

Meavy

Meavy is located within West Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Roborough Hundred. It falls within Tavistock 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 239 in 1801 261 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 78 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Tavistock 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 Meavy 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 112/10
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 112SW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX541672
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX56NW
 - Outdoor Leisure (1:25,000) mapping sheet 28
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 201
- Geological sheet 338 also covers the area

Illustrations

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



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

Meavy lies on the SW. edge of Dartmoor, and its uplands are scattered with hut-circles and other Bronze Age remains, especially on Wigford Down. The exact sites of these "antiquities" will be found on the 2½ inch map (sheet 20/56). At Brisworthy, a hamlet in the SE. of the parish, occurs the earliest specific reference to tin working on Dartmoor, in 1168. (Finberg, Tavistock Abbey, 170.)

The church (St. Peter) is of some interest. The N. pier of the chancel arch, carved with rams' heads, is a relic of an early Norman building, and the greater part of the N. wall is almost certainly Norman, but the remainder of the church is mostly early 16th century.

A number of interesting houses are dotted about the parish. Near the church is a former mansion, now a farmhouse, of Elizabethan date. Goodameavy is a 16th century (and later) house; Greenwell is 16th and 17th century Gratton and Callisham both have traces of their former status as "mansions." Marchant's Cross, ½ m. SE. of the village, is a fine example of a moorland wayside cross. It is referred to in a record of 1291.

Meeth

Meeth is located within West Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Shebbear Hundred. It falls within Torrington 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 257 in 1801 203 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 78 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Okehampton 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 Meeth 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 52/2
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 52NW
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS548082
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS50NW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 113
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 191
- Geological sheet 309 also covers the area

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

Meeth stands high, with fine views over the Torrington valley. Hele, Stockleigh Barton, and Woolladon were all recorded in Domesday Book, as well as Meeth itself. Crocker's Hele and Friar's Hele are farmhouses of some antiquarian interest.

The church (St. Michael) contains some Norman work. The nave is probably substantially 12th century work; the chancel has been partly rebuilt. In the churchyard is a monument to John Lempriere, compiler of the famous classical dictionary, who was rector here from 1811.

Meldon

Meldon is located within West Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Lifton Hundred.

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 Meldon 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 76/11
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 76SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SX560924
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SX59SE
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 113
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 191
- Geological sheet 324 also covers the area

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

At Meldon, about 2½ m. SW. of the town [Okehampton], are great quarries of limestone. Meldon Viaduct, near by, is a notable piece of railway engineering, carrying the railway over a deep ravine at a height of 160 ft. The scenery around here is of striking beauty. Between Meldon and Okehampton, on the hillside below the military camp, is the site of Okehampton Park, the chase of the medieval Courtenays, now a wild spot covered with ancient hawthorns, holly trees, and great furze bushes.

Membury

Membury is located within East Devon local authority area. Historically it formed part of Axminster Hundred. It falls within Honiton Vol 2 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 709 in 1801 603 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. The lay subsidy of 1524 valued the community at £10/07/10.

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.

Maps

The image below is of the Membury 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 59/12
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 59SE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is ST277030
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet ST20SE
 - 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:

Membury takes its name from the hill-fort to the E. ("the stone fort"), probably of late Iron Age date, and a part of the frontier defences of the Dumnonii against the people of Dorset.

The church (St. John the Baptist) is interesting. The chancel is 13th century; much of the remainder is 1400-1500. The S. or Yarty aisle contains a monument to Sir Shilston Calmady, who was killed in a skirmish near the village in February 1646, and was buried in the chancel. There are several monuments to the Frys of Yarty. The roof and screen should be noted. Yarty was rebuilt by Nicholas Fry who was sheriff of Devon in 1626, and is a good E- shaped manor house of that period.

Waterhouse Farm is an attractive 16th century house, built around a small courtyard. At Membury Court one room contains a fine oak ceiling of early 16th century date. In the field just beyond a Roman villa was excavated in 1914.

Merton

Merton is located within Torridge local authority area. Historically it formed part of Shebbear Hundred. It falls within Torrington 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 689 in 1801 507 in 1901. Figures for other years are available on the local studies website. In 1641/2 133 adult males signed the Protestation returns.

A parish history file is held in Torrington 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 Merton 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 41/5,9
- Six inch (1:10560) sheet 41NW,41NE
- The National Grid reference for the centre of the area is SS528123
- On the post 1945 National Grid Ordnance Survey mapping the sheets are:
 - Six inch to a mile (1:10,000) sheet SS51SW
 - Explorer (1:25,000) mapping sheet 127
 - Landranger (1:50,000) mapping sheet 180
- Geological sheet 309 also covers the area

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

Merton village is unexciting; and the church of All Saints was grossly over-restored at great cost in 1875. Only the bold W. tower and the lofty N. arcade of granite (both 15th century) remain of the old building.

Walter de Merton, founder of Merton College at Oxford, was born here*. Other Domesday estates were Potheridge, Speccott, and Dunsbear, all of which have some interest. The Monks owned Great Potheridge as early as Henry II's time. George Monk, 1st Duke of Albemarle, was born here in 1608 and rebuilt the ancestral house on a grand scale c. 1660-70. This great house was almost entirely demolished after the death of the second duchess in 1734 but the splendid oak staircase remains, together with its painted and plastered ceiling, and a fine panelled room.

At Speccott Barton, about 1 m. SW. of Great Potheridge, the Speccotts lived from the 12th to the 17th century. The present house was much rebuilt in the 19th century.

*The great Walter de Merton, Bishop of Rochester, and founder of Merton College, Oxford, was a native of Basingstoke. His parents were buried in the church, and his mother had inherited property in the town. (Information provided by Friends of Merton Priory and the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.)