

## THE TYTHING OF COMPTON GIFFORD.

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### INTRODUCTION.

PARISHES and towns, manors and boroughs, are not only familiar phrases, but familiar things, even in days when manor courts are dying out, and manorial rights are often held more honoured in the breach than the observance. Hundreds and tythings are, however, to most folk little more than names, and specially the latter. That a hundred, in a territorial sense, is the name given to the division of a shire, of very ancient origin, once highly important as an area of local administration, now reduced to the merest shadow beyond a purely nominal existence, is indeed a fact more or less vaguely within the general ken; but I question greatly whether much more is known or guessed at touching a tything than that it is in some way the tenth of a hundred, while in the present day tything and township are commonly treated as identical terms.

The original tything was, however, the smallest unit of Anglo-Saxon local government; and the existence of a tything in the present day indicates that the area so designated first acquired autonomy in Anglo-Saxon times. Neither tything nor hundred were, indeed, in their inception, territorial. The hundred consisted of a hundred households, or of a hundred fighting men and their families. The tything consisted of ten households, bound together by mutual responsibility. The century and the decade indicated the persons, not the land they occupied. With more settled life and wider civilization, both designations naturally passed from household to homestead, and long before the Norman

Conquest hundred and tything had become terms of topographical application, though the personal element still held enough vitality to cause shifting of boundaries as the population of a district waxed or waned.

The Rev. Mr. Taylor, of St. Michael's, Bristol, has lately argued with great force that the original hide meant simply the homestead of the household; whence it would follow that the original hundred must have consisted of a hundred hides. It is worthy of note as bearing upon this, that the Geld Roll of Devon gives the majority of the hundreds as consisting of definite fractional parts of a nominal hundred; while some of those which appear quite irregular may be grouped to make up even hundreds also. *Domesday*, however, has no such information to give us with regard to the tything, dealing simply with those proprietorial entities which we have learnt to call manors, and their consequents.

We do gather, however, that the manorial system with its manor courts fell fairly into line with the hundred, and while it interfered with, did not displace the tything. Both continued as units of civil administration subordinate to the county court; nor were they displaced when ecclesiastical authority was made searching and universal—brought home to every man's door—by the creation of parishes. The manner of the formation of parishes was evidently dictated by local conditions. From a proprietorial point of view a parish might consist of one manor, of a group of manors, or of parts of manors. Civilly, we may find a parish coincident with a tything or a township (occasionally with a hundred); or formed of an aggregate of tythings or townships; while there are townships that include several parishes. And so the three jurisdictions—civil, manorial, and ecclesiastical—co-exist in the same areas even to the present day; or overlap in all manner of possible relationships.

We have already seen that "tything" and "township" are commonly used interchangeably; and that at the present day there is no practical distinction between them. Each stands for our smallest unit of independent civil government; but while the tything originated in the association, for mutual vouching of ten households, the township, strictly speaking, came of the joint acquisition of civil rights of administration by the dwellers in a definite area. But tything or township appears equally to have been represented in the hundred court by its reeve and four men.

As compared with parishes, and even with townships, tythings nowadays are few and far between. The history

of the tything of Compton Gifford has, therefore, a general as well as a local interest.

The original parish of Plymouth stretched from the Plym to Tamerton Creek, and included the whole peninsular area within these bounds and the Hamoaze on the west—the manor of Stoke Damerel, now the parish of that name and the borough of Devonport, excepted: though it is possible that in making this exception we are relying more upon our ignorance than our knowledge. In the sixteenth century, the chapelry of St. Bude was withdrawn from this area and erected into an independent parish. In the seventeenth century, the chapelry and township of Stonehouse obtained a similar status. In 1871, the tything of Compton Gifford, with a portion of Plymouth adjacent, became the independent parish of Emmanuel. At the present moment the last remaining part of the extra municipal parish of Plymouth—the tything of Weston Peveril (commonly called Pennycross, from the dedication of its ancient chapel of St. Pancras)—seeks the like distinction.

There was another tything in the old parish—that of Sutton Raf—but it merged into the borough of Plymouth in 1439. Thus there were in the ancient parish of Plymouth at least three tythings and one township (probably the chapelry of St. Bude was also a tything before it became a parish), each of which managed its own civil affairs independently of its ecclesiastical relations. Two of these tythings are of unknown antiquity; the township clearly came into existence as a natural consequence of the growth of population in what was the smallest manor within the Three Towns area, at a much later date. And so the tything of Sutton Raf developed long after the Conquest, when the King's original manor of Sutton had been divided into three portions between the prior of Plympton and two Valletort lords—Sutton Prior lying midway, Sutton Vawter west, and Sutton Raf east.

How far the ancient tythings of Compton Gifford and Weston Peveril can be regarded as holding a definite numerical ratio to the hundred of Roborough (the old hundred of Walkhampton) which the Geld Roll sets down as containing twenty-five hides, it is hardly possible to say. Still, it is worthy of note that while Compton Gifford chiefly consists of the manor of Compton, it includes portions of other manors, and is historically known to have been limited in area; while Pennycross includes at least eight. In hidage and population the Pennycross of *Domesday* does,

therefore, fairly represent a tenth of the hundred. It seems a fair inference that Compton, by far the most important *Domesday* manor within the Three Towns area (Stoke Damerel excepted), really included within its tything territory all that is now called Plymouth. And this suggestion is greatly strengthened by the fact that here also in such case we should have the proper relationship to the hundred.

#### PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Compton Gifford lies immediately north of Plymouth, occupying the crests and flanks of two roughly parallel ridges, connected by a slight plateau, and terminating eastward, the southern in Compton Hill, and the northern beyond the limits of the tything in the precipitous bluff now crowned by Fort Efford. These ridges continue as high land westward into Pennycross. In Compton they fall away south, north, and east, the more gradual slope being on the south, the more sudden on the north. The northern ridge still bears in part its old British name of Tor, and here is the highest point of land around, on the extreme verge of the tything, at Thornhill, 340 feet above Ordnance datum. Before the Lipson Creek was reclaimed early in the present century by the Plymouth Embankment Company, Compton had also a tidal frontage at Shilly Cleaves, vernacular for Slaty Cliffs—still a low rocky bank.

The original settlement was planted where Compton village now stands. Two shallow valleys meet round a sharp spur of higher ground at the head of a steep and somewhat picturesque coombe (hence Coombe-ton), down which the principal stream of the tything flows by Lipson Mill into the ancient tideway of Lipson Creek. A sheltered spot, which credits the first inhabitant with equal business capacity and taste. Charming does the village look, shrouded in trees, on the upward glance through the coombe from the heights of Mount Gould.

Watercourses form the leading boundaries of the tything—natural frontiers of very early date—with here and there the line of an ancient road. On the west a stream runs great part of the way between Compton and Pennycross and Devonport (Stoke Damerel). The Houndiscombe stream, flowing into this, is an important boundary south against Plymouth. A third stream cuts off the tything from Egg Buckland churchtown. Yet a fourth forms the dividing line above Lipson Creek and the Laira section of the same parish.

The obliteration of some portions of these watercourses in the extension of building operations has led to some curious results. Thus, at the western end of Hyde Park Road three houses in Pennycroft are traversed by a projecting tongue of Compton, following a sudden bend of the ancient rill. So at the Mutley Railway Station, where the railway has obliterated the upper course of the old Houndcombe stream, the up-station, with a portion of the mile, is mainly in Compton; the down in Plymouth.

The main road from Plymouth to Tavistock traversing Compton forms for part of its course the boundary between Compton and Plymouth, before it enters the tything, and on leaving it becomes for some distance the boundary between Compton and Plymouth. A very ancient road to Lipson—known as Hell Lane, then Hill Lane, now politely Elm Lane, is also for some distance a boundary against Plymouth; and a fragment of another ancient road—Linketty Lane, is the westernmost frontier against Egg Buckland. It is noteworthy that in no case does a boundary road or stream belong to the tything.

The boundary between Compton and Efford follows a series of hedges, some of which by their direct course apparently preserve the line of a bank existing before the land was enclosed. Only at three points, indeed, is the boundary structurally or physically undefined. One where it crosses the lawn of Mutley House; a second where it passes through fields above Lipson Mill; and a third where it traversed a field from the eastern end of Hyde Park Road to Hell Lane aforesaid. The land here is now built upon, and the result is that the boundary now intersects the party-wall of one of the houses on the east of Mutley Plain, and runs for a few inches inward along the back walls of the gardens of Connaught Avenue. No doubt the intention was to build these houses wholly within Plymouth, and to leave nothing but the lane in their rear to Compton. The effort, however, was not successful.

Geologically the tything consists of Devonian clay slate, traversed by several east and west bands of contemporary igneous rocks, interbedded and intrusive. At points the slates show traces of contact alteration. They are not known to contain fossils; and with the exception of a claret and green belt near Mutley Railway Station are generally of various shades of leaden-grey and drab. Terminal curvature may be seen in Hell Lane. The igneous rocks consist of vesicular and amygdaloidal lavas and tuffs. If ashes exist

they are not pronounced. Some of the finer tuffs are so compact as to simulate massive lavas; while some of the vesicular lavas are so thickly honeycombed as to appear quite pumiceous. The amygdaloids are chiefly calcite; but felspar occurs. The lavas contain veins of calcite and pearl spar, in some of which occur specks and patches of copper pyrites. Small and crystals flecks of iron pyrites are freely distributed through them; magnetite and ilmenite also occur; and the strongly ferruginous character of these rocks is very marked in the rusty weathering of their normal bluish grey. All these igneous rocks are classed under the local name of dunstone, and are largely used for building; the more compact varieties for road-metalling. They disintegrate into a very fertile soil.

The most interesting feature of the mineralogy of the area is the existence of a vein of rich red jasper in the hill north of Compton village. It is not known *in situ*; but fragments, some of large size, are frequently found in the subsoil; and a large boulder, now removed, had found its way down the stream, nearly to Lipson Mill.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

The later Stone Age man left his traces in the tything. Worked flints were found in the course of building operations at Ford Park, which may very well indicate the site of a dwelling or a rude settlement. A beautifully made celt of polished greenstone—probably a compact local lava—now in my possession, was dug up three years since at Thorn Park; and what is probably the finest polished chert axe ever found in the county (now in the Museum of the Plymouth Institution) was unearthed at Houndiscombe, about a gunshot from the present boundary, but well within the limits of the ancient tything. I have also heard of, but have not seen, a stone celt of more ordinary type found in the garden of a house adjoining Mutley Plain.

The higher portion of the tything is traversed by a portion of the ancient British trackway (now improved into Higher Compton Road) which ran from Exeter over Haldon, crossed the Teign at Buckland Ford, and went on through Totnes and the South Hams to Ridgeway, and so by Compton and King's Tamerton to Saltash Passage. At low tide this road crossed the estuary of the Plym from Ridgeway, near the present Long Bridge (the route is now mainly reclaimed marshes) to Efford, originally thence named Efford. When

that way was not available, the Plym was crossed higher up by a very ancient deep set road through Austin Farm. It is now almost disused, and the most characteristic fragment of an old pack horse road left in the neighbourhood. Both tracks—that from the ford and that higher up the valley—met on the higher ridge of Compton, and proceeded thence as one by Torr Lane to the Tamar. That this was a very ancient road indeed is plainly attested. Relics of its Bronze Age users were found in 1884 in removing an old bank in Torr Lane just beyond the limits of the tything—two palstaves and a celt. And four or five years later a still more remarkable discovery was made in Compton proper, immediately to the north of the old trackway: an earthen crock buried some 18 inches deep, containing about 1000 thin brass Roman coins, carefully packed in upon their edges. Examples of Victorinus and Tetricus were most numerous; but Tetricus the younger, Claudius Gothicus, and Postumus, also occurred. The probable date of this deposit is 275–280. Still other traces of the Romans have occurred. Thus five Roman coins were dug up in one spadeful of earth at Rockville, Mannamead. One of these, a Vespasian, is in my possession.

A few of the local names recall the Kelt: Torre has been already cited. Mannamead—the name of two fields (which, from their being among the earliest built upon in these later years, have given a popular name to the district which does not belong to it), must be correlated with the typically Keltic Manadon—the stony hill or hill fort, adjacent. The first syllable unquestionably embodies the familiar Keltic *man*=stone; the second is either a corruption or a later addition. Linketty Lane—that very ancient, narrow, winding road, which forms the boundary against Widey, in Egg Buckland, is manifestly from the Keltic *lynnic*=marshy; and it occurs again in connection with the old marshes near Plympton.

The great majority of the place names connected with the tything, are, however, unquestionably of Saxon or personal origin; and the small remainder are by no means easily handled. The two adjacent *Domesday* manors of Lisestone and Leuricestone, portions of one, if not both, of which form part of the area, are of this number. The only name which has replaced them is Lipson, and whether that stands for one or both is impossible to say. The suffix “ton” suggests a Saxon origin; and the prefixes may be personal rather than descriptive.

## GENERAL HISTORY.

The first reference to Compton Gifford by name is found in *Domesday*, where it is given as Contone and Contona. It had passed from its Saxon owner Osulf to Judhel of Totnes, and was held of him by Stephen. It gelded for one hide and a virgate, the highest geld in the locality save the two hides of Stoke Damerel, and one virgate in excess of its neighbour Egg Buckland, where Judhel had displaced the Saxon sheriff Heche (= Egg). Nevertheless, it had land for four ploughs only against Buckland's six, and was valued at 30s. a year against Buckland's 50s. Clearly Buckland had gained upon Compton since the imposition of the Dane-geld. There were 20 acres of coppice and one acre of meadow, five head of cattle, two swine, and 52 sheep. The enumerated population consisted of six villeins, four bordars or cottars, and two serfs. Three of the virgates, with two plough teams, were in demesne; two of the virgates and two ploughs in the hands of the villeins.

Most of the surrounding manors belonged to Judhel likewise. He had succeeded Godwin in one of the Modleis (= Mutley), and at Witelie (= Whitleigh); Alwin, in the other Modlei (later known as Higher and Lower, with, still more recently, a Middle interposed), and at Buretone (= Burraton); Saulf at Leuricestone; Ulnod at Westone (Peveril); Colbert at Manadone; Edmar at Colrige.

Of the other adjacent manors Lisistone had also belonged to Godwin, but had passed with Hanechelole (= Honicknowle) to the Count of Mortain, and was held under him by the chief Norman under lord of the district—Rainald or Reginald of Valletort, together with Tori or Torre.

Wado, the Saxon owner of Hanechelole and Tori, had also owned Wide (= Widey), and a second Witelie (in later days these two manors became East and West Whitleigh). These came to Robert of Albemarle, with Stoches (= Stoke Damerel), and Elford (= Efford); and the most interesting fact connected with them is that the ejected Saxon lord of Compton—Osulf—found a home hard by as tenant of Wide, and its Witelie adjunct of very nearly equal extent and importance. Elford had been one of the lands of Alwin, and is noted as having a fishery in the Plym worth 1s. a year; while Buckland had a saltwork worth 2s. Stoches had belonged to Brismar.

To complete our view of the neighbourhood we have only to add Sutton (now Plymouth) belonging to the king, with



its four villeins, two bordars, and one serf; and its annual value of 20s., against Compton's 30s.; and Stanehvs (= Stonehouse) which had passed from Alwin to Robert the Bastard—the smallest estate of the group, farmed by a single villein, paying 5s. a year.

It should be further noted also that with the exception of Compton held by Stephen, and Buckland retained by Judhel in his own hands, all Judhel's manors of this group were held of him by Odo.

Those who are familiar with the locality will recognize that none of these sets of manors, though contiguous, lay, in modern parlance, in a ring fence. Nevertheless, the position of each can be clearly identified from the continuing names—Leuricestone excepted. As, however, this lies in Judhel's bit between Modlei and Westone, and room can hardly be found for it in the tything of Pennycross, it seems most probable that it lay somewhere between Compton and Sutton, where indeed we do find, some centuries later, a manor in the hands of the Giffards known as Lulyets Park, or Ulyets Fee; and which, moreover, was connected with Lipson. It is very easy to see how Leurices might be corrupted into Lulyets by interchanging the liquids. Nor is the merging of Leuricestone into Lipson a much more difficult process than that of Lisistone. However, these are, in the main, points of speculation.

Passing over, for the time, the descent of the manors, we find that for centuries the general history of the tything, with one very notable exception, is scanty and uneventful—the record, in fact, of everyday life in a small rural hamlet. Still, a few interesting excerpts may be made.

Early in the fourteenth century it was proposed that the king should grant a charter to the growing town of Plymouth. The manor of Sutton had, however, long passed from the hands of royalty to the Valletorts, and by them a considerable portion had been given to the priory of Plympton. Hence the one original Sutton became divided into the town of Sutton Prior, the hamlet of Sutton Vawter, and the tything of Sutton Raf, the last two belonging each to a Valletort. Prior and Valletorts successfully opposed the issue of a charter then; and when a century later a kindred attempt was made the townsfolk were told in the first place to compound with the lords having franchises. This in the course of time they did, and so in 1439 the Borough of Plymouth was formed by Act of Parliament out of the town of Sutton Prior, the tything of Sutton Raf, parcel of the

hamlet of Sutton Vawter, and "a sertayne of the tithynge of Compton." The whole of the original Sutton was not included, the portion left out being called the Vawters, now occupying that part of Stonehouse at the western end of the North Road, at Eldad. There is no clue to the area of Compton taken beyond the fact that it must have comprised all that part of the new borough which lay outside the old manor of Sutton, and have been taken from Lisistone and Lauricestone. The original manor of Compton remained intact.

The boundaries between the enlarged Plymouth and Compton, as set forth in the Act Charter, run: "to Millebroke [Pennycomequick] brigge inclusive and thence towards the east by the middeldiche of Houndescom to Houndescom brigge inclusive and thence to thornhil park exclusive and thence to Lypston brigge inclusive."

A contemporary copy of the Act in the vernacular which, however, varies somewhat from the Latin, reads: "vnto Mylbroke brygge ynclewedyd and fro thens to the yate of thorne hylle pke agenst motley pke lane and fro thens vnto lypstone brygge ynclewedyd and fro thens by the see stronde to the lary poynt," marks and bounds being fixed.

The oldest local record of the Taxation "tenth and fifteenth" that I know gives the total for Sutton Prior at £24, and for Sutton Vawter at £10 12s. 8d. After the incorporation in the reign of Henry VII. we get "Burgus de Sutton Prior et Sutton Vautord, £24 12s. 8d.," £12 being deducted on the score of poverty; and of outside places, Maker (tenth), 10s.; King's Tamerton, 10s.; Stonehouse, 2s. 6d.; "Vautard land, on north of myll Pool," 2s. 6d.; Compton (with tenth), 6s. 8d.; Hundescombe, 16d.; Twngysland, 8d.

These figures afford a fair criterion of relative value when the assessment quota was fixed. Hundescombe and Twngysland lie at present partially within Compton tything, and no doubt once wholly did so.

There are numerous references to Compton and its tything man in the old Receivers' Accounts of Plymouth, chiefly relating to the passing on of "hores" and "fackabons," and other moral rubbish, which the borough did not wish to retain—Compton probably passing them on to the next parish, Egg Buckland. Thus in 1588 we read:

"Item paeed to Ballemay for Carieng of a  
fackebon to the Tithingman of Compton . . . . . iij<sup>d</sup>"

This "fackebon" was succeeded by a lame man and a "hore" and one Syme to be whipped. In 1591 we find that the tything man was called Thomas, and so in 1596 we have:

"Item pd for Carriage a lame man on a barrow  
to Compton Tithings . . . . . xij<sup>d</sup>"

Stoke and Stonehouse likewise shared in these favours.

A subsidy roll of 1522-3 gives the following list of taxable residents in the tything in that year:—

Thomas Legh	for goods	xx <sup>li</sup>	subsidy	xx <sup>s</sup>
John Darton	"	iiiij <sup>li</sup>	"	ij <sup>s</sup>
Nicholas Comyng	"	lx <sup>s</sup>	"	xviiij <sup>d</sup>
Rd Vde jun	"	xl <sup>s</sup>	"	xij <sup>d</sup>
John Colyn	"	xl <sup>s</sup>	"	xij <sup>d</sup>
Wm Cole	"	xl <sup>s</sup>	"	xij <sup>d</sup>
Rt Wathyman	"	xx <sup>s</sup>	"	iiiij <sup>d</sup>
Thos Matthewe	"	xl <sup>s</sup>	"	xij <sup>d</sup>
John Darton jun	"	xl <sup>s</sup>	"	xij <sup>d</sup>
John Dabyll	"	xx <sup>s</sup>	"	iiiij <sup>d</sup>
John Predyaux	"	xxx <sup>s</sup>	"	vj <sup>d</sup>
Wm Dabyll	for wages	xx <sup>s</sup>	"	iiiij <sup>d</sup>
Richard Vele sen	" goods	xx <sup>s</sup>	"	iiiij <sup>d</sup>
Johan Comyng	for wages	xx <sup>s</sup>	"	iiiij <sup>d</sup>
Wm Colyn	"	xx <sup>s</sup>	"	iiiij <sup>d</sup>

The fifteen persons thus assessed represented ten families, and probably twelve households, those assessed in wages only here not being independent householders. We shall find that in all likelihood the population of the tything did not vary materially from the Conquest to the beginning of the present century.

This list does not contain the name of "William Gryffyn, of Compton," who, in 1561, gave 2s. towards founding the Plymouth Grammar School; and deeds in the possession of the Rev. J. H. Parlbv show the Gryffyns occupying land at Mutley, in Weston Peveril, on the Compton verge.

For three years in the middle of the seventeenth century, Compton played a somewhat prominent part in connection with national affairs; for it was one of the chief points from which the Cavaliers conducted their attack at the famous siege of Plymouth. The road on Mutley Plain had not then been raised, nor the hill at Mannamead cut through, and the position was one of exceptional strength and importance in the conduct of the siege. In the siege map of 1643, five Royalist earthworks are shown at Compton: one above

Lipson Mills, on Crow Down; one at Mannamead, the remains of which were still visible before building operations began there in 1856—the name, “The Mount,” marks the site; one on or near Hill Crest, and two smaller affairs on the lower land to the west, no doubt intended to flank the chief work of the garrison at Maudlyn (where the Blind Institution now stands). The most important of these was reared at the rise of the ground beyond Hyde Park Terrace, the other near Coryton Terrace. One of the Compton works was named after the Royalist general Hopton, probably that at Mannamead. A good deal of the tything at this date was unenclosed, especially the higher parts; and some of the enclosures were very large. However, there were hedges enough to assist the besiegers. Thus, in the Sabbath day fight (December 3rd, 1643), when the surprise had been given by crossing the mud of the creek below Lipson Mill, it was under the shelter of a hedge and covered by their ordnance that the Royalists advanced from Compton and Buckland down the Lipson valley.

That there was actual fighting at Compton is not only proven by record, but by the finding of shot and bullets, as in removing the old hedge in Torr Lane, already noted in connection with the celts, four iron shot being 2½ in. in diameter.

Hopton's work seems not only to have been one of the earliest raised against the town, but one of the most important. It was “slighted” by the garrison when he was defeated at Modbury in December 1642, but it could not have been quite destroyed, as a sortie was made from it against Jump, May 11th, 1643, when the “wayes” about Compton were made good by a special force, to prevent a flank attack from the Cavalier headquarters, at Plympton.

It was from Compton that Charles made his personal summons on Plymouth to surrender; and whence on the 10th September, 1644, he directed his attack, marching down the slopes of Mannamead 15,000 strong, and planting twenty-eight guns under shelter of a hedge within half cannon shot of the outworks, but finding his ordnance as ineffectual as his proclamation.

He had his headquarters at Widey, and during the remainder of his stay contented himself with a daily demonstration on the higher ground. This the Roundheads, with grim humour, regarded as “vapouring,” and so they named the height Vapouring Hill, a name which has descended to us as Vapron Hill, still retained by the highest

part of Thornhill, and till recently by a close on the other side of the highway at Inceworth. 'T would be a thousand pities if, in the rapid extension of building operations, some means were not taken to keep this quaint historic name, memorizing the tything's most stirring times, alive.

#### THE MANORS.

The notices of Compton in the older county histories are not only exceeding scant, but wholly untrustworthy. The details which follow are drawn mainly from original sources. In respect of Compton Gifford itself I am greatly indebted to the Earl of Morley, whose family were for some three centuries lords of the manor, and who most kindly went through his family papers for that purpose with me. Other sources are the archives of the Plymouth Corporation, which contain many references to matters unconnected with that body; and I am further greatly indebted to Mr. W. H. Prance, Mr. E. A. Bennett, the late Dr. Revell, Mr. T. Moule, the Plymouth Devonport and Stonehouse Cemetery Company.

*Domesday*, as we have already seen, gives the manor of Compton in the lordship of Judhel of Totnes, and the holding of Stephen. Judhel was banished under Rufus, and there is apparently no direct record of the transfer of Compton. Probably, however, it passed to the Crown, for the Hundred Rolls (*circa* 1274) say that Osbern Giffard then had "warren at Heckebocland, Cumton, and Havetnolle, by charter of King Henry (I.), father of the King that now is." An inquisition, taken at Exeter on the octave of St. Martin 9 Edward I. (1281), by Salamon de Roffe and his associate justices, records that Robert Gyffard held the same manors.

The *Nomena Villarum*, 7 Edward II. (1314), however, cites Comton and Ekkeboclond as belonging to the Abbot of Tavistock; while in the following year (8 Edward II.) Pole states that it was held by Sir Robert de Beaudon and Joan his wife. This Beaudon is now Bowden in Egg Buckland, hard by.

There is an entry in Stapledon's *Register* that Wm. of Compton, son and heir of William of Compton, did homage to the bishop at Crediton, 1st April, 1311, for certain tenelements for the third of a knight's fee, and exhibited a charter setting forth the grant by Bishop Robert of Cicestria (1138-1155) to Aluric son of Seric of Compton and his heirs, of four ferlings and four acres of land. Bishop John (1186-1191) confirmed this and added four other acres. This would not however be Compton Giffard.

From the Beaudons the succession of the manor is clear. Sir Robert's daughter Margaret married Roger Whitlegh of Efford, when the two manors were joined and commonly known as Efford, Compton or Compton-Efford, the distinctive Gifford affix for the time being dropped.

The Whitleighs, who took their name from their manor in Pennycross, had at one time considerable property. Richard Whitleigh, Ismanna his wife, and Richard their son, had license for an oratory at Newton, in Churchstow, in 1395, and in 1408, a similar license for the same place was granted to Richard Whytelegh the son, and Joan his wife. They at one time made Bowdon their residence. There is extant a deed dated at Boghedon 10 July, 14 Henry VI (1436), by which Walter Whytelegh, armiger, grants Thomas Harvy, of Plymouth, merchant, and Robert Peverell, all his messuages, lands, and tenements, with meadow in Bogheway, Bogheayd, and Cresemyll, in perpetuity, the witnesses being Thos. Bottokysyd, John Russell, John Horswill.

Richard Whitley dying without male heirs his property passed to his daughters, one of whom married Grenville, while the other married Hals; the estates being shared under deed of partition 20 May, 34 Henry VIII. (1543). The Grenville portion came to Richard Mayhow, of Tavistock, who also acquired Boringdon, which had been part of the lands of the Priory of Plympton, from the Duke of Suffolk; and from him both came to his nephew Jerome Mayow, of Plymouth. Disputes arose between this Jerome Mayow and John Hals, son of Richard, as to their respective rights in a marsh, supposed by Hals to be called Whitley's Marsh, and by Mayhow to be Woodford Marsh, lying between "Kyll pke yate Wolwayshe rocke stert poynte yate & nere the lower end of ffoxe hole"; also for the fishing of the water of Plym adjoining thereto, the possession of Brydgeridge Wood, and "of for and upon" the "moytie or halfendeale of the barton and domaynes of Efford in the parish of Ecbuclonde and the moytee of the manor of Ecbuclonde—sometime the inheritance of Syr Rychard Greynfyld son and heir of Margaret one of the daughters and heirs of Rychard Whitley." Award was made herein October 25, 9 Elizabeth (1567), by Robert Cary, John fytz, Rychard Reynold, Geoffrey Totthyll. They gave Hals and his wife Joan the moieties of Ecbuclond and Efford Manors, and divided and staked out the marsh, assigning the fishing with the frontage, and giving Mayhow Brydgeridge Wood.

There was no dispute regarding the Mayhow rights in Compton; and he is mentioned in succession to the heirs of Whitley as owing service to the Hundred Court of Roborough (with Peter Edgcombe and Anthony Pollard, of Horwood), a few years later.

Jerome Mayhow had no son; and 25 April, 24 Elizabeth (1582), settled his lands by deed quadripartite between Arthur Bassett and Francis Drake, Knts., Anthony Monke and John Hele, esqrs., of the first part; Jerom Mayhow of the second part; John Parker, of Northmolton, and Edmund Parker his son and heir of the third part; Humphrey Selwood and Humphrey Makepowder of the fourth part. Under this deed, in consideration of a marriage between Edmund Parker and Frances daughter of Mayhow; and of £3000 paid by Edmund Parker, Drake, Bassett, and Monke, John Hele and Mary, his wife, and Jerome Mayhow and Katherine his wife, agreed within three years to levy a fine of Mayhow's estates to Selwood and Makepowder to the use of John Parker for his life, and then to Edmund Parker and his heirs for ever. Bassett and Monke were trustees under an entail of the manors of Woodford and Compton, created by Mayhow *circa* 1565-70.

Under agreement 29 December, 27 Elizabeth (1585), a fine was subsequently levied by John Parker to the use of Edmund Parker and his heirs male of the manors of Compton Gifford and Bowdon, and his other lands in the parishes of Plymouth and Egbucland, and of the manor of Woodford and all his other lands in Plympton St. Marie. Hence it was that the ancestors of the Earl of Morley became a South instead of a North Devon family—by marriage with the heiress of the Mayows. And it was under the fine so agreed upon that Edmond Parker appears as a landowner obtaining compensation in 1592 from the Plymouth Corporation for the cutting of the leat, jointly with his tenant, Sir Francis Drake, each receiving seventeen shillings.

From the date of the Mayow marriage the manor remained in the Parkers till the earlier part of the present century, when it was dismembered and sold, the final division taking place after the failure of Elford and Co. the bankers under an auction held by their trustees at the Royal Hotel, Plymouth, March 8th, 1827. As a result of these various sales Mr. R. C. Revell of Eggbuckland, representative of a branch of the ancient family which gave Revelstoke its distinctive title, and which has for centuries been settled

in Eggbuckland, became the largest landowner in the tything, acquiring over a hundred acres, and holding the same at the date of the tithe apportionment. Part of this property, at Thornhill, had belonged to his father, Mr. Sampson Revell; and part in the village—including the old residence often called the manor house—had belonged to Mr. George Leach. This property eventually came to Miss Revell and the late Mr. R. C. Revell (grandson of R. C. Revell, of the tithe apportionment), and is now being rapidly built upon.

The capital message of Thornhill, with the exception of Well and Butt Parks (the property of Sampson Revell), and the lease of Mutley House, belonging to Mrs. Mangles, was acquired by Mr. E. Lockyer. He bought the northern portion, consisting of East and West Down and Vapron Hill, in 1811, of the then Lord Boringdon, for £4100. This was subsequently acquired by the late Mr. C. C. Whiteford, who built a residence there, and since his death has also passed into the hands of the builder. The southern portion of the message of Thornhill, consisting of Long and Quarry Parks (popularly known as the Wilderness estate, from a house built there by Foulston, the architect of the classical revival in the West), has been fully built upon; and the only part of the old tenement remaining is the old Thornhill House and its immediate surroundings, held on a lease on the life of the Rev. Leopold Lockyer, now in his ninth decade.

Thornhill demands special notice. It was as stated the capital message of the manor, and at times at least the residence of the lord. It occupied the whole lands of the manor lying west of what is now the Tavistock Road, and north of the present Hyde Park Road. In the fifteenth century it consisted of one large enclosure—Thornhill Park, the entrance to which was where the lamp-post indicating the boundary between Compton and Plymouth now stands at Hyde Park Road Corner. To the north of this enclosure was open down. The house and its belongings lay then as now in the extreme south-west corner. It could never have been of great importance, but was big enough at any rate to form the residence of Sir Francis Drake in 1592, as given in the leat award. He had a house in Plymouth at the corner of Loe and Buckwell Streets; but must have had a house with a garden also, as some letters concerning him clearly show by reference to conversations therein; and there are traces yet at Thornhill House of what was once a terrace garden. Thornhill was so far from Plymouth then



that both residences might well have done local duty as town and country houses respectively.

Thornhill House has been very much pulled about. The back part is probably Elizabethan. The windows of the kitchen and a corresponding room on the other side of the passage are long and low with wooden mullions, probably replacing stone. Over these are long lean-to rooms, with gabled dormers and very massive roof beams. The front part of the premises was evidently raised an additional story early in the last century. The windows are of Queen Anne character, and the rooms all well panelled, with wooden cornices of about the same period. The staircase is wide and massive, divided from the rooms by panelled partitions. Two main chimneys next Hyde Park project beyond the general wall line; and the side walls are very thick. Apparently the house had originally double roofs, with gables to the roadway. When the front was heightened, the low roof of the back was carried right up to meet the sharp front ridge. All the ground about, including that on which *Maisonette Cottages* are built, belonged to the house. Part is the terrace garden already noted, with approach on the level to the first floor of back, and enclosing a fine spring. In rear is a spacious quadrangular court, with outbuildings on east—now cottages, but originally stables and lofts belonging to the residence, still retaining gabled dormers towards the court of seventeenth century character.

Some portions of the manor had been drifting however in the direction of private ownership long ere matters reached the final stage. The high ground on the west of Compton village, near Hartley Avenue, is still called *Wibble Hill*, and all attempts to ascertain the origin of that name failed until I found among the muniments of the Rev. J. Hall-Parlby a bond by which John *Weyll*, yeoman of North-hill, Cornwall, 4 Ed. VI. (1551), undertook to give Richard Saunders of Plymouth peaceable possession of the land, late his property in Compton Jefford and Torre, in the parish of Plymouth. This showed that *Wibble*, like most of the special field names of the tything, had a personal origin.

John Restorla, of St. Austell, May 25, 1585, enfeoffed in trust "Higher Torre, Compton Gifford, in the parish of Plymouth," of which the tenants were Thomas Cole and William Russell. He may have been the son, and was certainly a relative of Matthew Restorla of St. Austell, who married Thomazine daughter of William Page of Woodford,

and on whom in consideration therefore Page settled "the meane parke in Woodford, 14 October, 31 Henry VIII."

There is no Tor recognized in Compton now; Torr Grove, the residence of Mr. Robert Bayly, being just over the border, in Pennycross; but the situation in this "Higher Torre" is shown by the fact that one of the fields on the Vinstone estate is really called Little Vints Tor, whence the variant to the modern Vinstone in one direction, and to Whitstone, the names of some ancient closes on the same property, in another. The *Domesday* manor of Torre did not in fact continue an independent existence. The eastern portion became the Higher Torre of Compton Gifford; the western, Nether Torr in Pennycross; and the midmost, Meddle Torr, in the same tything.

What is now known as the Viustone estate was originally portions of several tenements, purchased by Mr. William Rendle, of Redland Hill House, from various owners "known by the several names of Carkett's, Wherring's, Gibbs's, Chesewell's, Oates's, Hooper's, Callaway's, and Fuge's," as set forth in the will of the same, made November 11, 1820, whereby he bequeathed them to his three nephews—Reuben Spry Rendle, Edmund Rendle, and John William Rendle—sons of his brother Reuben Rendle. By their representatives this property is now being developed as a building estate. It originally comprised some 50 acres.

Unfortunately, none of the Court Rolls of Compton manor are known to exist, and only a very few references to the manorial conditions, information touching which must therefore be sought in other directions. It will be well, however, to cite such documentary evidence as is available before proceeding further.

A memorandum of the Manor Court of Compton, held 1 December, 28 Elizabeth (1586), is among the muniments of the Plymouth Corporation, having been made by "Wm. Wills als fferneworthie," who was not only steward of the manor, but sometime Town Clerk. It recites that Richard Mayhowe, armiger, deceased, had by copy of court roll under his hand and seal 19 Oct., 6 Edw. VI. (1553) granted to Thos. Vdy, Elizabeth, his wife, and John Vdy, their son, a tenement and meadow within the manor, which Richard Vdy had lately held, for their lives at the yearly rent of 30s. and the accustomed services. And this tenement, on the day above named, John Vdy aforesaid for divers good causes thereto him moving, surrendered to Henry Mayhow and Katherine his wife, in the presence of these

customary tenants of the manor—Raph Hoop, Thomas Vdy, John Cornysh, Barye lighe, John darton, Bennytt fish.

About the middle of the eighteenth century we get the following list of tenants of Compton Manor, who had to come to the lord's harvest with their services:—

Mr. Israel Alford, for Thornhill . . .	a man and horse.
John Crossman, for Cheswell's . . .	"
John Crossman, for Gibbs, late Yongs . . .	"
Thomas Crossman, for Goswell . . .	"
Walter Coade, for Bowhay . . .	"
Francis Vacy, for Oates' . . .	"
Mrs. Rachael Warren, for Creses . . .	"
Robert Turney, for Wherry's tenement . . .	"
John Shaw, for Cliffe's tenement . . .	"
Nicholas White, for Tyakes . . .	"
Nicholas White, for Cornishes . . .	"

Then in 1772-3 we have this fuller survey of rents:—

			Boon Labor.	Fowl Rent.	Corn Rent.
1. Mrs. Elizabeth Alford . . .	Thornhill . . .		2 6...	2 0...	3 6 8
	{ John Crossman . . .	Cheswells . . .	2 6...	1 0...	0 16 8
2. { " . . .	Gibbs . . .		2 6...	1 0...	1 0 8
	" . . .	Howels . . .	3 0...	—	2 2 0
3. James Crossman . . .	Hoopers . . .		1 8...	1 0...	0 17 0
	{ The Widow Crossman . . .	Guswill . . .	2 6...	1 6...	1 4 0
4. { " . . .	Crossmans & . . .		4 0...	—	1 6 4
	Creesa Mills } . . .				
5. Messrs. Crossman and Luce . . .	Bowhay . . .		2 6...	1 0...	1 0 0
6. Mr. Thos. Crossman's widow . . .	Oats . . .		2 6...	1 0...	0 15 8
7. Mr. Charles Fox . . .	Hammets . . .		8...	—	1 10 0
8. Mr. Richard Jeffery . . .	Warrens . . .		2 6...	—	0 14 8
9. Mr. Nicholas Mills . . .	Mainstone . . .		1 0...	—	3 2 0
10. Mr. Jacob Shaw . . .	Cliffs . . .		1 6...	—	1 0 0
	{ Mr. Whites . . .	Cornishes . . .	2 6...	—	1 7 4
11. { " . . .	Tyake als . . .				
	Ewdes . . .		2 6...	2 0...	1 0 0

Though entered as Compton Manor rents, these, however, include parts of the old manor of Bowden, *e.g.*, Bowhay, Creesa Mill, Mainstone; nor does Guswill seem to stand for Cheswell.

The two following lists are from the *Plymouth Corporation Records*:—

"List of persons in Compton in arrear with their tithes, 1660":—

Widdow Walters	3 years	per annum	...	1 16 0
Wm Cornish	"	"	...	0 12 0
Jn Baton (Baker)	"	"	...	0 10 0

Oliver Werrie	3 years	per annum	...	0	10	0
Mr Tyacke	"	will not	...	0	10	0
Hen Gibbs his tenement	"	—	...	0	10	0
more for his father's land	"	—	...	0	18	0
Thomas Tozer	"	—	...	1	10	0
Hen Balhatchett, for						
Mr. Cleaves ground	"	—	...	0	6	0
Steven Searle for						
Mr Harker's ground	"	—	...	0	8	0
Henry Clarke	"	—	...	0	6	0
				7	16	0

Harker no doubt should be Parker.

We get a yet fuller list in the "Insements and privy tithes of Compton for the year 1666" from the same source.

Richard Walters, 4 tenements	1	16	0
Wm Cornish	10	0	
Thomas Oats	10	0	
Ann Baker	10	0	
Ollyver Whearey	10	0	
Thos Tozer, for a meadow	10	0	
John Squier, one field there	10	0	
Richard Gibbes, for his land	10	0	
Hen Gibbes, his tenement	10	0	
George Pearse, his tenement	10	0	
Mr Tyacke, his tenement	10	0	
Stephen Searle, some ground	8	0	
Henry Clarke, some ground	8	0	
Henry Balhatchett, for James Cleave	10	0	
8 2 0			

Presumably this includes the whole of the tything, then comprised in the parish of Charles, and not simply Compton Manor, and may be taken as complete.

Of the five virgates of the manor recorded in *Domesday*, three are given as in demesne and two as in the hands of the villeins; and as there were six villeins and four bordars, this would give what for convenience we may call ten villein holdings. The two serfs would be attached to the lord's land. The holdings of the villeins originally consisted of scattered strips in the open fields, which formed the arable land tilled by the community. These fields were three in number, and it was the custom to till one in the autumn, one in the spring, and allow the third to lie fallow. The strips of land appropriated to each villein were usually an acre or half an acre, and were separated from each other

by strips of turf, called balks. The strips of each holder were scattered through the fields to give each a fair share of the arable in quality as well as quantity; and the number of strips held depended on the status of the villein. The customary holding of the normal villein was about thirty acres; but a bordar or cottar might have much less. However, big and small, there were ten villein tenements in the manor of Compton Gifford when Judhel was its Norman lord, based on the lines of the Anglo-Saxon village community; and their traces remain in Compton to the present day.

A glance at the map accompanying this paper will show at once the position of the three virgates of the lord's demesne, and the two virgates of the villeins. They are at once distinguished from each other by the size of the enclosures. When, somewhere in the latter part of the sixteenth or beginning of the seventeenth century, the open fields were systematically fenced, the scattered character of the ancient tenements based upon the original individual strips remained in full force, and a large number of the smaller fields were simply the olden strips hedged round. Gradually indeed, as a matter of convenience, by exchange and in other ways, these strips were thrown together; but portions of the various tenements remained more or less detached in fact until comparatively recent times; and the distinction has continued to be recognized in name practically to the present day. Thus there are closes in Compton yet which follow the lines laid down by the plough of the Anglo-Saxon when the community was first formed; and there are few on the villein land that do not recall the same former cultivator, even to Balhatchet, whose name is still attached to a field.

Many of the existing fields continue the areal character of the original strips in a very remarkable manner—units and multiples. Thus, on the Vinstone estate we have such areas as 1a.; 1a. 1r. 10p.; 1a. 0r. 30p.; closely representing the single-acre strips. 2a. 1r. 6p.; 2a. 0r. 39p.; 2a. 0r. 13p.; 2a. 1r. 10p., representing double strips. 2a. 3r. 4p.; 2a. 3r. 18p.; 3a. 1r. 12p., representing treble. 4a. 0r. 27p.; 3a. 2r. 57p.; 3a. 2r. 15p., representing a quadruple group; and on the other hand 2r. 14p. for a half acre. Bearing in mind that the original strips were only measured off by the plough, it will be seen that such ratios cannot be regarded as accidental. Another field adjoining—once four fields—is 2a. 0r. 4p.; in other words it is made up of what were four half-acre strips.

It was the custom to regulate the run of the strips by the lie of the ground, and the facilities thus afforded to the working of the primitive plough. Hence the strips were aggregated into sets, each set bearing a common direction, and separated from each other by wider balks than those dividing the strips. These wider balks being a common means of access were frequently converted into definite roads when enclosure set in, and the map clearly shows that such was the origin of some at least of the roads on the villein land of Compton Manor; just as the relative sizes of the enclosures indicate with fair precision the distinction between the three virgates of the lord, and the two virgates of his dependants—his land lying west, south and east, and lapsing round theirs, which stretches to the north.

As we have already seen, there were ten villein holdings in Compton Manor when *Domesday* was compiled; and it is a remarkable proof of the persistence of such primitive agricultural characters that we get just that number of tenements accounted for by the villein land down to recent times. We find this in the manorial entries cited, if we distinguish what is properly Compton Manor; and so in the seventeenth century statement of tithes, which shows the Compton tenements absolutely unchanged in number, and presumably therefore in extent.

The reason for this was that the villein land always remained villein land, and that the rights of the villeins in it were as distinct as were those of the lord. The extract from the Court Roll relating to Udy's tenement, shows that in Compton, as elsewhere, the actual cultivators of the land—the farmers—were copyholders; and that it was not until the copyholds were transformed into life leases that these rights were lost. While the copyhold system remained in force, ancient tenements, save most exceptionally, retained their character and remained intact. They took title as a rule from the holders; and though the names of the tenants must often have changed, with curious persistence some of them have lived on for centuries—one for nearly four. Hence the very large proportion of field names of a personal character in the tything—of which more anon.

Great part of the southern quarter of the tything belongs to the manor of Lipson; but whether the whole of the portion lying outside Compton Manor in that direction does, or whether it includes any portion of the lost Leuricestone, it seems impossible to decide. My own idea is that Lisistone and Leuricestone have been somehow confused;

and this is strengthened by the fact, already incidentally referred to, that John, and Alice Gifford, his widow, were holding, from 1603 to 1636, courts of Ulett cum Lypson, of "the manor of Uletts fee, als Lulytts Sparke, als Lulett's fee, with a parcel of the manor of Lipson." Uletts fee certainly extended from North Hill to Bilbury Street, and by Breton Side to the Whitefriars; and there are 167½ acres specified in Lipson, which comprised Laira Point (now Arnold's Point) and a quay there. It was Thomas Gifford, of Halsbury, who sold the site for Charles' Church in 1638. I cannot imagine that the original Lisistone can have extended from the western border of Compton to the Laira, as it must have done, if Leuricestone is to be excluded; and I am inclined to regard the eastern section of modern Lipson as really part of the latter manor.

The descent of part of the manor of Lisistone is absolutely traceable from *Domesday*. In 1086 it was held by Reginald of Valletort, under the Earl of Mortain. Next, the Stonehouse family are recorded as holding land in Lipson, of that fee. From them it came by marriage, with other lands, to the Bigburys; next again, to the Durnfords, by the marriage of James Durnford with Margaret Bigbury; and then Joan, the Durnford heiress, married Piers Edgcumbe in 1493. A deed at Mount Edgcumbe gives as her inheritance *inter alia*, land and rents in Sutton Vawtard, Sutton Prior, Plymouth, Radclyffe fee (Sutton Raf) and Muteleghe. The real fact, however, is that the latter property adjoined Mutley, and was in Compton; for Simon Carswell's book in the archives of the Plymouth Corporation records a lease by Sir Peter Edgcumbe, *temp.* Henry VII., of Marysland, to Richard Gewe and his wife and son; and this Marysland was the property held by John Hyne, at the date of the tithe apportionment, and now in part included in the cemetery ambit, and in part by the grounds of the Plymouth High School and the roads and terraces adjacent, between the Hyde Park and Ford Park Roads.

An adjoining property, which also passed from the Durnfords to the Edgumbes, was Tongesland (the separate assessment of which, to the tenth and fifteenth, has already been given). The name is now corrupted into Townsend, whence Townsend Hill. It is only in part within the tything, and is described in a lease of 1557 as being in the parish of Plymouth, which is perfectly correct; and in a conveyance of 1597, by Sir Piers Edgcumbe and his son Richard to Richard Hitchens, as in the "borough and parish

of Plymouth," which is correct also, seeing that part was in the borough and all in the parish. Hitchens had four daughters, co-heiresses, who married: Joan—James Waddon; Grace—Richard Wise; Elizabeth—Wm. Tapson, of Stonehouse; Mary—Nevill Bligh. By them it was sold in 1634-6, to Andrew, son of Stephen Trevill. His daughter married Richard Burthogg, and Tongesland eventually came to Richard's granddaughter, Sarah Burthogg, who conveyed it to her father in June, 1693. Under the will of Richard Burthogg, March 25, 1705, the property came to Burthogge Mayow, son of testator's daughter, Mary, who married Philip Mayow: he left it to his son Thomas, 15 September, 1741; and Thomas Mayow sold it, 24 May, 1760, to Joseph Freeman, who was Mayor of Plymouth in 1778. When Joseph died in 1781 he was succeeded by Richard Freeman, who died 1797.

Captain Richard Higginson left the estate as Tongesland Hill Farm (30 May, 1825), to his wife Mary. She married Richard Mason, and on her death in August, 1841, left it to her nephew, Wm. Pearson Crozier; and he, on his death, Sept. 9, 1868, to his brothers, Richard Crozier, Rawson John Crozier, and F. H. Crozier, with provision for his sister, Frances Margaret Crozier. The estate comprised 45a. 2r. 33p., of which it is said there lay in Compton 6a. 0r. 1½p., part of Townsend Hill Field West. The tithe apportionment, however, gives Compton eight acres.

But the larger portion of Lipson-Compton still remains to be accounted for—that now known as the Seymour and Soltau estates. Joan, relict of Wm. Cole, had a license granted her for her oratories in her mansions of Plymouth and Lypton (which must have been what is now known as Higher Lipson) in 1400. Later in the century we find Pollards prominent in Plymouth. Walter Pollard was Mayor in 1443, John in 1460, and another Walter in 1510, who subsequently is assessed in £10 on lands in the 1522-3 subsidy. It seems that these were Lipson lands, since Anthony Pollard of Harwood owned lands at Lipson *temp.* Elizabeth. And that part of these were in Compton we know from two sources—the Water Compensation deed of 1592, of which more hereafter, and the fact that in 1584 Anthony Pollard was one of the three lords owing suit at the Hundred Court of Roborough for lands in Compton: to wit, Jerome Mayow, Peter Edgcumbe, and Anthony Pollard. The whole of the tything must therefore have been within one or other of their respective fees. In 1588-9



we find Anthony granting Broad Park and Middle Down, part of Lipson, to George Barons. These were on the Compton borders adjoining Tunesland, for we find that in 1588 there was a Plymouth freedom or bound stone there; and in 1598 (40 Elizabeth) George Barons and Margaret his wife were concerned with the Edgcumbes in the sale of Tunesland to the Hitchens. (William Hitchens had acquired the manor of Sutton Vautort from Sir Hugh Pollard, Sheriff of Devon *temp.* Henry VIII.) In 1625 we find Robert Trelawny owning ground at Lipson, on which a pest house was built; but that would not be in Compton, but within the Plymouth limits.

The Seymour and Soltau property at Compton came to the Culmes of Tothill from the family of Fownes, under indenture of lease and release between Thomas Fownes and Theophila Fownes, spinster, and John Culme, June, 1733; while in March, 1735, there were indentures of lease and release between John Culme and his brother Anthony. John Culme by will of Nov. 15, 1803 left his estates generally in trust for his granddaughters, Elizabeth and Frances Culme (daughters of his son, Thomas Culme). He died Feb. 23, 1804, and his granddaughters came of age—Elizabeth, Aug. 13, 1821, and Frances, April 3, 1823. They—Sept. 1823—parted the property between them, Elizabeth taking the tenement of Lipson, otherwise Lipson Hills, otherwise "Spurrell's Hills," containing 39a. 0r. 9p., partly in Charles and partly in Compton Gifford, bounded east with the lands of Elizabeth Culme, west with the Mannameads, north with other lands of Culme, south with lands of Peter Tonkin; also the two fields, known as the Mannameads, containing 21 acres, bounded north by lands of Sampson Revell, west and south by Tavistock Road and Hell Lane.

Elizabeth Culme in 1833 married Sir John Hobart Culme Seymour; and Frances married Mr. George Soltau, of Little Efford; and in their representatives such of the land as has not been sold for building remains vested.

Houndiscombe is the last remaining portion of the tything to be dealt with. As we have seen, like Tunesland, it was separately assessed to the tenth and fifteenth. It originally comprised not merely what is now known as Houndiscombe Farm, but so far as Compton is concerned the whole of the land to the east, up to Mutley Plain and between Hyde Park Road and the Great Western Railway. This was once known as North Houndiscombe. On the south of the railway, stretching away to Torrington Place and Houndiscombe

House was the Plymouth portion of the property, once South Houndiscombe. The dividing line between the two was the stream running down the valley, now partly obliterated by the railway, "the middle ditch of Houndiscombe" forming the Compton and Plymouth boundary.

It is to be presumed that this estate is part of Lisistone, but the first definite information I have touching it is contained in the Plymouth Water Compensation deed of 1592, where it is given as belonging to Anthony Pollard aforesaid; the tenant of North Houndiscombe being Peter Silvestre, and Martin White being also a tenant, probably of South.

Not many years after this we find Houndiscombe belonging to Henry Laurence. He leased it to his brother William, the founder of the Orphans' Aid Charity; and William Laurence under his will, December 3, 1612, left it to Nicholas Sherwill. It next came to Thomas Sherwill who on his death charged it for five-and-twenty years with an annuity of £5 a year, to buy powder for the town. In 1646 Thomas Sherwill son of the testator was residing in London. The next we know of the property is that some forty or fifty years later "South Hunchcombe," including Houndiscombe Farm, belonged to John Culling of Hartingfordbury, Hertford. He left it to his sister Elizabeth; she, 6 June, 1703, to her daughter Mary, then three years old. In October, 1720, Mary married Robert Isaacson, and a few years later South Hunchcombe was described as consisting of seven fields and a barn, in all 33 acres. The estate continued in her descendants until 1802, when Mr. George Leach bought four of the fields—11a. 2r. 9p.—and John Arthur the remainder covenanting to pay an annuity of £4, due out of the tenement to the Orphan's Aid. Leach's portion came eventually by purchase to Hull, Williams, Berney, and through the marriage of the daughter of the latter—Thomazine—to Mr. W. Pode. Having no children, she left the property in trust for a niece. This portion of the estate is in Plymouth, and now built upon. Arthur's Houndiscombe, which included Houndiscombe Farm, was bought by Mr. Bewes. Houndiscombe and Torrington Place began to be built on this property in 1850.

The eastern portion of North Houndiscombe from Ermington Terrace to Hyde Park Road was originally one large enclosure, known as Foard's Park, whence the modern Ford Park. Subsequently that part from Ermington Terrace to Ford Park road became two fields—Pathfield next Mutley

Plain, through which a footpath ran to Mutley, and Willow Field immediately west. They were sold by Mr. John Pollexfen Bastard to the Rev. Duke Yonge, August, 1802; and by Miss Cordelia Yonge to Messrs. Benjamin Call and John Pethick in March, 1868—Pethick acquiring Call's share October, 1873. This is the land on which Seaton Terrace, Ermington Terrace, Seaton Avenue, Coryton Terrace, Trematon Place, and Pentillie Avenue have since been built.

Most of the field names in Compton are either of a personal or of a trivial character, and apart from the designations of the tenements the memories of many of the old occupiers have thus far been preserved. Ford's Park is a notable example, for it can hardly be but that the Ford in question belonged to a Plymouth family of exceptional prominence in the sixteenth century. Baker's dates at least 240 years, and Cornish's certainly as long, while Oats', Young's, and Balbatchet's fall into the same category; Hammetts' was apparently a little later; Kallaway's and Carkeet's, (or Kitt's), older; while Collin's Park can be traced back to the Colyn family given in the subsidy of 1522; and Vdes or Ewdes, retained in the old voting lists long after it had passed out of common speech, is of at least equal antiquity. Other names of the same class are Blatchford's, Flashman's, Shaw's, Cockram's, and Cleave's. The two last have peculiar interest; Cockram undoubtedly recalls the family of whom came Martin Cockram the faithful follower of the elder William Hawkins, the patriarch of Plymouth seamen of *Westward Ho!* While the "overland" tenement called Cleaves (in later parlance partly Shaws), was once held by George Cleeve, one of the leading settlers of New England, and in 1643, deputy for Col. Rigby under the "plough patent" in Massachusetts. One is glad to find, as in Yonge's Cottages, an old name continued.

Wibble Hill, another personal name, has already been traced to its sometime owner John Wyvill. A tenement called Deptford, on the east of the tything, probably from its position in regard to the ancient Lipson Creek, is alternatively called Bickham (another Plymouth name); while four fields—evidently one field divided—take name from some bygone Dunn. It is clear that some of the original enclosures on the demesne land—commonly called parks, which means simply a field—must have been of considerable area; and of these Thornhill Park was the most important. We may take it that the last portions to be enclosed were

those fields now distinguished by the name of Down. For example, East Down and West Down, adjoining Vapron Hill; Great Down, at Compton Leigh, with Little Down adjacent; and Crow Down, between the Mannameads and Compton Hill, which latter again, is neighboured by Compton Great Fields. Great Hill, we have in the extreme north-eastern corner of the tything, overlooking Egg Buckland; Little Hill, at Coombe, on the north-west.

Of names of a more exceptional character we have the Mannameads, already noted; a field called Port Meadow at Houndiscombe; Great Holloway at Hartley, of which more anon; Maryland, as an alternative name for the eastern part of what is now Collins Park; Rackfield at Vinstone, evidently a spot where cloth was "racked" by the weavers; Stout Field, the Strawl, and the Slade, the latter meaning a hollow whence a stream issues in rainy weather. The full list, as given in the tithe apportionment, will be found in the appendix.

#### ROADS.

A fair idea of the general character of the ancient roads of the tything may be gathered from the packhorse road at Austen's; the bridle path from Compton village through what is now the Castle Field (Young's ground) to Lipson, and Hell Lane, though the two latter have to some extent marched with the times. Even their present status will, however, sufficiently explain the remark of Raleigh, in 1593, that ordnance could not be taken to Plymouth since "the passages thither would not give leave"; though they do not quite recall the words of an indulgence granted August 22, 1410, to the faithful contributing to the repair of the road from Tamerton to Plymouth—partly, at any rate, through Compton. That it was a *via profunda et lutosa, peregrinantibus et laborantibus per eandem nimis nociva et periculosa*. Still, we need not wonder that it was the custom to carry a path for foot-passengers through the fields by the side of the roads, and leave these dark, narrow, sunken tracks to vehicles. Nor was any effectual improvement made until the Tavistock Turnpike Act was passed, 44 George III. Under that Act, Townsend and Hartley Hills were cut down to an extent that any passer-by can see, and the level of Mutley Plain considerably raised. The original ups and downs were far more considerable than is now apparent, and Great Holloway (noted on a preceding page) was so called because the road adjacent was much

sunken. For although so much cutting had to be done at Hartley, there are points where the ancient road surface lies six feet below the present level.

Numerous improvements have been made in the old roads by the Vestry and Highway Authority, and since their day by the Local Board and Urban Council—notably the widening of the old British road at Higher Compton; while new roads have been formed so rapidly in connection with building operations that the road mileage now exceeds nine miles, whereas, in 1839, they were measured by Mr. Toma for 10s., as being 3 m. 8 y. 14 f.<sup>1</sup>

The tything acquired a railway station in August 1871, when, after marvellous reluctance and the requirement of a guarantee by the directors of the then South Devon Railway, that at Mutley was opened, which has developed into one of the best paying in the county. The up side and offices are mainly in Compton; the down side is in Plymouth.

#### RELIGION AND EDUCATION.

When the parish of Charles was separated from that of St. Andrew in 1638, Compton was regarded as attached to the former. The old church path from the village had been through Compton Fields, by Lipson House, over the opposite hill through Freedom Fields (now Freedom Park) and Gibbons' Field, to the head of Old Town, and this route served for the "New" Church as for the "Old."

The first place of worship in the tything was really founded by Sir Gordon Bremer, who built the Priory in Compton village, gave the site of the chapel hard by (now the school), and £200 towards the building; later, in 1840, establishing the schools. Part of the site of the chapel was the ancient village pound; and when the chapel was built, Mr. George Leach made another pound in connection with the large quasi manor house close by, which belonged to him, was tenanted by Mr. Corham, was subsequently bought by Mr. R. C. Revell, the elder, and is now in course of being replaced by rows of modern cottages.

The site of the priory and chapel was previously in part a willow plot. In this chapel the Rev. J. H. Parlbay preached for years, and was, indeed, the first clergyman who regularly ministered in the tything. Subsequently, a Mr. Davy was

<sup>1</sup> The exact figures in June, 1896, are:—Main roads, 1 m. 0 fur. 123 y.; other public roads, 5 m. 5 fur. 40 y.; private roads, 2 m. 6 fur. 127 y. Total—9 m. 4 fur. 75 y. A considerable proportion of the private roads is now in process of repair and taking over.

frequent preacher. Under the tithe apportionment that part of the tything lying west of the Tavistock Road was definitely assigned to St. Andrew's. The remaining, or Charles, portion was made an ecclesiastical district in 1871, Emmanuel Church being erected from the designs of Mr. Reid in 1870, and the old chapel adapted to its present purpose of a school. The Rev. G. H. Fletcher became the first perpetual curate or vicar, and held the living from 1872 to 1878, in which latter year the Rev. G. B. Berry was appointed. In 1880 the St. Andrew's portion of the tything was added to the district, and the parish of Emmanuel now includes also part of Plymouth lying east of Mutley Plain.

A vicarage was acquired in 1884, and this year the church is being provided with a tower, eventually to be surmounted by a spire.

The first Nonconformist body represented in the tything was the Independent by the erection in 1861 of the Western College, which although founded in 1752 never until then had a permanent home.

The Wesleyans established services in an adapted building in the rear of Thornhill House, and this was the germ of the Mutley Wesleyan Chapel, opened in 1881, on the opposite side of Mutley Plain from the tything boundary. In like manner the Mutley Baptist Chapel—opened in 1869—while really originating, like its neighbour, in the growth of the tything and district, is not in Compton itself, though its north-east corner forms the boundary. There is thus no Nonconformist chapel in Compton at present; but the Salvation Army have recently (1896) acquired Cleave Villa, Mutley Plain, for a Refuge, and hold services in connection therewith.

Several middle-class schools of importance have been established in the tything. The most prominent is the Plymouth High School for Boys, now the Plymouth College, first working in Ermington Terrace in 1877, removing to its handsome buildings in Hyde Park Road in 1880, and amalgamated in 1895 with the Mannamead School or College, founded by the Rev. Dr. Holmes.

#### CHARITIES.

Captain Robert Rawlyn who died in 1626, by his will, Feb. 15 of that year, left the bulk of his property to the Plymouth Orphans' Aid, desiring that one child from Compton Gifford might be kept there—a wish that has by no means been fulfilled. He also left 40s. a year for the poor

people of the tything, and this it has been the habit to give away by the overseers in small sums of 2s. 6d. to 1s. The connection of the testator with the tything is not directly traceable, but his family held lands in Lipson under the Giffards.

Rebecca Shaw, widow, Jan. 28, 1807, gave her sisters, Jenny White and Sarah Hancock, or the survivor, £100 on security of tolls of the Plymouth Eastern Turnpike, to distribute the interest as near to Christmas-day as possible among poor people of the tything, after their death appointing Joseph Thomas Austin (who later took the name of Treffry) executor.

Sarah Hancock, in turn, under her will, Jan. 5, 1811, gave another £100 to Mr. Austin, to apply the net interest among poor persons of the tything, or who should have it as their place of settlement though they might live out of it. In 1819 these charities produced £10 yearly, and were given away in sums of from £1 5s. to 5s. The distribution was then made by a Mr. John Hele for Mr. Austin. Later, it fell into the hands of the Vicar of Charles, Austin remitting the money to him; and the distribution has since been made by the Vicar of Emmanuel. The joint charities now produce £5 8s. 6d. annually on stock in the hands of the Charity Commissioners.

There were two cottages in the village known as poor houses, which up to the date of the new Poor Law were occupied rent free by the poorest inhabitants. They have now been many years pulled down; and there is no clue either to their origin or their disposal.

In May, 1892, Mr. Edwin Alonzo Pearn by deed of conveyance conveyed Compton Leigh to Edward St. Aubyn, Esq., John James Edgcumbe Venning, Henry Clark, Esq., George Hastings Inskip, retired Captain R.N., and Charles King and John Henry Ellis, Esqrs. At the same time he transferred to these trustees securities to the value of £34,005 0s. 1d. for the endowment of the "Pearn Convalescent Home," erected at his expense in the grounds of Compton Leigh. The house itself is left as when he lived in it, and used as a place of rest for nurses connected with the South Devon and East Cornwall and Royal Albert Hospitals.

In July, 1892, Mr. Pearn conveyed to himself, Edmund Pridham, William Thomas Hutchens, and Edward Lyne Harvey, Esqrs., about seventeen acres of land at Compton, to the north of Higher Compton Road. This land is intended

partly for the erection of almshouses, home for incurables, or other charitable purposes, at the discretion of the trustees, and also for laying out in allotments for the poor.

Mr. Pearn died on the 10th December, 1893, at which time the Convalescent Home had not been completed. His will was proved at Exeter, 22nd December, 1893, the amount being about £45,000, left in the hands of the following trustees: Edmund Pridham, William Thomas Hutchens, and Edward Lyne Harvey, Esqrs. The whole, subject to certain life annuities, being devoted to the above-mentioned schemes.

The total value of securities, moneys and properties thus devoted by Mr. Pearn to charitable purposes may be stated at about £96,000.

#### DEVELOPMENT.

From before the Norman Conquest to the beginning of the present century there was practically no change in the social and economic conditions of the tything. *Domesday* accounts for some fourteen or fifteen households within the area. The subsidy of 1524 accounts for twelve or thirteen at least. And when the first census was taken in 1801 there were 16 families living in 15 houses, with a total population of 50 males and 42 females, of whom 45 were engaged in agriculture, and eight in trade, manufacture, or handicraft. The majority of these houses are still standing: to wit Houndiscombe Farmhouse, Thornhill House, a dairy farm in Hell Lane, Redlands, Whitstone, the "Rising Sun," and others in the village. The oldest of the latter, and probably the oldest house in the tything, is the Compton Inn, the walls of which are, in parts, four feet thick, and which was the farmhouse of Kelway's (or Callaway's) tenement. Another of the fifteen was Mutley or Ivy Cottage, the house on Hyne's tenement, pulled down when Gifford Terrace was built. The village therefore was a very small one, and probably the five houses given to it in a map of the Plymouth Leat prepared by one "Spry the painter" in the last decade of the sixteenth century was a fair representation. There still lingers, by the way, a tradition that the tything was once very "copsy," and had deer in it.

Soon after the century opened, development began; and by 1811 the 15 houses had increased to 18 (with six others building), and the families to 21, while the population had risen from 92 to 114. Another decade brought the population up to 175, and the houses to 30; while, as in 1831 the population had grown to 229, the houses must then have



increased to 40 or thereabout. Thus for the first thirty years of the century there cannot have been built a house a year. Nor was this rate exceeded for some years further; for in 1841 the population had only risen to 271, and the map of the tithe apportionment does not account for more than fifty dwellings, of which some score were in the village.

There are several descriptions of the tything in the local guide books early in the century, which it will be of interest to quote.

The earliest reference is in the *Picture of Plymouth* (1812). "*Compton, Higher and Lower*, about two miles from Plymouth, are small villages inhabited by gardeners and small farmers: the paths to them through the fields are much frequented by the inhabitants of Plymouth, as there are many places here where they drink tea and eat fruit in the season." Lipson is likewise noted as a small village; and Mutley as "a little village much frequented in summer by the inhabitants of Plymouth to drink tea at."

The *Panorama of Plymouth* (1821) has a hint of growth. From Hartley "we shall descend to the village of Compton whose sweetly retired situation at so short a distance from the town has made it a desirable retreat for many (?) genteel residents. During the summer season the tea houses and fruit gardens of Compton are much resorted to by parties from the town." Lipson village had also "tea houses and fruit gardens."

Johns' *Guide* (1823) notes "From North Hill a path across pleasant fields leads to Mutley, a small village with several genteel dwellings."

Finally, in 1830, Brindley speaks of Compton as "a pretty rural village two miles from Plymouth on the Tavistock Road; here are the residences of Captain Bremer, R.N., and R. Bullock, esq."

Among the first houses of the residential class built in Compton were the Priory, by Captain, afterwards Sir Gordon Bremer; Compton Knoll, by Mr. Bulcock; Hartley (made up of parcels of Hammett's, Chiswell's, Oats', and Fuge's tenements), by Mr. Howard; the Towers (once Compton Hall), and Townsend House.

Foulston the architect built his Athenian Cottage on the Thornhill estate shortly before 1820, and hard by a cottage for his coachman, of later years reputed to be haunted. The villa called the Wilderness marks the site. About the same time Mutley House was erected by Mrs. Mangles. The house itself is in Pennycross, but the lawn, which extended

to the Tavistock Road, was in Compton. This property was subsequently acquired by a body of proprietors as the Mutley Park Building Estate, and several houses built. Some of the lots are still unoccupied, and what was intended for a pleasure ground has become a wild waste. Townsend House was built in 1833.

No systematic attempt was made to develop building operations until about the year 1834, when the laying out of Ford Park began, Dr. Butter building the house which is now the Militia barracks; and the villas being erected facing Mutley Plain. The laying out and building of the group of villas now known as Ford Park came later, by Mr. Andrew Lidstone Adams, from whom the estate passed to its present proprietors Messrs. Batten and Hubbard. The *South Devon Museum* of May, 1835, speaks of Mutley Plain as having lately "been much improved by the erection of some very neat villas, and the plantation of several young elm trees." *Maisonette Cottages* date from 1839, Hyde Park Terrace from 1849.

But a really important scheme for the development of the tything was not launched until 1856, in which year Messrs. Edward Crispe Ellery, Francis Fowler, and John Nicholas Bennett acquired East and West Mannamead and part of Crow Down, of the Seymour Trustees, and had them laid out by Mr. Damant for a series of villas. The magnitude and success of this undertaking led to the whole district being popularly called Mannamead; and just in the same way the name of Mutley is now applied to no inconsiderable portion of Northern Plymouth. Mannamead is however the name of two fields only; and Compton intervenes between Mutley and any part of Plymouth.

It was, then, in this sixth decade of the century that Compton began that career of rapid progress which has marked its record ever since. The fifty houses of 1851 became the 140 of 1861, and the population jumped from 391 to 880.

Still more rapid was the progress between 1861 and 1871. The development of Mannamead was speedily followed by that of the Tungsland or Crozier estate, the Western College being begun thereon in April, 1860. In 1862, Hartley Reservoir was formed on land which had been the property of Mr. Daykin; Broad and Cross Park, in part Hammett's and Gibbs'. Somewhat later commenced the erection of houses in the Tavistock Road at Thornhill, on the land belonging to Miss Revell—the Butt and Well Parks

of the tithe apportionment. In 1868, Hartley Villas and Collins Park were in process of erection; and in the latter years Messrs. Call and Pethick started Ermington and Seaton Terraces. The result of this activity was that by 1871, eighty-five houses had been added, and the population had risen to 1347.

Faster again was the speed in the next decade. Building progressed in all directions from Collins Park to Mutley Plain. Operations were begun on the southern part of the Thornhill property, belonging to Mr. Lockyer, familiarly called the Townsend Hill or Wilderness Estate. Mr. Pethick recommenced operations on the land adjoining Ermington and Seaton Terraces, of which he had become the sole proprietor in 1873. Thus, between 1871 and 1881, the houses in the tything increased more than 50 per cent.—from 225 to 354—and the population nearly doubled, rising from 1347 to 2305.

In the latter year a Local Board was formed, and extension progressed more rapidly than ever. The first house in Seaton Avenue had been occupied in 1879, but Trematon Place and Coryton Terrace and Pentillie Avenue soon followed. Wilderness Road came upon the rate-book in 1883, and was speedily accompanied thither by its neighbours, Townsend Crescent, Woodford Terrace, Seaton Crescent, Hill Crest, and Lockyer Road. In 1883, also, Oakleigh Terrace and other houses on the Revell property at Thorn Park were commenced, and have been steadily added to at intervals ever since. Guelph Place, at Higher Compton, was first rated in 1887; Priory Row, at Compton village, in 1888; South View came on in the following year. Compton Park Villas were also among the additions of the decade, with the first houses at Gifford Terrace, and on the Vinstone property at Cross Park. Hence the census of 1891 gave a total of 532 houses, of 629 families, and of 3264 inhabitants—a quadrupled increase in thirty years. The proportion of inhabitants to houses had (with the exception of the ten years, 1871 to 1881,) remained fairly constant—a little over six. It has now fallen to 5½.

At the present moment, building operations are so steadily in progress, that between thirty and forty inhabited houses are added to the tything every year, while very few remain unoccupied. The number of inhabited houses in June was 744; estimated population, 4210.

As there are no books of record belonging to the tything known to be in existence of an earlier date than 1838, any

synopsis of the progress in rateable value is necessarily very imperfect. Vancouver's *Survey of Devon*, however, supplies a starting point in the statement that in 1808 the total rates of the tything amounted to £109 12s. Of this, £50 2s. 6d. were spent on the poor—£29 14s. 6d. being laid out on the poor out of workhouses. Church, highways, bridges, and militia rates took the other £59 9s. 6d. The first available statement of rateable value is in 1838, when seventy-nine ratepayers were assessed in £2797 12s. 6d. Two years later, in 1840, the rent charge under the tithe award was apportioned at £225. In 1849 there were fifty-nine people rated above £10 and below £50.

In 1865 (April) there were 214 assessments, and the poor rate was £254 4s., the gross rental being £8477 5s., and the rateable value £7356. January, 1870, there were 255 assessments: gross, £9562 5s.; rateable, £8262; rate, £242 19s. 6d. April, 1875, the assessments had risen to 314, the gross value to £11,583 0s. 1d., and the rateable to £9975 10s. The Poor Rate was £270 3s. 4½d. The amount of pauperism in Compton has always been very small. With a population exceeding 4000 in 1892, there were no in-paupers, and the out-paupers cost £2 2s. 6d. weekly.

When the Local Board was first formed in 1881, there were 459 assessments, with a rateable value of £14373 10s. In April, 1885, the figures were 574 assessments and £17,986 rateable value. In 1888, complaints of inequalities in rating having been frequent, the valuation list was revised, the result being that in February, 1889, the gross value was put at £24,306 18s. and the rateable at £20,782 15s. This not giving full satisfaction, at the instance of the overseers, the Plympton Guardians ordered a new assessment to be made by Messrs. Body, under which, in October, 1893, the assessments having risen to 780, the gross valuation was put at £34,107 13s. 6d., and the rateable at £28,550 11s.

As the effect of this was to put the tything at a still greater disadvantage than it had been before, with regard to the other parishes in the Union, the rating of which (much lower than that of Compton at the start) remained unchanged, pressure was brought to bear upon the Guardians until, in 1895, they employed the same valuers to re-value the other parishes in the Union.

There are now 898 assessments. The rateable value for poor rate in April, 1896, was £30,068 15s. The rateable value for the general district rate (land being assessed at a

fourth) at the same date, £26,912. Rateable value for poor rate July, 1896, £30,513 15s.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

With the single exception of the passing of the Poor Law statute of Elizabeth, under which the tything appointed its overseers and maintained its own poor, no change of practical importance took place in the local government of Compton Gifford from Anglo-Saxon times to the beginning of the present century. The court of the original tything passed into that of the manor; and the reeve or tything men gradually gave place to the constable of the township, first introduced in the reign of Edward I.—but that was all. And that was a change more in name than in fact. In 1252 it was ordered that every township, as every hundred, must have its constable. These constables had equal authority with the mayors, bailiffs, and headmen of burghs; they were in fact the borsholders, head-borough and tything men under other names, and had very wide powers. Fool as he is, the Dogberry of Shakspeare illustrates this. They were usually appointed at the courts leet; but in default (13 and 14 Ch. II. c. 12) by the justices.

I have in my possession the staff of the last constable of Compton Gifford under the ancient rule. He was one Richard Freeman, owner of Tunesland, member of a family who belonged to Sydenham Damerel, and gave sundry mayors to Plymouth. It is two feet in length, well turned in mahogany, with a square head, elaborately painted. On one side are the initials of the owner "R.F.," and the date, 1793. On the next an old man-of-war on the waves below, a boat rowing above, and in the middle a red and a blue ensign. Next comes the royal arms of the period, surmounted by a crown. And the fourth face bears what are intended for the arms of Gifford—*Arg., three lozenges, gules, two and one; crest, a demi-lion rampant.*

After the court leet ceased to be held, the government of the tything—such as it was—fell into the hands of the vestry; and that, in addition to nominating overseers and surveyors of highways, used to appoint parish constables of the ordinary type, from two up to four, until 1872.

In 1854, the experiment was tried of appointing a paid constable for the tything, at £52 a year, including clothes; and a Plymouth policeman, one Wm. Horne, was chosen.

In 1895, partly in consequence of the growth of the

tything and vicinity, and partly in consequence of the chairman of the District Council becoming an *ex-officio* magistrate, Compton was made a sergeant's headquarters; while in 1896 it became the seat of a monthly petty sessions of the Mid-Roborough division.

The tything had a poor-house, or rather poor-houses, of its own, like its neighbour Pennycross, as already noted; but its population had always been small, and when, under the Poor Law Act of 1834, it was made a part of the Plympton St. Mary Union, the inhabitants could not have exceeded 250. It was then represented by one Guardian only. Two were ordered November 23, 1882; and under the Local Government Act of 1894, there are now four; and the overseers are chosen by the Urban Council.

Under the old régime previous to 1863 there were two Surveyors of Highways, and the tything managed its own roads. When, in 1863, Highway Boards were formed, the vestry protested strenuously against being merged in the Roborough district. The inhabitants were quite capable of conducting the affairs of the tything in a satisfactory manner, "in proof of which it is only needful to adduce the state of the roads." However, the union was made, and thenceforward one waywarden replaced the two surveyors.

It soon became evident, however, that the district was outgrowing its authorities. Building rapidly extended, and though the vestry contrived to carry out a few road improvements, it was unable to grapple with questions of sewerage in a satisfactory manner; and even when as late as June, 1880, the Lighting Act was adopted, no adequate arrangement could be made with the local Gas Company.

So far back indeed as 1872 it had been recognized that a Sewer Authority was needed, and in consequence of a letter from the Guardians to that effect, a committee was appointed to consider the matter. Nothing, however, came of this at the time, and at the Lady-Day Vestry of 1878 it was resolved on the motion of Mr. George Stephenson, to form a committee to consider the sanitary state of the tything. The committee communicated with the Plympton Guardians; Mr. Appleton, C.E., of Torquay, was called in by that body; and in August, 1879, a special vestry was held, at which his plans for the drainage of Compton Gifford, with an outfall into the Laira, were approved. They were subsequently adopted February 3, 1880, at an inquiry held by Mr. S. J. Smith, Inspector of the Local Government Board.

Still it was felt that the Plympton authorities did not "realize the growing importance of the tything," and so at a vestry held Nov. 24, 1880, it was unanimously resolved to apply for the constitution of the tything a Local Government district. March 29 following, 1881, Mr. Smith held an inquiry into the application, when Mr. C. C. Whiteford put forward the case of the tything, and Mr. F. W. Cleverton and Mr. C. Radcliffe opposed on behalf of the Plympton Guardians and the Roborough Highway Board.

The order was made, however; and on the 3rd September, (1881), a meeting was held, under the presidency of Mr. George Stephenson to "take measures for the election," when it was resolved that the nine persons who had the highest votes at that meeting should be appointed without a poll, the result being: E. A. Pearn, 42; T. Moule, 38; C. C. Whiteford, 34; R. C. Serpell, 32; G. Stephenson, 32; T. W. Lansdown, 29; C. F. Burnard, 24; R. N. Worth, 23; T. Cuddeford, 21 (elected): T. Rendle, 19; J. Pillman, 18; H. Rogers, 17; W. E. L. Veale, 15; W. Law, 15; G. J. Lake, 13; S. J. Blewett, 12; G. Watson, 12; G. Bragington, 9; E. Geake, 8; S. C. Stidston, 5. The Returning Officer was Mr. Samuel Jackson.

The first meeting of this Local Board was held at the Schoolroom, 16 Sept., 1881, when Mr. Whiteford was elected Chairman; subsequent meetings at the Hyde Park Hotel, then at Mr. Stephenson's residence, Elmside, until the offices in Lower Compton Road were completed—the first meeting there being 3 May, 1883.

The first officials chosen were Messrs. Hamilton Whiteford, clerk; A. Pridham, treasurer; J. L. Hodge, surveyor; E. H. Edlin, medical officer; J. Moule, assistant-surveyor, inspector of nuisances, and collector. Mr. J. C. Inglis succeeded Mr. Hodge in October, 1882, and, on his appointment as chief-engineer of the Great Western Railway, he was succeeded by his pupil, Mr. R. Hansford Worth. Mr. Hamilton Whiteford died in February, 1883, and was succeeded by Mr. Ellery A. Bennett. Mr. Edlin resigned in 1891, and was succeeded by Mr. G. Jackson. Mr. C. C. Whiteford retired from the chairmanship in 1891, and was succeeded by Mr. R. N. Worth. Mr. Pridham and Mr. Moule have continued from the first.

The first important work taken in hand by the Board was the sewerage, Mr. Appleton's plans being adopted for the purpose with some modifications, and a loan of £14,000 sanctioned. It was arranged with Plymouth that the

borough should provide an outfall for the Compton sewage from the west of the Tavistock Road, Compton taking into its outfall tanks at Laira the sewage from the north-eastern part of Plymouth. Not until May, 1885, was the contractor, Mr. Hill, enabled to begin operations, several unforeseen difficulties having cropped up, and the works were no sooner completed than litigation followed. Plymouth had not constructed its outfall sewer to take the western drainage, and the Joint Sewage Authority of Devonport and Stonehouse objected to the discharge of the Plymouth and Compton sewage into the Deadlake. This difficulty was, however, got rid of by their agreeing to take, under payment, the sewage in question into a sewer of their own, discharging in deep water at Firestone Bay, as an interim arrangement.

On the other side the Plympton Guardians, on behalf of inhabitants of Egg Buckland, objected to the outfall tanks at Laira—which had not merely been sanctioned, but recommended by the Local Government Inspector—as a nuisance; and in July, 1888, obtained an order from the Roborough magistrates for the removal. This, however, was quashed on appeal. It need hardly be said that the costs of these proceedings were heavy, as were the costs incurred in defending the tything against some extravagant claims for compensation in connection with the sewerage works, in the principal of which £630 were demanded, and £354 17s. 6d. given.

The chief internal topic of controversy arose in 1892-93, when the Board decided to accept, on behalf of the rate-payers, the generous gift by Miss Revell of the Thorn Park Pleasure Ground, laid out at her expense. This was loudly opposed, but without result.

Under the Local Government Act of 1892, the Local Board became a District Council, and the election was very hotly contested. The issue turned chiefly upon a proposal which had been made by the Plymouth Corporation to annex the tything, and the result was the overwhelming defeat of the amalgamating party, who lost the only seat they had up to that time held. The numbers were: Wolferstan, 342; Worth, 325; Wills, 315; Veale, 290; Partridge, 279; Long, 278; Dunsterville, 255; Brown, 249; Moule, 248: these were successful. Next came Captain Hawker, 220, also a non-amalgamationist; Buckthought, 121, amalgamationist; Fuge, 116, non-amalgamationist; Popplestone, 110, amalgamationist; Berry, 104, amalgamationist; Hopper, 101, amalgamationist; Lardeau, 74, non-amalgamationist; Steward, 38.



The Local Board and District Council have raised on loan for various public works in the tything—(in addition to over £10,000 for works of private street improvement repayable by the owners-frontagers) £20,802—£15,338 being for works of sewerage; £2820 for road improvements; £1239 for building and furnishing offices; £597 for purchase of land; £300 for water supply for street watering; £208 for works of paving; £200 for pleasure ground; and £100 for fire appliances. Of this, however, £5278 has been repaid; and the sale of some surplus land to the Great Western Railway Company has further reduced the liability; so that the debt at Midsummer was £14,548.

The proposals of Plymouth to annex Compton were formally put forth in the autumn of 1893, and included not merely Compton, but Stonehouse, and large portions of Laira and Pennycross, to which building operations have extended, together with the Millbay Docks of the Great Western Railway. Laira and Pennycross are in the district of the Plympton Authority, and it was objected to them that they were in a state of sanitary neglect, while the tanks of the Compton outfall, which the Compton Authority were arranging to reconstruct, were also condemned. An inquiry was held by Lt.-Gen. Carey at the Plymouth Guildhall, February, 1894, at a very heavy cost, of which Compton's share was about £1000, and resulted in an intimation that Stonehouse and the Docks would be excluded, and of Compton, so much as lay outside the Parliamentary Borough of Plymouth (the greater portion of the tything having been included for Parliamentary purposes with Plymouth in 1885); and that the respective authorities should make terms for the remainder as to differential rating. This, however, they declined to do. A poll of the owners and ratepayers of the tything had given 6½ votes against amalgamation to 1 for; and feeling had risen very high in consequence of the manner in which the amalgamation proceedings had been conducted, especially an intimation from the Plymouth Corporation that they were prepared to repudiate their agreements for interchanging sewage, and to obstruct the action of the Compton Authority in all its efforts to help itself. And thus, when in December, 1895, the Local Government Board wrote that they were prepared to make an order, and in the following month Gen. Carey came down to Plymouth to inquire as to the differential rate, both Compton and Plympton declined to enter into the discussion, and declared their intention of appealing to Parliament.

The draft order of the Local Government Board was issued in May, and the order itself a few days later, the confirmatory Bill being brought in on the first of June. Steps were at once taken to elicit the feeling of the tything as to an appeal to Parliament. The Council were unanimously in favour of the step, with which all the other representatives of the tything concurred, and eventually, on a poll after a very sharp contest, in which neither amalgamationists nor anti-amalgamationists spared any effort, the tything decided to fight by a majority of 602 to 269. And that this majority would have been even greater but for the persistent way in which the friends of Plymouth insisted that Parliament always gave way to the Local Government Board, is certain. Compton was joined in the fight by all the other authorities affected—the Plympton Guardians and District Council and the Parish Councils of Egg Buckland, Pennycross, and Laira.

Thus far the paper as its author left it. It falls to another hand to complete the history of the tything of Compton Gifford.

Mr. Worth last appeared publicly as returning officer at the poll above referred to. Beyond doubt his personal conduct of the counting of votes overtaxed his already failing strength.

As the days passed it became evident that he must leave to others all active part in the Parliamentary opposition to the confirmatory Act; and thus Compton Gifford lost the services of one who had devoted his whole energies and abilities to a cause, the absolute justice of which was firmly impressed on his mind.

A slight recovery enabled Mr. Worth to move to Shaugh, where he awaited, no doubt with some anxiety, the result of the contest in which he was to have taken a leading part—a contest which commenced before the Commons' Committee on the 30th of June, 1896.

The result he never knew, his death occurring on the 3rd July; the last news he received from London being the failure of the Folkestone Extension Order—a failure which justified his constant contention, that an order of the Local Government Board was by no means of necessity confirmed.

By his death the District Council lost its chairman. Neither his place on the Council nor the office of chairman was refilled, Mr. T. Wolferstan becoming the acting chairman during the remaining existence of the Council.

On the 10th of July, 1896, the Commons' Committee confirmed the Extension Bill.

Appeal was then made to the Lords' Committee, and here the matter ended in a compromise, arrived at on the 30th July, 1896.

Under the compromise the whole of Compton Gifford lying south of Higher Compton Road became, on the 9th of November, 1896, a portion of the extended borough of Plymouth, the area so added to Plymouth being subject to a differential rating of 4s. 3d. for five years, 4s. 6d. for ten years, and 6s. for yet another ten years.

So, with absorption in the Tudor borough of Plymouth, ends the history of the Saxon tything of Compton. True, some 167 acres are still left, which may continue the name for many years as yet; but the tything itself must be regarded as a thing of past days.

## APPENDIX I.

## TITHE AWARD.

DETAILS of the tithe award of the Tything of Compton Gifford, otherwise Efford, made October 21, 1840, confirmed November 6, 1841. Jonathan Kittow, valuer. Apportioned rent charge, £65 to St. Andrew; £160 to "Charles the Martyr."

	a.	r.	p.
Estimated area of Tything . . . . .	629	2	35
Of which liable to tithes . . . . .	611	2	33
Arable . . . . .	72	2	15
Meadow or pasture . . . . .	487	3	10
Garden and orchard . . . . .	51	0	8
Exempt, occupied by buildings, roads, plantations . . . . .	18	0	2

The particulars are those of the final award; notes and alternative names in brackets are from the original agreement, so as to give as complete a view as possible of the names current at the date of the apportionment, as well as of the owners and occupiers.

*Apportioned to St. Andrew.*

Thomas Bewes [Plymouth]—	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
Little Meadow [or Port Meadow], Great Meadow [or Portfield], Barn Field, Quarry Park, Plantation Field, part and parcel of the Huntiscombe estate . . . . .	24	3	25	12	1	9
Occupiers—Dan Hosken, Hugh Hambly, Wm. Trevor Stephens, T. Bewes.						
John Butter <sup>1</sup> [Plymouth, M.D.]—						
Parts of Ford and Foard's Parks Occupiers—J. Butter, John Ryder.	6	3	2	3	10	3
Joshua Claringbull—						
Part of Foard's Park (self) . . . . .	2	32	...	7	3	
James Dennis—						
Part of Foard's Park; buildings (self) . . . . .	1	1	...	2	1	

<sup>1</sup> Butter's property is given in the provisional agreement as being partly in the occupation of several vendees, who had since built on and laid out the same as gardens; i.e. Claringbull, Dennis, Norrington.

Edmund Leopold Lockyer—								
East Down, West Down, Vapron Hill	s.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.		
Occupier—W. Gloyne.	25	0	13	...	11	2	0	
John Hyne [East Stonehouse, butcher]—								
Pasture, garden, buildings (self)	33	3	39	...	14	9	0	
Edmund Lockyer's executors—								
Part of Thornhill, Long Park, Quarry Park	12	3	39	...	6	2	0	
Occupiers—Selves, John Ryder, John Foulston (Quarry Park).								
Elizabeth Mangles—								
Lawn (self)	6	2	8	...	2	19	0	
Joseph Norrington—								
Part of Foard's Park		2	1	...	4	6		
Occupier—Susan Pain.								
Richard Carter Revell, Egg Buckland, yeoman—								
Butt Park, Well Park; part of Thornhill (self)	14	1	4	...	6	8	3	
Cordelia Anne Yonge—								
Part of Foard's Park	14	0	22	...	7	10	3½	
William Shepherd—								
Part of Thornhill [Townsend House].		2	16	...	3	7½		

*Apportioned to Charles the Martyr.*

Sir John James Gordon Bremer—	s.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.		
Lawn, building, gardens (self)	1	2	36	...	12	7½		
Robert Bulcock, esq.—								
Compton Knowle and Higher Wibble Hill [Lower shoots and part of Carkette] (self)	4	0	7	...	1	9	0½	
William Bennett—								
Garden, &c. (Jane Badcock)		17	...				10½	
Joshua Claringbull—								
Great Holloway, Vapron Hill (self)	2	0	38	...	18	5½		
Elizabeth Lean Culm, Tothill, spinster—								
Baker's [Parcel of Lower Lipson] Occupier—James Friend.	4	1	9	...	1	10	11½	
Jonathan Clowter	1	0	32	...	8	9½		
Occupiers—Ambrose Matticott, Paul Lawrence.								
John Crossman—								
(Self)		34	...		1	9½		

	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
Edward Cuddeford, Compton, yeoman— Callaways—the Strawl [Strawl Park], Higher Wibble Hill, Great Down, Higher Shut Ground [with Middle Shut Ground, one field]; Wherry's orchard, Wherry's tene- ment, Great Baysleys, Shaw's Little Field, Great Hill, Shaw's Middle Field, Compton Meadow, Polt Park, Lower Cornishes [Lower Western Cornish Ground] Higher, Lower, and Middle Three Closes [Baysley's Coppice] (self)	55	1	32	...	16	16 4½
William Phillip Daykin— Broad Park, Cross Park	8	1	32	...	3	2 8
Occupier—Ambrose Matticott.						
Elizabeth Flinn— Garden (Richard Lavis)			38	...	1	11
Elizabeth Govett— Little Down (self)	1	1	1	...	8	1
John Heale— Garden and orchard			3	32	...	7 11½
Occupiers—John Soper, Peter Stephens, self.						
William Howard— Parcel of Hammett's, Oats' and Fry's tenements [Hartley-Hammett's, Cheswills Oats and Fuges] (self)	7	0	29	...	2	15 5
Miss Anne Hawker's executors— Balatchet's Lower Meadow, Higher Meadow (oc. F. Collacott), Ball Park (oc. Rd. Hake), Young's Meadow (oc. Ambrose Matticott), Hither Coombe, Carkett's Meadow	11	0	12	...	3	13 11½
Mary Glanville Hodson, Plymouth, widow— Merryland [Mariland], Higher Field, Wibble [formerly two closes, Wibble Hill and Lower Wibble Hill], Higher Wibble Hill, Stout Field [Stout Slade], Little Field	16	3	37	...	6	3 8½
Occupiers—John Luscombe, Ed. Cuddeford, Jane Morahead, John Cox.						
George Boughton Kingdon, Compton Hall—(self)	4	2	23	...	1	11 3½
Thomas Moules—(self)			3	5	...	5 5½

	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
Mary Mason—						
Tounson Hill . . . . .	8	2	36	...	3	5 1
Occupier—Wm. Towl.						
Alexander Pontey [Plymouth, nursery- man]—						
Heal [Slade], part of Hammetts (self) . . . . .	1	1	13	...	10	4
William Rowe—						
Occupier—Peter Stephens . . . . .	1	27	...		3	4
William Rendle [Plymouth, gentleman]—						
House, beer-house, Higher and Lower Whitstone [Higher Coombe for Higher Whitstone], Further Coombe, Hill Field [formerly four fields], Nursery, Collins Park . . . . .	11	2	27	...	4	6 0½
Occupiers—Wm. Stapleton, John Avery, self.						
William Rendle and Richard Carter Revell—						
Shillibeer—Long Plot, Tee Field . . . . .	4	0	8	...	1	12 0½
Occupier—Ambrose Matticott.						
John Edmund and Reuben Rendle—						
Broadgates, Rackfield, Higher Kitt's Field, Kitt's Field . . . . .	9	0	36	...	3	4 1¼
Cross Park Nursery, Lower Kitt's Nursery, Lower Kitt's Field, Middle Rock Park, Plantation, Little Coombe Meadow, Coombe Meadow, Lower Coombe Nursery [formerly Long Close and Lower Coombe Nurseries], part of Higher Coombe Meadow, Greenhouse, the Grove, garden, Redland Hill, Barn Park, Little Vints [Tor; also Vinstan Nursery], Home Rock Park, Little Hill, Homeward Meadow . . . . .	38	2	25	...	13	13 10
Occupiers—Selves, A. Pontey, J. Clements, Wm. Southwood, A. Matticott.						
Richard Carter Revell—						
Part of Diptford [Diptford's and Bickham], Hither Dun's Field, Further Dun's Field, Lower Dun's Field, Higher Dun's Field, Little Broom Park, Broom Park, Great Broom Park, Orchard, Lane, Head Field, Ball Lane Field, Home Park, Brickham Meadow, the Pound,						

	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
Compton Field, Cornishes Meadow, Eastern Cornishes, Higher Cornishes [in agreement Lower Town End, Higher Town End, and Great Hill appear, but these are alternative names]	101	0	19	...	37	7 3½
Occupiers—Self, Thomas Hugo. George William Soltau [Efford]— Mill Meadow [Hill Field], Young's Ground, Cockram Park, Wall Field, Brickham Park, Ball Park	52	3	6	...	14	14 9½
Occupiers—John Evans, Try- phena Sherrill, Jas. Cuddeford, Jas. Crews, Thos. Moules. Sir John Hobart Seymour [North- church, Hereford]— Flashman's, Lower Washing Brook, Mill Pool, Blatchford's, Higher Washing Brook, Willow Plot, Meadow, Compton Hill, Barn Close, Compton Great Field, Crow- down, Mannameads, West Manna- meads, Shilly Cleave [Shinny Cleaves], Blatchford's Meadow [all except Shilly Cleaves, the Blatch- ford's, and Willow Plot, called Lipson Tozers—i.e. all save 15a. Or. 16p.]	114	0	7	...	37	19 8
Occupiers—Francis Corham, Thos. Coram, John Evans. George Veal [Compton, yeoman]— [Further Field, Middle Field, Home Field, parcel of Ewdes]	17	2	21	...	6	8 2½
Occupiers—Self, W. Denbow. Edward Veal [Compton, yeoman]— Part of Kellaway's — Tithing Park, Wibble Park	6	2	17	...	2	3 6½
Occupiers—Self, Richard Hors- will. John Wilkey— Chapple, &c.	1	23	...		2	4½
Occupier—Robert Bulcock.						

A few notes on the award may be made.

It will be seen that there are two Cross Parks: one in the Tavistock Road where the cross is, outside Cross Park Villas; the other (Gibbs' tenement), the eastern part of Hartley Pleasure Grounds, next Reservoir Road. The origin of the name of the first



is clear. The little cottage now on Whitstone is shown in the map, and may be of some antiquity. Whitstone, now one field, was once four, and parcel of Carkett's (Kitt's), Hammett's, and Hooper's tenements. Vinstone Cottage was part of Hammett's; as was Broad Park, site of Hartley Reservoir. Inceworth is partly Great Holloway, and partly the smaller Vapron Hill.

Hartley was made up of parts of Hammett's, Oats', Chiswell's and Fuge's tenements. The name does not occur in the award, nor can I trace it elsewhere; but as it would mean simply the higher meadow, which answers the position, it may be old. The Towers, said to have been built by Mr. A. Adams some fifty-five years since.

Hayesleigh stands on part of Shillabeer's, or Gibbs' tenement, while Hender's Nursery is part of Oats'. The closes were called Long Plot and T Field, and immediately east came Heal or Slade, part of Hammett's. Long Pot, as it is sometimes called, was leased by John Lord Boringdon for 99 years on lives, Feb. 28, 1788, and bought, Jan. 1815, by John Kingcombe, one of the partners in the Plymouth Bank, whose property it became. On their failure it was sold at auction, March, 1827, with T Field, when R. C. Revell bought T Field for £255, and Wm. Rendle Long Plot for £80. Revell, however, by agreement, took both, and the two held the property in undivided moieties until March 28, 1860, when it was divided—the nursery going to J. E. Rendle, and the portion on the south to Mr. Revell, including the site of the District Council offices. Edward Veale at the same auction in March, 1827, bought the land fronting the road on the east.

Cornishe's tenement, whether part of the Revell property or not, was also part of the land sold on the failure of the Plymouth Bank. It is described in a deed as "all that messuage or dwelling-house, formerly a barn, but afterwards converted into a dwelling-house by Sir Wm. Elford, Bart., Johnathan Elford and John Kingcombe, and garden called Cornishe's, with the following fields or enclosures to the same belonging, called or known by the several names of Higher Cornish Ground, Middle Cornish Ground, Lower Cornish Ground and Meadow, with the little plantation outside the same, containing altogether 13a. 1r. 3p. . . . . and also all those several fields or enclosures, called or commonly known by the several names of Higher Townsend and Lower Townsend, with the barn there, and Great Hill, part and parcel, of a tenement called Wherry's, containing 19a. 0r. 5p."

The whole of the Revell property in Compton in 1840 belonged to R. C. Revell. He died June 9, 1842, when the Thornhill portion of the estate, with Compton Fields, went to Richard Revell. The remainder he left to Sampson Revell, son of his cousin Matthew Revell; and on the death of the latter, Feb. 14, 1856, he left the property he had taken under R. C. Revell's will, after his wife's death or marriage, to his second son Richard Carter Revell, and the Widey and other property, left him by John Revell, to his

eldest son Sampson Revell. Mr. Richard Carter Revell died while Mayor of Saltash, 1st March, 1896, leaving his estate in trust, his brother Mr. Sampson Revell, and father-in-law, Mr. Herring, being trustees.

Compton Leigh, like Hartley, is made up of portions of several closes and tenements, and part was at one time called Castle Hill. It includes the Strowl (part of Gibbs's) and Great Down (also belonging to that tenement), with Higher Wibble Hill (part of Kellaway's).

Other part of Wibble Hill, now Hartley Villas, was part Oats' and Hammett's.

What is now called Collins Park consisted of two closes: the true Collins Park on the west, at the base of the triangle, part of Fuge's tenement; the eastern, at the apex of the triangle, Mariland, part of Carkett's.

Some of the tenements are more compact; and here we seem to get traces of formation out of the demesne lands. For example, Ude's or Eude's, consists of a series of fields forming a long strip along the valley towards Lipson Mill, with still narrower closes, part of Blatchford's, between it and the stream. Adjoining Ude's to the east and north came Diptford or Bickham tenement, extending to the village, where a portion, with some of Hammett's, went to form the Priory. The most compact holding of the whole, however, was the "overland tenement" called Cleaves, some of the fields of which have taken the name of Shaw, occupying the immediate north-eastern angle of the tything, between Efford Lane and Egg Buckland. Here, next the stream dividing the two jurisdictions, is Compton Meadow, which we may take to represent the acre of meadow recorded in *Domesday*. It is, however, nearly  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

#### Highway Rate, 1838.

E. Veal, John Foulston, surveyors.

	Rateable value.		
	£	s.	d.
Aldham, Byam; house and garden . . . . .	18	0	0
Adams, Thos.; house; Gibbs' and Callaway's . . . . .	25	0	0
Borgoin; Hounscombe . . . . .	32	10	0
Bremer, Sir Gordon; house and garden £25; Bickham £5 . . . . .	30	0	0
Bake; house and garden . . . . .	13	10	0
Bulcock; Shutt's, Callaway's, Wibble Hill . . . . .	23	10	0
Badcock, Jane; house and garden . . . . .	8	0	0
Baumer; house and garden . . . . .	18	0	0
Cuddeford, James; Thornhill £33 10s.; Yonge's £25 10s. (bought by Whiteford) . . . . .	59	0	0
Corham, Thos.; Lipson £134 1s.; Tozer's £77 . . . . .	211	1	0
" " Manneymeads (later Mylymeads) . . . . .	105	17	6
Crews, James; Young's . . . . .	19	10	0
Cocks, John; Oats', Hammett's . . . . .	32	0	0

	Rateable value.		
	£	s.	d.
Clements, James; Callaway's, Carkett's, Hooper's	53	0	0
Wherry's	28	10	0
Callacott; Carkett's, Hooper's	8	0	0
Comber, Rd.; house and garden	3	0	0
Curben, Ben; cottage house			
Cuddeford, Edward; Wherry's, Cornishes', Cleeves',	166	5	0
Townend	4	0	0
Crossman, John; cottage	14	10	0
Claringbull; garden £7; Vaperon Hill Field £7 10s.	20	0	0
Cook, Rev.; house and garden	80	0	0
Courtney, Rev.; tythe	32	10	0
Denbow; Ewde's	18	0	0
Dennis, Mr.; house and garden	22	10	0
Deykin, Esq.; part Hartley	80	0	0
Evans, John; Shellecleves	20	10	0
" " Blatchford's Meadows	4	5	0
Eastcott; cottage house	32	0	0
Foulston, John; house and gardens £25; cottage £7	24	0	0
Friend, James; Lipson	13	10	0
French, Mr.; house and garden	33	0	0
Gloyn, John; Thornhill (bought by Whiteford)	6	0	0
Gale, John; cottage house	42	0	0
Hatchard, Rev.; tythe	138	10	0
Hynes, John; Merreylands	52	0	0
Hamlyn; Hounscombe	14	0	0
Horswell; Chiswell's			
Hugo, Thos.; Deptford's, Wherry's, Bickham's	160	0	0
Hele, John; house and orchards	7	10	0
Howard, Esq.; part Hartley House £43; Hartley			
—Chiswell's, Fuge's, £22 10s.	65	10	0
Hake, Richard; Ball Park	5	10	0
Hoskins; Hunscombe	51	0	0
Kettlewell; cottage	4	4	0
Kent, Mrs.; Rock Park	6	0	0
Knight, John; Callaway's	9	0	0
Lawrence, Paul; house and garden	8	0	0
Luscombe; Merland's field	7	0	0
Lavers, Rd.; cottage and garden	5	10	0
Linzee, John; house and garden	18	10	0
Mangles, Mrs.; Thornhill	21	10	0
Moore, Simon; house and garden	20	0	0
Matticott, Ambrose; Gibbs'	48	0	0
Moles, Thos.; Bickham's and Ball's £63 10s.;			
Callaway's £12	75	10	0
McDaniell; cottage	6	0	0
Morshead, Mrs.; Townend and house	26	0	0
Payn, Rev.; house and garden	20	0	0
Pontey, Alexander; two houses, Carkitt's	86	0	0

## THE TYTHING OF COMPTON GIFFORD.

765

	Rateable value.
	£ s. d.
Penn ; Thornhill . . . . .	4 10 0
Roach ; Hunsccombe . . . . .	33 0 0
Rider, John ; Thornhill . . . . .	53 0 0
Revell, Mr. ; Thornhill £231 10s. ; Compton fields £80 10s. ; Wherry's, Cornishes £83 10s. . . . .	395 10 0
Revell, Wm. ; house and garden . . . . .	13 10 0
Rendle, Wm. ; Hooper's £36 2s. ; Collins Park £6 18s. . . . .	43 0 0
Rendle, Mrs. ; Vinstone . . . . .	38 0 0
Sherrell, Mrs. ; Thornhill £16 ; Young's £32 . . . . .	48 0 0
Stephens, Matthew ; Little Down £5 ; house and garden £8 . . . . .	13 0 0
Shepherd, John ; house and garden . . . . .	30 0 0
Smith, Charles ; Callaway's . . . . .	14 0 0
Stapledon ; beershop, house . . . . .	8 0 0
Shaw, Mrs. ; house and garden . . . . .	14 0 0
Southwood ; field . . . . .	10 0 0
Stephens, Peter ; house and garden . . . . .	5 0 0
Stephens ; Hounsccombe . . . . .	5 10 0
Shillibear ; Oates' . . . . .	10 10 0
Stapledon, elder . . . . .	3 0 0
Stapledon, younger . . . . .	3 0 0
Soper, John ; house and garden . . . . .	3 0 0
Towl, Wm. ; Townsend field . . . . .	39 0 0
Veal, Geo. ; Ewdes . . . . .	32 10 0
Veal, Edw. ; Callaway's . . . . .	9 0 0
Wilkenson, Wm. ; house and garden . . . . .	13 10 0

79 ratepayers, 36 houses

1841—76 „ 55 „ 119 assessments.

Maisonette and Ford Park (plain) in interim, 1839.

## Voters in 1849.

Bennett, Wm. . . . .	Part of Hemmett's tenement.
Bremer, Sir Jas. Gordon ; Compton village . . . . .	„ Debtford & Bickham.
Butter, John . . . . .	„ Thornhill.
Clouter, Jonathan . . . . .	„ Hemmett's tenement.
Cuddeford, Edward ; Compton village . . . . .	„ Wherry's & Carkett's.
Cuddeford, Thomas (occupier) Compton village . . . . .	Cornishes & Cleeve's.
Foale, Wm. . . . .	Part of Chiswell's & Hooper's.
Hopwood, Rd. ; Hartley . . . . .	Hartley Villa.
Howard, Wm. ; Hartley House . . . . .	Part of Hemmett's.
Kingdon, G. B. ; Compton Hall . . . . .	Compton Hall.
Melhuish, Edward ; Ford Park . . . . .	

Moule, Thos. ; Compton village	Part of Callaway's tenements.
Pontey, Alexander (occupier) .	Vinstone, Callaway's, &c.
Pontey, John ; Vinstone Cottage	Part of Hemmett's.
Rendle, Reuben Spry . . .	Vinstone, Callaway's.
Rendle, John William . . .	Chiswell's and Callaway's.
Rider, John (occupier) . . .	Part of Thornhill.
Shepherd, John . . .	" "
Soltan, G. W. ; Efford . . .	" Young's estate.
Veale, George ; village of Compton . . .	" Ewde's estate.
Veale, Edward ; Compton village . . .	" Callaway's & Chiswell's.
Whiteford, C. C. ; Thornhill .	" Thornhill.

*New Claimants.*

Cuddeford, Edw., jun. . . .	Compton.
Rendle, Edmund . . . . .	Vinstone, Callaway's, &c.

This list curiously illustrates the tendency to cling to the old descriptions, and at the same time the manner in which their knowledge was gradually dying out, for there are several omissions and inaccuracies even in this short list.

There were thus 22 votes and 2 claimants to vote for Parliamentary purposes in the tything in 1849. The register which came into force January, 1896, gives a total of 568.

## GUARDIANS.

It seems probable that some of the papers and books belonging to the tything were lost on the all but sudden death of Mr. George Drury, assistant-overseer, in May, 1871.<sup>2</sup> The first guardian whose election is recorded in the vestry book was Edward Cuddeford, 25 March, 1854. He held office four years; and we then get in succession at the respective Lady-Days:—1858, W. Spearman; 1859, J. W. Sparrow; 1861, W. H. Lidstone; 1867, S. Jackson; 1871, E. Melhuish; 1882, W. E. L. Veale; 1883 (two), W. E. L. Veale, S. C. Clements; 1884, W. E. L. Veale, S. Stidston; 1886, W. E. L. Veale, W. W. Wreford; 1887, W. E. L. Veale, T. Cuddeford; 1888, W. E. L. Veale, T. Moule; 1889, W. E. L. Veale, Rev. G. B. Berry; 1890, Rev. G. B. Berry, S. T. Thomas; 1891, Rev. G. B. Berry, J. H. Hopper; 1892, ditto; 1893, ditto; December, 1894 (four), W. E. L. Veale, A. C. Crowl, C. Long, J. Partridge. This election was under the Local Government Act of that year, and for three years.

<sup>2</sup> He had held the office from 1856, in succession to Mr. Foale, who had resigned in 1855, when Mr. Stuttaford was appointed *pro tem*. Mr. Drury was succeeded by Mr. Wadbrook, and on his resignation, September, 1894, Mr. Reuben Mears was elected.

The following were appointed overseers for the respective years, as under :

1849, James Renney, W. Augustus Yockney; 1850, Edw. Melhuish, Edw. Veale; 1851, A. P. Prowse, Rev. Gibson; 1852, W. H. Lidstone, Rd. Bartlett; 1853, Edmd. Vodden, Thos. Williams; 1854, Edw. Mills, Robert Wills; 1855, J. B. Densham, Henry Holman; 1856, A. L. Adams, E. C. Ellery; 1857, Philip Loye, W. Spearman; 1858, R. H. Wills, S. J. Blewett; 1859, John Miller, James Wolferstan; 1860, Jas. Page, R. Langford; 1861, Frank Harger, S. T. Grey; 1862, Major McKellar, T. Rendle; 1863, J. W. Sparrow, G. F. Radmore; 1864, J. W. Sparrow, S. Jackson; 1865, ditto; 1866, ditto; 1867, John Alger, J. L. Gallie; 1868, Rt. Bridgland, Jas. Saw; 1869, Rt. Bridgland, Joseph Reed; 1870, ditto; 1871, ditto; 1872, Francis Hicks, C. F. Burnard; 1873, F. Hicks, A. P. Prowse; 1874-75-76, ditto; 1877, F. Hicks, F. B. Henwood; 1878, F. B. Henwood, S. T. Thomas; 1879-80-81, Thos. Rendle, Geo. Stephenson; 1882, Geo. Stephenson, E. A. Pearn; 1883, Jos. Wainwright, F. F. Gloyn; 1884, F. F. Gloyn, T. Cuddeford; 1885, F. F. Gloyn, O. Trounce; 1886, T. Cuddeford, S. Stidston; 1887, S. Stidston, J. Pillman; 1888, W. E. L. Veale, J. Popplestone; 1889, R. Burnard, Jas. Ray; 1890, J. H. Hopper, G. Browne; 1891, J. H. Hopper, S. Willoughby; 1892, J. H. Hopper, G. Buckthought; 1893, ditto; 1894, G. Buckthought, C. Long; 1895, C. Long, R. E. Buscombe; 1896, ditto.

In 1895 the appointment came into the hands of the Urban District Council.

#### LOCAL BOARD.

The original members of the Local Board and their successors are as follows. The order is that in which they retired from office by rotation :

T. Cuddeford, \*C. T. Bewes, \*R. A. Bewes, J. S. Hawker.

T. Moule.

\*C. C. Whiteford, \*S. T. Thomas, J. Partridge.

\*R. N. Worth.

\*T. W. Lansdowne, W. Foale, G. Buckthought.

C. F. Burnard, F. W. Butt, T. Wolferstan.

\*R. C. Serpell, \*G. Hubbard, T. G. G. Wills.

\*E. A. Pearn, \*J. Venning, E. Watt, T. Butler, \*S. T. Thomas.

\*G. Stephenson, W. E. L. Veale.

Mr. Thomas, after he was first chosen in August, 1891, vacated his seat, and was re-elected January, 1893.

Of the members of the Board when it was substituted by the Urban Council, Messrs. Worth and Moule had been elected in 1881; Wolferstan, 1887; Wills, 1889; Veale, 1890; Hawker, 1891; Partridge, 1892; Thomas and Buckthought, 1893.

The names asterisked are those of members dead.

## APPENDIX II.

## REFERENCE TO COPY OF TITHE MAP.

*Parish of St. Andrew.*

No.	Field Name.	Estate or Tenement.	No.	Field Name.	Estate or Tenement.
1a.	Little Meadow.	Huntiscombe Estate.	27a.	Part of Foard's Park.	
	Port Meadow	" "	28a.	" "	" "
2a.	Great Meadow	" "	29a.	" "	" "
	Port Field	" "	30a.	" "	" "
3a.	Barn Field	" "	31a.	" "	" "
4a.	Quarry Park	" "	32a.	...	Part of Thornhill.
5a.	Part of do.	" "	33a.	...	? Part of Thornhill.
6a.	"	" "	34a.	...	" "
7a.	Yard, &c.	" "	35a.	...	" "
8a.	...	Maryland.	36a.	...	" "
9a.	...	" "	37a.	...	" "
10a.	...	" "	38a.	...	" "
11a.	...	" "	39a.	...	" "
12a.	...	" "	40a.	...	" "
13a.	...	" "	41a.	...	" "
14a.	...	" "	42a.	...	" "
15a.	...	" "	43a.	...	Part of Thornhill.
16a.	...	" "	44a.	Long Park.	? Part of Thornhill.
17a.	...	" "	45a.	Quarry Park	" "
18a.	...	" "	46a.	Parts of do.	" "
19a.	Plantation Field.	Huntiscombe Estate.	47a.	" "	" "
20a.	Part of Foard's Park.		48a.	...	Part of Thornhill.
	Willow Field.		49a.	...	? Part of Thornhill. <sup>1</sup>
21a.	Part of Foard's Park.		50a.	...	" "
	Path Field.		51a.	Butt Park.	Part of Thornhill.
22a.	Part of Foard's Park.		52a.	Well Park	" "
23a.	" "	" "	53a.	East Down.	" "
24a.	" "	" "	54a.	West Down.	" "
25a.	" "	" "	55a.	Part of do.	" "
26a.	" "	" "	56a.	Vapron Hill.	" "

*Parish of Charles.*

No.	Field Name.	Estate or Tenement.	No.	Field Name.	Estate or Tenement.
1.	Baker's.	Lower Lipeon.	9.	Willow Plot.	...
2.	? do.	"	10.	Meadow.	Lipeon Tozers.
3.	? do.	"	11.	Compton Hill	"
4.	Flashman's.	Lipeon Tozers.	12.	Barn Close	"
5.	Lower Washing		13.	Compton Great Field	"
	Brook	"	14.	Crowdown	"
6.	Mill Pool	...	15.	Mannameada	"
7.	Blatchford's.	Blatchford's.	16.	West do.	"
8.	Higher Washing		17.	Townson Hill.	"
	Brook.	Lipeon Tozers.	18.	" "	" "

<sup>1</sup> Lands queried as belonging to Thornhill may be taken as beyond doubt, but the tithe reference thereto is not so definite as lands where query is omitted.

No.	Field Name.	Estate or Tenement.	No.	Field Name.	Estate or Tenement.
19.	Mill Meadow.		68.	Garden.	
20.	Shilly Cleave.		69.	No entry.	
21.	Blatchford Meadow, or Blatchford Long Close.	Blatchford.	70.	Orchard.	
22.	Further Field.	Ewdes.	71.	Garden.	
23.	Middle Field	"	72.	Orchard and Buildings.	
24.	Home Field	"	73.	Orchard.	
25.	Part of Blatchford's.	"	74.	No entry.	
26.	Orchard	Ewdes.	75.	Compton Fields.	
27.	Garden	"	76.	I do. No entry.	
28.	Buildings	"	77.	Long Plott.	Gibbs.
29.	Young's Ground.	Young.	78.	Tee Field.	Oats.
30.	"	"	79.	Heal or Slade.	Part of Hammett's.
31.	Cockram Park.	"	80.	...	Part of Callaway's.
32.	Nether Dunn's Field.	Part of Diptford and Bickham's Tenement.	81.	Tithing Park.	Callaway.
33.	Further do.	" "	82.	Wibble Park.	"
34.	Lower Dunn's Field.	" "	83.	The Shawe.	Gibbs' Tenement.
35.	Higher Dunn's Field.	" "	84.	Higher Wibble Hill.	Callaway's.
36.	Little Broom Park	" "	85.	Great Down.	Gibbs' Tenement.
37.	Broom Park	" "	86.	Higher Shut Ground.	Carkett's.
38.	Great Broom Park	" "	87.	Wherry's Orchard.	Wherry's.
39.	Orchard	" "	88.	...	Wherry's Tenement.
40.	Lanehead Field.	" "	89.	Great Baysley.	Cleave's Overland Tenement.
41.	Bull Lane Field.	" "	90.	Shaw's Little Field.	Cleave's.
42.	Home Park.	" "	91.	Great Hill.	Cleave's Tenement.
43.	Buildings.	" "	92.	Shaw's Middle Field.	Cleave's.
44.	No entry.	" "	93.	Compton Meadow.	Cleave's Tenement.
45.	"	" "	94.	Eastern Cornishes'.	Cornishes'.
46.	Brickham Meadow.	" "	95.	Higher Cornishes'.	Cornishes'. <sup>2</sup>
47.	The Pound.	" "	96.	Pott Park.	Callaway's.
48.	No entry.	" "	97.	Lower Cornishes'.	Cornishes.
49.	"	" "	98.	Three Closes.	Carkett's.
50.	Lawn.	" "	99.	Middle do.	"
51.	Buildings.	" "	100.	...	Balatchet.
52.	Garden.	" "	101.	Ball Park.	"
53.	"	" "	102.	Lower Meadow.	"
54.	No entry.	" "	103.	Young's Meadow.	Young.
55.	Chapple.	" "	104.	Higher Meadow.	"
56.	Garden.	" "	105.	Higher Closes.	Carkett's.
57.	"	" "	106.	Merryland.	"
58.	Buildings.	" "	107.	Higher Field.	Wherry.
59.	Orchard.	" "	108.	No entry.	"
60.	Compton Knowle.	Carkett's.	109.	Little Field.	Wherry.
61.	Garden	" "	110.	No entry.	"
62.	"	" "	111.	"	"
63.	Higher Whibble Hill.	Carkett.	112.	Wibble.	Oats-Hanmetts.
64.	No entry.	" "	113.	Well Field.	"
65.	"	" "	114.	Brickham Park.	"
66.	Garden, &c.	" "	115.	Ball Park.	"
67.	Garden.	" "	116.	Buildings.	"
			117.	No entry.	"
			118.	Cornishes' Meadow.	Cornishes'.

<sup>2</sup> This is given in deed as Townsend, part of Wherry's, but 123 and 120 seem the  
 the Higher and Lower Townsen.



No.	Field Name.	Notes or Tenement.	No.	Field Name.	Notes or Tenement.
119.	No entry.		141.	Little Coombe Meadow.	
120.	"	Lower Townson.	142.	Lower Coombe Meadow.	
121.	"		143.	Lower Coombe Nursery.	
122.	"		144.	Part of Higher Coombe Meadow.	
123.	"	Higher Townson.	145.	Greenhouse, etc.	
124.	Bear House, &c.	Hooper's.	146.	No entry.	
125.	House, &c.		147.	The Grove Garden.	
126.	Little Down.		148.	Redland Hill.	
127.	Collin's Park.	Fuge's Tenement.	149.	Barn Park.	
128.	Broad Gates.	(!Shillibear).	150.	Little Vents Tor.	
129.	Rack Field.		151.	Broad Park.	Hammott's.
130.	Higher Kitt's		152.	Cross Park.	Gibb's.
	Field.	Kitt ! Carkeet.	153.	Pasture.	} Gibb's, Oat's, Hammott's, Callaway's.
131.	Kitt's Field.	Kitt ! Carkeet.	154.	Garden.	
132.	Cross Park Nursery.		155.	Lawn.	
133.	Lower Kitt's		156.	Buildings.	
	Field.	Kitt's ! Carkeet's.	157.	...	Parcel of Hammott's.
134.	ditto.	" "	158.	Great Holloway.	
135.	Middle Rick Park.		159.	ditto.	
136.	Higher and Lower	Carkeet	160.	Vapron Hill.	
	Whitstone,	and	161.	...	Oat's and Fry's.
	Further Coombe,	Hammott	162.	...	Oat's, Fry's, and Callaway's.
	Hill, Hill Field, now	and	163.	...	ditto
	thrown together.	Hooper.	164.	...	ditto
	Hill Field, Carkeet's; Further and		165.	...	ditto
	Higher Coombe, otherwise Higher		166.	Home Rock Park.	
	Whitstone, Hammott's; Lower		167.	Little Hill.	
	Whitstone, Hooper's.		168.	Homeward Cross Meadow.	
137.	Hither Coombe.	Carkeet's.	169.	House, &c.	
138.	Carkeet's Meadow.	"	170.	Higher Wibble Hill.	
139.	Buildings.		171.	Stout Field.	
140.	Plantation.				





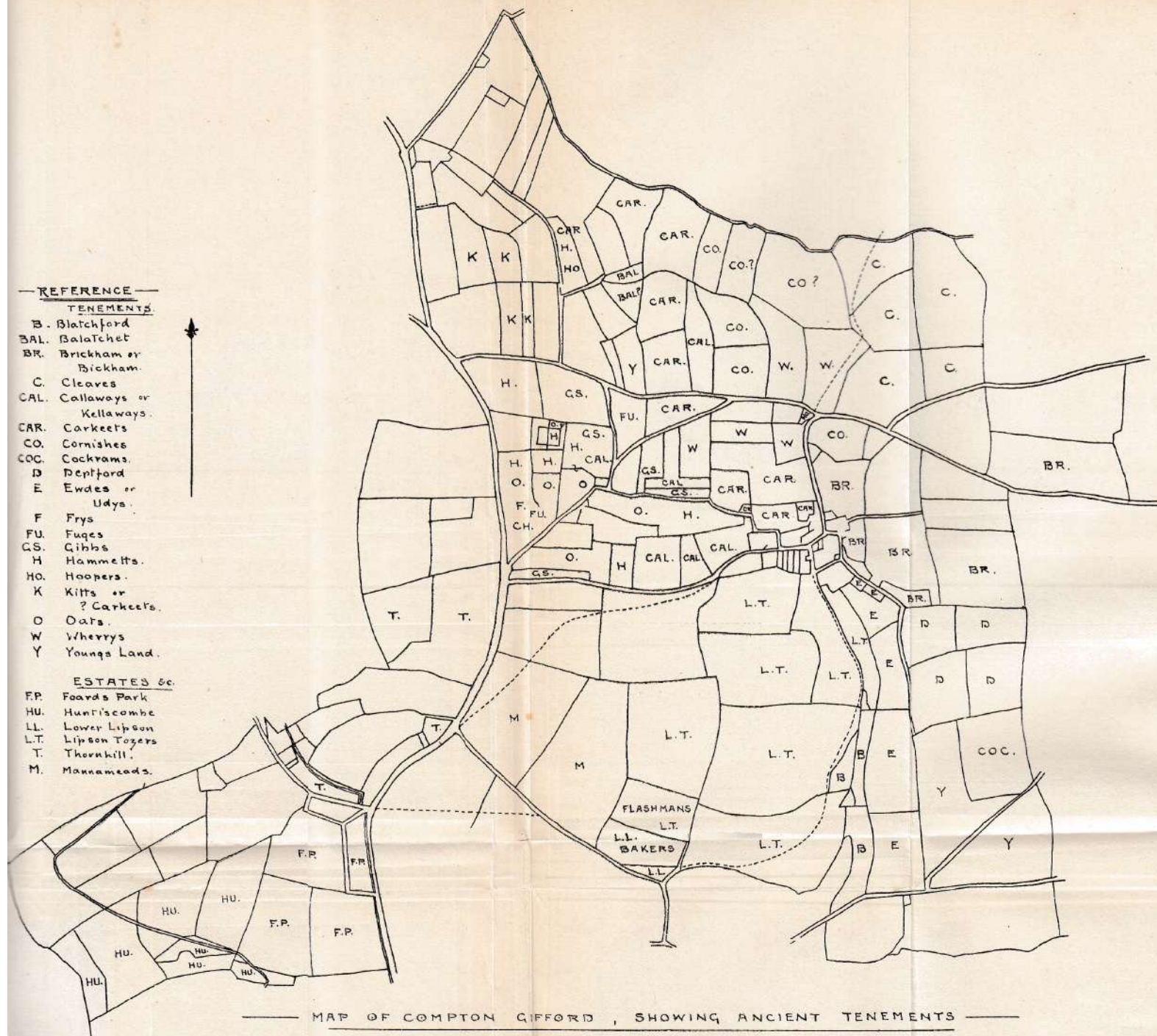
—REFERENCE—

TENEMENTS.

B. Blatchford  
BAL. Balatchet  
BR. Brickham or  
Bickham.  
C. Cleaves  
CAL. Callaways or  
Kellaways.  
CAR. Carkeets  
CO. Cornishes  
COC. Cockrams.  
D. Deptford  
E. Ewdes or  
Udys.  
F. Frys  
FU. Fuges  
GS. Gibbs  
H. Hammetts.  
HO. Hoopers.  
K. Kitts or  
? Carkeets.  
O. Oats.  
W. Wherrys  
Y. Youngs Land.

ESTATES &c.

F.P. Foards Park  
HU. Hunt'scombe  
LL. Lower Lipson  
L.T. Lipson Tazers  
T. Thornhill.  
M. Mannameds.



— MAP OF COMPTON GIFFORD, SHOWING ANCIENT TENEMENTS —

Scale 6 inches to 1 mile —

R. N. WORTH.

R. N. W.



