

Calverleigh

Calverleigh is located within Mid Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Tiverton Hundred. It falls within Tiverton Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 70 in 1801 69 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 44 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Tiverton Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Calverleigh area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 45/2
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 45NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS923143
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS91SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 114
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 181
- Geological sheet 310 also covers the area

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Calverleigh is a sequestered little place, though less than 3 m. from Tiverton, and near a main road. The church (St. Mary) has a 14th century tower and font, and some 14th century work in the S. aisle. The nave and chancel were over-restored in the 19th century, but the S. aisle and arcade are better. The latter, rebuilt c. 1500, has well-carved capitals. The aisle has its original wagon roof, ribbed and ceiled, with

carved bosses, and its E. window contains some late medieval glass. Here are the memorials of the Southcotts, who held the manor in the 16th and 17th centuries, including a curious mural monument painted with rustic portraits (1638) and an incised slate floor-slab to George Southcott (1654). There are considerable remains of a plain late medieval rood-screen, and a screen in the tower. The ancient mansion of the Southcotts was being demolished when Davidson visited the scene on 27 July 1843. (Davidson, MS. Church Notes, sub Calverleigh.) The present Calverleigh Court presumably took its place.

Chagford

Chagford is located within West Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Wonford Hundred. It falls within Moretonhampstead Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 1115 in 1801 1397 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £26/08/08. In 1641/2 293 adult males signed the Protestation returns. A market is recorded from 1600-1822.

A parish history file is held in Okehampton & Chagford Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Chagford area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 90/5
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 90NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX701875
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX78NW
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 28
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 191
- Geological sheet 324 also covers the area

Illustrations

The image below is of Chagford as included in the Library's illustrations collection. Other images can be searched for on the local studies catalogue.



A fair is known from: 1792. Extract from **The glove is up! Devon's historic fairs**, by **Tricia Gerrish**, by kind permission of the author.

Chagford Fair. LOCATION: Near A382. North Eastern fringes of Dartmoor.
ORIGINAL CHARTER: There was no record of Chagford's original charter: records were destroyed by a fire at the end of the 17th century. However, letters patent have been discovered for 1529, granted to John Copleston for fairs at the Feast of St George Martyr (22nd to 24th April) and St Luke (17th to 19th October)
Chagford is most famous for its Pony Fair. The original charter is believed to have perished in a fire at the end of the 17th century, but one was certainly granted, for a regular market before 1120, and for two fairs which appear in letters patent of 1529. The October Pony Fair was one of these. In the 1560s rights and revenues of both fairs were bought from John Copleston, who probably rented them from Sir John Whyddon, by local parishioners for £10, subject to a rent of 16 shillings (80p). Toll money had already been given to the Guild of St Katherine in Henry VIII's reign. By 1809 Trewman's Flying Post confirms there were four fairs: on the last Thursday of March, Thursday before Whit Sunday in May, the last Thursday of September and the same in October. Revenue from these was still the property of churchwardens for the parish. All four survived until at least 1890 and the October fair still had its roots in the pony sales occurring annually in that month into the 1980s.

The four fairs were noted in the 19th century for cattle, and also for sheep, in addition to ponies, which mostly came from Dartmoor, after the late summer

drifts. The Square was described as 'full of sheep' at all four early 19th century fairs. In September 1856, a gentleman travelling in Devon noted in his journal that Chagford had 'a cattle fair in the town, at which the farmers seemed to be as numerous as the sheep'.

Income from Chagford's October fair was already 'falling off' by 1909, but its cattle market needed a larger site in 1989, suggesting that, unlike most Devon charter fairs, this event survived for trading, rather than as a pleasure fair or a tourist attraction.

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Chagford is a little market town on the edge of Dartmoor, set in a beautiful countryside. One could happily explore the parish for a full week, armed with the 2½-inch maps (sheets 20/68 and 20/78), and no mere catalogue of its charms and antiquities can do it justice. The name means "gorse ford" from the old dialect word *chag* (broom, gorse), the ford being that over the Teign which is now crossed by Chagford bridge. A bridge existed here before 1224, and one is mentioned by Leland. The existing granite bridge may, indeed, be the one Leland saw. The valley of the Teign, which is beautiful almost everywhere along its course, surpasses itself above and below Chagford bridge.

The parish climbs W. to high moorland, reaching 1432 ft. at Castor (or Kes Tor) Rock and 1279 ft. at Meldon Hill. There are hut-circles, stone rows, and kists scattered about these moorlands, particularly on Chagford Common, near Metherall, and on Shovel Down; their exact sites must be located on sheet 20/68 of the 2½-inch map. They were formerly far more numerous, especially on Chagford Common, but with the improvement of surfaces on the moorland roads the roadmenders have taken the stones from the hut-circles to metal the highway. (Baring Gould, *A Book of Dartmoor*, 160.)

The town stands upon a hill rising sharply from the Teign. It developed as a market centre for a wide moorland area as early as the 12th century. (D.C.N.Q. 23 (1947), 21) In 1305 it was made one of the three original stannary towns to which tanners had to bring their metal for assay and stamping (*coinage*), though it had been acting in this capacity for a considerable time before this. The stannary brought a fluctuating prosperity to Chagford until the end of the 16th century, for the moorland tanners bought their household provisions here, and then the spinning of wool for the East Devon weaving towns took the place of the dwindling tin-works. In Lysons's time there was still a Saturday market for butchers' meat, vegetables, and earthenware, and there were four large cattle fairs annually. Though the woollen industry had by now sunk to nothing, Chagford remained an important little market centre and continued to grow until 1831, when it reached its maximum population (1,868). After that it declined slowly: not much, for no railway reached out to it to disrupt its ancient local economy, nor ever will now: but by 1900 it had rather fewer than 1,400 people. In the early 20th century it grew again as a holiday and residential town for

those who thrive on bracing moorland air, but in the past generation it has again contracted slightly.

There is much interesting small-town building, from c. 1500 to c. 1850, including a 16th century granite house on the S. side of the churchyard which was probably the Church House, and another large early 16th century house facing the churchyard - the Three Crowns Inn, in which Sidney Godolphin is said to have been killed. In February 1643, Sir John Berkeley attacked and dispersed some parliament forces, then quartered at Chagford, but in the action the royalists "lost Sidney Godolphin, a young gentleman of in comparable parts. He received a mortal shot by a musket, a little above the knee, of which he died on the instant, leaving the misfortune of his death upon a place which could never otherwise have had a mention in the world" (Clarendon).

The church (St. Michael) is a fine example of a 15th century granite church. In the chancel is an Elizabethan monument to Sir John Whiddon, Kt., justice of the Queen's Bench (d. 1575), and a mural monument to John Prouz (1664) in the S. aisle. Sir John Whiddon bought the manor of Chagford and made himself a manor house and park at Whiddon Park 2 m. NE. of the town. The Park, at the entrance to the gorge of the Teign, is romantically beautiful, a place of rocks, ravens, and wild deer; the house is substantially Elizabethan in date, altered in the 17th and 19th centuries, and attractive.

The ancient farmsteads of this parish, built of granite and generally very picturesque, are a study in themselves. Those mentioned in Domesday Book are: Rushford Barton, Middlecott, Shapley, and Teigncombe. Rushford is mostly Elizabethan in date. At Yardworthy are the substantial remains of an early moorland farmhouse (probably 14th century) Hole is a good example of 17th century rebuilding on an older site. Collihole and Waye Barton also have much old work; but there is ample scope in this parish for the wayfarer to make his or her own discoveries, especially in the tangle of medieval lanes to the S. and W. of the town.

Challacombe

Challacombe is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Sherwill Hundred. It falls within Sherwill Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 158 in 1801 195 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 38 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in South Molton Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place-search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Challacombe area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 6/16,10/4
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 6SE,10NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS692408
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS64SE
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 09
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 293 also covers the area

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Challacombe means "cold valley." It is a large moorland parish with scattered farms, of which Barton Town, Whitefield Barton, Radworthy, and Wallover Barton represent small Domesday manors. The last-named was "the farm of the Britons" and was probably a settlement of Celtic farmers which continued into Saxon times. The parish church (Holy Trinity) was completely rebuilt in 1850, except the W. tower,

and again restored in 1874-5. It contains nothing of any age or interest except the font.

The upland moors of the parish have many groups of barrows, especially to the N. on Challacombe Common, where Chapman Barrows, extending into Lynton parish, form a group of a dozen large tumuli, some 12 ft. high and 300 ft. around. They are probably of Bronze Age date. In the SE. of the parish is Shoulsbarrow Castle (1,528 ft.), commanding magnificent views over North Devon. It is a square earthwork, protected by a second vallum on the N. and E. sides, but its age and purpose are uncertain. There is a tradition that Alfred held it against the Danes. (V.C.H. Devon, 595-6.)

Chardstock

Chardstock is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Beaminster Hundred.

A parish history file is held in Axminster Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 60/6
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 60NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is ST310045
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet ST30SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 029
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 193
- Geological sheet 326 also covers the area

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Chardstock was transferred from Dorset to Devon in 1896. It was originally the *stoc* or cattle-farm of Chard. The valley in which it mostly lies is still given over to pasture. The church (St. Andrew) was rebuilt in 1863-4 except the S. wall and tower. A monument with kneeling effigies to Richard Symonds of Coaxdon and his wife (d. 1610), the grandparents of Sir Simonds D'Ewes, disappeared at this time. Coaxdon Hall was the birthplace of Sir Simonds D'Ewes (1602-50), the antiquary and author of *Journals of all the Parliaments during the reign of Queen Elizabeth*. Much of the old house still remains. Chardstock Court, formerly Court House Farm, was a manor house of the bishops of Salisbury. It was crenellated by Bishop Erghum in 1377. Much of the present house dates from the early 14th cent., refashioned two centuries later. A long detached range with a magnificent 15th century open timber roof was destroyed c. 1930. There are two picturesque old inns in the village, one of which is certainly 16th century Besides Coaxdon and Tytherleigh, nearly all the farms

up the valley - such as Woonton, Ridge, Cotley, and Hook - appear in records of Henry II's time.

Charles

Charles is located within North Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Sherwill Hundred. It falls within South Molton Deanery for ecclesiastical purposes. The Deaneries are used to arrange the typescript Church Notes of B.F.Cresswell which are held in the Westcountry Studies Library.

The population was 217 in 1801 220 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 63 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in South Molton Library. You can look for other material on the community by using the place-search on the main local studies database. Further historical information is also available on the Genuki website.

Maps

The image below is of the Charles area on Donn's one inch to the mile survey of 1765.



- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 14/4,8
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 14NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS688329
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS63SE
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 09
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 293 also covers the area

Extract from Devon by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:

Charles is probably a Celtic name. It seems to be derived from the Cornish *carn*, "rock," and *lis* or *les*, "court, palace." If so, it suggests the survival of a Celtic community here into Saxon times. The church (John the Baptist) stands on the brow of the Dill overlooking the Bray valley. It was entirely rebuilt in 1875 and is of no interest except for the font (1727) and an inscribed brass to George Kellie, a former rector, and his wife Ursula (1649).

The novelist Blackmore stayed frequently with his uncle at Charles rectory and wrote much of *Lorna Doone* here. His grandfather John Blackmore was patron and incumbent here.

Mockham farm was a Domesday estate. On Mockham Down, about 2 m. NW. of the church, is a large oval earthwork, surrounded by a single rampart and of unknown age.