed expounded adindged deemed and taken to be and euvre(?), And that the connsee or connsees in the said fine or fines And all and every other person and persons whatsoever that by force and virtue of the said fine or any other fine or fines shall be seised of the said mannor and lands herein before mentioned or any part thereof shall stand and be seized thereof and of every part and parcel thereof, **To the use** and behoofe of the said Sir John GRENVILE his executors administrators and

assignes for and during the space of six months to be accompted from the day of the date of these presents and from thenceforth fully to be complete and ended with such farther power as is herein after to him lymitted, And from and imediately after the expiration of that that terme **To the use** and behoofe of the said Dame Margarett CHOLMELEY, his executors and assignes for and during the terms of five hundred yeares from thence next ensuing and fully to be complete and ended without impeachment of or for any manner of wast, Subject nevertheless to such condition as is herein aftermentioned, And from and imediately after the expiration ceasing or other determination of the said terme and five hundred yeares then **To the use** and behoof of the said Sir John GRENVILE his heires and assignes forever, And to none other use or uses intent or purpose; **Provided** always and it is the true intent and meaning of these presents and of the parties to the same, And they doe hereby farther declare the use of the said fine to be that of the saide John GRENVILE his heires executors administrators or assignes or any of them shall or doe well and truly pay of cause to be payd unto the said Dame Margarett CHOLMELEY hir executors administrators or assignes or any of them the full and whole summe of three thousand two hundred and fiftie pounds of good and lawfull money of England at one intire payment at and upon the foure and twentieth day of July next ensuing the date hereof at or in the now dwelling house of Sir George STRODE Knight in St Johns in the parish of St James Clerkenwell in the county of Middx, That then and from thenceforth the estate or terme herein before lymitted to the said Dame Margarett CHOLMELEY hir executors administrators & assignes for five hundred yeares as aforesaid shall cease and be void, And thing in these presents contained to the contrary notwithstanding, And the said Sir John GRENVILE for himself his heires executors administrators or assignes and for every of them doth covenant promise and grannt to and with the said Dame Margarett CHOLMELEY hir executors administrators or assignes by these presents, That he the said Sir John GRENVILE his heirs executors administrators or assignes or some or one of them shall and will well and truly pay or cause to be payd unto the said Dame Margarett CHOLMELEY hir executors administrators or assignes the said summe of three thousand two hundred and fiftie pounds at one intire payment at the tyme and place before in the said provisos conditions mentioned for payment thereof without any defackation deduction or abatement of any thing for or in respect of any taxes or other charges ordinarie or extraordinary or otherwise **Provided** always, And it is hereby declared meant and agreed by and betweene all and every the said parties to these presents, And the farther intent and meaning of them and every of them and of these presents, And the farther use of the said fine is hereby declared to be, That the said Sir John GRENVILE his executors administrators and assignes shall have power, And that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Sir John GRENVILE his executors administrators and assignes from time to time and at all times during the contynuanse of the said terme and estate for sixe monethes hereby to him the said Sir John GRENVILE his executors administrators and assignes lymitted as aforesaid by any writing or writings by him or them to be sealed and delivered, and subscribed with his or their owne hand in the presence of two or more credible witnesses to demise grant lease any part or parcel of the premises heretofore usually demised unto any person or persons whatsoever for one two or three life or lives in possession or for any terme of yeares determinable upon one two or three life or lives in possession or for one or two life or lives or any number of yeares determinable upon one or two life or lives in reversion or expectancie after any estate or estates by lease or copie of court roll for one life or determinable upon one life then in being, Or for one life or any number of yeares determinable upon one life in reversion or expectancie after any estate or estates by lease or copie of court roll for two lives or determinable upon two lives then in being, Soe as upon every such lease or leases demise or demises there be reserved to contynue due and payable during all the continuance of the said respective leases, The antient rents duties and services which have beene heretofore usually payd or performed for the same premises so to be leased, **And** that imediately from and after the making of every such demise lease or grant the conusees said fine and their heires and all and every other person and persons which shall be then seized of such part or partes of the said premises as shall be so demised or leased shall stand and be seized thereof and of every part and parcel thereof to the severall and

respective uses of the severall and respective persons their executors administrators and assignes to whom such leases and estates shall be so made and grannted or mentioned to be made or grannted for such terms and estates as shall be so grannted or mentioned to be grannted according to the intent and true meaning of the said severall and respective deeds or writings so leasing or granting the same, And of the reversion and reversions thereof during the said leases terms and estates and of the premises themselves after the said leases terms and estates shall be ended and determined and as the same shall severally and respectively end and determine, To the use of such person or persons and for such estate and estates and in such sort manner and forme as the same are hereby lymitted and as the same should have beene, if such leases and estates so to be made by virtue of these presents had not at all beene, **And the said** Sir John GRENVILE doth for himself his heires executors administrators or assignes covenant promise and grannt to and with the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY hir executors administrators and assignes by these presents: That if default of payment of the same summe of three thousand two hundred and fiftie pounds at the time and pace before mentioned be made or suffered, That then imediately from and after such default in payment thereof the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY hir executors and assignes shall and may for and during all the said terme and tyme of five hundred yeares herein before lymitted or meant or intended to be lymitted to the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY hir executors and assignes quietly and peaceably have hold and enjoy the said Burrough Mannor and all and singular the premises with the appurtenances without any the lett siute trouble eiection espulsion or eviction of or by him the said Sir John GRENVILE his heires or assignes or by any person clayming the same in by from or under him or them, And without any lawfull lett suite trouble interruption eviction or eiection of or by any other person or persons whatsoever, And that free and cleere and freely cleerely and absolutely acquitted freed and discharged of and from all and all manner of former and other bargaines sales feoffments grants leases joyntures dowers recognizances judgements executions statutes – merchant and of the staple seizures sequestrations and causes of seizure and sequestration, and of and from all other burdens charges and incumbrances whatsoever had made or done by the said Sir John GRENVILE or by any other person or persons whatsoever the severall leases demises and grannts of several tenements and parcells of the said Burrough Manor and premises heretofore made and grannted to severall persons for severall estates and termes not exceeding three lives or determinable by the death of one two or three persons therein named severally and respectively, and that under certain yearely rents which shall contynue payable during their said severall estates and termes and the grannts and estates hereby allowed to be grannted and made and all such conveyances and assurances as have beene made of the premises unto the said John Lord POULETT and John Lord POULETT deceased late father of the said now Lord POULETT and the said Margaret Lady CHOLMELEY or any of them onely excepted and foreprized. **And the said** Sir John GRENVILE doth farther for himself his heires executors and assignes covenant promise and grannt to and with the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY his executors administrators and assignes by these presents, That from and after such default of payment of the said three thousand two hundred and fiftie pounds as aforesaid, he the said Sir John GRENVILE his heires and assignes shall and will from time to time and at all times within the space of seven years next after such default as aforesaid upon reasonable request to him or them to be made make doe and execute or cause to be made done and executed. all and every such farther and other reasonable Act and Acts thing and things assurance and assurances in the law as well for the better assuring and conveying of the premises unto the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY her executors and assignes for and during the rest and residue of the said terme or time of five hundred yeares herein before lymitted in use or meant mentioned or intended to be lymitted in use to the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY hir executors administrators and assignes, as alsoe for the conveying and assuring of the inheritance of the same premisses unto such person or persons and his or their heires as the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY or hir executors or administrators shall nominate in that behalf as by the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY or hir executors administrators or assignes or by her or their counsell learned in the law shall be demised advised or required. In witness whereof the said parties

to these presents their hands and seales interchangeably have sett the dau and yeare first above written.

Sealed and delivered by the within named Dame Margaret CHOLMLY & Raph WILD in the presence of:

Richard LANE  
Edward COOKE  
Jo: HOHORN  
S~~? ORCHARD  
Edw: ALCHORN

Sealed and delivered by the within named John Lord POULETT in the presence of:

Will~~~~REDS  
A POULETT  
Anthony DOLTON  
Step: ORCHARD

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### Summary and Comments:

John GRENVILLE is almost certainly raising money here for the Royalist cause by mortgaging Bideford Manor and estate. £3,250 is being borrowed from Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY on the security of his estate at Bideford, for a term of 500 years.

Richard LANE could be the Richard LANE who was part of Charles II's Privy Council. He was also a Barrister. He fled with the King to the Channel Isles in 1650 (only to die there in May of that year.) This document was written before his death in February 1650. If they are one and the same, this would lend credence to the revenue-raising theory for the Royalists as Richard LANE was in charge of the Exchequer of Charles II.

Edward COOKE's identity is a little more vague. He could be of the COOKEs who owned Thorne Manor near Holsworthy. They were Royalists. If so then Edward's mother was a daughter of the GODOLPHINS, another high profile Royalist family.

S. ORCHARD is probably part of the same ORCHARD family who went on to own Hartland Abbey.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 18

Document Catalogue Description: Assignment of land Burrough, Barton, Manor at Byddeford, Devon, John Grenville of Stowe and others to Jeffery Palmer of the Middle Temple, 17 Nov 1652.

Grafton Collection

Northamptonshire Record Office ref: G 2892

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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This indenture made the seaventh day of November in the yeare of our Lord God according to the computation used in England one thousand six hundred fifty and two, **Between** John GRENVILE sonne and heire of Sir Bevill GRENVILE of Stowe in the Countie of Cornwall Knight deceased, and Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY of Cheswicke in the countie of Middx widdowe of the one parte, And Orlando BRIDGEMAN of the Inner Temple London, and Jeffery PALMER of the Middle Temple London esq of the other parte, **Whereas** by indenture Tripartite bearing date the third day of February last past in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand six hundred fifty and one, made between the right honorable John Lord POULET Baron of Hinton St George in the county of Somerset, and the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY of the first parte, the said John GRENVILE by the name of Sir John GRENVILE of Stowe in the countie of Cornwall Knight of the second parte, And Ralphe WILD of London gent of the third part, and fine thereupon leasyed, the said John GRENVILE did convey and asure, Whereas the Burrough Mannor Barton, and demesnes of Byddeford in the countie of Devon with the rights members, and appurtenances thereof, and all Messuages, Mills, Lands, Tenements, rents, revertisons, services, courts, view of frankespledge, liberties, priviledges, profits, commodities, and other hereditaments whatsoever, to the said Burrough Barton Mannors and Demesnes or any of them belonging or appertayninge or as parte or parcel thereof, used, enjoyed, reputed or taken with there and every of there appurtenances, And all other the messuages, Lands, Tenements and hereditaments then or att any tyme before the inheritance of the said John GRENVILE in Byddeford aforesaid. To the use of him the said John GRENVILE his executors, administrators and assigns for and dureinge the space of six moneths to be accounted from the day of the date of the said indenture from thenceforth fully to be complete and ended, And from and after the expiration of the said terme, To the use and behoofe of the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY her executors and assignes for and during the terme of five hundred years from thence next ensuing and fully to be complete and ended without impeachment of wast: with and under a certain proviso or condition in the said Indenture mentioned, and the parties thereunto did declare the use of the said fine to be, That if the said John GRENVILE his heirs executors administrators or assignes or any of them should well and truly pay or cause to be payd unto the said same Margaret CHOLMELEY her executors administrators of assignes, or any of them the full and whole sume of three thousand two hundred and fifty pounds of good and lawfull money of England att one entire payment att and upon the foure and twentieth day of July then next ensuing the date of the said indenture att or in the dwelling house of Sir George STRODE Knight in St Johns in the parish of St James Clerkenwell in the countie of Middx, That then and from thenforth the estate or terme therein before lymitted to the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY her executors administrators and assignes for five hundred years as aforesaid should cease and be voyd any thing in the said indenture conteyned to the contrary notwithstanding as by the said Indenture may appeare, **And whereas** the said John GRENVILE did faile in payment of the said three thousand two hundred and fifty pounds to the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY contrary to the said proviso whereby the estate in law of and in the premises is vested and become absolute in the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY for and dureinge the said terme of five hundred years, **Now this indenture witnesseth** that for and in consideration of the sume of three thousand two hundred and fifty pounds of lawfull money of

England to the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY in hand payd before thensealinge and delivery of these presents, and of the sume of seaven hundred and fifty pounds of like money to the said John GRENVILE also in hand payd by the said Orlando BRIDGEMAN and Jeffery PALMER, the receipt of which said several and respective sumes the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY and John GRENVILE doe severally and respectively acknowledge, and thereof, and of every parte and parcel thereof doe release and discharge the said Orlando BRIDGEMAN and Jeffery PALMER their heires executors administrators and assignes and every of them for ever by these presents, the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY, (att the request and by and with the consent direction and appoyntment of the said John GRENVILE testified by his beinge made party to these presents) **Hath** ~signed and sett over and by these presents doth assigne and sett over unto the said Orlando BRIDGEMAN and Jeffery PALMER their executors and assigns the said Burrough Mannor Barton Messuages Lands Tenements rents reversiones services hereditaments, and all and singular other premises herein before mentioned with there and every of their appurtenances, And all the estate right Title interest terme of years possession reversion, clayme and demannd whatsoever of the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY her executors and administrators and every or any of them of in and to the said premises before mentioned, and of in and to every of any parte or parcel of the same, together with the said recited indenture and fine, and all other deeds and writings which the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY hath, or may have touching on concerning the premises or any parte thereof, **To have and to hold** the said Burrough Mannor Barton Messuages Lands Tenements, Rents, reversiones, services, and all and singular the premises before mentioned with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said Orlando BRIDGEMAN and Jeffery PALMER their executors administrators and assignes for and dureinge all the residue and remainder of the said terme of five hundred years yet to come and unexpired in as large ample and beneficiall manner as the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY her executors or administrators or any of them might should or ought to have, hold or enjoy the same and every or any parte or parcell thereof by force or virtue of the said recited indenture and fine thereupon leavyed or any of them or otherwise howsoever **Provided always** and it is agreed and declared by and between the said parties to these presents upon severall trust and confidence, that in case of marriage intended by Gods grace shortly to be had and solempriized between the said John GRENVILE and Jane WYCHE, onely daughter of the late right honorable Sir Peter WYCHE Kt late comptrowler of the house of the late Kinge Charles, and one of the said late Kings privy councill and Dame Jane his wife shall take effect, That then the said estate and lease soe made to the said Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY shall be voyde. And these presents are upon expresse trust, that in case the said marriage shall take effect, That then the said Orlando BRIDGEMAN and Jeffery PALMER their executors and administrators, and the survivor of the executors and administrators of them, shall upon reasonable request, and att the costs and charges of the said John GRENVILE, grannt and surrender the said Burrough Manor Messuages Lands and premises, And all the estate right, title, interest, terme of years, clayme and demand whatsoever of the said Orlando BRIDGEMAN and Jeffery PALMER of in and to the same, and every parte thereof to such person and persons to whom the reversion of remainder of the premises shall belonge or appteyne **Provided always** nevertheless that in case the said intended marriage shall not take effect, That then the said Orlando BRIDGEMAN and Jeffery PALMER their executors and administrators shall stand possessed of the said Burrough, Mannor, Messuages, Lands and premises in trust for the said Jane WYCHE the daughter her executors and administrators for and dureinge the residue of the said terme of five hundred years yet to come and unexpired, for and in lieu and satisfaction of the sume of foure thousand pounds parte of the marriage portion of the said Jane WYCHE the daughter, **In Witnesse** whereof the parties first above named to these present indentures interchangeably their hands and seales have sett the dau and yeare first above written.

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### Summary and Comments:

This document confirms the assignment of all the manorial lands and rights inherited by the GRENVILLE family, and which ended up in control of John GRENVILLE the First Earl of Bath. The lands were extensive, but at the top of the list is the Burrough, Manor and Barton of Bideford. This document is a continuance of G-3205 (1650) where the Bideford Manor Lands were mortgaged.

John GRENVILLE mortgaged much of the family fortune to fund the Royalist cause during the English Civil War, and it seems as though this loan was not paid back by the date stipulated, so Dame Margaret CHOLMELEY became possessed of the property for the term of 500 years. In consideration of the £3,250 debt paid to her and £750 to John GRENVILLE by Orlando BRIDGEMAN & Jeffery PALMER, the property is assigned to them as trustees to hold it for the term of 500 years.

However, an intended marriage was due to take place between John GRENVILLE and Jane WYCHE, and this document confirms that if this took place, the trustees shall, at the expense of GRENVILLE, convey the property to such person as holds the reversion (ie GRENVILLE) and the 500 year term is declared void. If the marriage did not take place, the trustees shall hold the property for the 500 year term on behalf of Jane WYCHE in lieu of part of her marriage portion equating to the sum of £4,000. As soon as the the loan had been repaid, Dame Margaret's involvement ended.

BRIDGEMAN and PALMER were both Baronets and staunch Royalists, no doubt comrades-in-arms with John GRENVILLE who was himself a prominent Royalist. Given that they were from the Inns of Court, they were also probably lawyers. Margaret CHOLMELEY's position and status has not been able to be determined.

This document ties in with the intervention of Charles II in the GRENVILLE affairs, as it was he who in gratitude for John GRENVILLE's support in his re-instatement as King, settled/dismissed all charges and debts that John GRENVILLE had accrued during the Civil War, knighted him for his bravery, and later conferred him with the titles of Earl of Bath, Viscount GRANVILLE, and Baron GRANVILLE.

[David Carter & Andy Powell. Thanks also to Tim Wormleighton for his input on this one]

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## Appendix: 19

### Document Catalogue Description:

BRAB328/8 - 15 Jan 1657

AGREEMENT TO LEVY FINE:

(i) Sir John Grenvile of Stowe [Kilkhampton] and Jane (his wife) and Cyrill Wyche

(ii) Rt Hon Dame Jane Meyricke, widow

Sir William Meredith of Kent and Richard (his son) Manors of Wolston, Widemouth, Woodford, Northleigh etc.

Royal Institution of Cornwall reference: BRAB-328/8

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

The document was worn and faded in many places, making parts of the text illegible.

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### Cover:

S. John GRENVILE and others, to Lady Jane MEYRICKE and others.

Deed to leas the use of a fine to be levied of the Manors of Wolston, Wydmouth, North Lee and a moyety of the Manor of Michael Norton and severall mesoes and demesnes thereto belong.

Dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 1657.

### Inside document:

This indenture made the fifteenth dau of January in the year of our Lord God under computation used in England one thousand six hundred fifty and and seaven **Between** Sir John GRANVILE of Stow in the county of Cornewall senr, and Dame J~~~~ ~?~ And Cyrill WYCHE ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ of the ~?~ ~?~sehold of the ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ one of his said late majesties most honourable privy councell of the one part, And the right honourable Dame Jane MEYRICKE widdowe ~?~ ~?~ Sir John MEYRICKE of Momck~in(?) in the county of Pembroke Knight dec'd, and before that wise(?) of the said Sir Peter WYCHE S~ ~?~ ~?~ of Leeds Abby in the county Kent Barronet, and Richard MEREDITH esquire sonne and heir apparent of the said Sir William MEREDITH of other part **Witnesseth** that for the satlinge(?) and estating of the mannors messuages ~?~s tenements and hereditaments hereafter ~?~ to such use as and thereafter ~~~~~oned, And for divers other good causes and considerations them thereunto moveing **It is** covenanted and concluded and agreed by of and between the said parties to these presents, and the said Sir John GREENVILE, Dame Jane his wyfe and Cyril WYCHE for themselves and every of them ~?~ ~?~ every of their heires and assignes doe covenant and grant and o~rd~le and with the said de~~~~ ~?~ MEYRICKE Sir William MEREDITH and Richard MEREDITH and every of them their and every of their heyres executors administrators and assignes ~?~ these presents, that the said Sir John GRENVILE and Dame Jane his wife and Cyrill WYCHE the ~?~ ~~~~~isfide and before the last day of October comeing after the date of these presents acknowledge and leavy in due forme of law in the court of common-bench at Westminster before the Justices there unto the said Dame Jane ~?~ William MEREDITH Richard MEREDITH and the heires of one of them or to the survivor ~?~ his or their heires one of more ~?~ ~?~ sur cognizance de droit come ceo q'ilsout de lour done whereupon ~~~~~clan~~~~ ~?~ ~?~ bee ~?~? made according to the ~?~ in that case made and provided after the manner and comon' o~se of fines in ~?~ ~?~ of ~?~ the~~~~onrous of ~?~ ~~~~~hdmouth Woodford Lee otherwise Leigh otherwise North Lee otherwise North Leigh ~?~ Moiety or one halfe of the m~~~~~ Michael Morton in the said county of Cornwall with all their and every of the ~?~ ~?~ rights members and ~~~~~ences **And** all those cappital messuages Bartons and demesnes of Wolston and Lee als Lee otherwise North Lee otherwise North Leigh with their and every of their rights members and appurtenances in the said county of Cornwall And of all and singular the Bartons Messuages demesne Lands lands tenements

and hereditaments whatsoever to the said messuages lands and premises or any of them belonging or in any wise apperteyning or with them every of them demised held(?) letten occupied or conveyed(?) or accepted revised or taken as part or parcel of member of them or any of them, By such ~?~ names quantitie or quantities qualities ~?~ qualities ~~~le~ or contents of any as shall bee thought fitt and agreed. **And it** is covenanted granted concluded agreed and declared ~?~ between, All and every the ~?~ ~?~ these presents, That the said Fy~~~~ ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ fyne and fynes in such manner ~?~ forme as aforsaid, or in any other ~?~ ~?~ ~~~s~~ine had or leased or to be had leav(?) every ~~~rferred of the said mannors bartons demenses messuages lands de~ements hereditaments and premisses and every or any parte thereof by and between the said Parties to these presents or any other ~y any man~or ~?~ ~?~ ever shall be confirmed adindged Padandtour(?) to bee ~?~ shall bee and Ju~~~~ And the said counzers, and the S~~~~vers and ~?~ ~?~ and his or her heires shall stand and bee seized of the said mannors Bartons demesnes messuages lands tenements hereditaments ~?~ premisses with the appurtenances **To** the use and behoofe of the said Dame Jane MEYRICKE and Cyrill WYCHE their heires and executors for ever. And to noe other use ~sent or pur~~t whatsoever **In Witnes** whereof the parties first above named to these presents And ~?~ ~?~ interchangeably their hands and seales he sett the day and yeare first above written.

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### Summary and Comments:

Some significant parts of this document have been worn away in a crease, but this is a fairly brief document, which appears to be partly a precursor to the 1666 document transcribed in Appendix 25 (BRAB-328/19).

John GRENVILLE is able to obtain money with his estates offered as collateral. The money is undoubtedly being raised to finance the return of Charles II and the restoration of the Monarchy a few years later. No actual sum is mentioned here, but it was probably felt that the estates were an adequate guarantee for any possible debts that John GRENVILLE might accrue.

In 1652 John GRENVILLE married Jane WYCHE, the daughter of Sir Cyrill WYCHE and Jane (nee MEREDITH). Sir William MEREDITH of Leeds Abbey was the father of Jane MEREDITH, so in effect John GRANVILLE was borrowing money from his father-in-law, and his wife's grand-father. Obviously Royalists, they were able to lobby their cause by financing the restoration, and offered the best security and source of finance to John GRENVILLE.

Dame Jane MEYRICK was the wife of Sir Cyrill WYCHE, these being the parents of Jane GRENVILLE (nee WYCHE), wife of John GRENVILLE, Dame Jane having re-married after her husband Cyrill's death.

Much of the complex web surrounding 1657 relates to the move to re-instate Charles II. Oliver CROMWELL died in 1658, and his son Richard was appointed to succeed him, but was not up to the job, and there were many political discussions as to how to resolve the situation.

The previous year, Sir John GRENVILLE was elected member for Newport in Wales along with William MORICE – a surname which appears in other places in these documents. William MORICE is alleged to have proclaimed to Richard CROMWELL that the west of England was keen to see the return of the King (Charles II). Richard CROMWELL did not appear to object to this as it was soon afterwards that the process started, aimed at financing and obtaining the return of Charles II.

Since we now know that Charles II later wrote off all of John GRENVILLE's debts, it appears that John GRENVILLE effectively mortgaged much of the GRENVILLE estate to fund that return knowing that if successful all would be well and he would curry substantial favour (which he did).

All this explanation serves to explain the reason behind these documents, and also to confirm the close family relationship that the GRENVILLEs had with the WYCHE, MEREDITH, MEYRICK and MORICE families. In particular, the Coat-of-Arms painted on the wall of No.1 Bridge Street is identical to the arms of William MEREDITH of Leeds Abbey, and is therefore the ancestral Arms of Jane WYCHE, wife of John GRENVILLE.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 20

Document Catalogue Description: Lease for a year of the Burrough, Manor and Barton at Biddeford, Devon, Sir Henry Palmer of Wingham, Kent, Baronet and others to Sir Cyrill Wyche, 20 Jan 1657.

Grafton Collection

Northamptonshire Record Office ref: G 2885

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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**This Indenture** made the twentieth day of January in the yeare of our Lord God according to the computation used in all England one thousand six hundred fifty and seaven. **Betweene** Sir Henry PALMER of Wingham in the county of Kent Barronet sonne heire of Sir Thomas PALMER late of Wingham aforesaid in the said County of Kent Barronet and the right Honorable Dame Jane MEYRICK widowe late wife of Sir Peter WYCHE Lt [lately?] deceased Comptroller of the household to the late King Charles and one of his Majesties most honerable privy councill of the one parte And Cyrillus WYCHE one of the sonnes of the said Dame Jane and Sir Peter WYCHE of the other parte, **Witnesseth** that the said Sir Henry PALMER for and in consideration of the sume of tenne shillings of lawful money of England to him in hand paid by the said Cyrilus WYCHE before the ensealing and delivery of these presents and for diverse other good causes and considerations him thereunto moveing by the consent of the said Dame Jane MEYRICK testified by her being made party and setting her hand and seale to these presents **hath** bargained and sold and by these presents doth bargaine and sell unto the said Cyrillus WYCHE his executors administrators and assignes, **All** that the Burrough Manor and Barton of Biddeford in the County of Devon with the rights members and appurtenances thereof whatsoever, And the advowson donaton free dispositon and right of patronage of the Rectory and parish church of Biddeford in the said County of Devon, And all that the Burrough and Mannor of Kilkhampton. And all those mannors of Wolston Wydmouth Woodford Lee otherwise Leigh otherwise North Lee otherwise North Leigh and the moity or one halfe of the mannor of Michael Morton in the said County of Cornwall with all their and every of their rights members and appurtenances whatsoever, And all those capitall Messuages Bartons and Demesnes of Stowe Dinsmouth Wolston and Lee otherwise Leigh otherwise North Lee otherwise North Leigh with their and every of their rights members and appurtenances in the said County of Cornwall, And the advoswons donatons free dispositons and rights of Patronage of the Rectory Prebend viccaredges and parish churches of Kilkhampton and Weeke St Mary in the said county of Cornwall, And all other the Messuages Lands Tenements rents reversions and hereditaments whatsoever whereof or wherein Sir Beville GRENVILE Kt late father of Sir John GRENVILE Kt and the said Sir John GRENVILE or either of them at any tyme thencefore was seized of any estate of inheritance lying and being in the townes villages parishes or hamlets of Biddeford Kilkhampton Stowe Stratton Lanncells Moore Winstowe Pounstock Woodford Lee otherwise Leigh otherwise North Lee otherwise North Leigh Marchamchurch and Weeke St Mary and every of any of them in the said countyes of Devon and Cornwall or either of them, And all Messuages Tofts(?) houses Mills Gardens orchards meadows pastures woods underwoods warrens comons waters watercourses fisherings rents revertions services Mines of Cole open and covert covered liberties franchizes priviledges profitts emoluments and hereditaments whatsoever to the said Burroughes Manors Bartons Advowsons Messuages Lands Tenements and premises or any parts or parcell thereof belonging or in any wise apperteyneing or reputed esteemed taken often occupied or enjoyed to or with the same or at any parte parcell or member thereof or within or uppon the same lawfully to bee had taken exercized or enjoyed And the reversion and revertions remaynder and remaynders yearlely and other rents and profitts reserved due or payable uppon any demise or Lease Demises or Leases of the premises or any parte thereof. **To have and to hold** the said Burroughes Mannors Bartons Rectories Advowsons

Messusages Lands Tenements and premises and every parte and parcell thereof with the appurtenances unto the said Cyrillus Wyche his executors administrators and Assigns from the day next before the date of these presents unto the full end and terme of one whole yeare from thence next ensuing and fully to be compleat and ended, **Yeildeing** and paying therefore unto the said Sir Henry PALMER his heires and assignes the rent of one pepper corne at the feast of St Michael the Archangell if the same shall bee demanded. **In witnes** whereof the partyes first above named to these presents indentures intent interchangably their hands and seales have set the day and yeare first above written.

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**Summary and Comments:**

This document refers to the lands previously assigned in 1652 by John GRENVILLE the first Earl of Bath to Sir Henry PALMER.

The various manorial lands and rights were owned by the GRENVILLE family, namely John GRENVILLE the first Earl of Bath, until 1652. Top of the list of leased lands is the Burrough, Manor and Barton of Bideford, although the portfolio of lands is extensive.

Dame Jane MEYRICK is Jane WYCHE, the mother of Jane GRENVILLE (nee WYCHE), wife of John GRENVILLE, (she re-married after her husband's death), as has been explained in the previous document.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 21

Document Catalogue Description: Lease for 99 years of land at Bydeford, Devon, Earl of Bathe to Nicholas Morice, 14 Dec 1664.

Grafton Collection

Northamptonshire Record Office ref: G 2932

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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**This indenture made** the fourteenth day of December in the sixteenth yeare of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles the second by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King defender of the faith, **Betweene** the Right honorable John EARLE OF BATHE of the one parte and Nicholas MORICE youngest sonne of the Right honorable Sir William MORICE Knt principall secretary to his Majesty of the other parte, **Witnesseth** that the said John EARLE OF BATHE for and in consideration of the summe of two hundred and tenne pounds of lawfull money of England in hand paid by the said Nicholas MORICE the receipt whereof the said John EARLE of BATHE doth hereby acknowledge and thereof and of every parte and parcel thereof doth exonerate acquitt and discharge the said Nicholas MORICE his heires executors administrators and assignes and every of them by these presents **Hath** demised leased graunted and to ferme letten and by these presents doth demise lease grannt and to ferme lett unto the said Nicholas MORICE All that messuage and tenement with the appurtenances called Porte situate lying and being in the parish of Bydeford and countie of Devon and all lands meadows pasture seeding waive easement profits and commodities whatsoever to the said messuage and tenement or to eyther of them belonging or in any wise appertaining except and always referred unto the said John EARLE OF BATHE his heirs and assignes and his and their servants and followers free liberty of ingresse egress and regress into and upon the premises aforesaid as well to hawke hunt fowle and fish at his and their will and pleasure, as alsoe to view and see what waste or spoyle is or shalbee done or committed upon the said premises or any parte thereof and also except all tymbre trees in and upon the premises growing or to bee growen with free liberty ingresse egress and regress to and for the said John EARLE of BATHE his heires and assignes and his and their servants and followers to fell cutt down and carry away the same. And also except all mines of coale riseing and growing, or to bee riseing and growing in or upon the foresaid premises or any parte thereof, with free liberty ingresse egress and regress to and for the said John EARLE OF BATHE his heires and assignes and his and their servants labourers and workmen to search for and to digge and work the said myne and mynes of coale at his and their will and pleasure, and for the laying and carrying away of the coale which shall bee digged upp out of the said coale mynes soe as the said John EARL OF BATH his heires and assignes doe and shall from time during the terme hereafter limited give and yeeld unto the said Nicholas MORICE his executors administrators and assignes such sufficient recompence and satisfaction for the trespasses lapses and damages which shall happen growe come or bee unto him or them by means reason or in respect of the digging or working of any coale myne or mynes in or on upon the foresaid premises or any parte thereof, and by laying and carrying away of the coals as by two sufficient men between them indifferente to bee chosen shall bee thought meete and convenient to bee given and yeilded. **To have** and to hold all and singular the said messuage and tenement and other the premises with the appurtenances (~next before prepted) unto the said Nicholas MORICE his executors administrators and assignes for and during the full time and terme of fower score and nyneteene years fully to be compleate and ended if Anne MORICE daughter of the foresaid Sir William MORRICE Knt and Gartrude MORICE daughter of William MORICE of Werington in the said countie Barronet or eyther of them so long shall happen to live. The said terme to commence and begin ymediately from and after the death surrender forfeiture or any lawfull determination of the estate with Henry BERRY of

Bydeford in the countie aforesaid now hath of and in the said premises. **Yeelding** and paying therefore yearelie (after the commencement of the said terme herein before granted during the continuance of the same) unto the said John EARLE OF BATHE his heires and assignes fower and twentie shillings of lawfull money of England at fower termes of the yeare (that is to say the feast of the birth of our Lord God Thannunciation of the blessed Lady the virgine Mary, the Nativite of St John the Baptist and St Michael the Archangel by even and equall portions, the first payment thereof to begin at such of the said feastes as shall happen after the beginning of the said terme **And** alsoe yeelding and paying upon and after the death of every of the said Anne and Gartrude MORICE dying after the commencement of the said terme the be[*crease*] of such person persons as for that time being shalbe [dennant(?)] *crease* ier of the same premises at the greatest part thereof by force and virtue of these presents for and in the name of a herriot or farleise(?) or fower pounds of lawfull money of England in lieu or steppeny(?) such best beast at the election and choice of the said John EARLE OF BATH his heires and assignes provided alwayes that hiring the said Anne MORICE noe such best beast nor sume of money in lieu thereof shalbee due or demanded by or after the death of the said Gartrude MORICE, **And** the said Nicholas MORICE his executors administrators and assignes from and after the commencement of the said terme and during the continuance of the same shall by themselves or his or their sufficient deputy or deputies doe and execnt the office of a tythingman when unto him or them it shall happen for and in the Mannor of Bydeford in the said county of Devon. **And** alsoe shall then doe suite to all the courts of the said John EARLE OF BATHE his heires and assignes that shalbee holden and kept for and within the said Mannor of Bydeford upon reasonable warning thereof given as other the tenants of the said Mannor there doe, or have been accustomed to doe. **And** likewise shall then doe suite and geinde at the Lords greist my [*crease*] within the said Mannor as other the tenants of the said Mannor these doe or ought to doe during the said terme. **And** the said Nicholas MORICE doth for himself his heires executors administrators and assignes and for any of them covenant promise and grant to and with the said John EARLE OF BATHE his heires and assignes and to and which every of them by these presents, that he the said Nicholas MORICE his executors administrators and assignes or some or one of them shall and will then also well and sufficiently repaire sustaine and maintaine all and singular the before demised premises with the appurtenances as well in houses, walles, coverings, hedges, ditches, gates, fences, and inclosures, as in all other full and necessary reparations whatsoever when and as after as need shall require at his and their owne proper coste and charges during the said terme having and takeing towards the said reparations great tymber in and upon the premises growing or to bee growne, by the deliverie or appoyntment of the said John EARLE OF BATHE his heires or assignes, or his or their bayleiffe or other officer there for the time being and not otherwise, and fireboote, ploughboote, foldboote ha<sup>~</sup>?~boote and all other necessaries for the same reparations in and upon the premises from time to time growing and there upon to bee present and employed when and as often as need shalbee without delivery during the terme aforesaid making therefore thereby noe waste spoyle or destruction. **And** the said Nicholas MORICE doth also for him selfe his heires executors administrators and assignes and for every of them covenant promise and grant to and with the said John EARLE OF BATHE his heires and assignes and to and withevery of them by these presents, that hee the said Nicholas MORICE his executors administrators and assignes or one of them shall and will yearely during the continuance of the terms aforesaid at good and reasonable times in the yeare used for planting and setting of trees, sett and plant or cause to bee sett and planted in and upon the premises inconvenient places therof two good plants of [*crease*] ayshe or cline(?) which are likely to grow and prosper and the same after they shalbee so sett and plantes shall well preserve and kepe or cause to be performed and kept from pishing and spoyling so farre forth [*crease*] they may during the said terme. **And if it happen** the said yearely rent of fower and twenty shillings to bee behind or unpaid in parte or in all by the space of eight weekes next after any of the feasts or days of payment aforesaid wherein the same ought to be paid being lawfully demanded and not paid and noe sufficient distresse in or uppon the premises can or may bee found whereby the said rent so being behind with the arreareages thereof if any bee can or

may bee leaved. **Or** if the said Nicholas MORICE his executors administrators or assignes or any of them shall doe of comitt to cause to bee done or committed any wilfull or voluntary waste or spoyle in or upon the premises or any parte thereof to the vullue of twenty shillings of currant Englishe money or upwarde on the same premises or at any parte thereof shall suffer to bee ruynous in decaye unrepaired to the value of twenty shillings of like current English money or upwards, and the same waste spoyle and decayes shall not well and sufficiently repair and amend againe within one whole yeare next after warning or admonition in that behalf to be given to the said Nicholas MORICE his executors administrators assignes or to one of them. This then and at all times after for all or any of the causes aforesaid it shall and may bee lawfull to and for the said John EARLE OF BATHE his heires and assignes into all and singular the premises with the appurtenances to reenter and the same to have againe and retayne as in his or their former right and estate these present or any thing herein contayned to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. **And** the said John EARLE OF BATHE his heires and assignes as well all and singular the foresaid premises with thappurtenances (except before excepted) unto the said Nicholas MORICE his executors and assignes for and during the terme aforesaid, under the said rents herriotts suites and ~~~ices aforesaid and in manner and forme aforesaid shall and will warrant a~~nitt and defend by these presents as alsoe shall discharge sane and keepe harmesse the said Nicholas MORICE his executors administrators and every of them and also all and singular the foresaid premises, with thappurtenances against the cheife lord and lords of the fee of the premises for the time being of and for all manner of these rents and services payable or to bee paid for the same during the said terme and estate before in these presents mentioned. **In witness** hereof the partyes aforesaid to these present indentures interchangeable have sett their hands and seales yeven the day and yeare first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of Hum: MORICE, Elizabeth MORICE, Lewes PRESCOTT.

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### Summary and Comments:

This document confirms the lease by John GRANVILLE, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Bath of various lands and rights belonging to a property in Bideford called 'Porte'; to Nicholas MORICE, son of the King's principal secretary. It shows that in 1664, the GRANVILLE family still had various parts of Bideford in portfolio of land investment.

The location of the property mentioned in this document are unclear, but given the comments about coal and the rights to the wood and fishing it seems to refer to East-the-Water as the only other coal location in Bideford was around Pitt Lane and that location would simply not have provided all the other benefits. As such it is probably the same property referred to in G-3002 (1633), although at that time it was referred to as the Barton or Grange Farm. Here we have reference to it being called 'Porte'.

Nicholas MORICE was an M.P. of no particular repute, but the MORICE family did have close links with the GRENVILLES.

Henry BERRY and several other generations of BERRYS lived at Eastleigh Manor from about 1500 to after 1701.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 22

Document Catalogue Description: Release and quittance of all claims, the Mayor, Aldermen and Capital Burgesses of the Borough of Biddeford on the Earl of Bath of the Manor of Biddeford, 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 1665.

Grafton Collection

Northamptonshire Record Office ref: G 3221

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come Wee the Maior Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the Burrough and Towne of Biddeford send greeting in our Lord God Everlasting

**Whereas** Sir Richard GRENVILE Knight longe since deceased in the fowerteenth yeare of Queen Elizabeth then called Richard GRENVILE esquire, And his ancestors, for a longe time before were seized in his and their demesne as of fee, of and in the mannor and Burrough of Biddiford in the said countie of Devon Together with all their rights liberties royalties and priueledges fayres, marketts, fishings, waists, estrayes, felons goods, wast, and wast places, members and appurtenances whatsoever, within the said Mannor and Burrough thereunto belonging and appertayninge and beinge so seized did permitt and suffer the then inhabitants of the said Burrough to suefoorth and obtayne from her said Maiestie in the sixteenth yeate of her raigne, a Charter of letters patents for incorporating of the inselued, and therin and therby did mention the granting unto them of diuers and sundry priueledges and advantages which did rightfully and properly belong to the said Richard GRENVILE and his Ancestors, And then shortly after to witt in the Eighteenth yeare of the said Maiesties raigne the then Maior, Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the Burrough and Towne of Biddeford aforesaid, did by their deed under their hands and seales mutually covenant and agree for themselves and their successors, to and with the said Richard GRENVILE and his heires, that the said Richard GRENVILE his heires and assignes should and might have hold use occupye and enioy all and singular such reuennues, issues, profits and commodities within the said mannor, towne, and burrough of Biddeford, as hee the said Richard GRENVILE, before the makeing of the said letters pattents had lawfully occupied and enioyed or of right ought of might, to have occupied and enioyed, The said lettere patents or any thinge therein contayned to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding **And whereas** the said Maior Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the Burrough and Towne of Biddeford aforesaid, afterwards in the seaventh yeare of the raigne of King James over England and etc, did obtayne new and other letters pattents from his said Maiestie, with diuers and sundrye priueladges therein mentioned and expressed as aforesaid, And theruppon within few yeares afterwards they the said Maior Aldermen and Capital Burgesses of Biddeford aforesaid did procure and obtayne of and from Sir Barnard GRENVILE Knight, likewise deceased, sonne and heire of the said Richard GRENVILE in consideration of the yearly rent of eight pounds the moieties of the benefitts advantage of fayres and marketts, and other rights and priueledges the [~words lost in crease~] them and their successors for the terme of twenty one yeares which said terme did expire and determine about twenty three years since, And the right Honorable John EARLE OF BATH, Viscount GRENVILE of Landsdowne and Baron of Kilkhampton and Biddeford aforesaid, And grand sonne of the said Barnard GRENVILE, to whome the said Burrough and Mannor, together with all the rights members royalties priueledges and emoluments, within rightfully descend, and come, being then in his minortye, And since remayninge, longe in the parts beyond the seas, did not enioy the aforsaid liberties, priuelidges, profits, and emoluments, within his said Lordshipp and Mannor of Biddeford, without intrusion clayme and interruption of the inhabitants of Biddiford aforesaid and others, whereof this Maiestye that now is, takeing the same into his primiey consideration, did by his gracious letters patents bearing date the tenth day of April in the fowerteenth yeare of his raigne,

for the removing of divers doubts and questions concerning the said liberties privileges and emoluments of him the said Earle, did amongst other things, thereby give grant and confirmee unto the aforesaid Earle his heires and assignes for ever, within this said Mannor and Lordshipp of Biddiford aforesaid, and the limits and precincts thereof, all and every the goods and chattels, and debts of all persons whatsoever, having goods or chattels within his said Lordshipp and manor of all persons attainted of petty treason, of murders, felons, of themselves and others, felons & fugatives and all persons whatsoever, outlawed for treason, or felonye, deodands, goods and chattels waved, and estrayed, and treasure trove, to be found within the limits and precincts of the said manor, And all and every wrecks of the sea, and the sea sand, and sandy ground, of the shoore and coasts, of the sea there, and also all and every the casual profits of shippes and other vessels whatsoever, as well for anchorage and salvage, of the same shippes and vessels upon the soyle and ground of the said Earle, as also for the lastage and ballastage, or ballasting with land or stones, of vessels, within the limits and precincts of the Lordshipp of manor of Biddiford aforesaid, together with divers other royalties immunities and privileges in the said letters patents mentioned, wherunto relation being had more at large it doth and in a~~? appeare, **And** also whereas divers disputes, controversies and debates have been(?) raised for divers yeares last past, and now still are had, moving and depending betweene the said Maior Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses, And the said Earle, as well concerning the fayres marketts to be held and kept within the said Burrough and Mannor of Biddiford, as also concerning the Keyage, bushelage, wasts and divers other liberties privileges royalties and immunities within the said manor, and lordship of Biddiford aforesaid **Now these presents** shall witness that for the appeasinge pacifyinge removeinge concludeinge and avoidinge all farther differences for ever hereafter touching or concerning the said premises and every parte thereof, betweene the said Maior, Aldermen, and Capitall Burgesses, and their successors, and the said Earle and his heires and assignes as alsoe, for divers & sundry other good causes and considerations then the said Maior Aldermen and Burgesses(?) essentially moveinge, Have given granted released and quite clayme And in and by these presents doe for them and their successors give grant remise release and for ever quite claime, and conforme unto the said John EARLE OF BATH and his heires, All the right estate title, terme, clayme, suterest and demand whatsoever of them the said Maior Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of in and unto the said premises and any parte thereof which they now have, and clayme or ought to have and clayme by virtue and colour of any title or pretence whatsoever, And the said Maior Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses doe for themselves And their successors farther covenant promise grant conclude and agree To and with the said John EARLE OF BATH and his heires that they the said Maior Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses, And their successors shall and will, at all time, and times, hereafter within the space of three yeares next ensuing the date hereof at the costs and charges in the law of the said Earle, And upon the request of the said Earle or his assignes, make, signe, seale, and deliver, As their Act and Deed or deeds, such farther and other writings releases with confirmations or other assurances, as by his or their counsell learned in the law, shall be reasonably devised or required for the more s~~~ surrendringe grantine or releasinge of all their clayme what forever according to the true intent and meaning of these presents for the better ratifyinge and confirmeinge of the same, **provided** alwayes and it is the true intend and meaning of these presents that all and every priviledge and exemption that any particular free man or free Burgesse of this Burrough shall or may in any manner of way lawfully clayme to have within this Burrough is not hereby released or discharged, **In witness** whereof the said Maior Aldermen and Capital Burgesses have hereunto put their hands And also the common seale of the said Towne of Biddiford the three and twentieth day of October in the seaventeenth yeare of the raigne of our dread soveraigne Lord Kinge Charles the Second by the Grace of god of England Scotland France and Ireland Defender of the fayth etc, Any Dom: 1655.

Hugh TUCKER  
John FROST

Salathieil AMOR  
John PEAK  
Philip BEALE  
Robert MARSH  
Jno DA~~~[covered by seal]  
George MIDDLETONE  
Cra:(?) FLEMAN(?)  
Wm REEV  
Robert ~~~~[covered by fold]  
Thomas GORLING(?)

Signed sealed and delivered by the within named Maior Aldermen & Burgesses in the presence of:  
Simon THURLEY  
Rich: PRIDEAUX  
Jo: WYNNE  
And: CORY  
Arundell BULL  
Edw: BULL  
Step: ORCHARD  
Robt: PEARCE

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**Summary and Comments:**

This seems to be an annulment of the Town Council's claims on the GRENVILLE estate in the Manor of Bideford, probably related to Charles II's involvement in settling John GRENVILLE's debts.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 23

Document Catalogue Description: Copy of release of all actions, debts, judgments of John, Earl of Bath to the Mayor, Alderman and Capital Burgesses of the Borough of Biddeford, 23 Oct 1665.

Grafton Collection

Northamptonshire Record Office ref: G 3222

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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These presents shall witness that I the right honorable John EARLE OF BATH Viscount GRENVILLE of Lansdowne, and Baron of Kilkhampton and Biddeford doe hereby re~yse release and for ever quite clayme unto John DARRACOTT Maior, George MIDDLETON, Abraham HEGMAN, William KEENE, Hugh TUCKER, John FROST, John DEAKE, Phillipp BEALE, Robert BOOLE, Thomas GEARING, Zalathieil AMORGE, and Robert MARSH Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the Towne and Burrough of Biddiford their executors and administrators every & either of them of & from all & all manner of actions cause & causes of actions debts sutis trespasses judgements & demands whatsoever (rent & felons goods only excepted) which I the said John EARLE OF BATH now gane or heer-after map or ought to gane against them or either of them for of by reason of any cause colour or matter whatsoever from the beginning of the world unto the day of the date hereof (rents of assise & felons goods as aforesaid excepted). In witnes whereof I the said John EARLE OF BATH have heerunto putt my hand & seale the three and twentieth dau of October in the seaventeenth yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne Lord King Charles the second over England, etc. Annoy Domi 1665.

Sealed and delivered in presence of us

Robert PEARCE

Jo: WYNN

Step: ORCHARD

Jonahan HOOPER

[On the back: A Copy of my Lords release to the maior etc of Bideford]

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### Summary and Comments:

This appears to be a document from John GRENVILLE saying that he discharges the Town Council of all previous claims made by him against them. The underlying reason for this is unknown.

Interestingly, the only full list of serving Council Officers prior to 1851, was in 1574. This document adds significantly to the History of Bideford Borough, as it gives a full list of Aldermen and Burgesses serving in 1665.

Of note is that John FROST also mentioned was Mayor in 1666 and again in 1675.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 24

### Document Catalogue Description:

BRAB328/19 - 26 June 1666

DECLARATION OF TRUST:

(i) Sir Cyril Wyche of Surrey, kt

(ii) Rt Hon John, Earl of Bath

Woodford, Widemouth, Wolston and Northleigh

Royal Institution of Cornwall reference: BRAB-328/19

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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This indenture made the six and twentieth day of June in the eighteenth yeare of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles the second by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the faith. **Betweene** Sir Cyrill WYCHE of Flannchford in the County of Surrey knight of the one part, And the right honourable John EARL OF BATH Groome of the stol and first gentleman of his Majesties Bedchamber and the Lady Jane his wife of the other part **Whereas** the said Earle and the Lady Jane his wife by the name of Sir John GRENVILE of Stowe in the county of Cornwall knight and Dame Jane his wife and the said Sir Cyrill WYCHE by the name of Cyrill WYCHE gent second son of ~?~ right honourable Sir Peter WYCHE knight deceased comptroller of the household of the late Kinge majestie and one of his said ~?~ most honourable Privy Councell In and by certain indentures bearing date the ~~~th day of January one thousand six hundred fiftie and seven did covenant to leavy a fine unto Dame Jane MEYRICK widow, Sir William MEREDITH Barronett and Sir Richard MEREDITH esquire and the heires of one of them in the then Court of Comon Bench att Westminster before the Justices there of all those the mannors of Wolston, Wydmouth, Woodford, Lee otherwise Leigh otherwise North Lee otherwise North Leigh and of the moiety or one half of the mannor of Michael Morton in the said county of Cornwall ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ of their rights members and appurtenances And of all their capitall messuages bartons and demenses of Wolston, and Lee otherwise Leigh otherwise North Lee otherwise North Leigh with their and every of their rights members and appurtenances in the said county of Cornwall And of all and singular bartons messuages demesnes lands tenements and hereditaments whatsoever to the said mannors lands and premisses or any of them belonging or in any wise apperteyning with them or any of them demised held letten occupied or enioyed or accepted reputed or taken as part parcel or member of them or any of them by such name or names quantitie or quantities quality or qualities member or contents of acres as should be thought fit and agreed on And that the said fine should bee to the use of the said Dame Jane MEYRICK and Sir Cyrill WYCHE their heires and assignes forever which said fine was afterwards leavyed accordingly And in and by certaine indentures bearing date the thirteenth day of February one thousand six hundred fifty and seven made betweene the said Earle and the Lady Jane his wife and Sir Cyrill WYCHE by the names in the said first recited indentures esprest of the one part and the said Dame Jane MEYRICK of the other part It was declared and agreed by and betweene the said parties that the said mannors and premises were soe as aforesaid conveyed and assured to the use of the said Dame Jane MEYRICK and Sir Cyrill WYCHE and their heires upon the trust and confidence in the said last recited indentures expressed (that is to say) upon trust and confidence that the said Dame Jane MEYRICK and Sir Cyrill WYCHE and the survivour of them his or her heires should sell and convey the said Mannors Lands premisses or any part thereof and in the first place out of the moneyes raised by sale thereof should pay unto Richard FOWNES gentleman the sume of fower thousand and three hundred pounds with damages for the same in discharge of a mortgage thentofore made by the said Earle of the Burrough and Mannor of Kilkhampton the capitall messuage barton and demesne of Stowe and other lands and should in the

next place pay to the said Dame Jane MERICK the sume of one thousand and forty pounds upon the first day of May one thousand six hundred fifty and eight in discharge of the yearly sume of one hundred and twenty pounds and arrears thereof thentofore secured to bee paid to the said Dame Jane MEYRICK for her life, and afterwards should out of the moneyes arising by such sale pay all such other debts of the said Earles as hee by writing under his hand and seale delivered to the said Dame MEYRICK and Sir Cyrill WYCHE or one of them within the space of one year then next comeing should appointe and should pay the rest of the money to bee raised on such sale of the premisses or convey such part of the said premisses as should then remaine unsold unto the said Earle his heires and assignes. **And whereas** the said Earle hath snict(?) the makeing of the said conveyance satisfied and paid the said debt of fower thousand and three hundred pounds unto the said Richard FOWNES and thereby freed and discharged the said mortgage made for security thereof And the said Dame Jane MEYRICK being smit dead ~?~ the said Sir Cyrill WHCH is solely interested in the said debt of one thousand and forty pounds as executor of the last will and testament of the said Dame Jane MEYRICK **And Whereas** part of the foresaid mannors and premisses of which the said fine was leavyed (that is to say) the foresaid mannor of Woodford and mannor capital messuage barton and demasne of Lee otherwise Leigh otherwise North Lee otherwise North Leigh and the foresaid Moitie of the mannor of Michael Morton with the appurtenances were before the intermarriage of the said Earle and the Lady Jane his wife in and by certaine indentures tripartite dated the sixteenth dau of October Anno Domini One thousand six hundred fiftie and twoe and other goods assurances and conveyances in the lawe conveyed and settled unto and upon the said Lady Jane GRENVILE in part of her jointure whoe joined with the said Earle in the foresaid fine principally to free his said other lands from the foresaid great debt and incumbrance of fower thousand and three hundred pounds which being fully paid and discharged as aforesaid and the said Sir Cyrill WYCHE, being satisfied that the foresaid mannors of Wolston and Wydmouth and the said capital messuage barton and demeane of Wolston are sufficient to secure his foresaid debt of one thousand and forty pounds. **Now this indenture witnesseth** And it is covenanted grannted concluded agreed and declared by and between the said Sir Cyrill WYCHE and the said Earle for them and their heires, And the true intent and meaning of these presents and of all the parties hereunto is That the said Sir Cyrill WHCHE and his heires standeth and is and shall stand and bee seized and interested of and in all the foresaid mannors capital messuage barton demasne lands and premisses in the said first writed indenture and fine mentioned upon such trust and confidences as are herein after expressed and to noe other use trust member purpose whatsoever (that is to say) As for touching and concerning the foresaid mannors of Woodford and Lee otherwise Leigh otherwise North Lee otherwise North Leigh and the foresaid moietie or one halfe of the said mannor or Mitchell Morton and the foresaid Capital messuage barton and demasne of Lee otherwise Leigh otherwise North Lee otherwise North Leigh with their and every of their rights members and appurtenances onely in trust to and for the said Earle and his assignes for and during the terme of his natural life with power for the said Earle to make and grannt leases and estates of the premisses or any part thereof according to the limitations or provisions in that behalf made in and by the foresaid indentures tripartite and from and after his decease then in trust for the said Lady Jane his wife and her assignes for and during the terme of her natural life with power for her the said Lady Jane to make and grannt leases and estates of the premisses or of any part thereof according to the limitations or provisions in that behalf made by the same tripartite indentures as fully as shee the said Lady Jane GRENVILE might have done before the leavying of the said fine after the death of the said Earle and as if the said fine had not beene att all leavyed And it is hereby declared that from and after the making and granting of every and any such leased and estates either by the said Earle in his life tyme or by the said Lady Jane his wife after his death the said Sir Cyrill WYCHE and his heires shall and will stand and bee interested and seised of and in all such lands and tenements as shalbee soe estated or leased out, In trust for the severall and respective lessees thereof and their assigmes for and dureing the contynuance of their and every of their respective leases and estates therein, and of the rents and reversions thereof and of the rest and residue of the said last mentioned mannors and premisses

which shall not bee soe leased out, in trust as aforesaid for the said Earle and his assignes during his life and after his decease for the said Lady Jane his wife dureing her life And from and after both their deaths then in trust to and for the said John EARLE of BATHE his heires and assignes forever And for touching and concerning the foresaid mannors of Wolston and Wydmouth and the capitall messuage barton and demeane of Wolston with their and either of their rights members and appurtenances upon trust and confidence that the said Sir Cyrill WYCHE and his heirs shall as soone as conveniently bee con~~~~ the best pr~~~~ can get sett convey and assure the same or any part thereof to such person or persons as will buy the same and out of the same h~~ raised(?) or by ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ such sale shall ~?~ the ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ and ~?~ him or themselves of the foresaid debt or some of one thousand and forty pounds with interest and damages for the same from the first of May one thousand six hundred and sixtie and all such other debts as the said Earl hath appointed to be paid and owing to the power given him by the before recited indenture of the thirteenth of February one thousand six hundred fifty and seaven And ~?~ ~?~ ~?~ to bee paid unto the said Earl his heires and assignes ~?~ ~?~ moneys to be raised on such sale in case any shalbee And shall alsoe convey and assure unto the said Earle his heires and assignes att his and their onely costs and charges the residue and such rent of the said last mentioned premises as shall remayne unsold after the said debts satisfied or paid, if any such shall soe remayne unsold **And** the said Sir Cyrill WYCHE for him his heires executors and administrators and for every of them doth covenant grannt and agree to and with the said John EARLE of BATH his heires executors administrators and assignes and to and with every of them by these presents that hee the said Sir Cyrill WYCHE and his heires and all and ever other person or persons haveing or which may have or lawfully clayme to have any lawfull right title clayme or demand in or to the foresaid severall mannors capitall messuages bartons demeane and premisses or any part thereof by from or under him shall and will att any time hereafter upon request to him or them in that behalf made by fine or otherwise convey and assure the foresaid mannors of Woodford and Lee and the moiety of the mannor of Mitchell Morton and the foresaid capitall messuage barton and demeane of Lee with their and every of their appurtenances unto or for the use of the said Earle and Dame Jane his wife and of the heires of the said Earle according to the trust thereof herein before declared And shall and will also ~?~ ~?~ the foresaid debt of one thousand and forty pounds with interest and damages for the same from the foresaid first day of May one thousand six hundred and sixtie is fully satisfied and ~?~ ~?~ the said Cyrill WYCHE his heires or assignes and after all such other debts as the said Earle hath within the tyme limmited in and by the foresaid indentures of the thirteenth of February one thousand six hundred fiftie and seaven appointed to be paid according to the said last mentioned indenture By fine of otherwise convey and assure the foresaid mannors of Wolston and Wydmouth and capitall messuage barton and demeasne of Wolston or soe much thereof as shalbee left unsold after the said debt is paid unto or for the use of the said Earle his heires and assignes according to the trust herein declared ~?~ ~?~ assurances and conveyances of the foresaid severall and respective Mannors and premisses bee made and done att the costs and charges of the said Earle his heires or assignes or if the person of persons requesting the same **In witness** whereof the parties abovesaid in these present indentures have interchangeably sett their hands and seales the day and yeare first above written.

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### Summary and Comments:

This relates to the previous 1652 and 1657 documents transcribed above (they are specifically mentioned in this document).

It talks about John GRENVILLE's debts, and suggests that the properties subjected to mortgages/ rents etc, in 1657 did not get paid after 1660 by Sir John. (The sum of £1040 being the amount owing). It appears that an agreement was reached to sell off some of the estates mentioned in settlement of that debt, while others would be retained in a manner which allowed John and his wife Jane to live until their dying days.

However this is effectively irrelevant, as we know Charles II discharged John GRENVILLE of all his debts accrued.

Interpreting all these complex financial fines and leases, leaves an over-riding impression that John GRENVILLE was not at all good with money, and this may explain why John's son and heir eventually committed suicide over debts.

[David Carter & Andy Powell]

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## Appendix: 25

### Document Catalogue Description:

Ref: East-the-Water, Bideford SS 465264

Title: A Mapp of the **Tenement of Grange** upon the East land in the Mannor and Parish of Bideford in the County of Devon.

Surveyor: Joel GASCOYNE

Date: c.1699/1700

North Devon Record Office reference – 2379A/Z38/12

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“After a career in London as a chartmaker GASCOYNE turned to land surveying. He came to the South West some time after 1693 and surveyed some 258 landholdings for Baron ROBARTES of Lanhydrock between 1694 and 1699. At the same time he surveyed and produced, in 1699, his near one-inch-to-the-mile map of Cornwall. GASCOYNE also produced an Atlas of some 33 estate maps for the GRENVILLE family of Stowe near Kilkhampton and so the move to map the GRENVILLE lands in the Manor of Bideford could be a logical progression. The inclusion of number 28 on the top-right corner of the map and the suggestion of stitching on the left-side implies that the map of Grange was part of another Atlas.

The map shows fields north of the road from Bideford. Green is used to colour these fields but even so their use is clearly differentiated. Arable land has brown lines superimposed on the green background; green fields stippled with a deeper green are also classed as arable but this may well indicate those which were meadow/fallow at the time of mapping. Other areas in a pale green with darker shading are described as moor. Wood and orchards are shown with tree symbols. A table lists field names, their ‘Qualities’ (ie: land use) and ‘Quantities’ and this, with the colour and symbols seen here, is typical of all GASCOYNE’s work...

.... It is reasonable to suggest that maps of Devon estates would have formed the basis for such a county map; the GRENVILLE landholdings would have been a suitable starting point, and this map of Grange could well have been one of them. But it was not to be, for the death in 1701 of John GRENVILLE, Earl of Bath, deprived GASCOYNE of his patron, and no doubt led to the failure of this project.”

[Taken from: Devon Maps & Mapmakers, Manuscript Maps before 1840, Vol.1.]

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### Summary and Comments:

This map has confirmed the location of the ‘Grange’ property East-the-Water in Bideford, which was mentioned in document G-3002 (1633), and probably also in G-2932 (1664) where it seems to have been given the name ‘Porte’.



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## Appendix: 26

**Document Description:** Sale of Manor of Bideford to Bideford Corporation

Source: Torridge District Council

Date: 1881

Transcribed by [David Carter](#)

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This indenture made the eighteenth day of January One thousand eight hundred and eighty one between Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND of Tapley in the parish of Westleigh in the County of Devon, William Langham CHRISTIE of Glyndebourne in the County of Sussex M.P. and Agnes Hamilton his wife of the first part, Charles William HOLE of Bideford in the county of Devon gentleman, and the Reverend Henry Tubal HOLE of Plympton St Maurice in the County of Devon, clerk in holy orders of the second part, George LOCK of Instow in the said county of Devon, gentleman of the third part, Sir Arthur Divett HAYTER baronet and John HOLMS esquire (two of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury) of the fourth part, and the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough Town and Manor of Bideford in the County of Devon (hereinafter called 'The Corporation') of the fifth part.

**Whereas** Archibald CLEVELAND formerly of Tapley in the parish of Westleigh in the County of Devon esquire was at the time of his death seized for an estate of inheritance in fee simple in possession free from encumbrances of or to the hereditaments firstly hereinafter described.

**And whereas** the said Archibald CLEVELAND duly made his last will dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May one thousand eight hundred and fifty four and thereby gave devised and bequeathed All his freehold hereditaments with their appurtenances unto his uncle Robert Bruce CHICHESTER, his cousin Nugent CHICHESTER and Charles HOLE to hold unto the said Robert Bruce CHICHESTER, Nugent CHICHESTER and Charles HOLE their heirs and assigns to such uses upon such trusts and for such ends intents and purposes and with under and subject to such powers provisions charges declarations and agreements as the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND should by any deed or deeds direct or appoint.

**And whereas** the said Archibald CLEVELAND died on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November one thousand eight hundred and fifty four without having revoked or altered his said will which was subsequently duly proved by the said Robert Bruce CHICHESTER, Nugent CHICHESTER and Charles HOLE.

**And whereas** by an indenture dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October one thousand eight hundred and fifty five and made between the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND of the first part, the said Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE (by her then name and description of Agnes Hamilton CLEVELAND) of the second part, the said William Langham CHRISTIE of the third part, Robert Bruce CHICHESTER, Nugent CHICHESTER, and Charles HOLE of the fourth part and Sir Charles Cunliffe SMITH, Robert Bruce CHICHESTER, Joseph Stonehewer SCOTT [CHAD crossed out] and the said Charles HOLE of the fifth part (being a settlement made previously to and in contemplation of the marriage then intended and shortly afterwards duly solemnised between the said William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton CLEVELAND) the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND by virtue and in exercise of the power given to or vested in her by the said will of the said Archibald CLEVELAND apperted that the hereditaments firstly hereinafter described should after the solemnisation of the said then intended marriage go remain and be To the uses upon the trusts and for the intents and purposes and with under and subject to the powers and provisos agreements and declarations hereinafter declared concerning the same that was to say to such uses and trusts and for the intents and purposes and subject to such powers provisos agreements and declarations and charged and chargeable as the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND, Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE and William Langham CHRISTIE by any deed or deeds with or without of revocation and new appointment should or might from time to time jointly direct limit or appoint and in default of such appointment to the uses thereinafter declared.

**And whereas** by an indenture dated 24<sup>th</sup> day of June one thousand eight hundred and sixty four and made between Julia HOW and Edward Armstrong TELFER of the one part, and the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND of the other part the hereditaments secondly hereinafter described were granted unto and to the use of the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND her heirs and assigns forever.

**And whereas** by a bond or obligation dated the 27<sup>th</sup> day of November one thousand eight hundred and fifty two under the hand and seal of the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND and the Reverend James Hamilton CHICHESTER of Arlington in the said County of Devon clerk in holy orders, the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND and James Hamilton CHICHESTER became jointly and severally bound to William CALLON of Bideford aforesaid esquire in the sum of two thousand pounds conditioned for payment by the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND and James Hamilton CHICHESTER or one of them their or one of their heirs executors administrators and assigns unto the said William CALLON his executors administrators or assigns of the sum of one thousand pounds with interest for the same as therein mentioned.

**And whereas** the said William CALLON duly made his last will dated the 19<sup>th</sup> day of February one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight and thereby gave the residue of his personal estate including the said bond unto Mary Ann DAVIS and appointed her executrix of his said will.

**And whereas** the said William CALLON died on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight and his said will was afterwards duly proved by the said Mary Ann DAVIS.

**And whereas** by another bond or obligation dated the 6<sup>th</sup> day of October one thousand eight hundred and sixty three under the hand and seal of the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND, the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND became bound to the said Mary Ann DAVIS in the sum of two thousand pounds conditioned for payment by the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND her heirs executors administrators or assigns of the sum of one thousand pounds with interest for the same as therein mentioned.

**And whereas** by another bond or obligation dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May one thousand eight hundred and fifty five under the hand and seal of the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND to the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND became bound to Charles CARTER of Bideford aforesaid esquire in the sum of one thousand and six hundred pounds conditioned for payment by the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND her heirs executors administrators and assigns unto the said Charles CARTER his executors administrators and assigns of the sum of eight hundred pounds with interest as therein mentioned.

**And whereas** the said Charles CARTER duly made and executed his will bearing date the 16<sup>th</sup> day of December one thousand eight hundred and fifty nine whereby he gave and devised unto the said Charles William HOLE and Richard CARTER his executors administrators and assigns all and singular his personal estate monies and securities for money upon the trusts therein declared and appointed them executors of his said will.

**And whereas** the said Charles CARTER died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July one thousand eight hundred and sixty two and the said will with one codicil were duly proved by the said Charles William HOLE and Richard CARTER.

**And whereas** the said Richard CARTER died on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December one thousand eight hundred and sixty nine.

**And whereas** by an indenture dated 25<sup>th</sup> day of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy two and made between the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND, the said William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton his wife of the first part, the said Robert Bruce CHICHESTER and Nugent CHICHESTER of the second part, and the said Sir Charles Cunliffe SMITH, Robert Bruce CHICHESTER and Joseph Stonehewer Scott CHAD of the third part, the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND, William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton his wife in exercise of the power for such purpose vested in them by the said indenture of the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October one thousand eight hundred and fifty five directed limited and appointed that (amongst other hereditaments) the hereditaments firstly hereinafter described should so remain and be to the uses upon the trusts and for the ends intents and purposes and with under and subject to the powers provisos agreements and declarations hereinafter

declared and contained concerning the same And the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND granted unto the said Robert Bruce CHICHESTER and Nugent CHICHESTER and their heirs amongst other hereditaments to the hereditaments secondly hereinafter described, To hold unto the said Robert Bruce CHICHESTER and Nugent CHICHESTER and their heirs To the uses upon the trusts and for the intents and purposes and with under and subject to the powers provisos agreements and declarations thereinafter expressed declared and contained concerning the same And by the indenture now in recital it was declared that as well as the direction limitation and appointment therein before contained as also therein before contained but subject as to the whole of the hereditaments described in the indenture now in recital to the premises belonging in anywise appertaining or usually held or exercised therewith or reputed to belong or be appurtenant thereto with all the chief rents to the same belonging.

And all the Market Place and Market House, And all the messuage houses cottages edificies buildings stables barns dovehouses orchards gardens lands tenements walls quays wharfs timber trees and other trees woods underwoods and wood grounds commons wastes and waste grounds fishing and fisheries fairs markets shops sheds stalls standings rents as well chief as other rents duties wharfages tolls dues duties stallages and hereditaments situate lying and being within the Borough town and precinct of Bideford aforesaid and elsewhere in the parish of Bideford in the County of Devon, And also all those the Market shambles and weighthouse situate standing and being in or near the Market House or Market Place in the Town of Bideford aforesaid save and except a quay and shipbuilding yard on the East side of the River Torridge formerly in the occupation of John JOHNSON but now of Henry Morgan RESTWICK which if not excepted would be included in the foregoing description, And Secondly (by way of assurance and not of exception) **All** that messuage or dwellinghouse and premises now and for many years last held as and for an Inn or Public House known by the name or sign of the 'Dolphin' situate lying and being in or near the Market place within the Town of Bideford aforesaid formerly in the occupation of John GRANT but now or late for many years in the occupation of William BARTHOLOMEW as yearly tenant, And all that Building adjoining or contiguous to the messuage last hereinbefore described but in the rear thereof and fronting on Honestone Lane in Bideford aforesaid now or late for many years past used as a Blacksmiths Shop and now or late in the tenure of Michael HOLLOWAY as yearly tenant thereof all which said Messuage or Dwellinghouse blacksmiths shop and premises secondly hereinbefore described contain in length from east to west on the north side forty feet or thereabouts and on the south side eighty five feet or thereabouts and on the east side seventy feet or thereabouts, Together with all buildings fixtures yards courts areas sewers drains watercourses lights liberties privileges easements and appurtenances whatsoever to the said Messuages and premises secondly hereinbefore described belonging or in anywise appertaining is usually held or occupied therewith or reputed to belong or be appurtenant thereto, And all the Estate right title interest property claim and demand whatsoever of the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND, William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE and each of them of in or to the said hereditaments firstly and secondly hereinbefore described, Shall henceforth go remain and be to the use of the Corporation their successors and assigns forever, And each of them the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND for herself her heirs executors and administrators and the said William Langham CHRISTIE for the said Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE her heirs executors and administrators as well as for himself his heirs executors and administrators doth hereby covenant with the Corporation their successors and assigns that notwithstanding anything by the said Margaret Caroline CHRISTIE, William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE done or executed or knowingly suffered to the contrary they the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND, William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE respectively now have good right to appoint the hereditaments and premises hereby appointed or expressed so to be to the use of the Corporation their successors and assigns in manner aforesaid, And that the Corporation their successors and assigns shall and may all times hereafter peaceably and quietly possess and enjoy the said hereditaments and premises and receive the rents and profits thereof without any eviction claim of demand whatsoever from or by the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND,

William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE or any person or persons lawfully or equitably claiming by from through or under or in trust for the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND, William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE by appointment or otherwise, And that free from all incumbrances whatsoever created occasioned made or suffered by the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND, William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE or any of them or any person or persons lawfully or equitably claiming as aforesaid the said two sums of Two thousand pounds and eight hundred pounds being excepted, And that the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND, William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE and all persons having or lawfully or equitably claiming any estate or interest in the said hereditaments and premises or any part thereof from or under the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND, William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE by appointment or otherwise shall and will from time to time and at all times hereafter at the request and cost of the Corporation their successors or assigns do and execute or cause to be done and executed all such acts deeds and things whatsoever for further and more perfectly assuring the said hereditaments and premises and every part thereof unto and to the use of the Corporation their successors and assigns as by them shall be reasonably required.

**And** this indenture **witnesseth** that in pursuance of the said Agreement in this behalf and in consideration of the premises they the said Charles William HOLE and Henry Tubal HOLE as to the said sum of Two thousand pounds and the said George LOCK as to the said sum of Eight hundred pounds and as to all the parties at the request and by the direction of the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND, William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE testified by their being parties to and executing these presents do and each of them doth hereby release unto the Corporation their successors and assigns and all and singular the hereditaments hereinbefore appointed or expressed so to be to the intent that the Corporation their Successors may forever thereafter hold and enjoy the said hereditaments and premises and every part thereof freed and discharged from the said two sums of Two thousand pounds and Eight hundred pounds respectively and the interest thereof respectively and every part thereof respectively and from all claims and demands for or on account of the same respectively.

**And whereas** the deeds and writings comprised in the Schedule hereto relate not only to the hereditaments hereby assured or intended so to be but to other hereditaments remaining subject to the uses of the said Indenture of Settlement of the twenty fifth day of March One thousand eight hundred and seventy two and upon the treaty of the said sale it was agreed that the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND, William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE should make such direction limitation and appointment in respect of the said Deeds and writings as is hereinafter contained.

**Now** this Indenture **witnesseth** that in pursuance of the said Agreement in this behalf the said Margaret Caroline CLEVELAND, William Langham CHRISTIE and Agnes Hamilton CHRISTIE by force and virtue the power for this purpose rested on them under the said Settlement of the twenty fifth day of March One thousand eight hundred and seventy two and of all other powers enabling them in this behalf (if any) do hereby direct limit and appoint that the person or persons who shall for the time being be entitled to the custody of the Deeds and writings comprised in the Schedule hereto shall unless prevented by fire or some inevitable accident from time to time and at all times hereafter upon every reasonable request and at the cost of the Corporation their successors or assigns produce or cause to be produced unto them their solicitors or agents or at any trial hearing commission or examination or otherwise as occasion shall require all or any of the Deeds and writings comprised in the Schedule hereto for the purpose of shewing the Title of the Corporation their successors and assigns to the hereditaments hereby assured or expressed so to be or any part thereof, And also will at the like request and costs deliver or cause to be delivered unto the Corporation their successors or assigns such attested or other copies or of extracts or of from the said deeds and writings or any of them as the Corporation their successors and assigns may require, And shall and will in the meantime unless prevented as aforesaid keep the same deeds and writings safe whole unobliterated and uncancelled.

**In witness** whereof the said parties to these presents their hands and seals have set the day and year first before written.

**The schedule:**

16 & 17 August 1751 – Attested copies Indentures of Lease and Release of these dates the latter made between the Right Honorable John Earl GOWER and Mary Countess GOWER of the one part and John CLEVELAND of Tapeley in the County of Devon esquire and Samuel SEDDON of the other part.

22<sup>nd</sup> October 1855 and 25<sup>th</sup> March 1872 – The hereinbefore recited Indentures of these respective dates.

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**Summary and Comments:**

This document illustrates the gradual erosion of manorial lands and power to the present day. By 1881 it appears that just about all the former lands had been sold off, and the only properties specifically mentioned as part of this sale, was Bideford Market and its associated shambles, the nearby Dolphin Inn and another adjoining building.

Historically, a Lord-of-the-Manor had control over all his subjects, could tax them and make them work for him, but he was also responsible for the economic well-being of the community. He held local Courts concerning land rights, tenants, and law-breaking – indeed he had the power of capital punishment. Apart from the latter, many of these powers now lie with Local and National Government, but their origins lie in agreements made nearly a thousand years ago.

Thanks to Torridge District Council for providing access to this document.

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## Sources:

British Listed Buildings database  
North Devon Record Office, Barnstaple  
West-country Studies Library, Exeter  
National Archives, Kew  
Cornwall Record Office, Truro  
Royal Institution of Cornwall  
Northamptonshire Record Office  
Wiltshire Record Office  
National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon  
Family History Library, Salt Lake City  
British Library  
Country Life Picture Library  
Bideford Town Council  
Torrige District Council  
Ordnance Survey  
Ancient Roam Maps collection  
Ancestry.co.uk  
Vernacular Architecture Group  
Royal College of Arms  
Andy Powell, local historian  
Peter Christie, local historian  
Tim Wormleighton, Heritage Services Manager, Devon Record Office  
Sean Wheatley, plasterwork specialist  
Dorothy Treasure, Wiltshire Buildings Record  
Robert Howard, Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory  
John Thorpe, Keystone Historic Building Consultant  
Alan Gray, Archivist: Buckland Abbey

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## **About Nimrod Research:**

'Nimrod Research' (formerly Wiltshire's Nimrod Indexes) was founded in 1969 by Dr Barbara Carter, as specialist Family History researchers for Wiltshire.

David & Jenny Carter who run Nimrod Research now live in Devon, and have expanded this business to also undertake such research in Somerset and Devon.

David Carter has over 30 years experience in the Architecture, Building and Shopfitting industries, and combines his previous skills with the research business in order to provide historical building reports to accompany Listed Planning Applications, and other bespoke historical research.

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