



Thurlestone

Thurlestone is located within South Hams local authority area. Historically it formed part of Stanborough Hundred. It falls within Woodleigh 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 356 in 1801 354 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 102 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Kingsbridge 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

- On the County Series Ordnance Survey mapping the area is to be found on 1:2,500 sheet 135/4
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 135NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX676430
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX64SE
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet Leisure 20
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202
- Geological sheet 355 also covers the area

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

Thurlestone takes its name from the pierced ("thirled") stone, just off the shore, which is mentioned as a boundary point in a Saxon charter of 845. The village is attractive, with several old cottages. Much modern building has been done since this remote coast was "discovered," but the village remains one of the most pleasing on the S. coast, except for the large hotel which is more appropriate to the suburbs of London. Buckland, now two farms N. of the church, was a Domesday manor.

The church (All Saints) is built of the dark grey local slate. The chancel is early 13th century; the remainder of the church 15th and 16th century Notice the fine Norman font, the bosses and wall plates of the chancel, and some pleasant 17th century mural monuments.

Tipton St John

Tipton St John is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Ottery St Mary Hundred. It falls within Ottery 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. Hamlet of the parish of Ottery St Mary.

A parish history file is held in Ottery St Mary 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 Tipton St John 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 82/5
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 82NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SY092918
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SY09SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 030
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 192
- Geological sheet 326 also covers the area

Tiverton

Tiverton 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 6505 in 1801 10382 in 1901 17187 in 1991. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £02/02/02. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £53/03/09. In 1641/2 1767 adult males signed the Protestation returns. It is recorded as a borough from 12c. and was incorporated in 1615. It had parliamentary representation from 1615-1885. A turnpike was established in 1759. The community had a grammar school from 1599. A market is recorded from 14c.-1985.

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 Tiverton 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 45/3,7
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 45NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS955125
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS91SW,E
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 114
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 181
- Geological sheet 310 also covers the area

Illustrations

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



A fair is known from: 14c.-1935. [It is intended to include the local section from *The glove is up! Devon's historic fairs*, by Tricia Gerrish, by kind permission of the author].

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

TIVERTON a bright and bustling town of some 10,000 people, occupies a wedge-like site between the Exe on the W. and the Loman on the E. The rivers join just below the town. In King Alfred's will (880-5) Tiverton is referred to as *Tuyfyrd*, i.e. "double ford," the place being reached by a ford over each river. It was founded early in the Saxon settlement, probably c. 650, gave its name to a hundred from the 10th century onwards, and was a royal estate from the beginning. Henry I gave the large and valuable manor in 1106 to Richard de Redvers, whose son Baldwin was created Earl of Devon.

Tiverton Castle was built by Richard de Redvers and became the principal residence of the Courtenays until 1539. A borough was founded at Tiverton by William de Vernon, 5th Earl of Devon, some time between 1193 and 1217. It remained an

unimportant place, however, until the establishment of the kersey manufacture in the late 15th century. This new industry, which grew rapidly in the hands of merchants like John Greenway, John Waldron, Peter Blundell (all of whom have left their physical mark upon the town) - coupled with the downfall of the feudal house of Courtenay - liberated the little agricultural township from its economic bondage. It quickly developed a suburb on the far side of the Exe (we hear of West Exe for the first time in 1504) and it had galloped ahead of all other woollen towns in Devon by the end of the 16th century. During the 17th-18th centuries it was the most considerable industrial town in Devon, taking the high place that Totnes had occupied in the early 1500s. One of the last of the woollen mills was taken over in 1816 by John Heathcoat, a lace manufacturer of Loughborough in Leicestershire, who was driven out of the Midlands by the Luddite machine-breakers. His factory still goes on, making much else besides lace today, and a great part of the life of modern Tiverton revolves around it. The old mill was destroyed by fire 1936 and replaced by a modern building.

Tiverton was incorporated in 1615 and at the same time made a parliamentary borough with two representatives. Members were first elected in 1620. It continued to return members until disfranchised in 1885, when it was merged with a county division. The most notable of all Tiverton members was Lord Palmerston, who represented the borough continuously from 1835 until his death in 1865.

The town has a remarkable number of charities and benefactions, as might be expected from its generations of prosperity as a textile centre. The water that runs through the principal streets was given to his borough by one of the earls of Devon in the time of Henry III, and has run ever since. Greenway's Almshouses, in Gold Street, founded in 1529, have been several times repaired and enlarged. They were almost entirely rebuilt in 1732, but the little chapel is Tudor in date. Waldron's Almshouses in Welbrook Street were founded in 1579. The present building bears the date 1597. There is a chapel similar to that in Greenway's Almshouses. Slee's Almshouses in St. Peter's Street, founded in 1610, are less attractive. The other great benefaction of a Tiverton clothier perhaps the greatest - is Blundell's School, founded in 1599. The Old School, built in 1604, still stands near the Loman Bridge at the St. Peter Street end of the town, but was converted into dwelling houses in 1880 when new and larger premises were taken over. Among the notable men who received their schooling at Blundell's were Archbishop Temple, R. D. Blackmore (who puts John Ridd to school here in *Lorna Doone*), and Bampfylde Moore Carew. Another school was founded by Robert Chilcott, Blundell's nephew. This was built in St. Peter's Street in 1611, and has fortunately escaped all the disastrous fires that mark the history of the town.

The castle and parish church form an attractive group at the NW. end of the town, on a cliff overlooking the river. The former was dismantled after its capture by Fairfax in October 1645 and is now a dwelling house. The remains of the castle, which are 14th century in date, consist of the great gateway, a round tower, part of the chapel, and a large square building of which the upper part is said to have been the banqueting hall.

The church (St. Peter) is a large, dignified 15th century structure, to which was added in 1517 Greenway's chapel and S. porch (plate 9). The whole S. side of the church was rebuilt by Greenway and is lavishly carved with all manner of decoration, including ships, wool-packs, staple-marks, coats-of-arms, and figures of men, children and horses. On the corbel line of the chapel are represented events in the life of Christ, beginning with the flight into Egypt and ending with the Ascension. The W. tower belongs to the Somerset class, of which Chittlehampton is the finest example in Devon. The interior is disappointing, having been in great part rebuilt in 1853-5 (by Ashworth of Exeter). Notice the memorial brasses of John and Joan Greenway (1529), the tombs of the merchants John Waldron and George Slee, and a picture presented in 1784 by Richard Cosway (who was a native of the town) depicting "St. Peter delivered out of Prison by the Angel." Another picture, "The Adoration of the Magi " by Gaspar de Crayer, a contemporary of Rubens, hangs over the Norman N. door.

There are in the principal streets of the town a number of attractive 18th- and early 19th century houses, some of them built after the great fire of 1731. Few houses survived this fire, but one, in St. Peter's Street, is a good late 17th century merchant's house. St. George's church, in the middle of the town, was built in 1714-30 and is the only notable Georgian church in Devon. It retains its original ceilings, galleries, and other fittings, but the seating, pulpit, and font are Victorian intrusions. In the churchyard lies buried Hannah Cowley (1743- 1809), a native of Tiverton who was a dramatist of some contemporary fame. Her best-known play was *The Belle's Strategem*. At the N. edge of the town is the workhouse, of the early Union type, built in 1836-7 and attributed to Gilbert Scott.

A number of hamlets and farmsteads in the parish (which is extensive) are recorded in Domesday: Bolham, Bradley, Chettiscombe, Chevithorne, Craze Loman, Patcott, and Peadhill. Chevithorne Barton, 3 m. NE. of the town, is mainly a Tudor house still. The chapel at Chevithorne was built in 1843 (Benjamin Ferrey). That at Withleigh, 3 m. W. of the town, was built in 1846 upon the site of a medieval chapel. Cove chapel was also rebuilt in 1846 on the old site.

Collipriest, S. of the town, is an attractive late 18th century house. It was for many years the seat of the Blundell family. On the hill above is Cranmore Castle, an extensive but weak earthwork of unknown age. In 1549 some of the insurgents in the Prayer-Book Rebellion made a stand here but were defeated by the King's troops.

Knightshayes Court, N. of the town, is the seat of the Heathcoat-Amorys. The house (1869) stands in a wooded park of 200 acres which was formerly part of the demesne of the earls of Devon.

About ½ m. SE. of the town is the termination of the derelict Grand Western Canal, constructed under an act of 1796. Its towpath now makes a pleasant summer evening walk.

Topsham

Topsham is located within Exeter local authority area. Historically it formed part of Wonford Hundred. It falls within Aylesbeare 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 2749 in 1801 2790 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In the valuation of 1334 it was assessed at £01/08/08. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £20/05/00. In 1641/2 293 adult males signed the Protestation returns. It is recorded as a borough from 1257. A market is recorded from 1822.

A parish history file is held in Topsham 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 Topsham 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 92/4
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 92NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX965884
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX98NE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 031
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 192
- Geological sheet 325 also covers the area

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

Topsham is one of those ancient, decayed estuary-ports which are perhaps the most fascinating kind of town that England can show, with their colour, smells, and strong sense of past life everywhere in the streets and alleys and along the water-fronts. It consisted formerly of one long main street with a number of short streets running at right angles to it down to the foreshore of the Exe, where its life and navigation lay.

It is possible that a native Celtic trading settlement existed on this site, comparable with the Mount Batten site on Plymouth Sound, but the evidence of prehistoric occupation is so far slight. What is undoubted is that a Roman port grew up here about the middle of the 1st century A.D. to serve *Isca Dumnoniorum* (Exeter), with which it was connected by a straight road 3 m. long leading directly to the forum of the tribal capital. This is the present Topsham Road along which the Exeter buses now travel. The port was active throughout the Romano-British period down to about A.D. 400.

Whether or not Topsham survived after the Roman withdrawal from Britain, we do not know. The depopulation of the Celtic kingdom of Dumnonia in the late 5th and 6th centuries may have produced economic changes leading to its collapse as a river port, but there was no reason why a small agricultural community should not have continued on these fertile light soils that are noted to this day for their market gardening.

However this may be, the Saxon occupation of East Devon during the 7th century brought important changes. A considerable village was planted on or near the old site, with its own open fields. Athelstan gave it in 937 to the monastery of St. Mary and St. Peter at Exeter, a gift which was later confirmed to Bishop Leofric. By 1066 Harold had unjustly seized the estate from the Church (as he had seized other estates elsewhere) and at the Conquest it was taken back into the royal demesne. Henry I parted with it to Richard de Redvers, whose son Baldwin founded St. James's Priory, between Topsham and Exeter, in 1141 and endowed it *inter alia* with half the tithes of his fishery at Topsham. The fishery would have been a salmon fishery, which is still carried on in a small way (plate 54).

The most important event in the medieval history of Topsham was the closing of the Exe by the Courtenays, who by building weirs across the river between here and Exeter prevented ships from reaching the city, and so forced merchants to land their goods at Topsham. Although the city took legal proceedings, the weirs remained, and Topsham became a flourishing port. All goods had to be unloaded here and carried on to Exeter by road. The construction of the Exeter ship canal in 1564-7 restored some trade to the city, but for various reasons the canal was not entirely satisfactory and Topsham remained in fact the outport for the greater part of the vast Exeter trade in woollens throughout the 16th-18th centuries. Its prosperity, throughout this period, and well into the 19th century, is well evidenced by the architecture of the town, which contains some notable merchants' houses. In the Strand are the beautiful "Dutch" houses, with delightful small courtyards, which were built c. 1700-25 by Topsham merchants from Dutch brick brought back as ballast, and obviously

with Dutch architecture in mind (plate 41). Holland was then the largest customer for Devonshire serges, and these were the greatest days of the port.

The buildings of Topsham, from the 16th century to the 19th, are so varied, numerous, and individual, that one cannot even begin to catalogue them. It is quite the most rewarding small town in Devon for the student of local styles in building, and probably one of the most interesting in England. The whole feeling of the water-front is remarkable: the decaying shipyards, the rotting hulks on the river mud, the derelict warehouses, nail factories, and quays, the multitudinous cats, the wonderful river views across to the Exminster marshes and down to the sea, with the woods of Haldon closing the western horizon. No wonder Topsham has been a favourite walk for Exeter people since the 18th century, for Polwhele tells us they were accustomed to stroll down by the canal banks on summer evenings in the 1780s, and probably before that. The view from the churchyard, set on a small cliff overhanging the river, is incomparably beautiful when the evening tide is coming in. Poor harassed George Gissing, who had so little peace in his life, used to walk here from Exeter, where he lived for a couple of years (1891-3), and remembered it when he poured out his heart in *The Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft*. "A whole day's walk yesterday with no plan; just a long ramble hour after hour, entirely enjoyable. It ended at Topsham, where I sat on the little churchyard terrace, and watched the evening tide come up the broad estuary. I have a great liking for Topsham, and that churchyard, overlooking what is not quite sea, yet more than river, is one of the most restful spots I know."

The collapse of the Devonshire woollen industry at the end of the 18th century greatly injured the trade of Topsham, but the little town had many irons in the fire and it continued to grow throughout the first half of the 19th century. It had a considerable shipbuilding industry, which had probably taken root in the 16th century, and also an important salmon and herring fishery. Shipbuilding also meant nail, chain, and rope factories, and a number of other subsidiary trades.

The inns and taverns of Topsham are as varied and excellent as those of any old river-port. Best of all is the *Salutation* (1720) with its former Assembly Room, Bowling Green, and all the other attributes of a good 18th century inn. The *Globe* is also notable. Nor should the visitor fail to visit the *Passage House Inn*, the *Steam Packet Inn*, the *Lighter Inn*, the *Lord Nelson Inn*, and the *Bridge Inn*. The last named is particularly fascinating. It stands away from the old town, facing the Clyst, and is said to be of 16th century date.

After the middle of the 19th century the town lost many of its ancient trades and crafts, but in the past 30 years it has developed rapidly as a dormitory for the city of Exeter and now has almost as many people as it had a hundred years ago. Fortunately, the new housing has been forced to develop on the farther side of the town, away from the water-front, and the old town remains almost completely unchanged and unspoiled. May it long remain so, for it has an incomparable charm and quality that the muddy fingers of the 20th century could only soil.

Of all the buildings of the town, the parish church (St. Margaret) is the least interesting. It was rebuilt in 1876-8, except for its medieval red sandstone tower, and utterly ruined. It does contain, however, two monuments by Chantrey to the Duckworths. These, and its superb site on a bluff above the estuary, save it from complete non-entity.



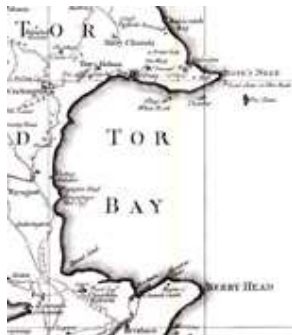
Torbay

Torbay is located within Torbay local authority area. Historically it formed part of Haytor Hundred.

You can look for other material on the community by using the place search on the main local studies database.

Maps

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



- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX900600
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX86SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 031
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 202