



R H W

EXPLORING DARTMOOR, 1788.

Drawn (probably) by J. CRANCH

DARTMOOR : 1788—1808.

BY R. HANSFORD WORTH.

THE material for this paper is flotsam cast up by the European War. The demand for waste paper has led to the turning out of all manner of old, and once valued, stores. The result has no doubt been disastrous in many instances, and there has been irretrievable loss.

But, at Modbury, Miss F. Pearse accepted duty as receiver of waste ; and in the bundles contributed from Traine she recognised much that was of permanent interest. Some part of this consists of deeds of very varied date, such as accumulate in the office of a solicitor of wide practice, as being earlier than the root of the present title. These are being preserved, and will need calendering, a task which must take time.

The same Mr. JOHN ANDREWS, whose legal practice yielded these documents, preserved also some personal notes and correspondence ; and these notes, so far as they refer to Dartmoor, are here epitomised, and collected under various subjects.

JOHN ANDREWS of *Traine*, born 1750, died 1824, was an attorney at law. His legal training made him a good judge of evidence, and doubtless encouraged that wholesome scepticism which enabled him to escape the extravagances that afflicted the antiquaries of his day. Well read and well informed, his interests were wide, and he was a keen observer. His correspondence shows him as having contributed among other matters to the theory of atmospheric refraction, and he was a student of astronomy.

From his correspondence I judge him to have been both shrewd and kindly. In speech very much a Modbury man, and every inch a west-countryman in his love of argument. As to these two latter points there is an amazingly frank letter from his friend the unfortunate JOHN CRANCH, in which is written :—" But to the point : I cannot but agree with those who object that your pronunciation of many common words, is barbarously provincial, and contrary to general or national usage : For instance, you are the only gentleman, and indeed, now, almost the only *man*, I know who *kaalth* what other gentlemen (agreeably to that usage) only *call* : Yet surely those who so object, cannot but be aware that your habits

of speech are now too strongly fixed to be altered There is another thing (while my hand is in for trespassing) that I would not only *excuse*, but thank any body for telling you of; provided they did it in kindness, and with good manners—your habit of arguing: Like my grandfather, old John Cranch of Brook (a learned, pious and honest man by the way)—You *argue every thing!* even what is *admitted*.” . . . And then JOHN CRANCH, himself the most impracticable of men, adds—“I luckily found myself in many of these errors, several years ago; and, still more luckily, made up my mind to forsake them; which I resolutely did.”

The only hint which we have of his physique occurs in another letter from CRANCH:—“I am fancying you my dear John, just at this moment, a sort of Saturn, relatively to me:—Your place is so *distant*; and your *revolutions* are *apparently heavy and slow*: But then, your *dimensions* are *large*, and your *contents* *solid and permanent*.”

On his own showing he was early to rise, and late to bed. He apologises for delay in dealing with correspondence, and adds:—“It can not be avoided: It is not from Laziness: I am always up the first after the Maid, and for several Hours after she and every one else are gone to Bed.”

The papers which I have used are:—

- (1). *Journal of an Excursion on Dartmoore, &c.* By J.A. and two others July 21st., 22nd., and 23rd, 1788.
- (2). *Dartmoor memorandums*, a note book.
- (3). *A map of Erme Plains*, with field books of the survey.

(1) Is in two parts (a) an Itinerary, and (b) “Remarks on the course of the foregoing Journey.” (b) Is subdivided into: 1. *On the Geography of the Moor, and the Map made use of*; 2. *On the Soil and Productions*; 3. *On the Antiquities and remarkable Objects*.

The whole is certainly the work of ANDREWS, but at times he expresses the considered opinion of himself and his companions. These companions were—BENNICKE and JOHN LASKEY. Subsequently LASKEY “wrote up” the Journal and published it, with large additions, in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1795, Part II, 1796, Parts I and II.

The manner of the writing up may be judged from the following comparisons. ANDREWS' opening words are:—“Having met this Day at Sakersbridge, on Matters of Business;—proceeded from thence in the Afternoon to Tavistoke.” LASKEY has it:—“*Having met this day by appointment at Sackers Bridge, in the parish and hundred of Ermington, we set off thence on our tour . . .*”. The business is not mentioned. On Wednesday the 23rd, ANDREWS records:—“Got up rather late, on account of Fatigue &c.—went about the Town, to look at the Church, Abbey and other Buildings.

Between 10 & 11 set off on the Exeter Road, in Quest of Crockern Tor." LASKEY prefers to say:—"At eleven o'clock in the morning we set out from Tavistock in search of Crockern Torr and other remarkable places on the Moor, taking especial care to furnish our servant with a stock of cold provisions and a bottle of vinum bonum."

At Lidford ANDREWS writes that they gave half-a-crown to a little girl who guided them to the waterfall. Sufficiently surprising when one remembers the general scale of tips in those days; but LASKEY dwells on this generosity, thus:—"a little girl whom we enriched by the present (probably to her noble) of half-a-crown. The many humble curtseys, and 'Thankee sirs,' spoke the joyful feelings of a grateful heart." And LASKEY finds it impossible to speak of the simple raspberry, to him it is "*Rubus Idaeus spinosus fructu rubro*, or raspberry."

Notwithstanding which genteel and decorative efforts it will be found that practically all the contents of ANDREWS' simpler tale are embodied in LASKEY's "work." Hence I have made relatively small use of (1), since its matter may be found, either in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, or reprinted in the *Gentleman's Magazine Library, English Topography*, Part III, pp. 109, 127.

(2) Comprises (a) The record of another Dartmoor journey by the same tourists in the year 1789. (b) Memoranda extending over several years. (c) A number of pages of compass bearings taken on the Moor. From this note-book I have quoted largely.

(3) Is a map (M.I.) of some size, to the scale of six chains to an inch (396 feet to the inch). The area covered extends from Redlake Head on the north to Western Beacon on the south, and the lands surveyed are on the left bank of the Erme. It is a compass survey, and the map is a first plot of that survey, with the construction lines all shewn. It is spoken of as a "rough map" in a note endorsed thereon, but is, in fact, a very creditable piece of work, and very detailed.

One intent of the map (M.I.) would appear to be to depict accurately the boundary of ERME PLAINS, rights of pasturage over which were claimed by the manor of Ermington.

The field books of the survey from which the map was prepared are still in existence. An endorsement in the first of these books runs:—"A Survey of East Hartford Moor; Began 3rd August. 1799. By Jno. & Richd. Andrews, assisted by Richd. Willis, as a guide &c."

Later, Wm. Tozer acted as the guide occasionally, but Willis more usually; and Thomas Willis also appears in that capacity. The field-work was completed on the 23rd Sep-

tember, 1800; but some revision was made in September, 1803, when certain bound-stones were fixed.

There are some interesting features. Thus, east of Butterton Hill and Western Beacon there are pencilled the words "*Torpike Moor*"; while Western Beacon is "*West Pigdon, otherwise West Beacon*." "*Pigdon*" may be translated *Peek Down*, the mutation being similar to that which has converted Peek's Lake, near Sourton, into *Pigs Leg*. CROSSING also notes the name "*Pigdon*," and seems to argue that by further mutation this in turn became "*Beacon*." Which is a hazardous suggestion; at all events the term "*beacon*" already attached to this hill and to Eastern Beacon in 1800.

CROSSING knows no authority for the use of the word "*beacon*" in connection with these hills; but there is among ANDREWS' papers a copy of an "antient map of East Hartford Moore &c." (M. II) which he proposed to use as evidence in a dispute between Humphrey Savery and Thomas Lane, concerning the bounds of East Harford and Langford Leister Moore, in 1786. I should assign this map to the close of the sixteenth century, perhaps somewhat earlier; it has some features in common with M. III, see later. On M. II we have *West Pigdon* and *East Pigdon*, for Western Beacon and Ugborough Beacon respectively. And ANDREWS has a note:—"Concerning the Beacons. From a memorandum book of Adrian Swete Esq. 1636, Dec. 29. 'Paid 16d to the Constable of Ugborough for a rate towards a Ship of War, & toward the repairing of the Beacon of Ugborough 2d.' And, from the Memorandum Book of Mayne Swete, Esq. '1665, Oct. 26. Paid for the repairing of Piggon Beacon 3d. set upon me by way of rate for Preston.'"

Butterton Hill, so first written, has been corrected to *Buttertior*.

Hangershill Rock, so first written, has been corrected to *Hangingsshelf*, a hint at a very probable derivation of the present name of "*Hangershell*,"

The rock still known as *Marntory Rock* is shewn a little over 500 feet a little north of east from Hangershell; this is not indicated on the Ordnance Survey. The true position of *Hobajones Cross* is given.

The modern "*Butterbrook*" appears as *Burrow Brook*; and "*Tristis Rock*" is *Cuckow Rocks* or *Trist's Rocks*, Cuckoo Rock is still an alternative name. *Tuckers Hill* lies in the angle south of Left Lake and east of the Erme. Hook Lake is *Hook Lake in Stony Bottom*. A southern tributary of Redlake is called *Henglake*. The path from Piles Hill to Erme Pound is called, in its outer part, *Forest Path*.

The Butterbrook, Dry Lake and Hook Lake blowing-houses are shewn, all as "*ruined houses*,"

Our gratitude is due to our member Miss Pearse for saving from destruction so much that is of interest, and my personal thanks for the opportunity to put this part on record.

In transcription I have extended the more part of the contractions present in the original, I have allowed Mr. ANDREWS all the capitals which he employed (the lawyers gave each noun a capital), and such spelling as varies from modern practice. I have a great distaste for the affectation which may be symbolised by the words "*ye olde*"; and I have everywhere transcribed the symbol that is so often misrepresented as "*ye*", by the word "*the*", which ANDREWS intended when he wrote.

It may be noted that ANDREWS still used the θ of the cursive Court Hand in place of our modern *e*.

I have placed my editorial notes and comments within square brackets.

Blackwood, peat fuel.

"Between this [Aune Head Mires] and Peters Cross are many Blackwood Ties, and also to the South of Peters Cross—In most of these Places the Granite seems to be not far beneath the Surface; and, for foot travelling at least, the Moors in general, tho moist and spongy, are probably not so dangerous as their Appearance seems to indicate." (22 June, 1790.)

"I do not remember seeing Granite with the fine shining Sand, like that on Torch Moor [Tolch Moor] except below the Blackwood on the Hill from whence the Man went with us to Cranmere Pool, and in some other spots in that Neighbourhood." 11 August, 1789.

"Judge Buller's Kiln for burning turf to Ashes for Manure. Smith's Shop at Two Bridges uses charred Blackwood for Coal." (21 October, 1794.)

"Blackwood brought to Modbury (from Dartmoor, a little North of Erme Plains) by Mrs. Gnat, of Brent, at 2s. per Horse-load. It was last Year 2s. 6d.

The greatest depth for cutting it is about 4 Spits deep; beyond that it is little worth, as the Fibres extend no deeper. When a Place has been exhausted, after some Time it renews again." (24 September, 1789.)

"The enclosing and cultivating of Dartmoor will evidently never take place, unless it should be proved or supposed conducive to the Interest of the Proprietor; but, considered in a more enlarged Point of View, it seems rather doubtful how far it would be of public and general Benefit; at least as to those Parts which produce Blackwood and Turf for burning.—The Scarcity of Fuel begins to be a serious Inconvenience in most Parts of the County: the Farmers find it

very difficult (notwithstanding the Severity of the Laws) to prevent their Hedges &c. from being plundered by the poorer Sort of People, who cannot afford to buy; and the Evil seems to be increasing. Every Circumstance therefore which lessens the Supply of Fuel, of any kind, must add to the Inconvenience.

It has been alledged, that the Supply which would arise from planting the Moors with Wood would be an Equivalent for what is lost in Turf and Blackwood: but (not to mention the Doubtfulness of this Circumstance) it must be many Years after the cutting off the present, before any Benefit could be derived from the new Supply.

At present the Turf and Blackwood (especially the latter which seems to be of a renewing Quality and inexhaustible) are Articles which tis' supposed the poorer Dwellers in the Forest could not live without; and are found very serviceable at the Distance of many Miles, even to People in good Circumstances: and as the Scarcity of other Fuel increases, it is highly probable that Blackwood may be of yet more extensive Use. It is also made into a kind of Charcoal and much used by Smiths; and it is said to be better than any other Coal for tempering Edge-tools. The Rage for Improvement of poor Lands seems of late to have been carried too far." (1788.)

[The distinction made between *Blackwood*, now commonly called "Turf," and *Turf*, now commonly called "Vags," may be noted. Strictly the right of turbary is supposed to be limited to the peat below the top turf, and after the peat has been cut the turf is supposed to be replaced, a somewhat useless procedure. But today, in many localities, and especially around Chagford, no true blackwood is cut, but only the vags or "spine" are skimmed off. With their top growth of grass and short heather they make a "speedy" fire, but have none of the last of true peat or blackwood. In such districts there are no turf ties, but only bare patches denuded of pasture. The one merit of this idle habit is that the patches so bared are the best hunting grounds for worked flint. But it destroys much more, and far better, pasture than do the turf ties, since the vags are often taken from dry and well-drained lands.

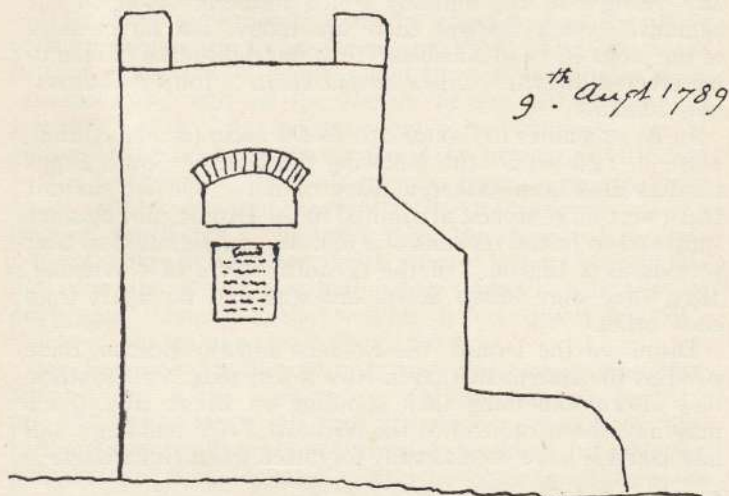
The word "blackwood" has fallen into disuse which is nearly complete; but it still survives in the name *Blackwood Path* for the old track used by the peat cutters between *Wrangaton Gate* and *Green Hill* on the *Erne*, by *Creber Rock*, *Spurrells Cross*, *Three Barrows*, *Hook Lake* and *Brown Heath*.

The habit of carbonising the peat, so as to produce a form of charcoal, may be noted. In 1788, such charcoal was used by the smiths; I have elsewhere indicated that a similar

product was used at a much earlier date by the tin-smelters ; very possibly by the smiths also.]

Brent Hill, South Brent.

"BRENT HILL."



*Sketch of an Erection on the Top of
Brent Hill built at the Expence of
Nichs Tripe Esq. —*

FIG. 1.

"Sketch of an Erection on the Top of Brent Hill, built at the Expence of Nichs. Tripe, Esq.

In the Square under the Arch is a Stone with this Inscription.

'Monumentum Sui Ære perennius.

'To rescue from Oblivion & perpetuate the Memory of an
'Edifice which was erected on this Site this mural Monument
'was erected in Octr. 1781.

'At what Period of Time this Edifice was raised or for what
'Use can neither be ascertained by Tradition or Record :
'tho' with respect to the latter, as it retained the Name of
'Chappel it is more than probable that it was originally
'designed for Religious Purposes : However that be it was
'constructed with so much Art as, notwithstanding its exposed
'Situation, enabled it to resist the Ravages of all-devouring

'Time thro' the ruthless Tract of unnumbered Ages, & was 'in great Preservation, till some Time in Feby. 1777, when 'by the resistless Power of the Artillery of Heaven, an instant 'Period was put to its Existence.'" (9th August, 1789.)

[The proud promise of the words *are perennius* has in nowise been fulfilled. Already, in 1846, ROWE could write "There are no remains of a cairn or beacon on Brent Hill, and scarcely any vestiges of the building which formerly stood on the summit." Such vestiges there are today, but no memory of the pious effort of Nicholas Tripe, no tradition of the building erected in 1781. *Litera scripta manet*; JOHN ANDREWS' note remains.

In BURT's notes to CARRINGTON's *Dartmoor* (second edition, 1826, p. 145) occurs the following passage:—"South Brent tor has also been rather a place of note. On its summit there were large stones, attributed to the Druids, and by some supposed to be the remains of a military station, used in later periods as a beacon. In the dreadful storm of November, 1824, they were blown down and scattered far apart from each other."

Dismissed the Druids, the Romans and the Beacon, there remains the statement that in November, 1824, a great storm blew down something then standing on Brent Hill. Such may have been the end of the *Nicholas Tripe* building; but how could it have been already forgotten when BURT wrote ?]

Buckfast Abbey.

"Buckfast Abbey, a ruin of large Extent, which deserves a much more particular Description than can be given it in this Place.

Across the Road there still remain 2 Arches, which appear to have been Gate-ways belonging to it; and on the Eastern Side of the Road is an Apartment, now used for a Pound-house, wherein is a Moorstone Trough eleven feet in Diameter, & six feet high from the Bottom: about half of it being underground (the whole Stone before hollowed out must have been more than 640 tons weight). It is all one entire Stone, & affords Matter of Surprise by what means it could be brought thither, there being probably no Moor-stone naturally within two or three Miles, as the Country round Buckfastleigh is on a Lime Rock.

In an Orchard on the Eastern Side of the Road, near the River Dart, are the Remains of the principal Part of the Abbey, of which the first thing that presents itself is said to have been the Cellar, & is about . . . feet long [LASKEY says 28 paces long by 12 wide] arched overhead. Above it was probably the Kitchen, now converted into a little Garden. At the South End is the Skeleton of a Set of Apartments,

which was approached by a winding Staircase, yet remaining ; and on the North Side appear the Foundations of the spacious Abbey-Church, and the Ruins of its Tower, the Walls of which lie in such large Fragments, that it is scarce to be conceived by what means they were disjointed in that Manner, or how the Cement could have held the Stones (which are rather of a small Size, tho' the Walls are . . . thick) [LASKEY says 9 or 10 feet thick] so firmly together." (July 23rd, 1788.)

[The above quotation is from the *Journal of an Excursion on Dartmoore &c.* By J.A. and two others, 1788. The statements in that Journal, as a whole, stand the test of enquiry most satisfactorily ; but in the matter of the pound-stone at Buckfast Abbey its evidence must be dismissed. It is curious that LASKEY, in his version of the Journal, contributed to the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1796 (part I, pp. 194-196) gave quite a different account. On the authority of "a learned gentleman", he said that the pound-stone was 9 feet 4 inches in diameter, depth 3 feet 6 inches, whereof one half was above and one half below ground. The learned gentleman computed the weight, before the stone was hollowed out, to have been above 100 tons.

We have yet another witness, one *Antiquarius Secundus*, writing also in the *Gentleman's Magazine*. (1792, part II, pp. 891-892.) He writes that the farmer's wife took him to the pound-house to show him what she called "the biggest pound-stone in the county." And he gives the dimensions as 9 feet in diameter, 18 inches under the ground and 18 inches above. He ventures no estimate of weight.

There were, of course, difficulties for the observer who was told that half the thickness of the stone was below ground. He could only have tested that by excavation. But neither three feet six inches nor three feet are likely thicknesses for pound-stones, the maximum at the circumference being about two feet.

As to the weights, a cylinder of granite 11 feet in diameter by 6 feet in height would weigh, not 640 tons, but only 42 ; while the *learned gentleman's* cylinder, instead of weighing over 100 tons, would have turned the scale at under 18.]

Butter Brook Blowing-house.

[On the map of Erme Plains (M.I.) the stream is called the *Burrow Brook*. This blowing-house is identified as such by its leat, one broken mould and one part-made, and two broken mortar stones. But it is also known that it was used as a smithy when the quarries were worked at Tor Rocks, comparatively recently. In 1940 I found some heaps of scoria, which I at first identified as tin slag, but had, on closer examination to recognise as clinker from the smithy. There

are also two earthfast stones which my wife discovered, and these have been used, either for testing the edge of quarry tools, or in practice in the use of jumpers.

The remains of the building give the appearance of old work, and the question has been how far it is the original blowing-house, or how far it was altered when converted into a smithy.

The map shows a building at the exact site, which is marked as *ruins of a house*; by scale the agreement in dimensions with the present remains is very close indeed. There would appear to have been no change when, at a later date, the structure was adapted to use as a smithy.]

Butterton or Butterdon Stone-Row.

See *Hobajons Cross*, and *Longstone*.

Chagford.

"A Stannary Town. Breakfasted &c. in the Stannary Room. Saw the Stamp for Coining Tin, viz. a Lion Rampant bet. 15 Balls in a Circle—Motto round '*Sigillum Ducatus Cornubiae*'.

The Hundred weight, cubical with a bottom like a Bowl—on one side the County Arms and Stannary Arms. On another Side the Portcullis with a Coronet on it, between 2 ostrich Feathers—On another the King's Arms—On the other the Prince's Coronet and the Rose and Crown—Date obliterated, except a Figure 6. On a smaller weight is a Date, 1605."

"Dial at Chagford Church made by Mr. Drew of Kingsbridge, [30] miles distant. Another do. at Widecombe Church." (August, 1789.)

Cranmere Pool.

"Length from North to South 75 paces. Breadth from E to W 57 do. Round, abt. 3 feet off, 112.

Cranmere Pool found with no water in it, but moist. Sheep sometimes go into the middle of it to drink, and a riding Man has been there, but found it very soft."

[I give these dimensions, although the circumference is quite inconsistent with the diameters, "212" would be more likely.]

"Breakfasted at Chagford, & from thence went with a Guide towards Cranmere Pool.

Left Gidley to the North, passed by a Rock called Kistor, thence, by a Circuit (to avoid the Swamps) to near Watern Tor, and down the Hill a little beyond it left the Horses with the Guide & proceeded as he directed towards the Pool, till

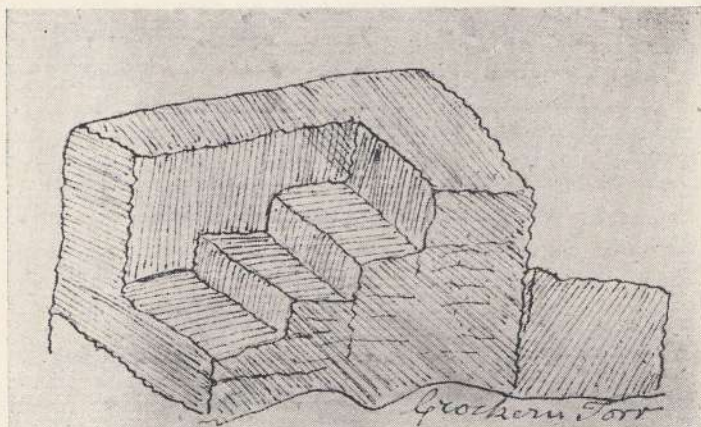


Fig. 1. CROCKERN "CHAIR."

Drawn from memory by JOHN ANDREWS, 1794.



Fig. 2. CROCKERN "CHAIR."

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we came to a man cutting Blackwood, who, tho' he had never been at the Pool, shewed us to it." (11 August, 1789.)

"To go to Cranmere Pool we left Gidleigh to the North, & came to a rock near the entrance of the Moor called Kistor. Thence we bore away for a place a little to the South of Watern Tor, from whence we bore away S.55°.W. to the Top of the opposite Hill [*Hangingstone Hill*], from thence S.80°.W. which brought us to the Pool."

[The account of expenses shows that the payment for the guide and his horse was two shillings, while the turf-cutter who led them to the Pool received sixpence.

This was the second attempt which the party made to reach Cranmere; the first having been made on the 22nd July of the previous year, when they failed to find the Pool; although being, as they afterwards concluded, within little more than a stone-throw of it when the attempt was abandoned. The journal of this excursion mentions a tinwork, called *Kerbeam*, "four miles nearly east from Lidford"; but, since it is said to have been a little to the west of the *Rattlebrook*, it must have been nearer three than four miles distant from *Lidford*. There is a note as to the tinwork, which runs as follows:—

"At *Kerbeam*, where there are Pits newly dug, the Stone below the Surface is like a reddish Granite, earthy and very brittle; and we were told by a Cornish Man there, that it was as fine a Country for Tin as he ever saw." [That essential of all mining ventures was not wanting, the ever hopeful prospector.]

Crockern Tor.

"Ascertained Crockern Torr, which we were mistaken in on the former Excursion in 1788. Crockern Tor has no appearance of any Tool having been used in cutting out any Table or Seats in the Rock; but at the Southern End of the Tor its Summit is formed into a kind of Chair, consisting of 4 high Steps like a Lifting Stock, adjoining to the upright Part of the Rock, like a one-sided Elbow Chair.

Something in the Form under, but not so regular. We could not stay to take a drawing on the Spot.

It seems plainly to have been reduced to its Shape by removing several Pieces of Rock, already disunited from each other by the Hand of Nature; upright Fissures and horizontal Layers being in the Directions which favour this Supposition, and would admit of more pieces being removed in the same manner, parallel to the former.

The Innkeeper told us that this was the Chair for the Stannary Courts: but we understand that none such (nor

any Forest Courts at Lidford) have been held for many Years." (October 20th, 1794.)

At *Prince Hall*. "No Chair or Table brought there from Crockern Tor." (October 20th, 1794.)

[A reproduction of ANDREWS' sketch of the "Chair" on *Crockern Tor* is given on Plate IV, fig. 1, while fig. 2 on the same plate is a recent view of the same rock.]

Hobajons, or Hobajones, Cross.

"The Stone called Hobajones Cross (or Post), which leaned considerably before, has lately been thrown quite down, but is not removed from its Place. & the socket is very distinct. It went but a little way (say not more than 6 Inches) into the Ground. It is like the Frustrum of a Pyramid, the Bottom being much broader than the Top." "The Stone called Hobajones Cross, which had been thrown down by some means unknown, was again fixed very firm exactly in the Place where it had stood. Present Messrs. Wm. Geo. Rivers, Jno. and Rd. Andrews, Rd. Willis, Edwd. Richards, Edwd. Nott." (Sept. 6th, 1800.)

[There is an old map (M.III) in the Albert Museum, Exeter, which was illustrated and described by SPENCE BATE in our *Transactions* (Vol. V, pp. 510-548). It is also illustrated in BROOKING ROWE's edition of the *Perambulation of Dartmoor*. On this map the stone-row on Butterdon is shewn, and in the length of the row, and as a member of it there is depicted a Latin cross, standing on a calvary, which by reference is described as "Hobajons Cross."

Today there stands in the alignment of this row, but somewhat separated from the row and to the north of it, a stone bearing an incised cross. The position of this incised stone corresponds to that of the cross shewn on the map, in its relation to the surrounding geography. Both CROSSING and I have been of the opinion that the incised stone is in fact Hobajons Cross. I had thought that it was also the end stone of the stone-row, and that the stones shewn to the north of it in the old map were boundary stones; indeed the row, throughout its length was formerly a boundary between Harford and Ugborough, and the present boundary follows the line of the row for the greater part of the length thereof.

Beyond the cross, to the north, there are now boundstones, and I thought those were there, or others which they replace were there when the old map (M.III) was made. SPENCE BATE dates the map *circa* 1240, and believes it to have been intended to illustrate the boundaries of Dartmoor Forest. I cannot agree; it is obviously a map in which Brent Moor and its surroundings are the main feature, and the Forest is merely conveniently depicted as a circle. I believe it to have been



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HOBAJONS CROSS

prepared to illustrate depositions in one of several suits in which the claims of the Abbot of Buckfast were challenged by the men of Devonshire, probably the proceedings of 1478. This agrees with STUART MOORE's view that the map is of the middle or latter part of the fifteenth century (*Dartmoor Preservation Association's Publications I*, p. 36). The map M.II— agrees with M.III as to the position of the Cross.

The Ordnance Survey, on what authority I know not, has assumed a site for Hobajons Cross north of Three Barrows and not far from the head of Leftlake. Here there is nothing resembling a cross, nor the remains of one. The map of Erme Plains to which reference has been made (M.I), indicates Hobajones Cross as a Latin Cross standing at the end of the Butterdon stone-row, on the precise site where the old maps, M.II and M.III, shew it, beyond it to the north are stones in line. The stone-row itself is marked on M.I by close-set dots or circles, and is called "Row of Bound Stones." Where the row now fails to reach the stone with an incised cross there is a pencil note "removed 1803." Which fully accounts for the gap. We may therefore be certain that the row reached as far as the cross; but whether it extended further to the north can not, on the above evidence, be said to be certain. (See, however, under heading *Longstone*.)

The point at which the Ordnance Survey has indicated the remains of *Hobajohns Cross* is marked on the Erme Plains map (M.I) with the words:—"A small Heap of Stones at the South East Corner of Erm Plains, where the Perambulation thereof usually begins." A description which still holds. It may be noted that the second "h" in the name does not appear, except on the Ordnance Survey.

I conclude that Hobajons Cross still stands; its position being O.S. cxix. S.E., lon. $3^{\circ}53'372''$, lat. $50^{\circ}25'41''$. See Plate V, for a view of the cross.]

Jobber's Cawse (Abbot's Way).

"To the North of Peters Cross there runs across the Moor a Stony Line called Jobbers Cause, nearly East & West, which tis said was antiently a Road much used for travelling; but discontinued on a Man being found dead there (Que. if this has a Reference to the Story of *Child in Risdon*?) It seems to lead from Ashburton towards Tavistock. At no great Distance from it seem to be some Barrows, or antient Places of Sepulture."

"I have since heard a Moor Man say, that Jobbers Cawse (otherwise Abbott's Way) was the old Road between the above Towns, before the Turnpike Road was made." (1790-1794.)

[The name *Jobber's Cawse*, or rather its later form of *Jobber's Path*, is even yet not wholly forgotten. It is notable that in the above entries the alternative of *Abbots Way* is an after-thought.

It was the wool-jobber and not the abbot who came first to the mind of ANDREWS' informant. I have sought the first use of the name *Abbot's Way*, and, so far, this is my earliest record. I suspect POLWHELE, or one of the antiquaries of his speculative days, of the invention of the name. The countryside will accept as authoritative the wildest speculation, once it attains the dignity of print. Only too often, when I have questioned a supposedly traditional statement, I have been faced with the retort that "it is printed in a book."]

The Longstone.

"Wm. Tozer says That all the Moor which adjoins East Harford Moor on the East, from Prowse's Rock to a long Stone beyond Hobajones Cross, belongs to the Manor of *Torpik*, & not to the Manor of *Langford Leister*." (26 July, 1800.)

"The Stone called Long Stone (which had been said by some to have an inscription on its lower Side) was turned upside-down, but found to have no Inscription, nor any Appearance of Tool having ever been applied to it.—It was then turned back again, & put exactly in its former Position." (Sept. 6, 1800.)

"From the Middle of Long Stone towards Hobajones Cross there is a Row of Stones which seem plainly to have been intentionally laid, & probably for the Purpose of a Boundary:—and Mr. Rivers consents to consider it as such, & instead of going in a direct Line from Hobajones Cross to Three Barrows, to go from the Cross to Long Stone, & from thence to Three Barrows: And the new Bound Stones are set up accordingly." (Sept. 6th—16th, 1800.)

"Do by this their Award in Writing ascertain settle describe and determine the Bounds and Limits of Division and Separation between the said Moors or Commons [Harford and Ugborough], in manour following (to wit) from a certain upright Stone called Hobajones Cross, to a certain other Stone called Longstone, and from thence . . ." (Abraham and Andrews' award 25 July 1803.) And further in the same document:—"That the said Stone called Longstone (if it shall be found practicable) shall be set upright in the Ground as near as may be to the Middle of the Spot on which it now lies." (Another stone is also to be so treated.)

In a list of the bound-stones as finally erected, occurs the following:—"By the Side of the Longstone . . . 1 Stone."

So that it was obviously found difficult to re-erect the Longstone.

Fifty-five boundary-stones were erected in August and September, 1803, of which fifty-one are "marked on the opposite sides with the Letters H U." These were set to indicate the boundary between Harford and Ugborough Moors, not necessarily the parish boundary. This line of stones, still standing, will be familiar to many.

In ANDREWS' survey (M.I) the Longstone is shewn 890 feet to the north (approximately) of Hobajones Cross. Southward from the Longstone a row of small stones extends toward, but not quite up to the Cross. From the Cross a similar row extends to the circle on Butterson, near the eastern cairn. ANDREWS knew nothing of stone rows as prehistoric remains; to him the Butterson row was a "Row of Bound Stones," and similarly the row from the Longstone towards the Cross known as Hobajones was a "row of stones which seems plainly to have been intentionally laid, & probably for the purpose of a boundary."

Now the *Longstone* is that to which I referred in my paper on the *Dartmoor Menhirs* (*Trans. Devon. Assocn.*, vol. lxxii, p. 193), and which I there said was a possible, but not certain menhir.

With the evidence now before us we know that it was in fact the terminal menhir of the Butterson Stone Row, and that Hobajones Cross stood in the length of that row, as shewn in the map at Exeter (M.III). The difficulty as to the former extension of the row to the north of the Cross being resolved. This makes the original length of the row to have been, according to ANDREWS' survey, 6280 feet, terminating on the south in a circle around a barrow, and to the north in a menhir. The length so given is accurate.

The position of the Longstone is, six inch O.S. Devon, cxix, N.E., lon. $3^{\circ}53'402''$, lat. $50^{\circ}25'49\frac{1}{2}''$. Beside it still stands the modern bound-stone erected by Messrs. Abraham and Andrews.

Merrivale.

"Proceeding from Tavistoke in the Exeter Road, we found the House at Merrivil Bridge, which is called the Dartmoor Inn, on the Northern Side of the Road, instead of the Southern: the River (Walkham) is not named in the Map, & if there be any Road branching off to the right, a little to the East of Merrivil Bridge, it is so inconsiderable that we did not notice it." (July 23rd, 1788.)

[This passage occurs in a revision of errors in DONN's map. It is certain that DONN's survey must not be taken too seriously on Dartmoor, especially off the roads. But as to

the road branching off to the south, a little east of Merrivale Bridge; that is a very old track leading to Ward Bridge and Huckworthy Bridge, and is still there. At its north end it passes, unfenced, through the ground of several farms; and, where it passes from one farm to another, there yet remain the hangings of wood-stone gates, near Davytown, at Hucken Tor, and at Little Wonder Bridge. Such gates were usual on roads and lanes, or at the entrances to farm-yards, wherever comparatively frequent opening would be necessary; as contrasted with the less frequently used field gates, which were usually of the slip-bar type.

This road, from *Merrivale* to *Huckworthy* was, however, unknown to either DONN or ANDREWS, and

The "road" which is shown on DONN's map, to which ANDREWS refers, is the old track from *Tavistock* to *Ashburton*, marked out at that time by the "T-A" stones, and still so marked. (*D.A.*, vol. lxvi, pp. 317 *et seq.*)

Except at stream crossings and other points of some slight difficulty this track never seems to have been defined by wear. No trace of such wear can now be found; there was never any necessity for any strict confinement to one precise route; the general direction could be followed on good ground of considerable lateral extent; and the traffic would thus be spread.

It would appear that similar conditions existed in ANDREWS' time, hence his failure to see the track; he was probably anticipating a formal road or, at the least, a well worn and defined course; and he might easily have missed the "T-A" guide-stones, although DONN shows them.]

Plymouth Dock Water Supply.

"Water to go to Dock is taken from Blackabrook, about a Mile West of Two Bridges; some Miles of it are compleated." (October 20th, 1794.)

[The cutting of Plymouth Dock Leat is usually attributed to the years 1795-6; but evidently a start had been made in 1794.]

Plymouth Dock, Kings Inner Boundary Wall.

"It seems also to be the Design of Providence that some things, tho' strictly private Property, should, in a certain degree be enjoyed in common and conduce to the Accommodation of Mankind in general.—The Self-interest of Individuals has indeed, of late Years, very much disposed them to curtail these Accommodations; and in some Instances (humanly speaking) with Success: but it is much to be doubted whether in others the real Balance may not be much against them; and certain it is that some, (perhaps very justifiable)

Improvements have been undertaken, and, after a considerable Expence, abandoned.—A remarkable Scheme of this Kind is now going on at the public Charge; warrantable perhaps in point of strict Right, but greatly to the Diminution of the Pleasure & Convenience, (not to say the Healthfulness) of a large & populous Town. [In a footnote] “Plymouth Dock. (See (in Shakespeare’s Tragedy of Julius Caesar) the concluding Part of Antony’s Oration at Caesar’s Funeral, and its Effect upon the Populace.)” (1788.)

[The reference is to the construction by the Duke of Richmond of the wall which separates the fortifications from the town, at Devonport, then known as the King’s Inner Boundary Wall. See WORTH’S *History of Devonport*, pp. 16–17.]

Prince Hall and Beardown.

“The Stream which is crossed between Dunnabridge Pound and Prince Hall is called Cherry-brook.

Ground belonging to Prince Hall extends a good way West of the Dart, almost to the first Torr in Sight: It also extends N. of the Road near Dunnabridge Pound.

Some Closes watered, & seem good.

Some in a State of Nature—Rocks.

Barn buildings—Potatow Ground, some is wet, and suppose difficult to be drained, being level—No Turnips, or Tillage of any kind; but much Inclosure by Walls, done and doing.—Our Names & Residence required to be left in writing.

Proposal for our staying till Mr. Yard came.

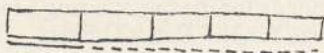
Judge Buller’s Kiln for burning Turf to Ashes, for Manure.

A Gent. at Prince Hall on a proposal for sowing Hemp.

Women examining the Ground with Spits to find Moor-stones for walls.

Moor-stone dug up in a Quarry near seems of a fine Quality for polishing and close grained.

North Side of Road West from Two Bridges skirted with Mr. Bray’s Plantations of young Fers, seemed in small hedged Inclosures, thus



Plantations at Prince Hall,—and at a Farm about a Mile. & half S.E. of it, belonging to the Judge, called Sharburn. Some few old Trees also grow there: and some little ones appear at Mr. Bray’s & in some other Parts of the Forest. (October 21st, 1794.)

[Sir Francis Buller, bart., born at Downes near Crediton, 1746, was the third son of James Buller of Morval, Cornwall. Educated at Ottery St. Mary, he read for the law; in 1772

he was called to the Bar, taking silk in 1777; and was appointed a Judge of the King's Bench in 1778, being, probably, the youngest judge known to England.

It is said that he unfortunately brought to the Bench the habit of mind of an advocate, and was without judicial detachment; the unhappy failure of more than one honest man, before and since.

For his services to the Law he was created a baronet. He died in the year 1800. Among other purchases of land in his native county, he acquired the copyhold of several of the ancient tenements within the Forest of Dartmoor; and built himself a residence at Prince Hall (the "Prynshall" of 1532-3). Here he devoted his leisure to the attempt to "improve" Dartmoor, having a firm conviction of the agricultural value of its wastes. He would appear to have been a good neighbour, a generous host, and a kindly master; and he doubtless took his part in despoiling the Moor, in the full assurance that he was successfully performing a public duty.]

Princetown.

"An Inn with the Sign of the Prince's Arms [now the *Plume of Feathers*] is erected at a Place called by the Name of *Prince Town*, abt. a Mile & half from Two Bridges, on the Plymouth Road; near which (abt a Quar. of a mile on the opposite (N.W.) side of the Road) is lately built *A Prison*, for securing Prisoners of War, & *Barracks* a little detached from it: with Houses for the Governor etc, an Hospital & other Accommodn in a very capital Stile. The Plan of the Buildings cont'g the Prison (or rather 5 distinct Prisons) is nearly semicircular; its Diamr, & principal Entrance facing near W. or S.W., having a grand Semi: octangular Arch over its Entrance.

The 5 Prisons are quite detached from each other, & stand in the Direction of Radii of the Circle. Each of them will accommodate 1616 Men. Between these (further from its Centre) are open Sheds for drying & airing Cloaths &c. There are separate Prisons for the Petty Officers. In the Middle of the Area is to be a Market Place for the Prisoners.

There is a large Elliptical Pond for the Prisoners to wash themselves." (Augt. 17th, 1808.)

[This description of the Prison corresponds in detail with the view given in VANCOUVER'S, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Devon*, published in 1808, the year in which the above note was written; saving only that the "elliptical pond" can not be discovered in the view, unless it be the reservoir, outside the enclosure.]

Roborough Camp

"Improvement at the Camp, by having the Tents round, with a Stake in the Middle; the Men lying in the Position of Radii." (October 21st, 1794.)

[The temporary encampment, during the war with Republican France.]

Spinsters Rock, Drewsteignton.

"Druid Cromlech, called Spinsters' Stone, being said to be erected by 3 Spinsters before Breakfast.

"The longest Side is in Length	11ft. 9ins.
Breadth at the longest End	9ft. 2ins.
Do. at the narrowest End	6ft. 2ins.
The Broadest End hangs over the Western Supporter	3ft. 2ins.
And over the East Supporter	2ft. 4ins.
But the East Supporter comes out under the Impost for all a Foot or more.	
The Southern End comes out beyond the Supporter	2ft. 6ins.
Height of the Pillars.	
Of the Western.....	5ft. 9ins.
Eastern	6ft. 0ins.
Southern	5ft. 3ins."

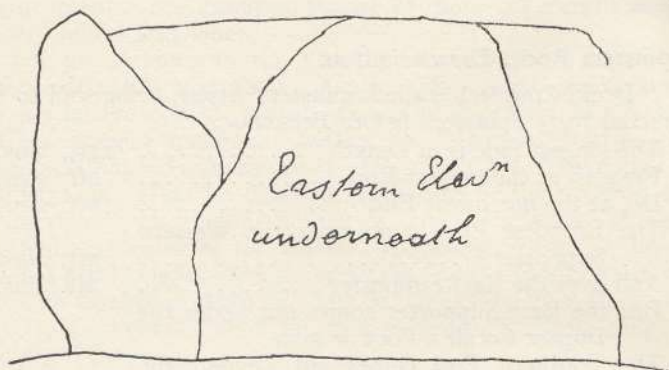
(August 11th, 1789.)

[From the date it will be seen that the measurements are those of the Cromlech before its fall, on the 31st January, 1862. ORMEROD (*Journal of the Royal Archaeological Institute*, Vol. xxix, 1872) gives a variety of measurements of the quoit, as taken by various authors. These neither agree among themselves, nor with those stated by ANDREWS; but the method of measurement is to blame, the directions being varied and ill defined. As to the height of the supporters this difficulty should not arise; LYSONS, in 1807, says that the supporters were between 6ft. and 6ft. 6ins. in height, and ORMEROD says that this height was about the same when the fall took place; "very little change, if any, had therefore taken place in the height to the under side of the quoit during the sixty-six years preceding the fall." I, however, do not doubt the accuracy of ANDREWS' measurements.]

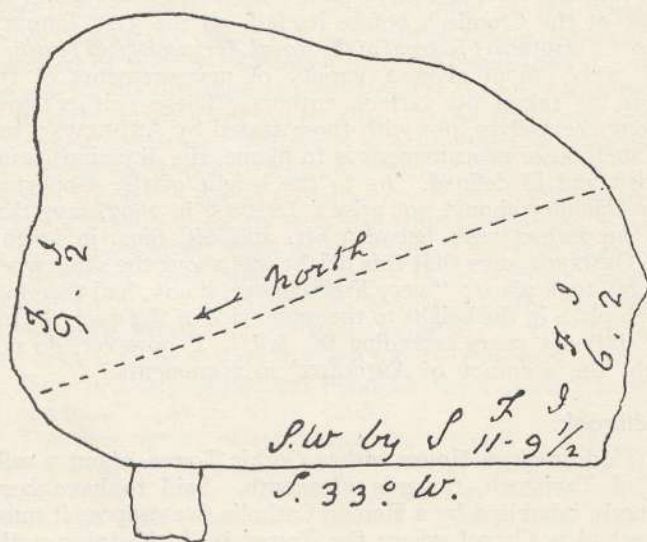
Tiddibrook.

"Tiddibrook, a House with a Gothic Tower, about a mile out of Tavistock, towards Plymouth. Said to have been formerly inhabited by a Roman Catholic (we suppose it must have had a Chapel where the Tower is)." (October 20th, 1794.)

"DRUID CROMLECH."



At 53' past 5 by water, \odot shined almost directly across it, tho a little too far South



FIGS. 1 AND 2.

[This tower still stood, within living memory. No clear account of it can be obtained. It would appear to have been the central feature of the front of the house, built over the porch.]

Two Bridges.

"Two Bridges is in fact but one Bridge with two Arches; the Streams meeting at the Bridge, & not below it, North of the Road, a little to the West of Two Bridges, is a neat House called Beardon." (July 22nd, 1788.)

[DONN's Map shows two bridges, across the West Dart and the Cowsic, respectively.]

"Good Inn at Two Bridges, the Saracen's Head, Wilkins. Beds to be had." (October 20th, 1794.)

[Said to have been built by Judge Buller—The "Saracen's Head" his crest.]

"A Fair for Cattle at Two Bridges." (August 17th, 1808.)

Ugborough.

"Mr. Palmer says that Ugborough Parsonage was formerly the House where the Prior [of Plympton] kept his Hounds—and that there is a Part of the Churchyard called Plympton Ground:—So Mr. Wills told Mr. Mayew when Dean Rural." (October 21st, 1794.)

Widdicombe Church.

"Handsome modern Altar Piece. Pillars of solid Moorstone, but plaistered. Tower very grand, all of Moorstone.—Seems to have been built since the Church, as it covers Part of two Windows, & an old Doorway." (August 10th, 1789.)

General.

It may be interesting to give the detailed expenses, for three persons, of a three-day riding tour on Dartmoor in 1789.

"Expences paid by J.A.

1789		£	s.	d.
Augt. 10.	Paid Bill at Ashbthn	0	15	10
	Gave a Boy for shewing the Road to			
	Widdecombe	0	0	1
	Gave Sexton	0	0	6
	Exps. at Widecombe	0	4	0
	Gave Ostler there	0	0	3
	Gave Man for going with us toward			
	Becky Fall	0	0	6
	Do. Clerk of Manaton	0	0	6

"Expences paid by J.A.

1789		£	s.	d.
Augt.	11. Paid Bill at Moreton	0	14	9½
	Gave a Man who went to Cranmere Pool	0	0	6
	Cranmere Pool, Guide and Horse	0	2	0
	Expences at Chagford	0	10	6
	Okehampton Turnpike	0	0	3
	12. Paid Expences &c. at Moreton	0	17	5
	Paid at Lidford	0	1	10
	Clerk	0	0	6
	Church	0	0	3
	Turnpikes	0	0	6
	Ostler at Lidford	0	0	3
		<hr/>		
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		1	3	10
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			3	8
		<hr/>		
		1	7	6
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				3
		<hr/>		
		1	7	9"

ANDREWS was a lover of Dartmoor, and he found DONN's map an unreliable guide. He certainly made excursions in the valleys of the Avon and the Erme to ascertain for himself their true geography; and he took many compass bearings in the South Hams and on the borders of the moor: perhaps further to test DONN's survey, in part perhaps as practice in the use of the instrument.

But something more than these interests would seem necessary to lead him to undertake a survey on the scale and with the detail of his *Map of the Moors of Ugborough, Hartford &c.* (M.I.)

ANDREWS' papers supply knowledge of the inducement to this work. In the year 1784 there arose a dispute between Humphrey Savery of Stowford, and Thomas Lane of Cofleet, respectively lords of the manors of East Hartford and Langford Leister. Wherein Savery alleged that Lane had trespassed upon East Hartford Moor, which adjoined Ugborough or Langford Leister Moor.

The matter got as far as pleadings. Savery's complaint was that, on the first day of January, 1782, and on divers later dates, Lane "with force and arms broke and entered the Close of the said Humphrey [Savery] called East Hartford Moor . . . and with his feet in walking trod down trampled

upon consumed and spoiled the Grass of the said Humphrey there lately growing of the Value of £20 and with divers Cattle eat up depastured trod down trampled upon and spoiled other Grass of the said Humphrey there also lately growing of the value of another £20 and with the Wheels of Carts Waggon and other Carriages crushed squeezed damaged and spoiled the Grass of the said Humphrey there also lately growing of the Value of another £20 and tore up turned up rooted up subverted and spoiled the Soil of the said Humphrey there and cut up dug and raised divers large quantities of Turves and Blackwood upon and from the said Close of the said Humphrey to the Value of other £20 and raised took and carried away the same and converted and disposed thereof to his own Use and other Wrongs to the said Humphrey there did to the great Damage of the said Humphrey and against the Peace of our Lord the now King."

A spirit of neighbourliness appears to have prevented the pursuit of the action, and induced a disposition to accept arbitration, and we find Savery appointing Mr. Culme as his referee while Lane appointed Mr. Templar ; at least this was their intention, but no formal submission was entered into, and no award can be found.

The properties changed hands, and the new owners apparently acquired the dispute with the lands. The nature of the dispute then becomes apparent, a difference as to the boundaries. Henry Rivers of Stowford appears as owner of East Harford Moor, and Walter Palk of Marley in Rattery, as owner of Langford Leister ; and, in 1803, there is a formal reference of all matters in dispute to Robert Abrahams the younger of Ashburton and John Andrews of Modbury. There follow an award, and instructions as to the setting up of bound-stones, in the same year ; and, as to pasturage, each party was to enjoy what practically amounted to common of vicinage over the grounds of the other.

Now ANDREWS was solicitor to Savery in 1784, and that, no doubt led to his interest in the geography of the neighbourhood concerned.

I have great respect and liking for JOHN ANDREWS, who rode and walked the Moor before my father's day ; and who must have been so companionable, despite, perhaps the more in consequence, of his argumentativeness. I like to picture him and his associates on their excursions ; and happily all is not left to the imagination, since, on the last page of one of his MSS, he has sketched a scene which I reproduce as a frontispiece to this paper. (But possibly CRANCH was the artist.)