

Brislington

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# Brislington Bulletins

No.1  
1066 - 1600

D.P. Lindegaard

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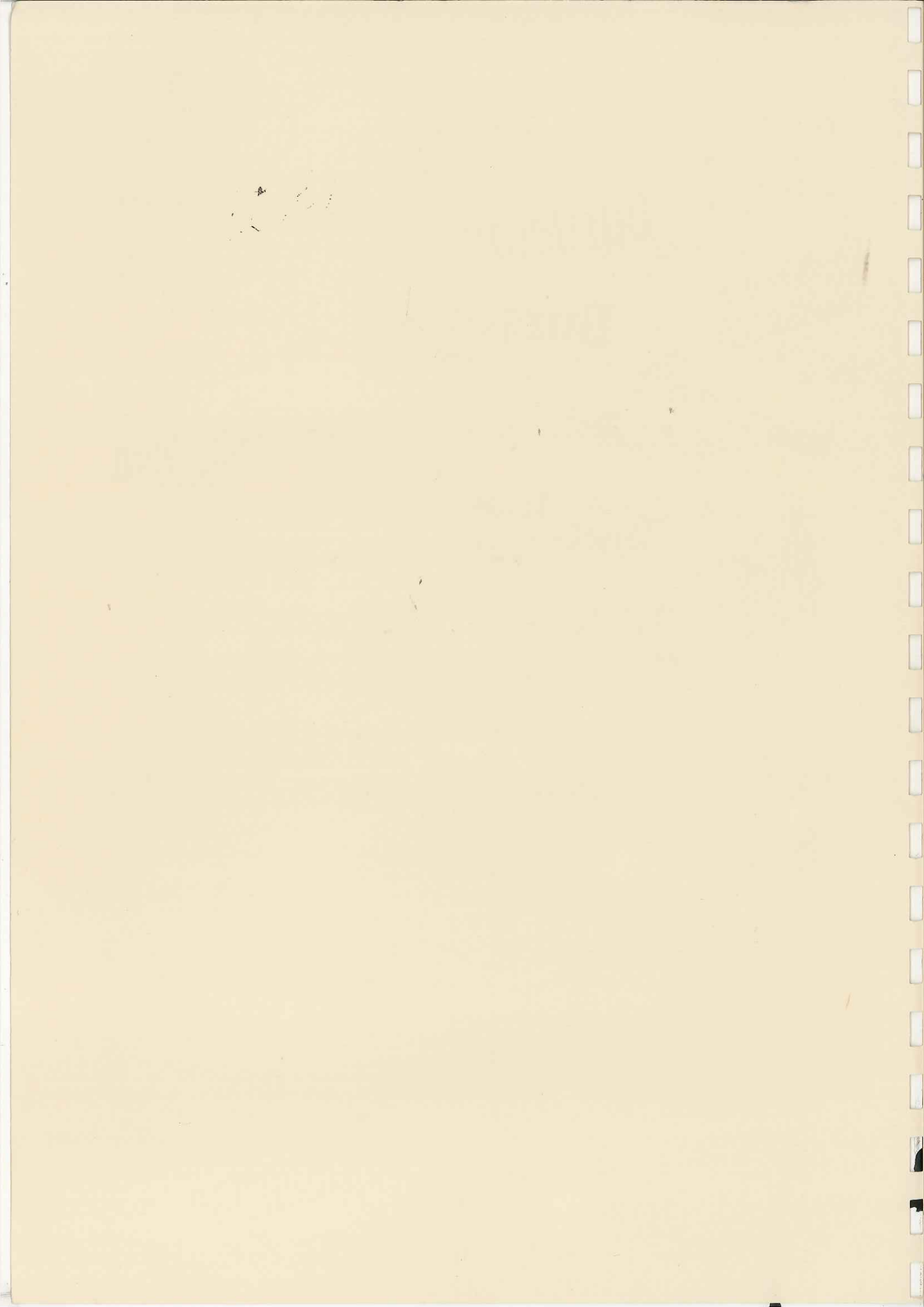
Bursleton

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Bridlington

Brisselton

Bruslington



Best wishes

Palme Lyndgaard

D.P. LINDEGAARD, BA.

4/1/93

BRISLINGTON BULLETINS

No 1.

La Warr to Lacy

1066-1600

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### Brislington Bulletins

First and foremost, I am a genealogist and it is my hope that this series of books will help other family historians with Brislington roots to put flesh on the bones of their ancestors who lie in St Luke's Churchyard where my collateral family, the Pillingers have lain since the 1730's, though I am an incomer of only 25 years residence.

This first volume covers a 600 year period from the Norman Conquest until the closing years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. With a little licence, I have used the subtitle "la Warre to Lacy". John la Warre, a knight, was granted the Manor of Brislington in 1207 and his descendants held the Lordship for the next three and a half centuries until succeeded by the Lacy family.

Most of us are descended from the lowly, records of whom, especially in the early period are few and far between, but they do occasionally exist and it is interesting to witness the beginning of individuality in the rise of descriptive names. "John of Brislington" who went into Bristol on business would not be John of Brislington at home. There he would be John atte Wicke or John of the Green. From these beginnings arose the variety of surnames which appear in the Manor Court rolls of two or three centuries later. One development was the wife's adoption of her husband's surname, something unknown to Alice Blakeford in 1285.

Brislington parish registers commence in 1566 and the originals are in the Bristol Record Office as is a typed and indexed copy for 1566-1812 compiled in the early years of this century by the noble Reverend Shickle. [Blessed are the index makers for they shall be called the beloved friends of the genealogist.]

An enormous disadvantage to anyone tracing their Brislington ancestors is the loss of all the wills proved in Somerset during the blitz of the Second World War. The printed calendar, so that you know what you are missing, maddeningly survives as do a few abstracts of wills and administrations and these will be found in the text.

It is worth underlining that Brislington was formerly in the county of Somerset and therefore some of its records will have found their way to the Somerset Record Office in Taunton, whilst others are at the Bristol Record Office.

This book and its projected successors do not pretend to be the definitive history which has yet to be written although Evelyn Winchester's excellent "St Anne's Bristol. A History", goes a fair way towards filling the gap. May I also direct those interested in the Tudor and early Stuart period to my own "The Simple Annals of the Poor" which compares family life in Brislington, Keynsham, Bitton and Siston.

D.P. Lindegaard, BA  
Brislington, August 1992.

### Abbreviations and Sources

Allan. Mrs Ashford Allan. St Luke's Parish Church.  
ARL Avon County Reference Library  
BAR Bristol Apprentice Roll, mss, BRO  
BAR1 Bristol Apprentice Register no 1. [BRS]  
BAR2 Bristol Apprentice Register no 2. [BRS]  
BGAT Bristol and Gloucester Archeological Transactions ??  
BHB Barrett's History of Bristol  
BPP Bristol Past and Present  
BPR Brislington Parish Register  
BRO Bristol Record Office  
BRS [Bristol Record Society]  
CBD Calendar of Braikenridge Deeds [BRO]  
CCP Chancery Court Proceedings  
CI Calendar of Inquisitions  
CStB Cartulary of St Mark's Hospital [BRO]  
EC Edward Collison, genealogist to the Earl de la Warre.  
EW Evelyn Winchester, *St Anne's Bristol. A History.*  
FF Feet of Fines  
Gane, H.B. History of Brislington. Pamphlet, ARL  
GRO Gloucestershire Record Office  
LA16C John Latimer, Annals of Bristol in the 16th Century  
PCC Prerogative Court of Canterbury [Wills]  
PR Parish Register  
SANHS Somerset Archeological and Natural History Society  
SDNQ Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries  
SMW Somerset Medieval Wills  
SRO Somerset Record Office  
SRS [Somerset Record Society]  
WRS Wiltshire Record Society

John Adams. Chronicle of Bristol  
John Collinson. A History of the Antiquities of Somerset. [1791]  
Rev. C. Moor. The Knights of Edward I. [1932] Harleian Society  
Accounts of the Constables of Bristol Castle, BRS Vol. 34.  
J.F. Nicholls, John Taylor. Bristol Past and Present II.  
Somerset Record Society, Volumes at Avon County Reference Library.  
The Little Red Book of Bristol.

and the invaluable:

Janet Morris. A Latin Glossary for Family & Local Historians.

The Manor Court Book of Brislington with the magnificent portrait of Queen Elizabeth in her guise as Gloriana on its title page forms part of the Gore-Langton Papers at the Somerset Record Office and is filed under reference DD/GL 124. In his *Place Names of Somerset* (1914), Rev. Hill suggests the interesting origins of Brislington. For fun, I have collected some of the many variations [I am sure somebody will come up with more!] of spelling our village's name before it became standardized.

#### Acknowledgement:

As usual, my gratitude to the librarians and archivists at Avon County Reference Library, Bristol Record Office, Somerset Record Office and Gloucestershire Record Office whose patience never fails.

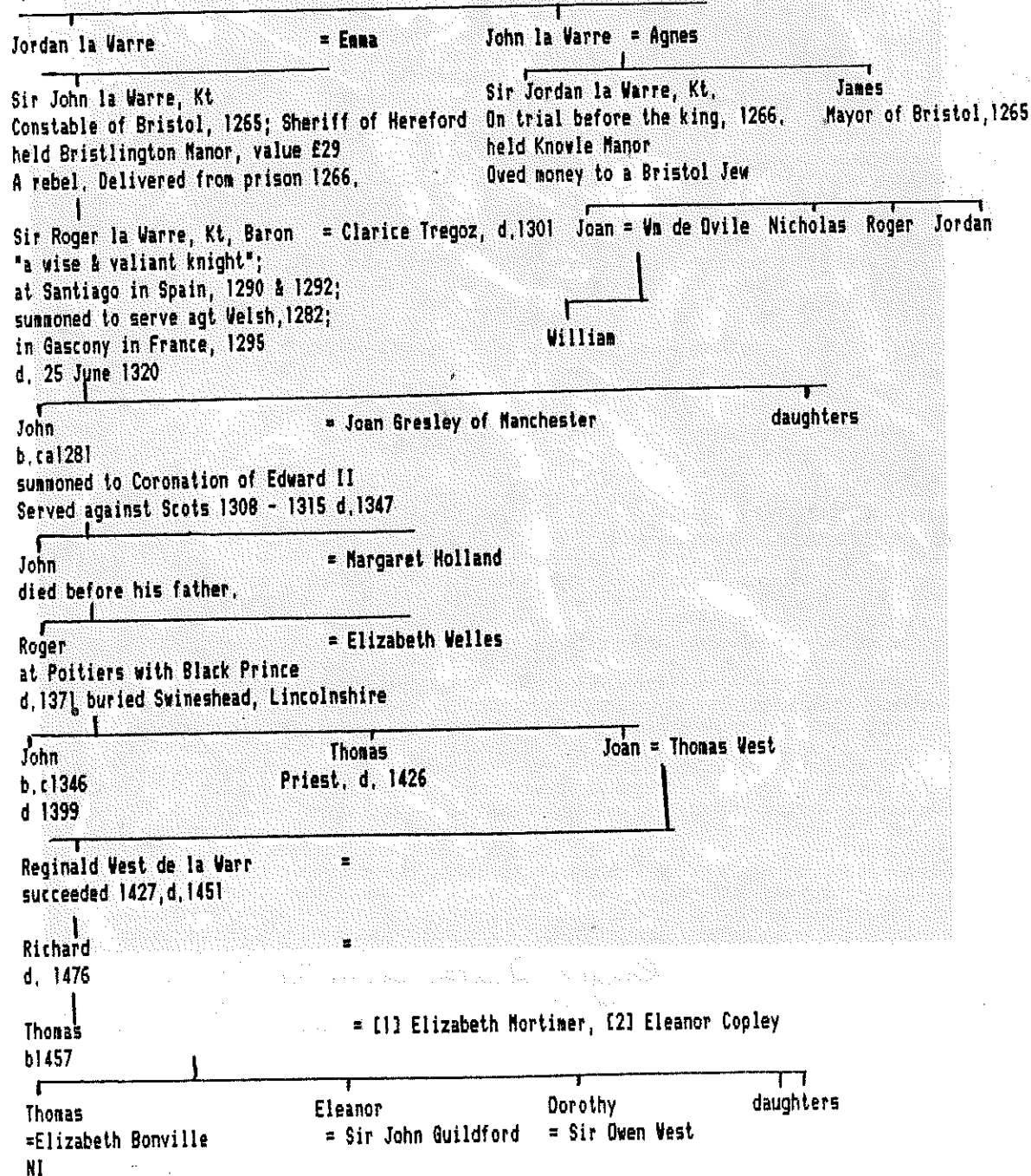


The la Warre Family

An account of Sir Jordan la Warre, Kt; St John la Warre, Kt; Sir Roger la Warre, Kt, Baron and Sir John la Warre, Kt, Baron, maybe found in The Knights of Edward I, Volume V, T-2 by Rev C. Moor, DD, FSA, [1932]. [The Harleian Society].

Jordan la Warre  
signed regarding liberties to men living at Bristol Bridge, 1164

John la Warre of Brislington  
d. c1212





*Knight, Death and the Devil*  
*Albrecht Dürer*



In 1045, the manor of Cainesam [Keynsham] of which Brislington was a part was held by Queen Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor and sister of Harold Godwinsson, the last English king. She retained the manor after the Norman Conquest of 1066 until her death in 1075 when it became Crown property. In the Domesday Book, Keynsham manor included Whitchurch, Queen Charlton, Pensford, Publow, Stanton Drew, Belluton and Burnett as well as Brislington, an area of some 13,000 acres. The value of the holding was £108, a considerable sum. The population of the whole was around 200 people.

Brislington became a separate manor in 1087 when William Rufus gave it to his cousin Robert Fitzhamon as part of the Honour of Gloucester. Robert died leaving four daughters whose rich inheritance brought them to the notice of the king, Henry I, who made them his wards. He gave two of the sisters, Cicely and Hawise, to the church. Despite having no say in their careers - perhaps the king did them a favour for the religious life provided the only professional opening for women, [Henry's daughter Matilda being an exception] - they thrived and in time became powerful Abbesses at Shaftesbury and Wilton. Amice was married to the Earl of Brittany but the canny king arranged to keep Mabel [and her lands, including Brislington] in the family. He matched her with his own illegitimate son Robert, who then became Earl of Gloucester in his bride's right. Mabel and Robert were succeeded in 1148 by their only son, William, the founder of Keynsham Abbey in 1170, who died without issue in 1173. The Earldom then reverted to the crown and Henry II held it in trust for his younger son, John 'Lackland', and continuing the sequence arranged a marriage in 1189 between Prince John and William's sister Isabel.

It is possible, even likely that few, if any, of the above persons ever set foot in Brislington, though it lay adjacent to the great forest of Kingswood and several of "King John's Hunting Lodges" were traditionally found there. Much less would they have concerned themselves with the lowly inhabitants of the manor, villeins and peasants, the dispossessed English, except as chattels, for every male must follow his lord to war if required - it was the only time he might leave the manor - and in peacetime, in return for a strip of land, he must work for his lord three days out of every seven. Plough for him in spring, allow him the use of his oxen, supply the manor with wood, poultry and eggs. If his daughter married or he sent his son to school at a monastery, the lord demanded a fine. These arrangements, particularly as at Brislington where the lord was an absentee, would have been overseen by a steward and a reeve.

And just as a man was subject to his lord, so a woman was subject to a man, be it husband, father or brother, in a great chain of being from the king at the top [who was subject only to the Pope and the Holy Roman Emperor who were marginally below God] to the bottom. Possibly the lowliest person in the chain was not the male serf but his unmarried sister. Complications in this world view of course arose in the case of a queen regnant like Matilda, abbesses like Cicely and Hawise, or the lady of the manor. These women were obviously not

subject to male courtiers or tenants but filled a temporary position as honorary men when they undertook male duties in the absence of husband or adult son and could therefore impose their will on other men lower down the pecking order. Albeit most history is male history, we shall discover a little about Brislington women, though generally speaking they live at the manor.

1196-7

A villein who managed to save enough money was allowed to purchase his freedom. Such a one was our first named Brislington man, Lewis of Bristleton. He had left the manor and lived in the town of Bristol, then still Brigstow, the place by the bridge, a man of property, owning two houses in St Mary Redcliffe which he left to the church so that masses could be said for his soul in perpetuity. The records record an ancient squabble:

*Westminster in the vigil of St Luke between John Fitzwilliam, claimant and the Abbot of Cirencester, tenant by Master William, fil Ranulf, clerk in place of the said Abbot for two messuages in Rideclive which Lewis de Bristleton gave to God and the Blessed Mary and the church and Abbey of Cirencester. John Fitzwilliam remitted and quit claimed to the said Abbey all his rights in the aforesaid messuages and for himself and his heirs forever, and for this concord and quit claim the Abbot gave John Fitzwilliam thirty two shillings sterling. [SRS Vol 6]*

1207

In this year, the manor passed out of royal hands to John la Warre by service of half a knight's fee. A knight paid a fee which bound him to a baron who in turn gave fealty or homage to the king. The fee might be a sparrowhawk, or a rose or even a peppercorn. The manor land itself was only lent as part of the chain of command which extended from the king, through barons and knights all the way down to tenants and bond slaves. The Lordship of the la Warres would endure remarkably until the 16th century. The family was already notable in civic affairs in Bristol where 'The Little Red Book', c1164, names Jordan la Warre as a signatory to a confirmation by Robert Fitzharding of *custom and liberties to the men living in his fee in the marsh by the Bridge of Bristol*. This Jordan may be the father or brother of John of Brislington.]

1212

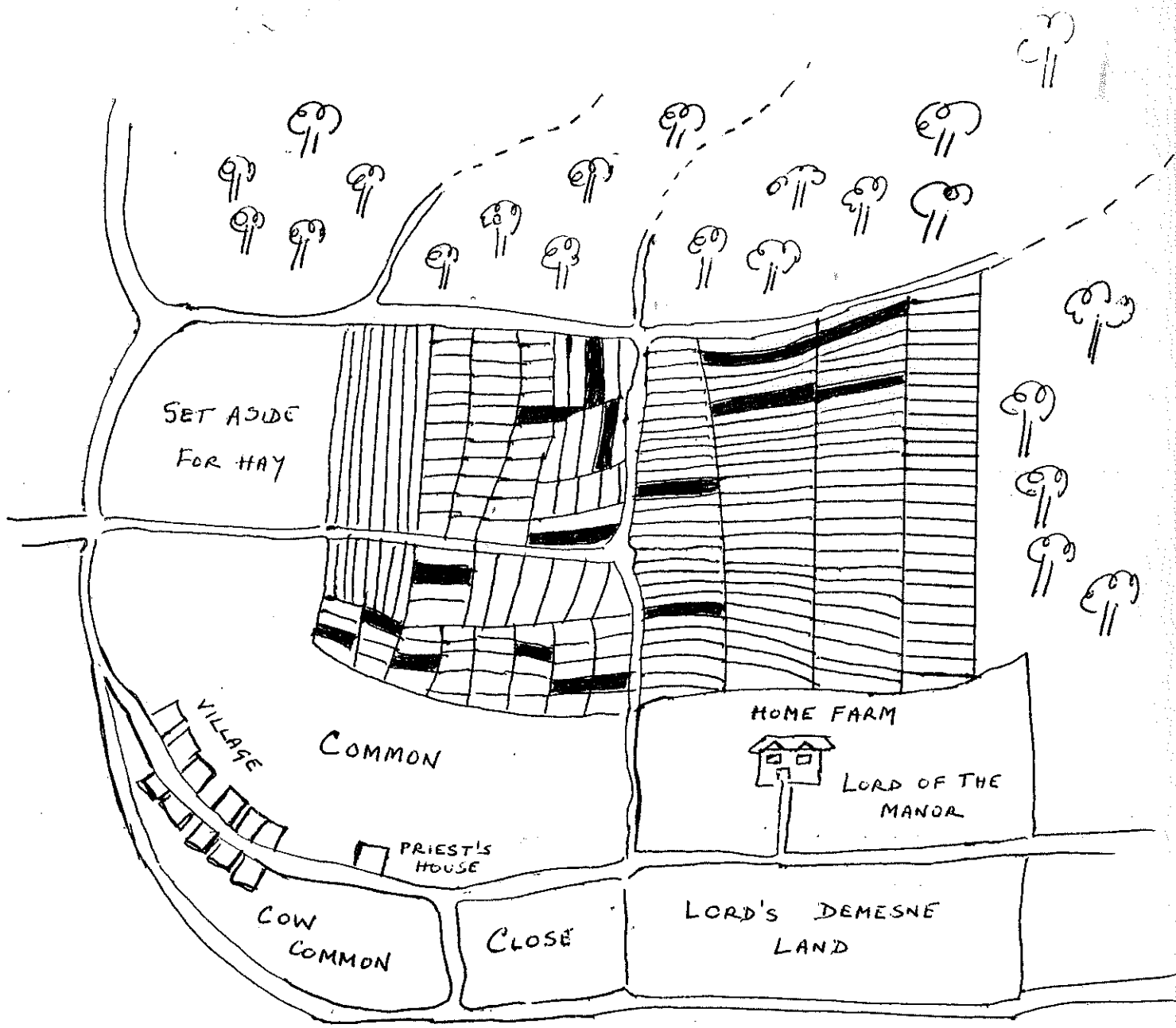
John la Warre died and was succeeded by his son, Jordan.

1215

The sealing of the Magna Carta between King John and the barons. Locally, on June 22, Brislington and Keynsham men were ordered to make a perambulation, that is, a tour of the highways and byways, to prove which of the Chases in the vicinity of Kingswood belonged to the king and which to Sir Geoffrey Mandeville. [BRS Vol XXXIV]

c1216?

Another freeman, Adam de Bristleton witnessed a land transaction concerning the church of St Mary Redcliff, allowing Henry de Oxon and



A 12th CENTURY MANOR.



BRACKET  
PART NO. 101

101-101  
101-101  
101-101

his wife Cristina a lease on land left to the church by Herbert de Lincoln. ["time of Henry III" CBD 1207-1654, BRO]

1235

Jacob (James) la Warre, Mayor 'in the time of Henry III' witnessed deeds to houses in the parishes of St Peter and St Nicholas. Undated - but he is known to have held office in 1235. He witnessed again in 1243 when "William the clerk was Mayor". This James is thought possibly to be a grandson of John la Warre of Brislington via his younger son John and his wife Agnes. [CBD, BHB, CStM, at BRO]

c1237-42

*Sale by Walter de Bristelton, chaplain, John at Churchestyele of Wells and Hugh le Babur, executors of the will of William de Schepton, burgess of Wells, of a tenement in St Cuthbert's Street, Wells.*

[Wells City Charters, BRO]

Like Lewis and Adam before him, Walter, was a Brislington man, who had left the manor, in his case for Wells. A man or woman, generally speaking, were only deemed to be "of" a certain place once they had departed from it. It would make no sense to call the chaplain Walter of Brislington if he still lived at home for this would not distinguish him from sundry other Walters living there. In Brislington, as a man in holy orders, he was probably 'Walter the Clerk', or Walter Clark or even Walter Chaplin. So surnames began to develop.

1240

The citizens of Bristol and the Abbot of St Augustine's agreed concerning the diversion of the river Frome. Among the signatories were Jordan le Warre de Cnolle (Knowle) and John la Warre de Bristulton. [CStM, p 51]

["This John, was the son of Jordan la Warre of Brislington by his wife Emma. He was a minor on his father's death, became constable of Bristol Castle in 1265 and was living in May 1277. Jordan of Knowle was succeeded by his son, also Jordan who was living c1260."] [ibid]

1242

*Among the masses: Robert, the son of William the smith, and Agnes, his wife fled to the church of Keynsham, confessed themselves thieves and abjured the realm. And because the vill of Bristelton did not make pursuit after them it is in mercy. He had no chattels nor were they in the tithing because they were strangers.*

[Robert, the son of William the smith (or as he would become, Robert Williams, Williamson or perhaps even Robert Smith) and Agnes his wife, were accused of theft and took sanctuary in Keynsham Church where they confessed their guilt and swore to leave the area. The 'town' of Brislington which failed to raise the hue and cry was held responsible. To add insult to injury, Robert and Agnes had no goods or land which could be taken as forfeit.]

And then again

Adam the forester of Bristilton and Nicholas Copin of Cherleworth accused of larceny have fled. The jurors say they suspect the larceny of sheep and other things. Therefore let them be exacted and outlawed. Adam was in the tithing of Gilbert, the tithingman of Bristilton and Nicholas was of the mainpast of Robert Tresor of Cherleworth. Therefore they are in mercy for the flight. They had no chattels.

[Two bondsmen, Adam Forester of Brislington and Nicholas Copin of Charleworth were accused of sheepstealing. Gilbert the Brislington tithingman and Robert Tresor of Charleworth were considered responsible for the escape. Neither of the renegades owned anything. A tithing was an area occupied by ten householders living near together and bound over as sureties for each other's peaceable behaviour with the tithingman taking responsibility.]

Worst of all

Simon of Bristleton was scalded [catalizatus fuit] in a certain cauldron [cauderal] that he died. No-one is suspected thereof. Price of lead half a mark for which the Sheriff must answer. No Englishry therefore murder.

[Simon, from Brislington, died a horrible death, pushed into a boiling cauldron. No-one could suggest a motive for the murder and there were no suspects. However, it seems the vat itself was damaged in some way, and the Sheriff was obliged to put good the amount to the tune of half a mark. As no upper rank persons yet thought of themselves as English, an inferior conquered race, Englishry is presumably not flattering.]

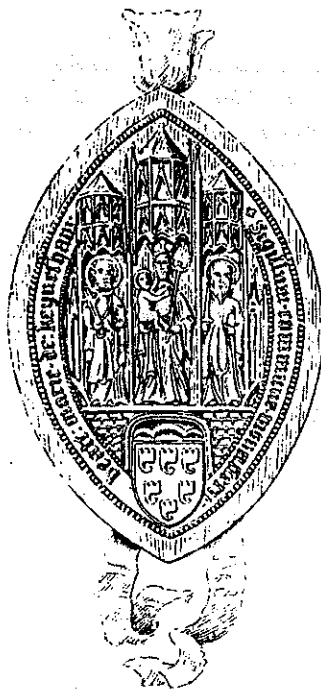
[SRS, 27 Henry III, Somerset Pleas. Vol II.]

1242-7

A constable of Bristol Castle was accused of extortion concerning the rights of pasture in "John le Warr's wood at Brislington" and in 1249 there was a court of enquiry to look into the Abbot of Keynsham taking the liberty of hunting with his dogs in the king's chase at Kingswood.

[BRS XXXIV]

The Abbot and the la Warres were often in dispute.



Seal of Keynsham  
Abbot



1273-4

At Westminster in the quinzaine of St Michael between Roger de la Ware, querent and John son of Jordan de la Ware, impediens, for the manor of Bristleton. Plea of warranty of deed was summoned. John acknowledged manor to right of Reginald as by his gift for this Reginald granted to same and John for life or hold of him, rendering yearly one penny at Easter and doing to the chief lord of the fee all services belonging. After the decease of John, the said manor shall revert to Roger to hold of the chief lord aforesaid. (Endorsed) the Abbot of Keynsham put in his claim. [Edward I, 1273-4, SRS Vol 61]

1275, November

And further disagreement: Whether John la Warr, Roger his son and Robert de Wyk [this just might be somebody living at Wick, Brislington, but more likely at Wickwar[rr] where the la Warr's held the manor] unjustly disseised the Abbot of Keynsham of his common of pasture at Bristleton. He complains they have disseised him of 300 acres of wood where he used to have common rights with all his beasts at all times of the year excepting pigs in the forbidden month. [Probably Lent.]

John & the others did not come but Gilbert de Cumbton answers as their bailiff; says if injury has been done it was by Alan de Plokenet; that King Henry, father of the present king in the time of the disturbance - during the revolt led by Simon de Montfort 1264-5, John la Warr had been imprisoned for rebellion - gave to Alan all the lands and tenements which were of John la Warre and Alan did not permit the Abbot to enter that common wood. Afterwards, John by the King's grant had seisin of his lands and tenements and he did not permit the Abbot to enter that common wherefore he says he did him no disseisin. The Abbot says at the time of the disturbance he was in seisin of the common until John and the others disseised<sup>+</sup> him.

The jury say that John and Robert unjustly disseised the Abbot but not Roger. Therefore the Abbot shall recover his seisin against John and Robert and John and Robert are in mercy. The Abbot is in mercy for a false claim against Roger. Damages 20s (all paid) to the clerk.

[Somerset Pleas 1-7 of Edw I. SRS]

1276, January 23,

Commission of Thomas de Weiland to John la Ware, Thomas la Ware & Roger Cantok whether Roger has 40s of rent and a garden in Bristol by reason of trespasses alleged against John & Thomas in the time of the late perturbation as latterly alleged at another time before the king and to retain the inquisition three weeks after Easter wherever the king may then be. (Signed R. de Henghem). [Calendar of Close Rolls]



◆ Maybe the historical slang term "to dish", that is to cheat or swindle, as my father [1902-1985] might have said "He dished I outa thirty bob" is not a culinary term at all but has its origins in the "disseisins" of old when the Abbot of Keynsham was dished out of his woods.

1276

Away from the tedious boundary disputes, we can perhaps assume tantalising and fortuitous local reports of visions. St Anne, the Virgin Mary's mother, being seen deep in the wood, near a well, thereafter called the Holy Well, whose waters were invested with miraculous healing powers. The place became an important place of pilgrimage and around this time, Roger la Warre built the chapel of St Anne-in-the-Wood, which also served to commemorate his marriage to Clarice, eldest daughter and co-heir of Sir John Tregoz of Ewyas Harold, in Herefordshire, and to celebrate his elevation to First Baron la Warre.

The fame of the shrine at St Anne's was such that in its time it was almost as important as Walsingham or Canterbury. The chapel, an imposing edifice, was an insulated building supported by 19 buttresses, according to William Wyrcestre, 58 feet by fifteen feet and lit by six square wax candles which nearly touched the roof, an astonishing eighty feet high! In the opinion of the authors of Bristol Past & Present, II, Ecclesiastical History, "a bad guess, or wrong information" and I must agree as the dimensions suggest a curious structure similar to the black box in 2,001 which would certainly have needed the nineteen buttresses and then some to keep it from blowing away. The great candlelights were renewed annually by the guilds of weavers and cordwainers of Bristol at a cost of £5 each. Thirteen other lights burned before images of the saint and additionally there were 32 models of ships and boats, value £1 each, which doubled as incense burners, to collect offerings.

Shrines attracted pilgrims, the first tourists, and thus were important to the local economy. Building the chapel itself provided work: perhaps master masons were drafted in from outside. A flood of visitors would need inns where they could be tempted to stay instead of returning to Bristol or continuing to Bath. These hostelries in turn needed local produce for the cooks, scullions, serving men and maids to dish up to guests, with stabling for horses, saddlers and harness makers to make running repairs to trappings and baggage. Additionally, even as now, people liked to have a memento of their trip and places of pilgrimage sold souvenirs in the form of metal badges, which made work for the smith. Perhaps other, less respectable hucksters were in evidence, selling dubious relics and phials of the holy blood.

The pilgrims came to the shrine by way of a ferry across the Avon, still in existence until recently. The poet Southey suggests the motives of those who went on pilgrimage - perhaps to honour a vow made in time of trouble, to do penance for sins, the sickly or dying who prayed for a miracle cure, those who had recovered from sickness and

*Some who thought to cheat old Nick  
And some who liked the journey.*

A friend of mine remarked, concerning a proposed trip to present day Walsingham "We should have a very enjoyable time" and was rebuked by her sister "You don't go on pilgrimage to enjoy yourself!" but this I

submit, is exactly what the majority of pilgrims did and if they saved their souls at the same time, then so much the better. Naturally some were like Chaucer's good-hearted Ploughman and his brother the poor parish Priest - the village parson at this time belonged very much with the 'lower orders'. He would not have equal status with the squire until well after the Reformation. These and the bookish Clerk must have been offended by the levity of others in the group: the bagpipe playing Miller, with his fund of dirty jokes; the "wanton and merry" Friar; the hideously ugly and corrupt Summoner whose enjoyment "of strong wine till all was hazy" was written in the anguished red of his features; the Franklin who "lived for pleasure" and the fat Monk whose favourite dish was roast swan. And not least, the rich and fashionable Wife of Bath who had buried three husbands and had been everywhere. If the others are simply 'types', the Wife at least, must surely have come just down the road from Bath to St Anne's, if only on a weekend trip!

1276, June 2

Meanwhile the Manor of Brislington and the Abbot of Keynsham still wrangled. Roger la Ware came before the king on Thursday after Holy Trinity and sought to replevy his land and that of John la Ware which was taken into the king's hands for their default in the court of Gilbert de Clare of Bristol against the Abbot of Keynsham. [SANHS 53]

1277, October 24

With relations still deteriorating, Simon White, presumably the la Warre's steward brought a charge of "mayhem or mutilation" against Robert, the Abbot of Keynsham. The king was hearing complaints in Shrewsbury and not surprisingly the Abbot, aghast at the prospect of such a journey, pleaded illness. An emissary was despatched to see if it was true and obtain his account of events.

*Commission of Oyer and Terminer to Walter de Heliun touching the appeal which Simon le White of Bristelton brings before the justices of the bench against Robert, abbot of Keynsham of mahem and breach of the peace, the said abbot being too infirm to travel to answer Simon before the justices, a mandate to send Walter to record and process the appeal as far as pertain to the person of the abbot with the original writ and other things belonging to the case.* [SANHS 53]

And so it went on and on.....

1279, May

Roger de la Ware brought a writ of disseisin against the Abbot of Keynsham about raising the level of a pond in Bristilton. He did not proceed, therefore he and his pledges, Gilbert de Compton and William Litfote of Holcombe are in mercy. [Somerset Pleas 1-7, Edward I, SRS]

[Abbot Robert died around this time and was succeeded by Abbot Adam.]

1285

Murder! And husband murder at that!

*Robert de Bristleton was found slain in his house in the 14th year of the present King [Edward I] and it is testified by the jurors that Alice de Blakeford wife of the said Robert together with an accomplice are guilty.*

A deed so foul, it was not only murder but treason. The position of a husband in his own household was a microcosm of that of the king ruling over his realm. As the murder of a king was high treason so the murder of a husband was petty treason since it went against the perceived natural order. There was only one possible penalty.

Alice was burnt at the stake as an awful warning to all wives, perhaps in front of the group of wattle and daub huts by the bridge which formed the hub of the village. Her accomplice of whom we know nothing, whether lover or servant - and quite possibly male - was allowed to go free. Alice's chattels fetched 13 shillings and eightpence.

[Gane, quoting Assize Roll 284, Edw I, case 75]

1286

John la Warre was elected Mayor of Bristol.

[BHB]

[This John la Warre, was, I believe, a younger brother of Roger.]

1296, February 22

John la Warre who probably visited the fortified manor house in Brislington chiefly lived in a town house on St Michael's Hill. . . . mentioned in a deed of sale between *Richard de Calne, clerk & Robert Sanekyn executors of the will of Giles de Berkeley, clerk, to Jocens de Reyny, a farm and gardens in St Michael's Hill, Bristol lying between the garden of John la Warre and the land of William de Gardino, which the said Giles had for 60 years from Reynald the clerk.*

[CBD]

1301, February 5

*John la Warre acknowledges that he owes James Barr & the Abbot of St Augustine, Bristol, executor of the will of John de Tregoz £27. 13s 4d to be levied in default of payment on his lands and chattels in Co Hereford.*

[Extract of Close Rolls 1296-1302, p10, BR01]

[Clarice la Warre, Roger's wife died this year. Her father, John de Tregoz, presumably had a son, also called John, who a year later got into severe trouble with the king.]

1302, April 28

*To Nicholas Fermbaud. Order to release John Tregoz and Robert le Ram imprisoned in Bristol Castle for an alleged trespass of venison in the king's chace at Kyngeswode upon them finding a mainpernors to have them before the king at his will to stand to right when he shall wish to speak against them.*

[Extract of Close Rolls, 1296-1302]

[It sounds to me like a binding over to be of good behaviour, and rightly so.]

1303 - 1313

Statement of a land holding: Roger la Warre held Bruslinton - the informant must have had a cold - and Bristelington in the Hundred of Keynesham. [Feudal Aids 1284-1431, SRO]

1307

Edward II ascended the throne. He recalled his favourite, Piers Gaveston from exile in France, to the disgruntlement of the barons who were affronted not so much by Edward's homosexuality, believing he would grow out of it, but by Gaveston's lowly birth.

1313

Tallage or Poll Tax was introduced, [to fund the war against the Scots which was punctuated by the Scottish victory of Bannockburn the following year] and imposed on a furious citizenry. Bristolians resisted for more than two years. A force supposed to be of 20,000 men at arms drawn up outside Bristol failed to intimidate the citizens, though the dispute was eventually settled peaceably and presumably everybody eventually paid.

Johannes le Ware was assessed 6.8d in place of Willielmo de Mulles

Johannes le Warre £5.0.0d

Rogerus le Warre 2.6d

[Evidently John the citizen was very rich indeed. Roger's pittance presumably referred only to a small tenement within the city of Bristol?]

1320

Roger, the First Baron la Warre died and was succeeded by his son John who was then 'aged 40 or more'. Inquisitions into the estates were held at various courts.

At Sussex, on August 31, where the manor of Middleton was held by fealty and by service of a sore sparrowhawk yearly at the king's exchequer and Ysfeld, held by a knight's fee and nearer home at Gloucester on October 7, Wickwarre which the said Roger acknowledged by fine in the king's court to be the right of John la Warre who granted it to him to hold for life by service of a rose yearly and just previously, on September 30, in respect of Brislington, a manor held for life by the demise of John la Ware, of the honour of Gloucester, by homage and service of  $\frac{1}{2}$  knight's fee.

[CI, (C.Edw II), File 65,14, SRO]

1327

Edward II was deposed and brutally murdered at Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire. His son, fourteen year old Edward III, became king but for three more years, Isabella, his mother and Roger Mortimer, Earl of March were the real rulers of England.

The Lay Subsidy Roll of 1327 makes possible an estimate of the population of Brislington. It lists twenty eight men who paid the tax as the heads of their respective households which would include wives, children, aged relatives, apprentices and servants. We can therefore double the twenty eight - everybody was expected to be married - give

them all two or three children and toss in a few more for the servants and retainers and assume a total of around 200, the average size of a village of the time. Each man now had a surname - or additional name - to distinguish him from others of the same Christian name.

Johanne le Warre [John la Warre] xxjd ob qr [21d]  
 Johanne le Palmer [John Palmer] ixjd ob qr [9d]  
 ----- L---esy [Livesy?] xxd [20d]  
 David Craddock ixjd [9d]  
 David Brounyn [David Browning] vjd [6d]  
 Roberto le Carter [Robert Carter] xijd [12d]  
 Thoma att Wyke\* [Thomas Atwick] ijs vii [3 shillings & 7d]  
 Willelmo attewode [William Atwood] xijd [12d]  
 Waltero attewode [Walter Atwood] vjd [6d]  
 Thoma Berde [Thomas Bird] ijs xd [2 shillings & 10d]  
 Thoma atte Mede [Thomas Meadows] vjd [6d]  
 Willelmo le White [William Whitel] xiiijd [14d]  
 Thoma Syward [Thomas Seaward] xijd [12d]  
 Thoma le White [Thomas Whitel] xjd ob [10d]  
 Willelmo att Shottetreo [William ?] xxijd qr [22d]  
 Nicalao Crousman [Nicholas Crossman] ixjd [9d]  
 Waltero Popyng [Walter Popyng] xijd [12d]  
 Stephano Orhlemer [Stephen Owlemere] xviiijd [23d]  
 Nichalao Kenewrek [Nicholas Kenrick] xij [12d]  
 Ricardo atte Clive [Richard Cleeve] xvijd ob [18d]  
 Roberto Ricard [Robert Richard] xvjd ob qr [16d]  
 Johanne le Niwman [John Newman] xvijd [17d]  
 Roberto Elice [Robert Ellis] ijs iiijd ob qr [2 shillings & 4d]  
 Simone Danyel [Simon Daniell] vjd [6d]  
 Waltero atte Brigge [Walter Bridge] xixv ob qr [19d]  
 David Atte Wyke [David Atwick] ijs [2 shillings]  
 Thomas Gele [Thomas Jelly? Gale?] -  
 Roberto atte More [Robert Moore] xijd ob qr [12d]

[Bath Ref Library, parish histories]  
 I have tentatively suggested a modern equivalent for each surname. As to William who lived at the "Shottetreo", I think this is the "Shott-tree" or butts where the young of the village practised their archery. [The most noted example of this name is Shottery, the Warwickshire hamlet where Shakespeare's wife Anne Hathaway lived.] Certain families appear in the list whose names would become well known in Brislington in years to come, the Daniels, the Swards and the progeny of John Newman - who in 1327 was exactly that - the new man! At least one of our parishioners had seen the pilgrims who came to St Anne's and had his appetite whetted for foreign travel. For he was a Palmer, one who had been on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Two families took their name from where they lived at "Wyke", the Old Saxon name for a village or hamlet which remains with us to this day as Wick Road.

There seems to have been few who actually paid the tax: *Obfledientia* and no immediate reason springs to my mind as to why some people should have been assessed much higher than others, particularly those in excess of two shillings.

In Bristol, yet another previous resident of our village, Thomas de Bristleton, was assessed as having property in *Quarterium beate Marie in bargodicta ville Bristollie* that is in St Mary le Port, in the town of Bristol, valued at £1 taxable. [BGAT, 19 p 275]

1328

A petition was presented in Parliament at the suit of Joan la Warre complaining that the manor of Bristleton which was then and always had been without the King's Chace called Kingswood had been included within the Chace by the wardens thereof.

There were strict penalties for the poaching of deer and it is clear that Joan expected to consume her own venison without fear of prosecution. In the absence of her husband, the lady of the manor was expected to deal with the tenantry and the day by day business of the estate as well as difficult legal matters. She of course rose to the occasion as women did when given the opportunity - usually in time of war. Accounts of similar duties undertaken by women appear, for example, in The Paston Letters, written 1418-1506, mainly during the Wars of the Roses by members of the Paston family of well to do Norfolk gentry. The men travelled and the women wrote from home. When the emergency was over and her lord returned, the lady went back to her tapestry. Unfortunately the la Warres do not appear to have left any correspondence.

1331, Easter

Proceedings in respect of the la Warre's estates: *John son of Roger la Warre and John son of the same John and Margaret his wife, plaintiffs. John de Cleyden, parson of Mancestre, defendant regarding the Manor of Alyngton, in the county of Wiltshire, the manor of Wykeware, county of Gloucester, the manor of Brustlyngton, county of Somerset. Right of defendant by deed of gift of John son of Roger, grant back and render to John son of Roger the manor of Alyngton for the king and the other manors for the chief lords during his life. Remainder to John son of John & Margaret his wife, the heirs of their bodies and the right heirs of John son of Roger.* [FF, Edward III, WRS]

[Whilst theoretically in a feudal system nobody "owned" any land except the king who collected "rent" in the form of military service, in reality there were property transactions and they were incredibly complicated. For the landed it was necessary both to keep a demesne in a particular family and to ensure the rights of the widow. A noble or gentlewoman's security lay in her Dower, one third of her husband's land which came to her if she was widowed. Money could be raised on property by enfeoffment, a series of trusts whereby 'A' could make a hypothetical gift of his land to 'B' & 'C' who paid feudal dues and taxes on his behalf whilst 'A' continued in actual possession during his lifetime. When he died the property would come to 'B' & 'C'. As use of trust failed to guarantee the widow's rights, prudent parents usually circumvented this possibility by Jointure, a marriage contract which settled property on a couple in joint ownership. The husband could then neither sell nor give away the land. If the husband

predeceased then the trustees would hold the land for the use of his widow, but she had control over it. On her death, the property reverted to the husband's family. The other part of the marriage settlement was a Dowry, a cash or portion payment made to the husband by the wife's family.]

1337

Edward III claimed to be the true heir of the throne of France, through right of his mother, Isabella - in opposition to the French Salic Law which prohibited women to ascend the throne - and set in motion the intermittent contest which engaged England and France for more than a century, the Hundred Years War.

1340

Extract of a Patent Roll, 14 Edward III, a grant to Margaret la Warre, nee Holland, of part of "Brustlyngton which lays beyond our Chase of Kyngeswoode and Filwoode in the county of Somerset" with rights to cut and sell all the crops thereof. [GRO]

The Manor of Brislington was evidently Margaret's dower, for she was the widow of John la Warre, heir presumptive, who predeceased his father and she held Brislington on behalf of her son, Roger. As we are told in

1346

*De Margareta la Warre pro Bridlington quod Rogerus la Warre quondam tenuit ibidem.* Roger was probably away fighting in France.

[Feudal Aids 1284-1431, SRO]

1347, 12 March

Thomas Brustelton, another ex-Brislington resident was witness to a land transfer in respect of four Bristol shops lying "on the back of the Avon" between the tenements of John Horncastel and Philip le Clerc concerning John Heyne & William le Ropere, burgess. [CBD]

1348

Apocalypse. The "Great Mortality" (the term Black Death was invented much later) reached England in August of this year, brought in by merchant ships from the Black Sea ports, firstly into Melcombe Regis in Dorset. It quickly spread through the West country, reaching Bristol on the fifteenth of the month. Towns, where conditions were filthy and congested, were the worst affected, but villages were not immune and if Brislington was in any way typical then fifty people may have died. The transmission to humans by fleas on black rats was unknown and it was believed to be the manifestation of the wrath of God wreaked upon humankind as a punishment for sin. Pilgrimages to St Anne's undoubtedly increased.

As repentance failed to bring about the desired effect, many succumbed to apathy. The economy was in chaos. Prices fell. A good horse that might have fetched £2 could be had for 6s 8d, a cow for a shilling or a lamb for 2d. Sheep and oxen wandered untended through the corn, destroying the crops and dying for want of husbandry. The rich wailed "there was such a want of slaves and servants there was no-one who knew what to do."



As the sickness subsided those who were left began to pull themselves together. Lords who were accustomed to exacting work from their tenants in exchange for their holdings were forced to excuse them or to accept money rents. Bond labourers took the law into their own hands and freed themselves, leaving in droves to seek wages for their work. A mower could ask 8d and a reaper one shilling a day. Prices then rose 400 - 500%. Fields lay uncultivated and houses fell into ruin. The English nobility attempted to stem the tide. Parliament passed the "English Statute of Labourers" in 1350, which attempted to compel labouring men to accept a standard wage and not leave their employers' service. A milestone in the saga of Capital versus Labour which led to unrest and eventually to the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 but whether the famous quatrain

*When Adam delved  
And Eve span  
Who was then  
The gentleman?*

is traditional or was invented by the anonymous author of the subversive drama "Jack Straw" in Tudor times, I have failed to discover.

Meanwhile, the French war continued.

1356, September 18

After the English victory at Poitiers, the loot acquired from the brutal sack and pillage of French towns was so great that the Black Prince's forces returning to the Channel Ports were reluctantly obliged to leave others unmolested because they could carry no more.

Despite the changing circumstances brought about by the pestilence, a knight still remained bound by the "Indentures of War" to serve the king and supply a force from amongst his servants and tenants but these common foot soldiers are not known by name. Roger la Warre was at Poitiers with the prince and possibly with a few Brislington men whose names we shall never know. Indeed, as already demonstrated names survive mostly in deeds to land transactions - this one concerning Milo de Bristilton,

1363

*At Westminster in the quinzaine of Easter and afterwards in the quinzaine of Trinity between Thomas Crumme, vicar of St Leonard, Bristol & Milo de Bristilton, querents and John Slo and Isabella his wife, deforciantes for three messuages in the suburbs of Bristol and others in Gloucestershire. John & Isabella acknowledged the right of Thomas by their gift. For this Thomas & Milo granted the same to John & Isabella to hold to them and their issue and if they die without issue then to remain to the right heirs of Isabella. [SRS vol 17]*

Those who were left alive after the plague may well have wished to give thanks for their survival: in Brislington the cottagers at the village, servants of the manor at West Town, now presumably paid labourers [!], farmers at Wick and pre-industrialist quarriers

squatting by the Rock needed a church. The chapel of St Anne's catered for a different clientele altogether and an occasional monk preaching at the village cross, even if he was an ordained priest from the Augustinian Abbey of Keynsham, failed to meet requirements.

1370

The church had by now been built and dedicated to St Luke. A unique feature is, and was, a niche on the south side of the tower, set with two little figures which are thought to represent Roger la Warre, [who was buried at Swineshead in Lincolnshire in this year] and his wife Elizabeth Welles, the parents of John, a man of twenty five, the new Lord of the Manor and his brother Thomas, a priest in holy orders.

1373

More enfeoffment: *At Westminster in the quinzaine of St Hillary between John de la Warre, knight, querent and Lodewic Clifford, knight & Alianne, his wife deforciant for lands in Sussex, Northants, Wilts, Berks and a third part of the manor of Bristellyngton. Lodewic and Alianne granted the said third part to John and his heirs and quitclaimed whatever right they had therein as dower of Alianne.*

[SRS vol 17]

1392, September 21

The last will and testament of Amy Weston, the wife of John Weston, baker of Bristol was proved. She left a tenement to her husband to be sold after his death to distribute in masses and alms for the benefit of his soul and for the souls of Thomas Bristleton, Julian his wife and their daughter Amy. [Bristol Wills, BRO]

[Perhaps Julian Bristleton was Amy's sister. Certainly her daughter seems to have been named after Amy Weston. Amy was rather unusual in that she made a will at all. Women were rarely testators unless they were spinsters or widowed. The property of a married woman automatically belonged to her husband.]

1392

The will of John Beket described as being "of the Abbey of Keynsham, Somerset", though evidently a layman, was proved at Wells. He asked to be buried at the monastic Abbey of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Keynsham and left legacies to his wife Maud, his son John, to the Abbot of Keynsham, [by now William Peschon] the vicars of Keynsham and Compton Dando and to Sir Richard, the Chaplain of St Anne.

[Bristol Wills, BRO]

1393

Thomas la Warre, brother of the Lord of the Manor was bequeathed a gold table and a figure of St Catherine also in gold in the will of 'Lady Elizabeth de la Warr', his mother.

[Early Lincs. Wills, quoted Al. Oxon]

[In case it is imagined that Thomas was an impoverished parish priest.]

1398

John la Warre died, a childless widower but possessed of large estates throughout the country, including *Brustelyngton, the manor, held of Thomas le Despenser, earl of Gloucestre.... by the service of two-*

thirds of a knight's fee. In Bristol, he was the true patron of the hospital of St Bartholomew. He was succeeded by Thomas, then over fifty years old.

Thomas's career is fully detailed in *Alumni Oxonienses*, the catalogue of Oxford graduates. He was a substantial career cleric, canon of Lincoln in 1363 (an office he held by the gift of the Black Prince), prebendary of Sleaford, Lincolnshire, 1376, rector of Swineshead in the same county, canon of York and prebendary of Grindall 1381, and Rector of Manchester in 1382. Interestingly he was granted leave of absence for three years from 1405 to 1408, presumably to go about the worldly business of his vast estates and may have come to Brislington at this time.

1426

The male la Warre line ended with the fifth baron, Thomas the priest. He willed his property to his half sister Joan, the wife of Thomas West. Her son Reginald West succeeded and adopted the title 6th Baron de la Warre. Brislington was part of his inheritance.

1438, May 12

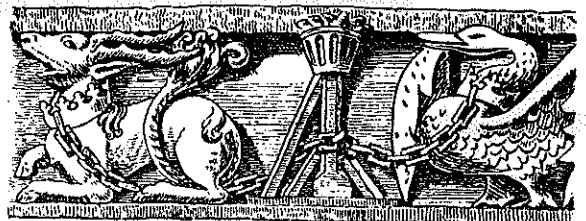
Certain property was now in private hands, but transactions remained complicated. A grant was made by Juliana widow of John Colchester 'barbour', late burgess of Bristol, John Ruddok, 'wever' and Margaret his wife, daughter of John Colchester, Walter Cokes, barbour, and his wife, another daughter of John Colchester to Richard Roper and Richard Elysaundre, burgesses of Bristol of a rental of fifteen shillings issuing from a tenement and lands in Knolle [Knowle] in the Hundred of Bedminster leased to Nicholas Seward of Bristelton, Somerset, mason, Agnes his wife and Nicholas, their son. The property formerly belonged to John Juhyne. [CBD]

1449

The first recorded parish priest "Phillipus, pastor parochus" of Brislington in "Raddecliff" appears in the bishop's register of Bath and Wells. [SRS vol 49]

1453

The struggle for power between the descendants of Edward III, divided into factions which supported the white rose of York or the red rose of Lancaster and occupied the country for thirty years. It is doubtful whether the rival pros and cons were argued over in the fields of Brislington except by those required to accompany their lord to war. The Manor family was solidly Lancastrian. Reginald de la Warre had been in many campaigns in France during the troubled reign of Henry VI. His son and heir, Richard, who succeeded 1451 was rewarded with part of the forfeited Wiltshire estates of the Duke of York, afterwards Richard III, for special services rendered. When Henry VI was deposed by Edward IV in 1461, Richard felt it expedient to flee abroad to await the turn of the tide. He died in exile, but remained in possession of the manor of Brislington which descended to his son Thomas, then aged 19.



1468

Hugh was the second [named] pastor of Brislington. The church had been rebuilt, and enlarged, with the addition of the nave, tower and porch.

1485

The Wars of the Roses concluded with the rout of Richard III of York at Bosworth Field and the accession of Henry Tudor whose tenuous claim to the throne was strengthened by his marriage to Edward IV's daughter Elizabeth, the sister of the Princes in the Tower. Maybe Thomas de la Warre was with him at Bosworth and the king repaid the favour, for in 1486, probably accompanied by Thomas, King Henry VII "rode from Bristol on pilgrimage to St Anne in the Wood".

The route taken by the royal party is generally believed to have been through Temple Gate at the end of Temple Street, over Pyllie Hill and up the [then] Sandy Lane and thence to St Anne's, returning along Holy Mead to the village, via the Pilgrim's Way. Modern public houses, the Pilgrim, the Holly Bush (a common mediaeval inn sign) commemorate the hostelries where perhaps the king and his entourage rested. For there would have been no simple journey on horseback for Tom and his royal master. Kings travelled with a retinue of chaplains, archers, watchmen and cooks, grooms and wardrobers, barbers and washerwomen, buffoons and hornblowers, running even to such speciality professionals as wolf catchers and cat hunters. Even if some of these were left in Bristol, the visit of the king must have made an entertaining show for the villagers.

The popularity of St Anne continued and a few surviving local wills record bequests to the shrine:

1487, July 28

Thos Chokke, of Stanton Drew left 6s.8d to St Anne's Chapel. [SMW]

1499, September 16

Alice Montague, left 12d to 'St Anne next Bristol'. [SMW]

c1500

When Keynsham Abbey was excavated the tombs of Walter Joie and John Spaldyng, two of the custodians of St Anne's were discovered, their Latin inscriptions reading as follows:

*Hic Jacet Walter Joie (or Joce) canonicus nuper custos capelle Sancte Anne in the Wode. Cujus anime propicietur Altissimus. Amen*

&

*Hic Jacet John Spaldyng Custos ac fratibus semper amabilis et gratus et custos Sancte Anne i silva cujus anime proprietur Mag dens.*

(SANHS no 53)

1502, August

Henry VII again came to St Anne's, this time with his Queen Elizabeth. The king who was notoriously mean, made a donation of 2s.6d. whilst the queen gave 17s.6d. Edward the Duke of Buckingham, called by Shakespeare writing later "the mirror of all courtesy" but beheaded by Henry VIII, visited the shrine in May 1508 with his wife and daughter. His diary records "My Lord's and young Lady's oblation to St Anne in

the Wood, 7s.4d." The Duke, evidently a music critic paid a shilling to a Welsh harper at St Anne's but only eightpence to another at Keynsham. [BPP, EW]



1525

Thomas West de la Warre was married twice, firstly to Elizabeth Mortimer by whom he had two sons, Thomas and William [died without issue] and four daughters; and secondly to Eleanor Copley. He died in this year and was succeeded by his son Thomas.

1531, December 13

Robert Bede was vicar. Keynsham Abbey names him in an "indenture of Robert Bede, clerk, for our chapel, St Luke the Evangelist, Bristolton with the mansion there called 'prests house' and the small tithes."

[SANHS 53]

1533

The Tybbett or Tybbott family rented Abbey lands: "The indenture of Joan Tybbett, widow & William Tybbett, her son [was he the monk listed below?] for one tenement in Bristleton and certain lands in Filton." [ie Felton or Whitchurch]

[ibid]

and so did John Daniel:

1533, May 3

"Indenture of John Danyell of Brystelton for the firm of the rectory of Bristolton (J. Storton, abbot)" [ibid]

Henry VIII refused a divorce by the Pope, declared himself head of the English church and no longer answerable to Rome. On August 18 1534, the Abbot of Keynsham with his monks acknowledged the supremacy of the king "with one mouth and voice" and took the oath: John Sturtun, abbot, William Hern, prior, John Owen, sub-prior, John Arnold, John Volles, John Gylford, Thomas Beede, Thomas Deverell, Thomas Parker, Thomas Bedford, "Wyllyam Tybbatt", and the novices, John Dollman, John Edwards, William Barrow, William Brayne and John Brown. On the eve of destruction of his Abbey John Stourton continued with the day to day business of issuing leases and indentures: Thomas West and ... his brother, sons of Robert West of Stockwood for reversion of the Grange of Stockwood. [SANHS 24 & 53]

Between 1536 and 1540 eight thousand monasteries, including Keynsham and the chapel of St Anne were suppressed and pillaged. The movement in favour of reform had innocently believed that wealth expropriated from the church should go to endow charitable, religious and

educational institutions. Instead, it went straight to the royal purse with monastic estates sold off, further enriching the wealthy and a *nouveau riche* urban middle class who saw the opportunity to become landed gentry.

For Brislington it was the end of tourism, though the number of visitors, given the deteriorating situation between King and Pope must have been declining for years. Conversely, there may have been local profit in the scramble for Abbey lands, for the wills of fifty Brislingtonians were proved in the Court of the Bishop of Bath & Wells 1538-97 whereas there had previously been none. No further clues to general prosperity can be gleaned from the contents of these wills, for apart from a few abstracts, they were lost in the blitz whilst the calendars themselves tantalisingly survive. Nevertheless, for the time being, Brislington as a fashionable resort was finished. It would be rediscovered two centuries later when *nouveau riche* Bristol tradesmen transmogrified into gentry would discover the delights of the place as a bucolic watering hole where they could build grand houses and escape from the pressure of the Bristol exchanges.

No priest is recorded as being resident at this time and it is probable that Robert Bede, Brislington's vicar, perhaps a brother of Thomas the Keynsham monk, was dispossessed, like many another country parson, perhaps to travel about the country carrying the small mercies of his trade and saying mass to any who were not afraid to listen.

Meanwhile life, death and commonplace business proceeded.

1537, July 30

Young John Lane of Brislington, an orphan, was apprenticed in Bristol - twice:

Johannes Lane, son of Johannes Lane of Brislington, defunct, husbandman to Johannes Dodyme & Elizabeth his wife as a towker (tucker)

and then again, probably on the death of his first master:

June 8 1538, Johannes Lane son of Johannes of Brislington, defunct, husbandman to Johannes Pery and Johanna his wife as a towker. [BAR11]

In 1538, the contents of St Anne's chapel were removed. The roof was stripped and the lead given to the king's exchequer. The windows were taken out and used in surrounding houses and on

1538, June 30

Robert Stafford, yeoman, for forty shillings took a lease of "all that house situated near the Chapel of St Anne at the southern part of the Valley called Newycke, with the houses, outhouses, gardens and orchards appertaining, also the chapel and cemetery in which the chapel now is". [E.W. p 23, SANHS. no 53]

1538, October 7

William Adams the son of Edward Adams of Brislington, tailor was apprenticed to Ludowicus Evans, of Bristol also a tailor. [BAR11]

1543, May 27

John son of John Lane of Bussulton, husbandman, was apprenticed to John Owen, shearman & Isabel his wife for 7 years. "The apprentice to have at the end of his term 20 shillings and one bed to the value of 13s. 4d." [BAR2]

c1543-1544

In Brislington churchyard there is a monumental inscription "Thomas Newman, aged 153. New faced in 1771 in commemoration of the great age of the deceased". The grave was supposedly seen by John Leland on his "Itinerary" of Britain\* which he undertook on behalf of Henry VIII. Wouldn't it be great if it were true? As neither you or I know of anyone who has remotely reached anything like such an age, sadly, the implication must be that the subject died, quite young, aged 53 and the figure "1" was carved in later by some mischievous Early-Modern graffitist. I personally think the grave's occupant is the Thomas Newman whose will was proved at Wells in 1544. What a pity no-one thought to check before it was too late. The will was among those destroyed by the blitz so we shall never know.

1546, February 15

The will of William Walrone of Langrege, [Langridgel] Somerset was proved: "To Robert Walrone, my sonne, my lease of one close & parroche in Bruslyngton purchased of John Morgane." [SMW]

1549, February 28

Thomas the son of Robert Berd of Bristelton, husbandman was apprenticed to Edward Trykett, cutler and Alice his wife for 7 years, the apprentice to have at the end 10 shillings. It seems a member of the family offered the lad ten shillings extra as a gratuity on completion, for young Tom appears again on September 7, 1550: Thomas, the son of Robert Berde of Brisleton, husbandman, to William Berde, cutler and Margaret his wife, 7 years, the apprentice to have at the end twenty shillings. [BAR2]

1554

The will of Richard Biesse or Bisse of Brislington was dated January 15 and proved July 19, 1554 at the Court of Wells. The testator mentioned his wife Edith, his son Richard, daughter Alice and sister Elizabeth Nele. Only the abstract survives. [SDNQ (V) p214]

Thomas de la Warre, the 9th Baron died. He was childless but had adopted William the son of his half-brother Sir George West as his heir. William, apparently to hasten his succession, tried to poison Thomas. Parliament brought in an Act disbaring him from succeeding to his uncle's honours and estates. Later William redeemed himself by Army service and his son was allowed to claim Thomas's ancient barony. This was too late for Brislington. In the interim the manor had been divided between Thomas's sisters and from them it passed into the Lacy family of Shipton under Wychwood, Oxfordshire in 1588. [EC]

\* quoted in "St Luke's Parish Church" booklet published about 1972 by Mrs Ashford Allan, wife of the then vicar. I have not discovered the original reference in Leland's Itinerary.

1556

Richard Philpot, was vicar.

[St Luke's PC, Allan]

More longevity. Perhaps it was the air. The "remarkable" Richard Philpot, is, like Thomas Newman, another Brislington legend. He was supposedly vicar for three quarters of a century and as he must have been at least 21 when ordained, therefore his minimum age was 96 when relieved to go to another post in 1631 by Oliver Chivers!

Richard Philpot had a wife, Joan, who was chief protagonist in an unseemly brouhaha over seating arrangements in the church in 1616 involving actual bodily harm which reached the notice of the bishop himself. There was also a son, Nathaniel, who is known from two Bristol apprenticeship entries:

Nathaniel, son of Richard Philpot of Brislington, yeoman to Thomas Daniel, tailor and Elizabeth his wife, February 14 1617

and

Nathaniel son of Richard Philpot, clerk of Brislington to Thomas Hurtnoll, haberdasher. The father bound in £10. October 30 1620.

Richard either had a much younger wife and a son born about 1603, supposing Nathaniel was aged 14 when first apprenticed or there were two Richards. The first who still had a much younger wife - for if Joan had been contemporaneous she would have been aged about 80 in 1616 - but remained vicar until at least 1617. The second was a yeoman in 1617 when he son was apprenticed but had become vicar "clerk" of Brislington by 1620. Nathaniel seems to be the same lad, who changed his mind about his first apprenticeship for which his father had to supply a bond of the considerable sum of £10 when he applied to a new master in a different trade. The vicar never entered a single detail of his own family in the register of baptisms, marriages and burials. If Richard Philpot had indeed served 75 years, I feel sure his successor would have recorded the extraordinary feat. As it was, not even a burial was entered in the parish register.

[SRO D/D/Ca/196; BAR, mss BRO]

1558

In the last year of the reign of Philip and Mary, two Brislington boys were apprenticed. John son of John Somers to Godfrey Bassett as a joiner and John s.o. William Webbley to Margaret Hamme, widow, as a baker.

[BAR3]

Elizabeth succeeded her sister in 1558 and sought reconciliation between her troubled subjects in a reformed Church of England. Clergymen were allowed to marry even though the conservative Queen found clerical wives and children deeply offensive. Various lawsuits, listed as 'temp Elizabeth', which could therefore refer to any time after Elizabeth ascended the throne in 1558 until 1603.

Richard Vaughan versus Thomas Vaughan, Richard Vaughan versus Nicholas Franklyn and John Pyll concerning lands & tenements in Bristleton



alias Burleston, Ann Morgan versus Nicholas Pavy, concerning the manor. [CCPI]

1566, September 2

Henry VIII's Vicar General, Thomas Cromwell decreed that each parish should keep a register of its baptisms, marriages and burials. If a previous "First Register" of Brislington ever existed then it has now been lost forever. The first entry was on this day when John, the son of John Macy was baptised and the next on October 4, the baptism of Alice, the daughter of John Hedge. It is worth noting that paternity was considered so much more important than maternity at this time that the children's mothers' names are not recorded, except in cases of illegitimacy, a situation which would prevail at Brislington for the next seventy years.

1567, March 14

Administration: John Daniel, Brislington; Joan, relict [Admons, Book L3 SRO]

1567 April 4

Robert Puckesley son of Thomas, late of Bristleton, was apprenticed to David Oldfilde, shereman for 8 years. [BAR 1566-73, mss BRO]

1569

The "Rising of the Northern Earls" - at once Catholic plot and evidence of the North/South divide, could easily have led to invasion from Europe and caused serious alarm. The traditional raising of local troops from the retainers of the lord of the manor had all but vanished. Besides, although young men, 18 or 20 years old never went without a dagger at their backs, they no longer practised so diligently at the Shot-tree.

The Reverend William Harrison wondered what modern youth was coming to. "String shooting is decayed and laid in bed" he reported in his tract: *Elizabeth Arms England which Mary hath left defenceless*. Besides, a shocking continental revenge for the once supreme English bowmen's two fingered salute was in vogue. "The Frenchmen turn up their tails and cry 'Shoot English!' but if some of our Englishmen now lived that served King Edward III in his wars with France, the breech of such a varlet had been raised to his back with one arrow and another feathered in his bowels before he should have turned about to see who had shot the first!" Legislation was clearly necessary, if only to answer the insult. Each district was compelled to find its own ever ready militia or trained band, a Home Guard to defend the country in the event of further revolt or invasion from abroad. Eleven Brislington men mustered:



Brislington - la Warre to Lacy

William Brytten pikeman  
Richard Jones gonner  
John Grene billman  
John Paxley archer  
Thomas Berde billman  
John Magges archer  
William Tibbott billman  
John Grey archer  
Robert Paget billman  
Edward Morgan archer  
Richard Griffith billman

Beside each man's name is the weapon for which he was considered most appropriate. Suitability as a pikeman denoted a man taller than average height which was about 5' 2" or 3". A bill was a combined spear and battle-axe, with a hook instead of a blade, and sounds extremely nasty.

Of "Armor" they could supply one Telling Corslet, one pair almaine rivets furnished, one bow and a sheaf of arrows.

Harrison again:

*Our armour differeth not from that of other nations and therefore consisteth of corslets, almain rivets, shirts of mail, jacks quilted and covered with leather, fustian on canvas over thick plates of iron that are sewed in the same. Of which there is no town or village that hath not her convenient furniture. The said armour and munition likewise is kept in one several place of every town, appointed in the consent of the whole parish, where it is always ready to be worn within an hour's warning... there is no village so small that it hath not three or four soldiers [one archer, one gunner, one pike and a bill man] at the very least.*

William Britton may have lived only a short time in the parish. The only parish register references to the family are to the marriages of two Britton girls to local men and the burial of William's son Thomas in 1573. The Brittons were more usually to be found on the other side of the river in Kingswood, then part of the parish of Bitton.\* With the exception of Jones, Griffith and Morgan - who together present a picture of three itinerant Welsh soldiers of fortune, the rest bear familiar Brislington names of the period.

1569 March 9

William Pavye son of Nicholas of Burstleton was apprenticed to Alexander Boston & Dorcas his wife for eight years as a hooper. He was later released and turned over to another hooper, Thomas Edgin.

[BAR, 1566-73 mss BRO]

1570

Catholics were always open to accusations of treachery as long as they attempted to serve two masters, the Pope in Rome and the English State, personified by the Queen. They needed to behave discreetly, pay lip service to the Church of England and in private 'keep the faith'. It was possible to maintain the sham where no tangible threat

was perceived to the Queen's position. The execution of 800 rebels after the abortive Northern rising of 1569 was followed by the infamous Papal Bull of 1570, which excommunicated the Queen, calling her a heretic and usurper and urged her Catholic subjects to rebel. English Catholics were faced with a choice between church and country: religious outcasts if they continued to attend "the heretical" Church of England, traitors if they did not. Less tolerance towards Catholics was inevitable. They were fined a huge sum, "£20 a month for whatever the offender for non attendance at church, chapel or usual place of common prayer", a fate which befell the Keynsham "recusants" Richard Gaye, a yeoman and George Baylie and William Bull, husbandmen. Presumably they could not afford to remain Catholics for very long. No Brislington recusants are listed. [SDNQ, (V) pp 112-4]

1570

Administration: To collect goods of John Daniel, Burselton; to Joan, relict. Inventory £19.13s. [WCC Admons, SRO]

1573

Administrations:

William Harvorde, of Bristleton, to Joan, relict. June 24, 1573.

John Morse of Burstleton, to William & Margaret, his children, February 15, 1573/4. [WCC Admons, L3 SRO]

1574

Administration: Richard Hudde of Bursleton. Leave to collect his goods granted to his son Edward. [ibid]

1575

In this year there were two unnatural deaths. "One George, a stranger", tragically drowned in a well, whereas John Maggs died in such suspicious circumstances that "he was opened and the Coroner sat upon him". There were 26 other burials, a massive increase from the usual yearly average of 7 or 8. Although the parish register is silent, it seems likely Brislington was visited by plague.\*\* In Bristol 1574-75, the epidemic carried off about 2,000 persons.

[PR May 16, Dec 22 1575, Adams Chronicle of Bristol]

1580

A great earthquake was felt in Bristol, London and Salisbury.

1581

Hugh Smythe of Ashton Court died in London on March 2. He had purchased the manor of Felton in the parish of Whitchurch in 1562. At his death, the stock on his demesne farm was 23 horses, 18 oxen, 40 cattle, 20 pigs and more than 550 sheep. The will calendar describes him inexplicably as "of Long Ashton, Brisingtonne". A clue might be found in the lawsuit brought against him by William & John Newman "in the time of Queen Elizabeth" respecting the Brislington Parsonage.

[PCC Wills 9.Darcy & Chancery Proc. Series iii 196; BRS XXXV]

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\* See G. Britton Spilsbury, The Brittons of Kingswood Chase.

\*\* For a full analysis see D.P. Lindegaard, The Simple Annals of the Poor.

1581, November 20

Grant by Aysheton Ayleworth of London, esquire and Walter Ayleworth of Grays Inn, Middlesex, esquire to Nicholas Clark of Bristol, merchant of messuages, cottages, tofts, etc in Bedmynster and Bryslyngton alias Bristolton, Co Somerset, late in tenure of John Stone and appointment of Thomas Allembridge and Edward Strewde to deliver seisin. [CBD]

1584, March 1

A licence was taken out by Thomas Newman of Brisselton, to marry Agnes Sparkes daughter of Thomas Sparkes of Camerton; marriage to be at Camerton. [1 March 1583/4]

[Mar Lic 1583-1623 Abstr Bath & Wells, Col Phipps, SRO]

1586

The manor of Brislington was bought by John Lacy of Shipton under Wychwood, Oxfordshire.

The Manor Court Roll refers to coalpits in Brislington as well as naming miners causing nuisance. There are orders to fill up a pit and to seize and close another. At the end there is a survey of tenants estates giving a description and the location of the property, the tenants' names with dates of grants and fines paid. One of the most interesting is a reference to the holding of John Hedges at Oken Hill a farm still in existence as Oakenhill. [SRO DD/GL, 124]

[A partial transcription of the Manor Court book may be found in Appendix 2.]

1587, July 2

Twin girls, Edith and Eme were born to Elynor Horne and she reported that John Macy of Wick [Road] was the father. This is probably the John Macy who, by hook or by crook was first in the book in 1566. Mothers of illegitimate babies were urged by the midwives to "confess" the names of the fathers of their children when they were at their most vulnerable during labour itself. Brislington midwives took this task very seriously and it is probably because of their efforts that [unusually] most of the fathers of Brislington's bastards in this period are known. Only one of the midwives is named; Agnes Newman. A midwife could also baptise a child if she considered death was imminent and no priest was available as in the case of Richard Pope's twins on March 1, 1580 who "were christened by the midwives and buried the same day". This right was removed when James I bowed to Puritan pressure and is interesting in view of the current debate about female ordination. [BPR]

1588, March

The Pope declared the Spanish Armada a Crusade or "Holy War" against England. On Lady Day, the able-bodied men of the musters were summoned to appear at Redcliffe Church before a Captain-General. Presumably some, including our Brislington men were sent to Tilbury where the army was being assembled whilst others stayed behind as a Home Guard during the emergency. At St James's Fair, the government bought up all the canvas for tents for the soldiers. In April, Bristol sent four ships, Great Unicorn, Minion, Aid and Handmaid into the English Channel to join the Fleet. In August a messenger brought to Bristol

the news of the great victory. He was rewarded with a handsome 13/4d [about 67pl] and there was dancing in the streets, with "players, tumblers and great jubilation." [LA16C]

1590

Administrations:

John Hedges, Brislington to Joan, relict, as executrix, July 21.

John Prickett, Brislington to Joan, relict. Walter, son as executor. £96. September 22.

William Neweman, Brislington, deceased. His children Richard, James and Agnes as executors. £28.15s. November 6.

[WCC Admons, L8, 1583-99, pp217, 39, 62. SRO]

1590, October 26

A marriage licence obtained by William Tibbot of Brisselton & Joan Hall of Cainsome [sic]. Bondsmen Thomas Hall, Keinsham [sic], shoemaker & John Gregorie of same, weaver.

[op cit Mar Lic, Phipps, SRO]

1592, November 1

"To all Rectors, etc". Marriage Licence between Thomas Daniell of Bristleton & Elizabeth Turner of Bridgwater. Bondsmen: Robert Daniel of Whitchurch & Walter Prickett of Bristleton. [ibid]

1593, 25 May

David Bearde son of John Bearde of Busleton in Somerset, wright, apprenticed to William Barrowe of Bristol and Johanna his wife as a chairman, with a "fine" [feel] of 4s 6d. [BAR, 1593-1609, mss BRO]

1594

Administrations: Richard Pope, Brislington, deceased. Alice and Joan, daughters as executrices. Inventory £20. May 7.

Richard Neweman, Brislington. Joan, relict, executrix. Inventory £20.

[WCC Ad L8, pp254, 104, SRO]

1595

William, the son of Mr Israel Gleson was christened at St Augustine the less in Bristol. The Glesons eventually became a prominent Brislington family. [PR St Aug the less]

1595, May 30

Thomas Maynard son of Thomas Maynard of Brislington, Somerset, defunct apprenticed to William Parker of Bristol, smith and Elizabeth his wife, fine 4s 6d. [BAR 1593-1609, mss, BRO]

1596

The harvest failed and there was acute famine throughout the land. Wheat was sold for 18 - 20 shillings a bushel, with rye at 10 shillings and malt at 8 shillings. The City of Bristol managed to import rye from Denmark and also each alderman and person of substance was ordered to relieve the poor from his own table and find work for all who applied "whereby the poor of our city were kept from starving and rising." The towns bore the brunt of the dearth. In times of

want, the farming families were obliged to eat their own produce and had no surplus to sell at the market. [Adams Chronicle of Bristol]



1597, June 15  
Richard Chocke of Burselton freemason, was bondsman regarding the marriage licence application of Thomas Parker of Witcombe and Mary Whitten of Bath.

[op cit Mar Lic, Phipps, SRO]

1598

Will: Emma Greene. An abstract of the administration also exists: Emma Green of Brislington, son John as executor. Inventory value £13; dated March 22, 1598/9.

[CWW, WCC Ad L8 p362, SRO]

Administration: Edith Neweman, Brislington, deceased. Proved at Bristol by her son John. Inventory value £16. [WCC Ad L8 p289, SRO]

1599, June 1

Administration: John Hedges, Brislington, deceased; relict Eleanor; proved by William Hedges, value £40. [WCC Ad L8 p395, SRO]





The Queen in Majesty -  
 frontispiece Bmsington  
 Manor Court Book



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LACY family of Shipton under Wychwood

William Lacy of Northumberland = Jane -----

William = Alice Pipord

John = Eleanor Langton William  
of Middx bur Putney  
issue Surrey

Joan Sir Rowland = Constance Lucas  
= Robert Needham High Sheriff of Colchester  
of Shenton, Salop of Oxford, 1623

dau Sir John = Mary Wythepoll  
d. aet 12 High Sheriff  
of Oxford, 1631

John Rowland Frances  
d. 1621 b. c. 1619 b. 1621

[Taken from the Visitation of Oxfordshire, 1634.]

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Appendix 1

WILLS

A Calendar of Brislington Wills proved at Wells.

1538	Amys Davy Thomas Greene John Newman
1542	Richard Flowde
1543	John Danyell
1544	Edmund Adams Thomas Newman
1545	Edith Chester Elizabeth Newman William Tybett
1546	John Danyell Christiana Tybbott
1547	Robert Grene
1548	Henry Weyre
1552	Thomas West Johane Tybbote
1553	Richard Owelmar
1554	John Grene William Grene Elizabeth Mors Richard Newman
1556	William Danyell Thomas Owelmere
1558	Maud Danyell John Masye
1560	Robert Chestowre
1567	John Phillips
1569	William Daniell John Morse John Saunders
1572	John Marten
1576	Elyn Grene William Pavye
1578	Thomas Grene
1580	John Bigg
1582	William Phelps
1583	Thomas Maynard
1585	William Swifte
1586	Richard Whipple
1587	William Corte John Grene, the elder John Kinge
1589	John Hedges, the younger
1590	William Newman
1595	Thomas Hedges

1597        John Maynard  
            John Mayne  
            Richard Newman  
1598        Emma Greene

Prerogative Court of Canterbury:

1587        Nicholas Sadge, of Burstleton. [PCC 14 Rutland]

Appendix 2

THE MANOR COURT BOOK OF JOHN LACY

Manor Court 21 April. 29 Elizabeth

Essoin: [Apologies for absence!] Free tenants, Nicholas Thorne and Richard Vaughan.

Homage: John Phelps, William Newman, John Daniell, senior, Thomas Daniell, William Bartlett, John Hedges, junior of Down Town, John Maynard, Richard Pope, Thomas Ford, Richard Yfield, John Green, John Sampson, John Hedges of Upton Town, John Newman, Henry Deane, Richard Newman, John Lansdown, Thomas Browne, John fforde, John Hedges, senior, Robert Lane, John Parsons, John Daniell of the Heath, John Puxley, John Gray.

Death of Richard Vaughan, free tenant.

Death of Richard Whippy, customary manor tenant. Bailiff to take delivery of a herriott of a cow or 40s in default.

Death of John Somers, customary manor tenant. Heriott as above to be delivered by Joan his wife.

William Tibbott, breaking ground on the manor lands without licence. To get off by Pentecost or be fined 40 shillings.

John Whippy and family for making a road across Langton long hedges to Collins high hedge, make amends or be fined 20 shillings.

Item that John Maynard is mining coals. Likewise John Gray, William Tibbott and Robert Woodroffe. All of them are mining.

[-----page broken] Edward Langford and Robert ----- and Joan his wife. Robert Lane and Joan his wife.....John Macy .....John Maynard making a road through Tailor's (?) Close and Sandifield.

John Macy and Margaret came to the homage in the court 21 March. John Phelps, John Green, John Daniell, John Puxley and John Hedges, customary tenants of the manor witness [?] John Macy and Margaret his wife as tenants.

Grant to William Daniell, Joan his wife and Andrew his son to hand over land to John & Margaret Macy.

Johes Hansum  
cico supstitos  
ffm lxx

Tenet p top xxvij<sup>o</sup> et xij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup> et lxxvij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>  
messetona virgat terr sibi et filii p<sup>o</sup> eius  
et solam filio suo p<sup>o</sup> terio vit ar s<sup>o</sup>dm q<sup>o</sup> sue  
tnd ar p<sup>o</sup> solam filio

Johes Greene

Tenet p top xxix<sup>o</sup> septembris p<sup>o</sup> et lxxvij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>  
et dimid virgat terr in quarta p<sup>o</sup> virgat t<sup>o</sup>  
hend sibi filia p<sup>o</sup> sue et filio Greene filio suo p<sup>o</sup>  
terio vit ar s<sup>o</sup>dm q<sup>o</sup> sue tnd ar p<sup>o</sup> dm Lascat  
ex p<sup>o</sup> hemu<sup>o</sup> coronscud.

Johes Battell mortuus  
et filii  
supstitos  
ffm lxxvij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>

Tenet p top xxix<sup>o</sup> Martij p<sup>o</sup> et lxxvij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>  
in giardino adiacent sibi et filii p<sup>o</sup> eius et  
filia sue p<sup>o</sup> terio vit ar s<sup>o</sup>dm q<sup>o</sup> sue tnd ar  
p<sup>o</sup> dm Lascat ex p<sup>o</sup> et alior p<sup>o</sup> h<sup>o</sup> et omnib<sup>o</sup> s<sup>o</sup>dm.

Johes Newnan  
ambo supstitos  
ffm lxxvij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>

Tenet p top xxix<sup>o</sup> Martij p<sup>o</sup> et lxxvij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>  
p<sup>o</sup> m<sup>o</sup> messuag<sup>o</sup> et omnes virgat terr in  
matid<sup>o</sup> sup<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup> solis<sup>o</sup> h<sup>o</sup> et omnes s<sup>o</sup>dm sibi et  
et d<sup>o</sup> s<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup> eius p<sup>o</sup> terio vit ar s<sup>o</sup>dm q<sup>o</sup> sue tnd ar  
in p<sup>o</sup> morte et p<sup>o</sup> et s<sup>o</sup>ma p<sup>o</sup> et s<sup>o</sup>dm.

nota

Coms Impeler  
Johes supstitos  
ffm lxxvij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>

No land of lord or steward nor allorance or any office  
Tenet p top xxvij<sup>o</sup> septembris p<sup>o</sup> et lxxvij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>  
nextione omnes t<sup>o</sup> et omnes virgat terr in  
terio solis et Greene s<sup>o</sup>dm sibi et Johes p<sup>o</sup>  
eius et solam filio suo p<sup>o</sup> terio vit ar s<sup>o</sup>dm  
q<sup>o</sup> sue tnd ar no land of lord or steward ex p<sup>o</sup> m<sup>o</sup>  
et s<sup>o</sup>dm coronscud.

nota

Willms Cypert  
Johes mortuus  
ffm lxxvij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>

Tenet p top dat<sup>o</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> Martij p<sup>o</sup> et lxxvij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>  
et dimid virgat terr sibi et filio et solam  
filio suo p<sup>o</sup> terio vit ar s<sup>o</sup>dm s<sup>o</sup>dm et p<sup>o</sup> dm  
Lascat ex p<sup>o</sup> Lascat et omnib<sup>o</sup> s<sup>o</sup>dm.

Willms Cillott  
redd<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>

Tenet p top xxix<sup>o</sup> Octobris p<sup>o</sup> et lxxvij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>  
not<sup>o</sup> et t<sup>o</sup> s<sup>o</sup>dm sibi et filio et solam  
s<sup>o</sup>dm sibi p<sup>o</sup> terio vit ar s<sup>o</sup>dm q<sup>o</sup> sue tnd ar p<sup>o</sup> s<sup>o</sup>dm  
Tenet p top dat<sup>o</sup> 12 Octobris p<sup>o</sup> et lxxvij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>

Johanna Lascarde  
redd<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>  
mortuus  
ffm lxxvij<sup>o</sup> p<sup>o</sup>

in collag<sup>o</sup> et vno giardino in p<sup>o</sup> m<sup>o</sup> m<sup>o</sup> s<sup>o</sup>dm  
et s<sup>o</sup>dm sibi et filio et solam filio ad t<sup>o</sup> s<sup>o</sup>dm  
s<sup>o</sup>dm sibi et filio et solam filio ad t<sup>o</sup> s<sup>o</sup>dm  
s<sup>o</sup>dm sibi et filio et solam filio ad t<sup>o</sup> s<sup>o</sup>dm

Willelmus Cypert



Appraised John Phelps  
William Newman.

Manor Court 30 Elizabeth

Essoin: None.

Jury: John Phelps, John Sampson, John Hedges

William Paine for grazing in the heath. Penalty.

Milo Cuthbert  
Agnes Oliffe [William Pearce, her sub tenant]  
John Miles, sub tenant  
John Hedges, Richard Ithell, John Bush  
John Gray, regarding his "colepitt" to clear charcoal and waste.  
Joan Prickett  
William Daniell  
William Newman  
Robert Durnell [Burnell]  
John Parsons.

Appraised William Bartlett  
John Pope.

Manor Court 30th Elizabeth

Essoin: none

Jury: John Phelps, John Sampson, John Ford.

John Gray, not complied with order of the previous court regarding his "colepitt".

business concerning

John Prickett  
William Holbin  
Joan Ford

Katherine Brooke

William Tibbott, his "colepitt" at Ashbridge, to fill in waste.

William Daniell

View: John Gray, William Newman, Thomas Lane, Robert Lane, John Phelps, John Hedges of Upton Town, Nicholas Blake. John Phelps, William Newman, John Parsons, John Hedges of Upton Town, John Maynard, William Daniell, John Macy, John Daniell, Elizabeth his wife and Andrew their son.

John Phelps, William Bartlett, Thomas Ffoord and John Daniell of the Heath to make View of Frankpledge in Broadlands as far as Redwithes Mead between William Paine and John Maynard's ploughland where John Ffoord ought to clear [?] his way at Sparken hedd as far as the road and also at Squeakers Lane as far as William Tibbotts, before Pentecost, penalty 10 shillings.

Ordered that livestock, cattles or chattels henceforward be seized as part of rent. [?]

Change of tenancy. Robert Lane and Joan his wife. Edward Langford and Mary his wife. Richard son of Edward and Mary Langford.

Manor Court 31 Elizabeth?

Esscin: Free tenant, Nichlaus Thorne, tenant Richard Vaughan

Homage: That is to say, William Newman and Thomas Daniel, now in ----- of homage.

Default of Court: Agnes Hayward, Thomas Daniel, William Price and Milo Cuthbert clearly in default. [not in court - contempt?]

Ruins: Item, concerning the messuage belonging to John Hedges at Okenhill which is in decay and broken down; to make amends before Lady Day or be under penalty of 10 shilings

The following under tenants, Agnes Oliffe, Richard Ithell, and William Bartlett, gent, 20 shillings, are all under penalty.

Death of John King. Customary tenant of the manor, deceased, court summons on account of payment by his wife of a herritt, his ox and his cow and #4.3.4d. And that Agnes King wife of the tenant shall make due obligation by fidelity to her noble lord and is admitted to the tenancy, unconditionally, her widowhood acknowledged.

Permit to Agnes King, widow to turn over to John her son. Agnes some customary service of the manor without let or hindrance.

That William Holbin and Richard Dashwill are suspended by the court. And that Thomas Daniell take back the corner he hath taken for animals and pasture in the court lands. It goes without saying.

Item that John Gray ----- his under tenant, John Newman to ---- carry out repairs or be fined 10s

On account of Thomas Whippy to make indemnity to William Tibbott or be fined 5s.

Visus pro Viis. Views of the roads. View decrees homage before nearest roads to Squeakers Lane and as far as Marison [?] and to Broad Lane as far as Redwithes mead and by way of John Lansdon's as far as Wollam mead [?] fine 12d.

Appraised John Maynard  
John Phelps.

Manor Court No date

Essbin: none



Regnum nunc pro fine vite pmo mpt p ipm de Eoma  
Beard integrit et plene solut concessit p ludo de Eoma  
Beard et Katherine ux eius et nullis filis eius dnm  
Eoma pro terio bibe eod et eod ruiuslib dms vrbem  
supressit ad voluit dmi suu rousuet m muerij p dli  
Et pmsu reddid p dca fra ff ea intentione vt dms  
romedoret mess pme sent p d ut ora ut singula p dca  
missa ad suis p m dms ruyford et ux sue et vni filioz  
dri ddi. Sup quo ad Eum ruius bnd p dca dms ruy  
ford et repit de dno mess pme sent p dca ut ora ut  
singula pmissa ad ordy ut singulis suis p m p dca  
Eo et marie ux eius et p m filio eius pro terio  
bibe eod et eod ruiuslib dms vrbem. Supressit ad vol  
dmi suu rousuet m muerij p dli p rousuet ones  
rousuet et serui inde debet et rousuet. Et pro fili  
p dca et m dca inde dms in pmissio ad dms  
p dca dno de sine mta vno mpt et ferit dno  
fictu. Et admissio dms dms.

Inceptu d sed Eius m muerij qd visus fias  
in p dca dms vrbem ad dms dms m dms  
m dca dms dms et dms dms dms  
Et dms dms dms dms dms dms  
a dms dms dms dms dms dms  
Caracteres dms vrbem dms dms dms  
Et p dca dms qd qm libt qm dms dms m dms  
p dca ill m dms dms et reformidms dms p dca  
sub p ruiuslib dms dms m mpt.

pma

Ad Eum ruius dms dms dms dms dms  
libt dms et dms dms ruius dms m muerij qd dms  
dms dms dms dms dms dms dms dms  
bridge ex iustiali p dca dms dms dms  
pmissio. beade dms dms dms dms  
Eius manet saluet erga ruius dms dms  
p dca dms qd ipm dms dms dms. Et dms  
dms dms dms dms dms dms dms  
et dms dms dms dms dms dms dms  
ruiuslib dms m dms dms et dms dms dms  
dms dms. Et dms dms qm libt dms erga ruius  
dms dms. Dms dms dms dms dms dms  
p dca dms dms dms dms dms dms dms.



Free tenants Nichlaus Thorne and Richard Vaughan.

Homage: Thomas Brooke, John Phelps, John Newman, Richard May and William Tibbott in default.

Richard Saunders has a bakehouse and malthouse to brew and bake. Should have obtained permission. Therefore fined 2s 6d. Same Richard Saunders has three horses and two cows on court land. Fined 10 shillings.

Thomas Lane enclosing the common waste, told to lay it open before Pentecost or be fined 20 shillings. That Edward Borde [?] has two cows, William Holbin two draught horses and William Roche a cow and a horse grazing on court land. Each fined 2s 6d. Milo Cuthbert two horses, fined 5 shillings.

Subtenants. That Henry Deane, Thomas Daniell, John Wingell, Milo Cuthbert, William Tibbott senior, William Tibbott junior, are ordered each and every one to pay 20 shillings.

Joan Green, widow to lay open a way across Yelow [?] lande before Pentecost or be fined 5 shillings.

Emme Green to scour her ditches before St John the Baptist day or be fined 10 shillings. William Paine to do the same. Fine 10 shillings. Likewise Robert Lane and John Maynard.

John Daniell to hand over water course through the old marsh, viz in Broadlande, Owl hill, Flower hill, Budways, before St Nicholas or be fined 10 shillings.

..... Page torn....] by St John the Baptist's day next or pay 10 shillings. Ordered that John Gray to enclose and shut his "colepit" by Pentecost next or be fined 10 shillings.

Order re William Bartlett's outhouse.

John Gray reported by bailiff to have seized right of possession of coal and minerals.

Manor Court ..... 32 Elizabeth

Essoin: free tenant Nichlaus Thorne and tenant Richard Vaughan

Homage: viz, John Phelps, John Sampson and John Hedges. Default William Tibbott, William Price, Milo Cuthbert, John Eaton and William Preston.

John Lansdon to have way as far as Wollams Mead.  
Richard Hill to make reparations to John Puxley  
Ordered that no ale maker or brewer shall have people assembling in his house [!]

William Bartlett to repair his decayed house. Under penalty 20 shillings.

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Inhabitants of St Annes to walk the church path that comes into Wickes Lane by the drain [?] lane as far as Peyton's Cross and the fields.

Appraised John Phelps  
John Hedges, senior.

Manor Court 31 September, 32 Elizabeth

Essoin: Free tenant Nichlaus Thorne and tenant Richard Vaughan.

Homage: viz, Thomas Daniell, John Phelps, William Newman, John Newman, John Sampson, John Hedges, John Daniell, John Maynard, Henry Deane, Richard Newman and Thomas Browne.

William Bartlett to make repairs to his houses and hay barn.

Robert Lane  
Edward Langford.

Manor Court 32 Elizabeth

Essoin: Hereditary tenants, Nicholas Thorne and Richard Vaughan.

Homage: William Newman is deceased. Herriott of two cattle delivered to bailiff. Thomas Newman admitted tenant in his place. Agnes Oliffe, tenant, also deceased.

Manor Court 17 April, 34 Elizabeth, Rowland Lacy

Essoin: hereditary tenants Richard Vaughan and Nicholas Thorne

Homage: Thomas Daniell, John Phelps, John Daniell, junior, John Daniell, senior, John Hedges, junior, John Puxley, Richard Ifield, Thomas Newman, John Greene, John Parsons, William Tibbott, Richard Newman, John Maynard and John Lansdown.

Nicholas Thorne, free tenant, deceased.

Thomas Brown, customary tenant of the manor, deceased. Joan, his wife delivered herriott of two coves to bailiff. William Webley.

Thomas Ford, tenant, deceased. Herriott of 10 shillings paid. John Pope succeeds as tenant.

Joan Somers, tenant, deceased. William Roche succeeds.

Thomas Daniell for leaving open his hedge towards the hedge at Lane Furlong to pay the standing paine. John Green and John Pickard for the like.

Manor Court, 9 October, 34 Elizabeth

Essoin: free tenants [hereditary] Richard Vaughan & Richard Thorne.

Jury: John Sampson, Thomas Whippy and John Newman.

Business: William Tibbott, customary tenant of the manor, now deceased, payment due one herrriott, £1.10s. Joanne Tibbott, his wife to succeed to tenancy in his place.

The Penaryne [?] House is in ruins. John Maynard to repair it or be fined 10s.

Edward Langford is forcibly keeping out Anne Hayward, widow, from a farm and tenement in the east field. To make restitution and pay penalty of 10s.

John Harding owes 2s, and so does Tobie Whippy. Walter Stevens four beasts, William Paine a mare and a chicken. Henry Deane nine chickens. John Sampson a chicken and two beasts. William Holbin is pasturing in the heath contrary to the order. All are under penalty. Katherine Clarke is keeping one pig and Widow Green four pigs in --- contrary to order. John Green senior is keeping animals in a grain field, fine 20s and Richard Ifield ----- fine 20s.

John Phelpes, John Newman and Anne Maynard to repair the bridge at Owlemere and scour out the ditch.

Richard Dashfield admitted as a tenant of the manor and as juror. Thomas Newman complains [?] ----- view of Richard Ifield ----- 8s in default.

A view to be made at Norreys where and how far the Lord's land doth extend and where and how far the tenants of this manor ought to have way for carriage driving their cattells and to consider what the consideration could be thereof to Greenfield to be done before the next court. The tenants of Bedminster gave warning of the time of the general meeting there that they may altogether confer and touch upon pain of everyone making default of 3s 4d, notice to be given by the balliff.

The view of the last court for the way for Pope and Ford is to be made by the homage before All Hallows Tide upon pain of 12d apiece.

All causes between John Newman and Thomas Tibbott are committed to the award of William Daniell, John Phelpes and John Daniell and ended before the xviii of this month.

Views of Frankpledge:

Milo Cuthbert  
Joan Eyton did pluck up Newman's hedge.

Appraised John Phelpes  
Richard Newman.

[Business concerning] Anne Green, John Pope .... at the marsh

View between Stockwood Hedd and Gildons Mead, Milo Cuthbert, John Newman, Thomas Cogswall shall make their fence and scour their ditches before next court on pain of 5s each. Likewise a view be made at Lane's furlong where two fields are to be let, on like pain. Agreed that Robert Goodman and Richard Newman shall have the charge of making the hedge and ditch between this manor and Whitchurch and shall sufficiently keep and maintain the same for the space of fower years next following. That the tenantry of the meade at Bowood in the fief of this manor shall mowe the same meade before the 8th of August yearly and from thence until Candlemas, the said Robert and Richard shall have the afterwood so that they yearly have the same til Candlemas upon paine of anyone offending this order shall pay ten shillings.

Tenancy Agreement: William Daniell, son William and daughter Anne.

It is ordered that from henceforth the hayward shall as they dwell from John Green's going from house to house throughout the manor and upon pain of any shall refuse shall forfeit 20 shillings to him that doth next supply the room, viz John Daniell of the meade and Thomas Tibbott, overseers and road unto the hayward.

Manor Court 23 April. 35 Elizabeth

Essoin: Free tenant Richard Maye

Homage: William Bartlett, John Newman, Thomas Tibbott, John Pope and all those presented.

Presented homage. That is to say, hereditary tenant Richard Vaughan, hereditary tenant Nicholas Thorne, John Gray, Thomas Whippy, Richard Newman, Anne Maynard, John Puxley, John Green, Alice Batten, Joane Maynard, Joane Tibbott, Agnes King. Made default to the manor court, each and everyone 4d.

And that William Holbin, Robert Woodroffe and William Stevens are suspended by the court. Each one fined 2 shillings. Katherine Brooke, 2 shillings.

John Newman, John Phelps, John Roberts. John Daniel of the Heath, Henry Deane.

Appraised Thomas Daniell

John Phelps

Thomas Brooke son of Thomas Brooke, change of tenant.



TENANCY INQUISITIONS

John Hedges, tenant 4 October, 16 Elizabeth messuage and virgate for the lives of John and his sons William and Thomas. Witnessed Henry Townsend.

Thomas Russell, tenant 9 September, 12 Elizabeth, cottage and garden, lives of Thomas and Robert and John, his sons. Time of Lord la Warr. Witnessed Henry Townsend.

John Maggs, tenant last of March, 16 Elizabeth, messuage and virgate lives of John, Gwelthiane his wife, deceased, John his son. Lord la Warr, witnessed Henry Townsend.

William Newman, tenant last of March, 16 Elizabeth, messuage, virgate, cottage and garden called Girdlingtons for lives of William and John and Thomas, his sons. From Lord la Warr.

William Roche, tenant 2 October, 31 Elizabeth, cottage in tenure of Joan Soms, widow, deceased. Witnessed John Lacy.

Thomas Maynard, tenant last March, 16 Elizabeth, virgate and cottage called Sedgcoom Haye, lives of Thomas, John his son and Alice Martin. Lord la Warr. Witnessed Henry Townsend.

Thomas Maynard. Same parties, property called Ymocke.

John Grey, tenant 5 March, 2 Elizabeth, cottage and farm. enclosed (?), life of John his son. Lord la Warr. witnessed Henry Townsend.

Alice Pope, deceased, tenant 24 April, 7 Elizabeth. Now Richard Pope her son. Witnessed John St Loe, knight.

Thomas Ford, tenant March, 17 Elizabeth, messuage and virgate for lives of Thomas, his wife Agnes and Joan Pope. Witness John Lacy.

Isabella Weare, deceased, tenant time of Lord de la Warr. Lives of Isabella, Agnes her daughter and Thomas West. Witness Henry Townsend.

John Gibbons, deceased, tenant 7 Elizabeth, himself and William Bartlett, time of Lord de la Warr. Henry Townsend.

William Bartlett, tenant 14 January, 4 Elizabeth, three lives John Gibbons, William Bartlett and Edith his wife. Witness John St Loe, knight.

John Green, deceased. Last March, 16 Elizabeth, messuage and one virgate, Eleanor his widow, John, Joan and Eleanor their children. Time of Lord de la Warr. Henry Townsend.

John King, deceased. tenant last of March, 21 Elizabeth, tenement and one virgate for lives of John and Joan, his children and Agnes King, his widow, now Agnes Tibbott.

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William Webley, tenant 27 July, 25 Elizabeth, tenement and one virgate, William and Agnes his wife and Joan Webley, their daughter witness John Lacy.

6 John Sansum, tenant 23 April, 30 Elizabeth, messuage and one virgate, wife Elizabeth and John his son. John Lacy.

John Green, tenant 19 September, 15 Elizabeth, wife Alice, John his son. Henry Townsend.

John Battell, deceased. Alice his wife and Alice his daughter. Tenant 9 March, 7 Elizabeth. Cottage and Garden. Time of Lord de la Warr.

John Newman, tenant 14 March, primo Elizabeth, Matilda his wife; presumably [?] sub let to John Lartimore and Edith his wife. No land of Lord or steward nor allowance of any officer.

Thomas Puxley, tenant 27 September 34 Elizabeth, land in tenure of John Green senior and Joan his wife and John his son. No lands of Lord or steward. Henry Townsend.

William Tippet, tenant last of March, 16 Elizabeth, Richard and John, his sons. Time of Lord de la Warr. Henry Townsend.

William Tibbott, tenant 21 October 29 Elizabeth, quarry[?] called Battens. John Lacy.

Joan Harford, tenant 12 October, ? reign of Elizabeth, cottage and garden and pasture for one cow and ten ewes. William Harford and John Harford [her sons?].

John Daniell, tenant, last day of March 21 Elizabeth and William Daniell, his brother in time of Lord de la Warr. Henry Townsend.

John Parsons, 26 September 15 Elizabeth and Johanna his daughter, time of Lord de la Warr. Henry Townsend.

Alice Phelps, 17 October 19 Elizabeth and Agnes Pavy, widow.

John Daniell, 8 December, 30 Elizabeth, Elizabeth Daniell his wife, Andrew their son; land in Long Ashton.

Henry Deane, 24 Elizabeth. Land in Eastfield and Westfield. Christian Deane his wife and Roger his son. John Lacy.

John Hedges, 4 April, 34 Elizabeth, messuage and one virgate, Johanne his wife and John his son.

Richard Pope, the son. Richard Pope the father and Agnes his wife, both dead. Tenants in the time of the Abbott of Keynsham.

## Appendix 3

The fears of the Puritan authorities that illegitimacy was rife were unfounded. In the period 1566-1641, the Brislington parish register out of 667 baptisms records 19 illegitimate children born to local women and seven to tragic wanderers.

Fear of degrading punishment, at the very least doing penance in church or in the market place clad only in a white sheet, whatever the weather or at the other extreme brutally stripped to the waist by male officers and publicly whipped until "her back be bloody" led unmarried pregnant women to run away to the anonymity of the road. Wanderers appear in the Brislington register from 1567 when "a poore woman's child was delivered at Puxley's house" to 1617 when "Sydrach, the child of a woman, a stranger, at John Whippey's" was christened. The "child born at Beresbridge of a woman who came thither by chance", was baptised February 14 1591 and buried the next Thursday "after the woman went away to be purified". They came from near or far. From Lawford's Gate in Bristol or "out of Gloucestershire" like the exhausted wanderer who arrived at Ric Ithell's house in 1593. Her child was christened Mary and the woman was buried the same day. The child of a vagrant woman who had only one leg was christened in 1600.

Extreme lengths were taken to pack off unwanted children like the "mayde child found dead in a stawle of John Maynard", who was buried at Brislington in February 1596. With the child was discovered a letter from William Cavell of Bath to Phillippe Price of 'Bristleton' but the contents were not revealed.

A full analysis of the above may be found in my book, "The Simple Annals of the Poor" which compares family life in Brislington, Siston, Bitton and Keynsham, 1550-1650.



## Appendix 4

Brislington marriages from 1569-1600 from the parish register. An attempt to analyse the number of men and women who had been baptised in Brislington and went on to baptise children in the parish. Some are obvious strangers, that is their name makes no other appearance in the parish register.

ch = child

bp = baptised

mar = marriage

bur = buried

John Ford	mar date 8. 1. 1569	Agnes Weare
	ch bp 10. 10. 1569	
Edward Marten	mar date 31. 1. 1569	Julian Paget
	no ch bp	
Robert Baker	mar date 4. 7. 1569	Hellyne Tibbott
alias Paget	no ch bp	
Nicholas Franklin	mar date 20. 9. 1569	Mary Vaughan
alias Parsonage	no ch bp	
John Weaver	mar date 6. 11. 1569	Elinor Edwards
[stranger]	no ch bp	[stranger]
Thomas Distill	mar date 28. 2. 1570	Elyne Owlmore
	ch bp 8. 6. 1572	
John Pope	mar date 8. 1. 1571	Johane Macy
	ch bp 23. 3. 1573	
John Phelpes	mar date 9. 7. 1571	Alice Pavy
	no ch bp	
Richard Whippy	mar date 8. 1. 1573	Avyce Briton
remarrying widower	childless marriage	
his 1st wife Joan bur	27. 12. 1568	
John Macy	mar date 17. 1. 1573	Margaret Webbe
	no ch bp	
Thomas Danyell	mar date 15. 6. 1573	Alice Bickam
	ch bp 20. 9. 1574	[stranger]
John Macy	mar date 8. 10. 1573	Margaret Danyell
	ch bp 6. 1. 1576	
Richard Hyll	mar date 26. 12. 1573	Edith Owlmore
	no ch bp	
Thomas Maynard	mar date 15. 7. 1575	Wealthian Maggs
	ch bp 6. 5. 1582	
John Danyell	mar date 17. 10. 1	Elizabeth Smythe
	ch bp 1. 5. 1582	
Robert Wickham	mar date 31. 1. 1576	Elizabeth Newman
[stranger]	no ch bp	
William Pavy	mar date 2. 5. 1576	Agnes Hollyer
	ch bp 26. 4. 1577	
John Warne	mar date 25. 10. 1576	Elizabeth Danyell
	ch bp 5. 4. 1584	



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William Amsburie [stranger]	mar date 26.10.1576 no ch bp	Agnes Barlo [stranger]
John Gray prob. remarrying widower	mar date 10. 2.1577 no ch bp	-----
William Bartlet	mar date 2. 7.1577 no ch bp	----- Collins
John Greene	mar date 2. 8.1577 ch bp 12. 8.1582	Elyne -----
Thomas Russell	mar date 4. 8.1577 no ch bp	Ellyn Lyn [stranger]
John Hedge	mar date 6. 8.1577 no ch bp	Johane Phelpes
Robert Sanners [Saunders?]	mar date 9. 8.1577 no ch bp	Johane -----
Richard Turner [stranger]	mar date 5. 9.1577 no ch bp	Ellyn Pester [stranger]
John Stevens	mar date 18. 5.1582 ch bp 16. 2. 1583	Johan Bryten
Richard Pyne [stranger]	mar date 22. 8.1582 no ch bp	Agnes Puxley
Arthur Caine [stranger]	mar date 22.10.1582 no ch bp	Marie Holbuch [stranger]
Robert Poste [stranger]	mar date 24. 1.1582 no ch bp	Johane Croystie [stranger]
William Holborne	mar date 7.11.1583 ch bp 9. 8.1584	Agnes Spy [stranger]
John Kynge	mar date 14.11.1583 no ch bp	Johane Danyell
John Hedge	mar date 12.10.1584 ch bp 10. 8.1585	Julian Marten
John Maynard	mar date 20.11.1584 ch bp 3. 2.1588	Edithe Newman
Thomas Danyell	mar date 28. 1.1585 ch bp 25.2.1586	Johan Parsons
Thomas Broome [stranger]	mar date 20. 4.1585 no ch bp	Johane Webb
John Dole [stranger]	mar date 3. 5.1585 no ch bp	Julian Puxley
George Morris	mar date 2. 8.1585 ch bp 31.10.1585	Johane Carradinge
John Macy	mar date 26. 1.1587 ch bp 27. 1.1588	Elizabeth Webb
Symon Spark [stranger]	mar date 20. 5.1587 no ch bp	Agnes Quick [stranger]
William Hopkins [stranger]	mar date 9. 7.1587 no ch bp	Johan Hedge
Thomas Hupper	mar date 16.11.1588 ch bp 24. 1.1589	Johan Maynard
Richard Dashwill	mar date 21.11.1588 ch bp 7. 9.1589	Johane Ford
James Woodman	mar date 21. 1.1589 no ch bp	Maude White

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William Whitinge	mar date 7. 6.1589 no ch bp	Agnes Spyrette [stranger]
John Greene prob.remarrying widower	mar date 30. 7.1590 ch bp 2. 1.1592	Johane Hedge bp 16. 3.1571
Thomas Browne	mar date 14.10.1591 ch bp 15. 6. 1595	Elynor Greene bp 4. 1.1568
Thomas Russell remarrying widower his 1st wife Elyne bur 1590	mar date 20. 1.1592 ch bp 25. 2.1592	Avys Shotte [stranger] bur 1597
Richard Woodman the ygr	mar date 9. 4.1592 ch bp 22.12.1593	Johane Gay [stranger]
William Roche	mar date 22.11.1592 ch bp 25. 2.1593	Johane Batten
Lawrence Cole [stranger]	mar date 30.11.1592 no ch bp	Elizabeth Harvent
William Daniell	mar date 2. 5.1594 no ch bp	Alice Greene bp 5. 7.1575
Walter Stevens remarrying widower his 1st wife Alice bur 1594	mar date 2. 5.1594 no ch bp	Alice Pope
Thomas Danyell remarrying widower his 1st wife Johane [nee Parsons] bur 17.11.1587	mar date 3. 6.1594 ch bp 10. 2.1595	Elizabeth Savage [stranger]
Robert Peasley remarrying widower his 1st wife Joan bur 11.2.1595	mar date 8. 5.1595 no ch bp	Anne Rendle [stranger]
John Hedges ?bp 7.11.1573	mar date 18. 6.1595 no ch bp	Katherine Pope bp 2.2.1569
John Pope remarrying widower 1st wife bur 3.12.1594	mar date 18. 6.1595 ch bp 26. 9.1596	Mawdie Hedges widow
Symon Holway [stranger]	mar date 1. 6.1596 no ch bp	Johane Pricket bp 9. 9.1573
John Stevens bp 16. 2.1583	mar date 6.11.1599 no ch bp	Marget Hedgis bp 25. 3.1577
Thomas Browne 3rd marriage	mar date 15.11.1599 no ch bp	Johan Hele [stranger]
Edmund Rogers [stranger]	mar date 4. 2.1600 no ch bp	Agnes Webbe
John Daniell prob remarrying widower	mar date 26. 4.1600 no ch bp	Elnor Day [stranger]
John Baylie [stranger but lived Bris]	mar date 6. 6.1600 no ch [childless]	Ann Sampson
William Hill	mar date - 7.1600 ch bp 2. 2.1603	Anne Palmer

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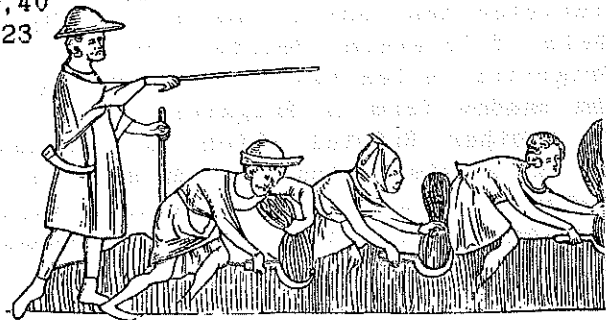
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Brisselton

Brislington, despite being a place of antiquity - it was occupied in Roman times - was not separately mentioned in the Domesday Book and thus we are deprived access to the Norman clerical rendering of a Saxon or English word. Brislington, especially in its form Burtleton and Burstleton has indications of the English personal names Beotelm, Beorhthelm, Brihtstelm, Beortel, Brice or Brightric so that it might form Brightric's-lea-tun clipped by impatient speech to Brist-lea-tun: the meadow farm of Brightric. Bristleton reminds us forcibly of its big brother Bristol which in the Lay Subsidies of Edward III appears as Bristelington! If Bristol has the same derivation as Brislington it would be Brightric's village - not Brig-stow, the place by the bridge! [see *The Place Names of Somerset*, Rev James S. Hill, pp 31, 65, 112]



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