

- 9700BC** Settlers in Devon
- 6000BC** Dartmoor mesolithic hunter gatherers cleared oak forests which created Exmoor
- 3500BC** Neolithic farming on Exmoor and stone monuments
- Roman invasion of Devon (Dumnonii people - Deep Valley Dwellers) or 'Worshippers of the god Dumnonos'
- 43**
- 55** Roman military occupation as Devon was not Romanised
- 300** Devon known as Civitas (Roman)
- 410** Brythonic kingdom emerged based on the old Roman civitas surrounding Exeter. It was in Latin, Dumnonia and, in the native Brythonic lang, Dyfneint: pron 'Dove-naynt' and eventually corrupted to 'Devon'.
- 410** Dumnonia traded with the Byzantine empire
- 540** Gildas castigated Constantius of Dumnonia for his behaviour
- 600** Saxon raids start
- 682** Saxons drive the British "as far as the sea" to North Cornwall
- 700** Saxon village at Big Tinney
- 705** Devon in the Bishopric of Sherborne Dorset
- 800** Viking raids of Devon start
- 825** Devon men recorded as fighting against the foreigners in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle
- 832** Combined Viking and Cornish force defeated at Callington
- 878** Battle of Cynwit - Devonians defeated by Vikings
- 905** Devon given its own Bishopric
- 927** Britons and Saxons living like equals in Exeter
- 1001** battle of Pinhoe - Vikings laying siege to Exeter
- 1066** 18 day Siege of Exeter by Willaim the Conqueror
- 1100** Devon tin miners enjoy independence
- 1140** Civil war, castles held against the King at Exeter and Plymouth
- 1450** French raids on the Devon coast
- 1242** Dartmoor and Exmoor diafforested
- 1262** John le Gras rector of Pyworthy
- 1268** Henry de Montfort rector of Pyworthy
- 1300** Devon producing more tin than Cornwall
- 1309** Master Henry occurs as Rector of Pyworthy
- 1310** Sir Henry occurs as Rector of Pyworthy
- 1326** Roger de Bokhurst reactor of Pyworthy
- 1347** William de Brauntone rector of Pyworthy
- 1348** The Black Death
- 1367** Sir John Flemynge rector of Pyworthy
- 1403** Richard Fraunce rector of Pyworthy
- 1405** Richard rector of Pyworthy
- 1408** John Cowyk rector of Pyworthy
- 14??** Sir James Francheyney rector of Pyworthy
- 1432** Sir John Thomas rector of Pyworthy
- 1434** John Ranald rector of Pyworthy
- 1441** William Bontemps rector of Pyworthy
- 1442** Sir John Theforde rector of Pyworthy
- 1444** Sir John Stranglonde rector of Pyworthy
- 1449** William Lambstone rector of Pyworthy
- 1469** George Strangways rector of Pyworthy
- 1474** Sir John Joce rector of Pyworthy
- 1479** John Dunmore rector of Pyworthy
- 1497** Siege of Exeter by the King's forces
- 1526** Sir John Arscott rector of Pyworthy
- 1537** John Colyns rector of Pyworthy
- 1539** Richard Benese or Benys rector of Pyworthy
- 1547** Nicholas Arscott rector of Pyworthy

- 1549 The prayer book rebellion
- 1550 Sir Thomas Rogers rector of Pyworthy
- 1565 William Moore rector of Pyworthy
- 1576 Roger Allye rector of Pyworthy
- 1588 Spanish Armada sighted off Plymouth
- 1590 Christopher Leche rector of Pyworthy
- 1610 William Tucker rector of Pyworthy
- 1620 The Mayflower leaves Plymouth
- 1627 Thomas Blighe or Blight rector of Pyworthy
- 1643 The Civil War - treaty signed between Devon and Cornwall
- 1645 Smallpox epidemics throughout Devon
- 1647 John Kelland rector of Pyworthy
- 1661 Edward Boni rector of Pyworthy
- 1676 Extremely cold winter in Devon
- 1683 Robert Beckley rector of Pyworthy
- 1688 Monmouth Rebellion Bloody Assizes held at Exeter
- 1688 Prince of Orange arrives in Devon on way to take the throne in London
- 1690 Earthquake in Barnstaple
- 1710 Smallpox epidemics throughout Devon
- 1712 John Bayley rector of Pyworthy
- 1737 Thomas Morton rector of Pyworthy
- 1743 Oliver Rouse rector of Pyworthy
- 1760 Smallpox epidemics throughout Devon
- 1781 Thomas Kingdon rector of Pyworthy
- 1808 Thomas Hockin Kingdon rector of Pyworthy
- 1810 John Bassett (later owner of Tinney Moor) is born
- 1818 Elizabeth Bassett is born to Nicholas (Yeoman) and Elizabeth at Worden in Bridgerule East
- 1818 Mary Bassett is born to Charles (lab) and Joanna at "Tines" in Bridgerule East
- 1821 Ann Bassett is born to Charles (lab) and Joanna at "Tines" in Bridgerule East
- 1821 Daniel Bassett is born to Nicholas (Yeoman) and Thomasin at Worden in Bridgerule East
- 1822 Jane Bassett is born to Charles (lab) and Joanna at "Tines" in Bridgerule East
- 1824 A meeting is held in Barnstaple to discuss lighting the town with gas.
- 1824 The Circus of Mr Powel and the Amphitheatre of Mr Samuel' appear at Barnstaple Fair.
- 1824 Lee's Company of Comedians play in the Corn Market in Bideford
- 1824 Thomasin Bassett is born to Charles (Moor Lab) and Joanna at "Sires" in Bridgerule East,  
A dog-fight at Bradiford, just outside Barnstaple attracts nearly 200 people to view this barbaric  
'sport'.
- 1824 Lord Rolle lays the foundation stone at Beam House for an aqueduct designed to carry his new  
canal from Bideford to Torrington.
- 1824 A new lace factory is begun at South Molton by Maunder & Son following a pattern set two years  
earlier in Barnstaple when lace manufacturers from the Midlands, fleeing an outbreak of machine-  
breaking by mobs fearful of losing their jobs, came to the more peaceful North Devon.
- 1824 The foundation stone of the North Devon Infirmary, the first public hospital in the area, is laid on a  
site opposite what later became Rock Park.
- 1825 The spinning factory of Mr Reed, at Red Bridge is completely destroyed by fire.
- 1825 At Bideford an area of marshland that was later to become Victoria Park is embanked.  
The *Journal* recounts how a 'strata of bones, of a dimension much larger than those of any animal  
at present inhabiting this country', had been found at Baggy Point near Croyde.
- 1825 In Bideford 300 men and horses of the 14th Regiment of Dragoons board their transport ships en  
route to Ireland.
- 1825 A subscription list is started to build a new chapel at Newport in Barnstaple.
- 1825 A 'Grand Match of Cock-fighting' was held at Atherington.
- 1825 Tenders were invited for the rebuilding of South Molton church.  
At Bideford the pannier market is roofed over for the first time 'which will afford great accommodation  
to the public.'
- 1825 Also at Bideford a new road is to be constructed between Orchard Hill and the building that until

recently was the Convent.

Torrington is visited by a migration agent seeing how many glovemakers might be 'induced to accompany him to the South America settlement of Rio de La Plata, where a most extensive trade in the glove business is in contemplation, in consequence of the great number of cattle with which that region abounds.'

1825

A field in Barnstaple near the new Derby lace factory of about an acre is sold to a speculative builder 'at the astonishing price of £2,000.' This later became Union Street.

1825

Clovelly pier is washed away thus throwing the future of the village's thriving herring fishery into doubt.

1825

Thomas Bailey Bassett is born to Nicholas (Innkeeper) and Ann, address "Bridge" in Bridgerule East

1825

The Bideford Bridge Trust erect lights along the Quay.

1826

Sir John Williams of Clovelly announces he is to rebuild the pier 'to the great joy of the inhabitants of that place.'

1826

An odd folk belief is exposed when a man is committed to gaol in Barnstaple 'for begging pence, under pretence of having epileptic fits, for which a ring purchased with money so obtained, is held by some superstitious people as an infallible cure.'

1826

The foundation stone of the new enlarged South Molton church is laid.

1826

John King of Welcombe is fined the immense sum of £150 for smuggling brandy and gin.

1826

Lord Rolle is pushing ahead with his new canal from Bideford to Torrington ordering that '500 trees that are in the line are to be taken down, and two lime kilns, for the service of the farmers, are to be built.'

1826

In opening a family grave at Frithelstock to inter a new body a skeleton is found in its coffin 'but with its face downwards' suggesting that the unfortunate person had been buried alive. The reporter commented very oddly 'Happily for those who assisted at the obsequies... length of time removed them from the possibility of any painful reflection.'

1826

The new Barnstaple Guildhall is 'opened for business'.

1826

Whilst a steam ship was under construction to run a regular service between Bristol and Bideford, it is noted that many seamen at Appledore were 'left in a destitute state' owing to the decline of sailing craft.

1826

Mary Ann Bassett is born to Nicholas (Innkeeper) and Ann, address "Bridge" in Bridgerule East

1826

A call goes up in Barnstaple for street lighting 'for the prevention of vice and immorality.'

1827

Grace Bowden of Tawstock has her third illegitimate child - and is gaoled for six months as 'a loose and disorderly woman'.

1827

The Exeter-Bideford coach crashes at Huntshaw and one man is killed.

1827

Bray Mills at Chittlehampton are burnt down by an unknown arsonist.

1827

A woman called Maddix comes to Bideford Market from Lundy and gives birth to twins at Hoops Inn on her way home.

1827

Six new bells cast by Mr Taylor of Buckland Brewer are installed at Combe Martin church.

1827

Public notice is given that boys playing with a bat and ball in Barnstaple's streets will in future be put in the stocks.

1827

A cricket match is held between the North Devon Club and the 'Gentlemen of Teignbridge' - which the latter wins.

1827

Richard Pugsley a worker at the Rawleigh Lace Mill in Barnstaple is sentenced to one month on the treadmill as an example 'in order to repress the spirit of insubordination, which is so dangerously prevalent among the junior classes.'

1827

Hot and cold seawater baths are built in Bideford where the Town Hall now stands.

1827

At Combe Martin a marriage between 64-year-old John Irwin and 18-year-old Elizabeth Gubb attracts a huge crowd with some people wearing 'huge ram's horns, the tips whereof were glittering with gold.'

1827

It is decided to build a new market hall at Appledore.

1827

Eliza Bassett is born to Charflès & Joanna at "Sires", Charles is a Moor labourer

1827

A baby is abandoned in Barnstaple and christened with the name Chance.

1827

Tinney Moor shown on old county map

1827

The new market at Appledore is opened.

1828

Samuel Bassett is born to Nicholas (Innkeeper) and Ann, address "Bridge" in Bridgerule East

1828

Smallpox is spreading in Torrington after being brought in by the child of a blind beggar. In Barnstaple the same disease is killing many children.

1828

The body of a Mr Parr is exhumed at Winkleigh to prove that his widow had not sold it to a surgeon

1828

- for dissection.
- 1828** The 'Rout Beggar' of Barnstaple - whose job it was to move vagrants on - is dismissed for inefficiency.
- 1828** The foundation stone of a new prison costing £1,000 is laid by Mayor at South Molton whilst the town band plays during the ceremony.
- 1828** A ship moored alongside Bideford Quay tilts over and its mast smashes the roof of Mr Wickham a sail maker.
- 1828** Bideford parish officials are to stop poor relief payments to any recipients found in a pub.
- 1828** At Torrington the dead body of a man is dug up and taken to prison to pressurise his family into paying some debts the deceased never paid. The *Journal* article is headed 'Caution to Debtors.'
- 1828** Maunder's Wool and Lace factory at South Molton is completely destroyed by a huge fire which could be seen 20 miles away.
- 1828** The North Devon Infirmary announces the construction of a ward for 'infectious or offensive patients.'
- 1829** John Gibbon marries Maria Couch at Braunton - after he had been arrested and brought forcibly to the church in order to save the expense of looking after her illegitimate child.
- 1829** A passenger boat travelling from Appledore to Barnstaple sinks and William Oatway and four others drown.
- 1829** A Coroner's inquest hears how two boys, Conebier and Ward, were burnt to death in a lime kiln at Chittlehampton.
- 1829** A Welshman attends the committee meeting of the North Devon Infirmary claiming to be a bodysnatcher and offering bodies for surgeons to dissect.
- 1829** Prieford Methodist Chapel is opened as is another in North.
- 1829** Mr Giddings begins building the new Braunton to Barnstaple road and at Beaford Lord Rolle's new road is opened.
- 1829** The annual inspection of the Barnstaple fire brigade finds it to be decrepit and with no buckets. The 17 fire fighters are paid £1 a year but do very little.
- 1829** At the annual licensing court the magistrates 'took occasion to animadvert in strong terms on a demoralising system which prevails in almost every village in this neighbourhood, namely of holding a Revel annually on Sunday, and expressed their determination to withhold the certificates of those landlords, who, in future, promote or encourage such scenes of disgrace, riot and intoxication.'
- 1829** At Roborough George Cudmore and his lover Sarah Dunn are arrested for murdering George's wife Grace with poison.
- 1829** Watermouth House in Berrynarbor is offered for letting.
- 1830** The shop window of Mr Launbridge of Torrington is smashed and watches stolen by unknown thieves.
- 1830** The first estate agency is established in North Devon when J. Ormond opens his office in High Street, Barnstaple. He had 14 sets of lodgings and 10 houses on offer.
- 1830** Two rustlers are apprehended at Mariansleigh, one of whom is dressed in women's clothes in an effort to avoid suspicion.
- 1830** New iron gates are erected at the entrance to St Peter's churchyard in Barnstaple.
- 1830** The new Braunton-Barnstaple road is opened.
- 1830** The old workhouse in Bideford (today's Royal Hotel) is put up for sale.
- 1830** George Tucker the warrener of Braunton Burrows charges Francis Drake with poaching.
- 1830** John Bassett is born to Nicholas (Publican) and Ann, address "Bridge" in Bridgerule East
- 1830** All the wheeled vehicles in Bideford are used to carry electors to Exeter to vote - including a hearse.
- 1830** The newly built church spire at Torrington is completed and one of the builders, Squire, does a handstand on top of it.
- 1830** Tenders are invited to build a bridge over the River Yeo at Sherwell.
- 1830** Lord Rolle is to build a sea wall alongside his land at Pottington.
- 1830** An arson attack at Pilton stokes fears of rioting over wages spreading from the Midlands. In Barnstaple 120 special constables are sworn in whilst the Rawleigh lace factory workers go on strike. Riots occur in various parts of North Devon.
- 1831** George Goff and Thomas Roughcliffe of Swimbridge are sent to Exeter prison for leading the local riots.
- 1831** Many new beer shops and pubs are opened in North Devon following the relaxation of the licensing laws.
- 1831** A Mr Bussell dies whilst in the North Devon Infirmary but after anonymous letters are circulated his grave is opened and shown to be empty. His body is found being dissected in the hospital theatre.
- 1831** Mr Slooman's farmhouse at Ruge in Tawstock collapses during a storm and two occupants are

killed.

- 1831 Two ships carrying 202 emigrants to North America set off from Bideford to the cheers of 5,000 people lining the Quay.
- 1831 A parliamentary election is held in North Devon but the electorate is still extremely small. The Barnstaple postmaster Mr Jones complains of the inconvenience from houses not being regularly numbered. The Corporation order that numbering is to be done from the East end of each street.
- 1831 The North Devon Races are established at Youlston Old Park and F Hodgson MP gives a silver plate worth £50 as a prize.
- 1831 A series of well-attended meetings in favour of the reform of Parliament is held in South Molton, Torrington, Ilfracombe and Barnstaple and resolutions and petitions sent to the King. The first Reform Bill presented to Parliament is defeated.
- 1831 Cholera breaks out in Britain and at a public meeting in Barnstaple a Board of Health is formed whose first job is to clean up the streets of the town.
- 1831 A smuggler's boat is captured at Ilfracombe after a local man gives information to the Customs Officers. His neighbours make an effigy of him and publicly burn it
- 1831 A duel takes place in Barnstaple when two solicitors, Charles Roberts and Mr Clay meet at Pottington Marsh and fire pistols at each other. Clay is wounded in the knee. This is the last duel in North Devon.
- 1832 George Furze is put in the stocks for six hours at South Molton for 'disorderly conduct' on Christmas Day.
- 1832 A packed meeting in Northam protests about the attempt by Augustus Willett, Lord of the Manor, to take over Northam Burrows. At Torrington another meeting is held to raise funds to defend men accused of cutting wood on Torrington Common which Lord Rolle claimed as his - the case is dismissed.
- 1832 Three men from Appledore are transported to Australia for seven years for burglary which is said to be very common in the village owing to the want of Christian education and a resident magistrate. The Reform Act is passed giving the vote to a lot of new (male) voters and celebrations are held across North Devon - except in South Molton where a public meeting censures the corporation for their refusal to provide any money for the rejoicings.
- 1832 A new church is opened at Stoke Rivers replacing the old one which has been demolished.
- 1832 An American timber ship arrives at Barnstaple with 'striking masts' which lower as it goes under the Bridge - the first time this has ever been seen in the town.
- 1832 The first election with the new enlarged electorate approaches and 'Householders of the Labouring Class' in Barnstaple allegedly promise not to patronise any Tory shopkeepers
- 1832 A meeting is held at Winkleigh to discuss the plans for a Bideford-Okehampton railway.
- 1833 New Wesleyan chapels are opened at Torrington and Braunton.
- 1833 A new Baptist chapel erected by John Miller of the Derby lace factory is opened in Boutport Street near Pilton Bridge.
- 1833 Gas pipes are laid throughout Barnstaple.
- 1833 *The Surprise of Chepstow* is wrecked at Lynmouth and looters are driven off by armed Customs Officers.
- 1833 The new Barnstaple-Bideford coastal road through Instow is opened.
- 1833 The warehouse, barns and stables of Mr Hitchcock, a woollen manufacturer of East Street, South Molton, are destroyed in a possible arson attack - a second fire breaks out there a week later.
- 1833 The *Eclipse* steamer arrives at Lynton and is said to be the first such vessel to do so.
- 1833 After a robbery in Barnstaple the thief James Knill is trailed to Littleham where he is arrested at his wedding breakfast.
- 1833 Mr Graham an aeronaut fails in his attempt to take to the skies in his balloon at Barnstaple. He claims that the town gas works could not provide enough gas for his needs.
- 1833 Tenders are invited for the building of a new theatre in Barnstaple.
- 1833 Also in the town four vagrants are gaoled 'from those filthy haunts, the lodging houses of Green Lane.'
- 1833 The Derby lace workers go on strike complaining about their 10¾-hour day (for a six-day week); they return after several weeks after having formed North Devon's first trade union.
- 1833 Daniel Bassett is born to Nicholas (labourer) and Ann, address "Bridge" in Bridgerule East
- 1833 Street lamps are erected in South Molton by order of the Mayor.
- 1833 The *Elizabeth of Liverpool*, an East India Company ship, is wrecked on Northam Burrows and its cargo is protected by Customs Officers backed by local Yeomanry Cavalry. The crew are rescued by

- the Appledore lifeboat.
- 1834** William Yeo married Ann Bassett in Bridgerule, witnessed by John and William Bassett
- 1834** William Jenkins of Marwood dies and his wife is widowed for the third time in six years yet she is still only 26.
- 1834** The herring fishery of Clovelly fails so the Rev Kingsley (father of Charles) declines to take any tithe payments from the fishermen.
- 1834** Christopher Lock, a stonemason from Marwood, attempts to sell his wife in Barnstaple Market. He is gaoled and his wife is thrown out of the town.
- 1834** The tailors of Barnstaple strike for more money as the new fashions demand more work and their pay hasn't risen in line with this.
- 1834** The foundation stone of a new Independent chapel is laid at South Molton.
- 1834** The Torridge steamer is launched at Appledore.
- 1834** A man called Tyte stands up in St Peter's church in Barnstaple during a service and announces he is the messiah - which causes many women to faint.
- 1834** Bickington revel features a 'greasy maypole' with a joint of mutton at the top; in trying to climb it a man falls off and is injured.
- 1834** New school rooms costing £900 are opened at South Molton.
- 1834** The new theatre opens in Barnstaple during Fair Week with a production of *Speed the Plough*.
- 1834** A labourer at Witheridge drinks 144 pints of cider over six days whilst mowing grass.
- 1834** Martha Burnard a widowed businesswoman at Bideford goes bankrupt owing £15,000.
- 1834** The foundation stone of a 'British School' is laid at Torrington.
- 1834** It is noted that 'the fashionable boroughs of Pilton and Newport' both now have post-offices - as does Swimbridge.
- 1834** Mr Huet, a dancing teacher of Barnstaple married a Miss Collier. Her parents object to the marriage and hold her captive after the wedding but her new husband rescues her with the help of two constables and a solicitor.
- 1835** A daily penny post is established between Ilfracombe and Combe Martin.
- 1835** A shop burglary in Barnstaple gives rise to the comment 'This event has revived the often agitated question of the establishment of a nightly police in this town, a protection which its enlarged population imperiously demands.'
- 1835** Large areas of Arlington and Loxhore are flooded during heavy rain.
- 1835** A young woman of South Molton offers herself as a wet nurse - she has a 'good Breast of Milk.'
- 1835** A new 'British and Foreign' School is opened at Torrington.
- 1835** A large fire in the 'Beehive' in the Square, South Molton kills one man.
- 1835** Lectures are held in Barnstaple on phrenology (reading a person's character from the bumps on their head).
- 1835** Two men sinking a new well at the Fortescue Arms Hotel in Barnstaple blow themselves up with their own gunpowder.
- 1835** John Parkin applies to open a wineshop in Braunton but is turned down as the parish already has eight pubs plus 'an immense number of beer-shops'.
- 1835** The Combe Martin and North Devon Mining Company is to erect a new steam engine at their mine.
- 1835** November 5th is celebrated in Barnstaple by rolling lighted tar barrels down the High Street.
- 1835** The setting up of allotments in Combe Martin has been very successful with 96 families now working them.
- 1835** Tenders are invited to build a new workhouse in Barnstaple to hold 300 paupers.
- 1836** Barnstaple Town Council decide to employ three men as 'general police officers' (watchmen in all but name) and to set up a police station in one of the shops under the Guildhall.
- 1836** A riot takes place at Sheepwash over the workings of the new Poor Law following which five ringleaders are taken to Exeter gaol under a guard provided by the North Devon Yeomanry Cavalry.
- 1836** They are each gaoled for three months. Riots also occur in other places.
- 1836** Bideford is lighted with gas lamps and Torrington votes to do the same.
- 1836** The Bideford Mendicity Society is established to help distressed travellers and 'unmask impostors'.
- 1836** The child of a local vicar falls ill and two doctors fail to cure it so the father calls in a 'seventh son' to use white witchcraft.
- 1836** A Barnstaple Town Council committee reports on the possibility of building a new riverside road - Taw Vale Parade.
- 1836** The foundation stone of a new Church of England chapel at Appledore is laid.
- 1836** An early tourist to the area, Miss Mary Webster, topples off the donkey she is riding near

- Watersmeet at Lynmouth and after hanging over a 60ft drop for some time falls to her death in the River Lyn.
- 1836** Roe and Facey's steam mills at Westeombe, Bideford are put up for sale.  
At Berryarbor the local clergy lock the churchyard gates to prevent wrestling and bowling taking place there - the locals are enraged.
- 1836** South Molton Town Council cuts the wages of its officers in order to save money.  
Barnstaple Town Council apply to Parliament for an Act to cut a canal from the Long Bridge to Fremington Pill - and to build a railway along the same route.
- 1836** The first Registrars of Births, Marriages and Deaths are appointed in North Devon.  
George Thorne - aged 9 years - is transported to Australia for the theft of just under £2. The judge in sentencing him said it was for his own good as he would 'be led on to further crimes, till he came to an ignominious end.'
- 1837** A pauper woman in Pilton, Ann Lock, dies of starvation; the inquest jury blames the Poor Law officers for their heartlessness.  
The authorities in Barnstaple print a list of paupers receiving 'parish relief' and put it on the church doors for all to see.
- 1837** All three lace factories in Barnstaple are closed owing to a lack of orders - 'It is painful to see so many industrious mechanics strolling about the streets unemployed.'
- 1837** Seventeen-year-old Fanny Acland of Torrington attempts suicide after being rescued by her mother from a brothel in Barnstaple.  
The *Journal* is published with black borders to mark the death of William IV. The accession of Victoria is marked by local councils handing out free drinks - which leads to drunkenness at Appledore and South Molton.
- 1837** The Ilfracombe Hot and Cold Baths (with their own tunnels to the sea) are offered for letting.
- 1837** Thomas Welsford, a lunatic, murders 4-year-old Thomas Ray at Marwood.  
A coroner hearing a case of suicide at Atherington orders the body to be buried between the hours of 9 and 12 at night.
- 1837** The Ilfracombe mail coach is involved in an accident near Blatchford Mill owing to the drunkenness of the driver.  
The Mayor of South Molton refuses to let the Barnstaple Theatre Company perform in his town. The *Journal* reports 'It would be well for the cause of public morals if this conduct of the chief magistrate of South Molton were more generally adopted.'
- 1837** An inaugural meeting for a Total Abstinence Society is held in Barnstaple - 40 people turn up. Within a month it has 123 members and a branch in Appledore. A shop underneath Barnstaple Guildhall is let to the Society as a coffee shop.
- 1838** A teetotallers' meeting held in Derby, Barnstaple, is broken up by objectors.
- 1838** The Shakespeare Tavern in Barnstaple is sold along with its 'commodious Racket Court'.
- 1838** Horse racing on Northam Burrows is advertised in the *Journal*.  
James Oakew of Shebbear is arrested in Bideford with two live ducks and five chickens hidden in his trouser pockets.
- 1838** Tenders are invited by the Combe Martin Turnpike Trust to run its tollgates.
- 1838** Queen Victoria is crowned and celebrations are held throughout North Devon.  
Edward Davie, Secretary of the North Devon Infirmary and North Devon Friendly Institution hangs himself in his office just before his 'irregular' accounting methods are exposed.
- 1838** The new Appledore Church of England chapel is consecrated.  
The Barnstaple cattle market occupies the whole of Boutpart Street and extends half way up High Street.
- 1838** The 'calculating prodigy' son of Mr Hogg, a druggist of Bideford, goes to school in Manchester.
- 1838** Two hundred men attend the inaugural meeting of the South Molton Working Men's Association.
- 1838** A new Wesleyan chapel is opened at Instow taking the place of one at Worlington.  
Mr Scott 'the celebrated American diver' dives off the top mast of ships in Barnstaple harbour and thrills the crowds who watch.
- 1838** Ilfracombe is lit by gas and gas lamps replace the feeble light at Ilfracombe lighthouse.  
Four hundred teetotallers parade through Barnstaple accompanied by their own brass band. The report notes that 'as they paraded the streets it was gratifying to make out among them many whose decent and healthful appearance contrasted strongly with the wretchedness and want which were betrayed in their circumstances but a few months ago, while they all were under the influence of intemperate habits.' A similar march in Ilfracombe is booed.
- 1839**

- 1839** Barnstaple Town Council send in a letter of support for Rowland Hill's idea of a penny postal system.
- 1839** The seamen of Appledore go on strike for higher wages.
- 1839** At Bideford a fight in the Market Place over politics leads to the death of one man.
- 1839** Devon cattle are exported from Appledore to the USA.
- 1839** The Rev Henry Luxmoore, vicar of Barnstaple, is charged in a breach of promise case. He had courted Elizabeth Irwin for 13 years and then married another. She wins damages of £400.
- 1839** A special meeting of Barnstaple Town Council hears that their police force is inefficient and that proportionately the town has more prostitutes than London.
- 1839** A poor man in Barnstaple asks the Overseers of the Poor for £20 to emigrate to Australia with his wife and six children - the Overseers give him £25 as they are so keen to lower pauper numbers.
- 1839** William Prust of Westleigh is awarded a prize for bringing up 12 children without any parish relief money.
- 1839** A letter from the USA arrives in Barnstaple after just 16 days - a new record.
- 1839** A school for children of non-conformists is established in Ilfracombe.
- 1839** The new Cross Street Chapel in Barnstaple is opened.
- 1839** The Ilfracombe gaslighter fails to light the town lamps as he is drunk.
- 1839** Two surgeons Francis Ridd of Barnstaple and James Lister of South Molton are bound over in sureties of £100 not to settle 'a point of medical etiquette' by a duel.
- 1840** A vagrant crawls into the limekiln in Barnstaple Square for warmth - his roasted body is found the next morning.
- 1840** Gangs of knife wielding boys are said to be infesting Ilfracombe.
- 1840** Copper and gold are discovered at North Molton.
- 1840** Lundy Island is sold for 9,400 guineas and is said to be famous for its butter.
- 1840** A vein of quicksilver is discovered under Torrington Square and a local man 'silvers' a mirror with it.
- 1840** At Bideford 'young fellows' lift all the paving stones in Grenville Street and pile them up in the middle of the road.
- 1840** Eight houses are burnt down in an arson attack at South Molton but no-one is arrested.
- 1840** A new North Devon Cricket Club is formed at Instow.
- 1840** At a wrestling match at Ilfracombe, Collings throws Jewell 'with so much violence to the ground that his neck was dislocated.'
- 1840** The *Journal* reports on a riot in Barnstaple when a 1,000-strong mob of women threaten to destroy a merchant's house unless he sells his stock of potatoes to them cheaply. The Mayor buys all the vegetables and sells them to the women at cost price.
- 1840** At Bideford 'young fellows' lift all the paving stones in Grenville Street and pile them up in the middle of the road.
- 1840** Eight houses are burnt down in an arson attack at South Molton but no-one is arrested.
- 1840** Supt Steele of Barnstaple charges John Ellis of the Bull Inn with allowing 'the worst scene of vice he had ever witnessed in the town.' Ellis is fined £3.
- 1840** A fire on Codden Hill threatens Bishops Tawton but is stopped just in time.
- 1840** Some 172 members of the Bratton Fleming Sick Club march through the village on their way to the Bratton Down 'sporting ground'.
- 1840** Joseph Hodge of South Molton dies after his illness is treated by 'an irregular practitioner' (a white witch).
- 1840** Anonymous threatening letters are sent round Chulmleigh and 'a watch' is to be instituted to catch the writer.
- 1840** A new market house is to be erected at Hatherleigh.
- 1840** Eight houses are burnt down in an arson attack at South Molton but no-one is arrested.
- 1841** In a period of high seasonal unemployment labourers are employed on repairing the walls and riverbanks in Barnstaple to give them money for food.
- 1841** Roger Leach, Governor of the South Molton Workhouse, is sacked after he impregnates one of the inmates, Elizabeth Holmes.' Rumour attributes to him several other similar cases of disgusting misbehaviour.'
- 1841** The Postmaster of Barnstaple John Harding is declared bankrupt.
- 1841** Moses Roper, an escaped American slave, talks about his experiences in a crowded meeting at Cross Street chapel in Barnstaple.
- 1841** Jane Willis, a thief, escapes from Bideford prison with help from her family. She is re-arrested at her father's house in Yarnscombe and transported to Australia.
- 1841** The foundations of Bishops Tawton school are laid in a corner of the churchyard.



- 1841 Watersmeet Cottage at Lynmouth is offered for sale.
- 1841 A letter to the **Journal** suggests Lundy would make an ideal prison.  
William Gabriel, one of the Barnstaple beadles, is fined five shillings (25p) for being so drunk he had to be taken to the police station in a wheelbarrow.
- 1841 Thomas Chanter builds his 50ft high 'signal tower' at Northam.  
William Litson, William Morris and Elizabeth Leverton of Barnstaple are charged with blackmailing a 'respectable inhabitant' with charges of being a homosexual. The two men are transported to Australia for 20 years and the woman for 15.
- 1841 The foundation stone of Torrington's Pannier Market is laid.  
The Ilfracombe Vestry meeting ends in uproar after an attempt to stop payments for the lighting of the town is defeated.
- 1841 A meeting of the Braunton Teetotallers' Society ends in a fight between pro and anti drinkers.  
Jane Miller, wife of the owner of the Derby lace factory in Barnstaple, dies aged 40 giving birth to her ninth child.
- 1841 South Molton hire their first policeman, Supt Fowler, direct from the Metropolitan Police.
- 1842 Tenders are invited to build a new three-arch bridge South of Torrington.  
The National Working Men's Association in Barnstaple circulate a petition demanding votes for all 1,400 signatures are collected.  
At Torrington 'A vast number of families in this town and neighbourhood are making preparations to emigrate to America.'
- 1842 Supt Steele of Barnstaple investigates the theft of the church plate at Tawstock.
- 1842 A traveller from Ilfracombe manages to arrive in London in just 11 hours.  
In Barnstaple the North Gate is to be demolished and the Blue Coat School housed there given new premises.
- 1842 A plate weighing 5lbs made of Combe Martin silver is displayed to prove the mines are flourishing.  
The Mayor and council of Barnstaple go on an 'Aquatic Excursion' down the Taw and have a picnic - the leftovers are given to the poor.
- 1842 The new iron gates to Torrington Market are made by Richard Baker, a blacksmith in the town.  
Barnstaple Town Council write to the Queen pledging their loyalty after an unsuccessful assassination attempt.  
A new bridge is being built over the River Mole and the South Molton to Tiverton road to replace a damaged one.
- 1842 A service at the Wesleyan chapel in Barnstaple is disrupted when a 'trickster' lets a black cat loose.
- 1842 A subscription is opened at Ilfracombe to build a promenade around Capstone Hill.
- 1842 Torrington Town Council decide to establish a police force.
- 1842 **Scarlet fever sweeps Holsworthy and many children die.**
- 1842 A photographer is at work in Barnstaple, he offers coloured portraits if required.
- 1842 Clay pits at Petrockstow are re-opened, the clay being taken to London.  
Agnes Priscott does 'penance' by standing in a white sheet during church service at Heanton Punchardon for slandering Elizabeth Martin of Heanton Court.
- 1843 George Puddington, a 16-year-old worker in the Rawleigh lace factory has his arm ripped-off in an accident with a machine - he runs home carrying his severed limb.  
At Ilfracombe prizes are given to the maid servants who had stayed the longest with the same master and never attended any place of nonconformist worship.  
At Torrington there is uproar over an allegedly 'Roman Catholic' stone cross erected on St Michael's church.
- 1843 Henry Phillips, a 22-year-old wrestler from Bratton Fleming, dies after a match at Landkey revel.
- 1843 The children of non-conformist parents are expelled from Taddipport Charity School.  
Queen Victoria sends £5 to James Vernon, a poet of South Molton, to help pay for an operation on his spine.
- 1843 The women who unload the limestone boats at Appledore go on strike for more money - and win.  
John Pearce the sexton of Broadwoodkelly tries to commit suicide by leaping off the church tower, he lives but later cuts his throat.
- 1843 A diving bell is used to raise a wreck off Northam Bar.
- 1843 A new chapel is opened in Bear Street, Barnstaple to house a breakaway group from the Baptists.
- 1843 A new Baptist chapel is opened at South Molton.
- 1843 Another storey is added to the South Molton Workhouse to provide a sick ward.

- Sarah Rew prostitute is fined five shillings (25p) for being drunk and disorderly at North Molton but being unable to pay is put in the stocks for six hours.
- 1843** James Slader, the 15-year-old apprentice of Isaac Start of Collacott, Fremington, dies of neglect.
- 1843** William Bouchier sues the Landkey Friendly Society for 14 shillings (70p) 'sick money' but they refuse, reckoning him to be a hypochondriac.
- 1843** Amongst the payments listed in the annual report of the North Devon Hospital are 'leech bills'.
- 1844** At Torrington a new road to Plymouth with a bridge over the River Torridge is opened.
- 1844** A display of hypnotism is given in Barnstaple Theatre by Mr Davey. He repeats it at Appledore Bethel but the Rev Clapp decries it all as 'nonsense'.
- 1844** Henry Drake, Town Clerk of Barnstaple, is declared bankrupt.
- 1844** A patient in Barnstaple has a tooth removed whilst hypnotised.
- 1844** A man is gored to death by a bull in Barnstaple Cattle Market.
- 1844** A boy is gaoled for two weeks in Barnstaple for picking a flower from a local garden.
- 1844** At Ilfracombe Mayday is celebrated with the blowing of rams' horns.
- 1844** A mob carry an effigy through Derby, Barnstaple - it is meant to represent and shame an adulterous woman living there.
- 1844** The Rawleigh lace factory closes and the machinery is taken to Tiverton.
- 1844** Local coach drivers in North Devon are accused of exceeding the speed limit of 4mph.
- 1844** At Barnstaple Fair 'The Devonshire Dwarf' is on show. Just 36 inches high and 35 years old, he comes from Buckland Brewer.
- 1844** Customs Officers from Appledore and Ilfracombe discover 103 'tubs' of brandy sunk at sea and awaiting collection.
- 1844** A talk on the 'modern author' Charles Dickens is given at the Barnstaple Debating Club.
- 1844** A Literary and Scientific Institution is established in a house in Barnstaple Square (it later becomes the North Devon Athenaeum).
- 1844** Jamin Bartlett, a 14-year-old Barnstaple boy, is cited by Thomazin Shortridge as the father of her second illegitimate child.
- 1844** At Chittlehampton a 29-year-old woman becomes a grandmother when her daughter, whom she had aged 14, has a child when aged 15.
- 1845** The prospectus for the Barnstaple and Taw Vale Railway is issued. The North Devon Railway Company issues 31,000 shares but applications total 220,000.
- 1845** A massive landslip occurs at Ilfracombe by the harbour.
- 1845** A letter writer points to the need for a roof over South Molton market to protect the female stallholders.
- 1845** A new road to South Molton is to be constructed alongside the River Taw.
- 1845** Isambard Kingdom Brunel visits North Devon to survey the route of the new railway.
- 1845** Seventeen houses are destroyed by fire at South Molton.
- 1845** Holy Trinity Church, Barnstaple is consecrated.
- 1845** A boy called Marshall is accidentally shot on Lundy.
- 1845** In Barnstaple the local Oddfellows process through the town and then hear a sermon in a non-conformist chapel as the local Church of England clergymen refuse to allow them in.
- 1845** Celebrations mark the opening of a new Quay at Appledore.
- 1845** The Mayor comments on 'the misconduct of many of the apprentices in Barnstaple' before locking John Pugsley up for six weeks for absconding from his master.
- 1845** The roof of St Mary Magdalene's church in Barnstaple is made of Combe Martin lead.
- 1845** The house of Mr Mills, an ironmonger in the Square, Barnstaple, is destroyed and his son killed when his stock of gunpowder explodes.
- 1845** At South Molton only a single voter bothers to turn up for the elections to the Town Council.
- 1845** Tenders are invited to build a road from Muddlebridge to Fremington Quay.
- 1846** The first turf is dug on the line of the Taw Vale Railway.
- 1846** The Rev Morrice of Clovelly denounces two of his congregation who marry in the Bideford Registry Office and not in his church.
- 1846** The influx of rail navvies into North Devon threatens to overwhelm Barnstaple's three-man police force so two extra 'specials' are hired.
- 1846** At Abbotsham John Bissett tries to murder Mary Brend. He denies all knowledge of the attack but is sentenced to transportation 'to a penal settlement for the term of his natural life.'
- 1846** At Ilfracombe smugglers manage to land their cargo of brandy on the beach after decoying Customs Officers to another site. Tobacco weighing 1,550lbs and thought to be part of this cargo is seized on

- the road from Parracombe to South Molton.
- 1846** Mary Parkin of Bratton Fleming is made pregnant by John Britten who then marries her 18-year-old daughter.
- 1846** The Secretary and House Surgeon of the North Devon Infirmary J.Knox commits suicide with prussic acid on the day his accounts are to be examined. He is buried at Landkey as the vicar of Barnstaple refuses to bury him in consecrated land.
- 1846** The Bideford policeman resigns and leaves town; it is later discovered that he has taken £24 of the rates money with him.
- 1846** Barnstaple Town Council try to block the consecration and use of a new graveyard next to St Mary Magdalene's as it is surrounded by the houses of workers in the Derby lace factory - they lose.
- 1846** James Williams of Tawstock is killed whilst working on the new railway cutting at Fremington on the same day his wife Ann gives birth to twins to add to her other six children.
- 1846** Winkleigh Steeple Chase is advertised with a list of prizes.
- 1847** The Playford paper mills at Pilton are burnt to the ground.
- 1847** Mr Borlase, a dentist of Barbican Terrace in Barnstaple carries out the first extraction using anaesthetic in North Devon.
- 1847** The Matron of the North Devon Infirmary resigns after she is caught stealing the hospital's money.
- 1847** At Bideford a coach crashes over the Quay and eight passengers drown. In the same month Bideford's new fire engine crashes into a coach on its way to the town.
- 1847** A second postman is to be employed in Barnstaple.
- 1847** At Yarnscombe a large public meeting votes to erect a school in this 'neglected parish.'
- 1847** A barge carrying 144 barrels of Guinness sinks in the River Taw, 40 barrels disappear and are thought to be secreted in the area.
- 1847** Sam Harbour and two other young men are fined 5s.6d (27½p) for playing football on Good Friday in Abbotsham.
- 1847** John Leech, a shoemaker of Barnstaple, sues his ex-fiancée Ann Veney for the return of £3.10s.0d worth of gifts he had given her - and wins.
- 1847** Rioting over the price of food breaks out in Barnstaple. At Bideford, South Molton, Northam, Torrington and Ilfracombe special purchases of flour defuse the situation.
- 1847** A Mrs Chappell of Honeywell, Marwood gives birth in a quarry on her way home - it is her 18th child.
- 1847** A bailiff, Lewis Pinkham of Barnstaple, is charged with horse whipping his wife. She drops the charge when he agrees to pay her 2s.6d per week maintenance.
- 1847** The Barnstaple fire engine takes only 17 minutes to arrive at a fire at Collacott, Fremington - only to find no water available so the house burns down.
- 1847** Councillor Arter of Barnstaple Town Council, who is being charged with non-payment of rates, moves a motion to do away with all borough rates.
- 1848** At Brendon 87-year-old Thomas Bale has his leg amputated in three minutes whilst anaesthetised with chloroform. The same drug is used during a childbirth at Bideford.
- 1848** A 'mutual protection' society is formed at Landkey by farmers anxious to tackle cattle thieves.
- 1848** A human skull and coffin boards are found in Gaydon Street, Barnstaple on the same site as earlier similar discoveries - they are thought to be plague victims.
- 1848** Queen Victoria purchases items made of Combe Martin silver.
- 1848** The tradition of 'Lent Shards' (throwing broken pottery at front doors) leads to fines for seven young men of St Giles and three from Atherington.
- 1848** Braunton appoints its first policeman. John Ockford, who comes from the Exeter city force.
- 1848** Mary Ann Cutcliffe, aged 11, is transported to Australia for seven years after being found guilty of stealing money in Barnstaple market.
- 1848** Queen Anne's statue in Barnstaple is vandalised.
- 1848** News about the French Revolution is pasted up on the walls of Barnstaple. The Rev Mules of Woolsery suggests the Revolution should serve as a warning to greedy local landlords.
- 1848** Owing to a spate of arson attacks in Chittlehampton the parish decide to hire a policeman.
- 1848** The culm mines at Bideford are reopened under John Maxwell.
- 1848** A Poor Law Commissioner arrives in Barnstaple to discuss the forced emigration of girls aged 13+ from the Workhouse to Australia.
- 1848** A Mormon 'prophet' appears in Ilfracombe and is accused of 'fanatical impudence.'
- 1848** In Torrington an effigy dressed as a 'papist priest' is found suspended from a cross on the church roof in an anti-Catholic gesture.
- 1848** Two cases of 'negative equity' are reported in Fremington - a problem said to be 'fearful' in North Devon.

- 1849 Amongst the Barnstaple beadle's jobs is the locking of the gate to Butchers' Row at 11 pm every night.
- 1849 The removal of babies and infants from mothers in North Devon Workhouses is suggested so that the women can be put to 'useful and remunerative work'.
- 1849 The newly rebuilt 'Market Place' in Chulmleigh is opened.
- 1849 Mrs Isaac's house near Huntshaw Cross is burgled and her servant visits the 'White Witch' at Chulmleigh to see if she can locate the stolen property.
- 1849 At Ilfracombe May Day sees all the girls in the town parading with dolls 'frizzed out in the best style' whilst the boys play 'cow's horns and tin trumpets' all day.
- 1849 The repeal of a law which guaranteed jobs for British merchant seamen is greeted in Appledore by the public burning of an effigy of the Prime Minister.
- 1849 The Ilfracombe Revel with its 'accustomed orgies' is held. A little later chaos and drunkenness reign during a day trip of 400 tourists from South Wales.
- 1849 Torrington celebrates the abandonment of attempts to enclose the Common.
- 1849 At Braunton Peter Coats strips off and begins preaching in the street - he is removed to Exminster Lunatic Asylum.
- 1849 A Barnstaple councillor suggests that 'aged paupers' from the Workhouse could sweep the streets thus saving money for the Council.
- 1849 The widening of Bideford Bridge is thought necessary owing to the many omnibuses crashing on it.
- 1849 At Braunton the sexton in digging a new grave exposes some human bones - an old lady takes a tooth from a jawbone believing it will protect her from toothache.
- 1849 An Inquiry into the 'Public Health' of Barnstaple opens, the evidence it hears is horrifying.
- 1849 A writer suggests that there are so many 'Old Maids' in Ilfracombe that some should be sent to the USA to look for husbands.
- 1849 A miner named Williams falls 130ft down the shaft of the Bideford culm mine but survives as he falls into 7ft of water at the bottom.
- 1850 A brothel in Queen Street, Barnstaple, run by Elizabeth Williams is closed by the police after she annoys the neighbours with noise.
- 1850 John Lillycrap, a servant at Fremington House (now a nursing home), shoots his fellow servant Robert Symons and then commits suicide.
- 1850 A Mr Hanham forms a congregation of the Mormons in South Molton. The *Journal* reports on their 'orgies... and their filthy and obscene conversation' which 'must not be represented on paper'.
- 1850 William Yeo a ratcatcher of Yolland, Swimbridge is accidentally shot by his blind nine-year-old son.
- 1850 The first plate-glass shop windows appear in Bideford.
- 1850 Pilton decides to culvert over the open sewer that runs down the middle of the main street.
- 1850 The foundation stone for Bideford's new Town Hall is laid.
- 1850 The seven-year-old son of William Denbow of the Castle Inn, Allhalland Street, Bideford, is said to be a 'calculating prodigy'.
- 1850 The old stocks kept in Barnstaple churchyard are so decayed that someone burns them as useless lumber.
- 1850 A 70-ton sloop is launched from Mr Geen's yard at Pottington - it is the last boat to be built there.
- 1851 The present school at Abbotsham is built on the site of the old poorhouse.
- 1851 Dennis Kingdon, a lawyer of Torrington, appears at the County Assizes charged with bigamy having married both Anne Stock and Anne Shear. He is fined one shilling (5p) after evidence is heard that his first wife had been blackmailing him for some time.
- 1851 A Mrs Franklin gives a public lecture in Bideford on the need for reform in women's dress - specifically promoting the wearing of 'bloomers'.
- 1851 A woman dies of complications following childbirth in Braunton, The only help her friends called in came from self-proclaimed 'white wizard' John Harper.
- 1851 A public meeting votes to lay sewers from Lake to Ladywell and through Bradiford.
- 1851 A group of local farmers around Barnstaple club together to buy two bloodhounds to track down cattle rustlers.
- 1851 High Bickington beats Bishops Tawton at skittles - 20 ruts to 15.
- 1851 Barnstaple Town Council spend £9.18s on building a hand cranked treadmill in the borough gaol.
- 1851 A fire which burns for 24 hours guts the sail lofts and rope manufactory of Thomas Evans at Chircombe near Bideford.
- 1851 A massive hailstorm hits North Devon on the first day of July leaving a 3ft deep deposit of hailstones at South Molton.
- 1852 Matilda Boswell, who claimed to be the daughter of the 'King of the Gypsies' dies in a tent by the

- roadside at Lilford in Abbotsharn. She is apparently buried on the site. George Boswell, who claimed to be the 'King', dies and is buried in Swimbridge churchyard.
- The first paid policeman is appointed at Appledore. He is sacked two years later after defrauding a local miller.
- 1852** The first sod of the North and South Devon Railway is cut at Copplestone.
- 1852** A subscription is collected to widen Sandy Lane in Ilfracombe from Montpelier Terrace to Worth. A 50ft long yacht is built in a field at Ilfracombe three-quarters of a mile from the sea. It is taken to be launched on a set of wheels.
- 1852** Georgeham holds a special church service for the dedication of 'a new musical instrument, called the harmonium.'
- 1852** A 6ft long sturgeon is caught in Fremington Weir and is presented to the Duke of Wellington.
- 1852** A new Baptist chapel is opened at Abbotsham. It is said to be 'free of debt'.
- 1852** A serious landslip occurs at Lynmouth on the road leading to Watersmeet.
- 1853** George Thomas Kingdon rector of Pyworthy
- The death of 'the last witch in Bideford' is reported when Martha Lee dies aged 105 in the town's workhouse.
- 1853** A meeting of the Bideford Mutual Improvement Society discusses the question 'Ought Government to educate the people?'
- 1853** Sixty people are about to emigrate to the USA from Swimbridge.
- 1853** Siamese twins are born at Bishops Nympton, they are joined at the abdomen.
- The basement of the clock tower in Ilfracombe High Street is converted into a lock-up. The first prisoners to be placed in it are two drunken sailors.
- 1853** The North Devon Railway bridge over the Taw at Bishops Tawton is built.
- The first ceremonial sod is cut of the railway extension to Bideford from Barnstaple. The work is expected to take nine months.
- 1853** A beaked whale some 23 feet long is beached on Saunton Sands.
- James Leach, the 87-year-old beadle of Torrington, attends his 65th Mayor choosing ceremony in his official capacity.
- 1853** The two successful candidates in the recent Parliamentary election for Barnstaple are unseated on charges of bribing the electorate.
- 1853** A 'sportsman' on Northam Burrows brings down 34 plovers with one shot.
- 1853** Cholera appears in Barnstaple.
- A young glovemaking from Langtree called Mary Richards is murdered at Cross Hill, Taddipport, by Lewellyn Harvey a chimney sweep from Buckland Brewer. He is hung in public in front of Exeter gaol where 10,000 people turn up to see his execution.
- 1854** Charles Kingsley comes to live in Bideford. He hires the house that later becomes the Stella Maris Convent School.
- A new and much more powerful steam engine is erected at the Derby lace works in Barnstaple and a celebration dinner is held for the workers.
- 1854** Eastacott farmhouse at Knowstone is burnt down and some £300 in banknotes destroyed.
- In Ilfracombe Sandy Lane 'the ancient way by which our grandfathers approached the town' is renamed Highfield Road.
- 1854** The first telegraph message to reach North Devon is sent in March.
- In April a National Day of Humiliation and Prayer is held throughout North Devon as the nation embarks on the Crimean War.
- 1854** Messrs Amoll and Hodge open a new factory in Barnstaple to produce fancy biscuits.
- 1854** A lecture at the Strand in Bideford by an American temperance speaker attracts 3,000 people.
- 1854** The North Devon Railway, which links Barnstaple to Fremington, opens on July 12th.
- The Parliamentary election held following the bribery case sees R. Guinness of the famous brewing family returned as MP for Barnstaple.
- 1854** Cholera spreads throughout North Devon and kills many.
- 1854** Benjamin Disraeli visits Moreton near Bideford as a guest of Lewis Buck MP.
- In October the first Roman Catholic church in Barnstaple since the Reformation is opened - 'The town was immediately placarded by some zealous Protestants' attacking both the idea of Catholicism and the ceremonies associated with the opening.
- 1855** Charles Kingsley, then living in Bideford, publishes *Westward Ho!* The book is a huge best-seller and generates a tourist rush to Bideford and North Devon to see the places mentioned in the text (which is very anti-Catholic).
- 1855**

- The Pannier Market and the 24 shops of Butcher's Row in Barnstaple are opened. The architect is R.D. Gould. The idea to build a new market was first put forward 40 years previously.
- 1855** Edward Lancey, a 45-year-old lunatic of Bratton Fleming, is found locked away on his brother-in-law's farm where he has been held in a tiny room for 18 years.
- 1855** James Smith of Green Lane, Barnstaple is gaoled for one month after exhibiting an obscene image at Barnstaple Fair.
- 1855** The first telegraph message is sent from Bideford to Exeter. It asks 'Is there anything new from the Crimea?' The answer comes 'No'.
- 1855** The railway reaches Bideford and usage soon outstrips even the most optimistic estimates.
- 1856** The *Bideford Gazette* is started under the name *Devon and East Cornwall Gazette and Commercial Advertiser* by Thomas Honey who dies less than a year later. His widow Eliza keeps it going.
- 1856** A fire at Brannam's pottery in North Walk, Barnstaple nearly wipes out the young potter who hadn't kept up his insurance payments.
- 1856** A reporter in the *Journal* reckons that there are 300 prostitutes in Barnstaple - out of the 4,800 females then living in the town.
- 1856** Owing to a very harsh winter a soup kitchen is set up in Barnstaple and is used sporadically for the next 85 years, eventually even feeding evacuees in the Second World War.
- 1856** Dr Britton dies in Barnstaple after 25 years as physician at the North Devon Infirmary. He was at Trafalgar and caught Nelson in his arms after he was shot.
- 1856** The Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, visits North Devon incognito. He eats at the London Inn in Parracombe and stays at the Castle Hotel, Lynton and the Britannia Hotel in Ilfracombe.
- 1856** A meeting at Instow decides to buy 'a powerful steam tug' to serve Bideford, Appledore, Braunton and Barnstaple.
- 1857** The Howe Congregational chapel is begun at Torrington. A public tea for 300 in the new market follows.
- 1857** A large meeting in Barnstaple decides to petition the Government to do away with income tax. Speakers reckon the tax 'had been productive of great hardship, inequality and injustice' and was 'un-English'.
- 1857** Caroline Cleveland of Tapeley House, Westleigh marries E. Beach MP. The whole village is decorated and £20 is distributed amongst the poor whilst tea is served 'to the ancient women of the village.'
- 1857** The foundation stone of a new Baptist chapel is laid at Ilfracombe opposite the Clarence Hotel.
- 1857** The church of St Phillip and St James in Ilfracombe is consecrated by the Bishop of Exeter. Its cost was £6,000 and it had taken six years to build.
- 1857** Thomas Mortimer of Franklin Cottage, Braunton erects a 30ft high tower surmounted by battlements to 'mark the triumph of Free Trade principles.'
- 1857** At Bideford £300 is subscribed to widen the river bank along what is now the river frontage of Victoria Park. Trees are to be planted and seats provided.
- 1857** PC Sweet of Braunton is the subject of 'a murderous attack' by four men. It is later shown that he faked the assault and had, indeed, soon afterwards absconded with a young school teacher who was not his wife.
- 1857** A branch of the YMCA is formed in Barnstaple.
- 1858** The Gospel Hall is built in North Road, Bideford on the site of old pottery kilns.
- 1858** T.L. Pridham, surgeon of Bideford, is presented with a silver fruit basket by 200 poor people 'in recognition of his services' to them during a fever epidemic.
- 1858** John Barwick is sentenced to death for the murder of his sweetheart Maria Blackmore at Lynton. His sentence is commuted to life imprisonment.
- 1858** Two cannon are recovered from Bideford Bar. They are 7ft long and are thought to be from HMS *Weazel* which sunk some 60 years before. Another five guns are seen but not recovered.
- 1858** The North Devon Building and Investment Society of Bideford is wound up after 12 years 'all the objectives which it had contemplated having been accomplished.'
- 1858** A new Bible Christian chapel is opened at Woolfardisworthy.
- 1858** The new market at Holsworthy is opened with 'great rejoicings.'
- 1858** The Bideford Bridge Trust employ Mr Page, who designed Chelsea and Westminster Bridges, to draw up plans for widening their bridge.
- 1858** The Rev Joseph Lloyd Brereton of West Buckland is about to open his 'Farm and Country School' for middle-class pupils in his parish.
- 1858** William Burgess, a miner on Exmoor, murders his six-year-old daughter Hannah and throws her body down a disused mineshaft. At his trial he admits 'I murdered my child for the purpose of saving 2s.6d (12½p) per week that I might be enabled thereby to indulge myself in more drink.' He is

hanged.

- 1858** Water pipes are laid throughout Barnstaple starting at the Bridge Buildings.  
The Bath and West Show is held in Barnstaple and attracts a then record attendance of 30,399 people and makes a huge profit.
- 1859** John Seldon erects a factory in Alexandra Road, Barnstaple to produce long-stemmed clay pipes known as 'churchwardens'.  
The first letter boxes are erected in Bideford. In Barnstaple the four letter carriers are given uniforms of a red coat and 'a hat with a cockade.'
- 1859** The Challacombe policeman is denounced as inefficient by the local parishioners but is supported by the County Police Committee.
- 1859** A Congregational Church school is opened in Cross Street in Barnstaple.  
Barnstaple Town Council decide to rebuild Queen Anne's Walk. The work will include some public baths and wash-houses behind the Walk.
- 1859** Volunteer Rifle Corps are raised at Ilfracombe, Barnstaple and Bideford.
- 1859** The Lavington Independent Chapel is opened in Bridgeland Street, Bideford. The cost is £1,610.  
Flooding occurs at Lynmouth 'owing to heavy rain and the melting of snow on the moor.' The Lyndale Hotel is flooded to a depth of four feet.
- 1859** Many ships are wrecked along the North Devon coast during a huge storm. In the aftermath many unknown sailors are buried including nine in one grave at Northam.
- 1860** Dornat's Mineral Water Works is established in Barnstaple.  
The Bideford Rifle Corps expands. Its Sergeant Instructor is William Rogers, father of Inkerman Rogers later a prominent historian of North Devon.
- 1860** Weare Giffard School (now the Village Hall) is erected at a cost of £400.
- 1860** A Bible Christian chapel is opened at Dyke, Clovelly.  
A police station is built in Steppa Lane, South Molton. It is to have two cells and accommodation for a policeman.
- 1860** The baths and wash-houses erected behind Queen Anne's Walk are opened. There are six 'private baths for ladies and gentlemen' and a 'wash house for the poor.'
- 1860** Bideford Post Office moves to the building now housing the New Look store.  
In Ilfracombe the 'opening of a wider road at the Millhead from Fore-street has given convenient access to the Parade for the first time for wheeled chairs.'
- 1860** A Volunteer Rifle Corps is established at Lynton.
- 1861** A new infant school is opened at South Molton at a total cost of £800.
- 1861** The foundation stones of new Wesleyan chapels are laid at Fremington and Westdown.  
The first section of the recreation area later to be known as Rock Park is opened to the public at Barnstaple. At this date it is known as Chanter's Green.  
A greatly expanded Baptist chapel is opened in Boutport Street, Barnstaple on the site of an earlier one.
- 1861** Another meeting is held in Barnstaple to protest against income tax. It is denounced as an 'abominable and inequitable tax'.
- 1861** A public meeting is called at Lynton to protest against the erection of a gate and the charging of an entrance fee to the valley leading to Watersmeet. It is decided to take the case to court.
- 1861** A scheme is started to build a floating dock at Instow.  
A new Bible Christian chapel is brought into use at Yarnscombe, It is 'a wooden structure built on six wheels' designed 'to prevent it becoming the property of the owner of the soil, on the expiration of the lease on which it was granted to the lessee.'
- 1861** The Inspector of Constabulary refuses to certify that the Barnstaple police force was 'efficient' and suggests that they amalgamate with the Devon County force.  
Following the death of Prince Albert the fountain and clock tower in the Square at Barnstaple is erected as a memorial. It costs £216.
- 1862** The *Hope* lifeboat is presented to Appledore and is soon in action rescuing sailors in the Bay.  
The foundation stone of a new Town Hall is laid at Ilfracombe. The chairman of the Local Board (council) announces 'We have no selfish or sinister ends to answer in this great undertaking.'
- 1862** Bideford parish church is completely rebuilt with only the tower being left from the original building.  
Various graves and wall plaques are also retained.
- 1862** Messrs Arnoll and Hodge of the West of England Biscuit Co on the Strand in Barnstaple start selling the first machine-made bread in North Devon.
- 1862** Ilfracombe's new market is used for the first time on July 19th.

- 1862 Eliza and Ellen Lee, aged 10 and 2, are found dead from exposure in West Wood, Clovelly - although there is a suspicion the 'babes in the wood' were murdered.
- 1863 Floods in Bideford leave a live fish in the White Hart Inn in Queen Street. It is mounted and displayed in the pub.
- 1863 At the AGM of the South Molton Royal Albert Temperance Association it is reported that 450 locals had 'taken the pledge'.
- 1863 A new Wesleyan chapel is built at Eastleigh after Mrs Cleveland of Tapeley Park gives the land.
- 1863 John May Miller, co-owner of the Derby lace factory in Barnstaple is elected Mayor of the town.
- 1863 A small earthquake shakes the area.
- 1863 The foundation stone of a new Market at South Molton is laid by the Mayor.
- 1863 The Ilfracombe Railway Bill is thrown out by Parliament. Two locals who helped stop it are threatened by a mob and the Riot Act has to be read.
- 1863 Messrs Heard construct a new quay at East-the-Water in Bideford.
- 1863 Mary Jane Yates of Peppercorn dies aged 45 - 'this lady, whilst very warm, put her feet into the sea waters to cool them, became paralysed, and never spoke afterwards.'
- 1863 New walks on Castle Hill, Torrington, are opened 'amid general rejoicing.'
- 1863 A 'Working-men's Club' is opened at Bideford after 49 'gentlemen offer to pay £1 a year for three years to get it going. It lasts two years.
- 1864 Barnstaple Pannier Market is extended.
- 1864 Westward Ho! is developed as a speculative venture. It is named in a ceremony where the Countess of Portsmouth lays the foundation stone of a hotel.
- 1864 A club is founded at Westward Ho! to play 'the fine Scotch game golf' thus making it the oldest golf club in England. The first match is on November 10th.
- 1864 Granite is quarried in large quantities on Lundy for use in building the Victoria Embankment in London.
- 1864 Work begins on Bideford Bridge to widen it to 24ft. It takes two years to complete and several of the original timber uprights are salvaged during operations.
- 1864 The new market at South Molton is opened. The total cost is £10,140. Its use removes the old market stalls from the streets and Square.
- 1864 Barnstaple's parish church is to be refurbished. The architect is the famous Gilbert Scott who remarks on the steeple, 'Though making great pretensions to elegance, it is a most interesting and remarkable structure and gives much character and quaint antiquity to the aspect of the Church'. It is saved for later generations to admire.
- 1864 Eleven thatched cottages behind the school in South Molton burn to the ground.
- 1864 A man is discovered smoking during a church service at Fremington. He pays a 25p fine to the local hospital.
- 1864 Two Barumites die fighting in the Federal Army in the America
- 1864 A diver walks the length of Ilfracombe harbour underwater.
- 1865 It is reported from Bideford that 14-year-old Susan Mock who has not eaten for six months is still alive - though in a state approaching hibernation.
- 1865 Landcross church is re-opened after extensive refurbishment.
- 1865 During heavy fog the 800-ton barque *Eclipse* of Salcombe hits rocks at Hartland Quay and is wrecked. The ship's cook is the only casualty.
- 1865 At Barnstaple Town Council a resolution is passed 'expressing sorrow and indignation' at the assassination of US President Abraham Lincoln.
- 1865 At Westward Ho! T. Pynsent erects 'a beautiful Chinese Villa' along with 'a refreshment house with 12 rooms for lodging'.
- 1865 Some 500 'pot wallopers and socksmen' of Northam and Appledore turn out to throw pebbles back on to the pebble ridge at Westward Ho!
- 1865 North Devon Horse Races are held in conjunction with Bideford Regatta, the races take place on 'the sands above the Bridge'.
- 1865 The first engine to be used on the Devon and Somerset railway arrives at Barnstaple. It is named *Fortescue* and its first trip is on April 16th.
- 1866 Alverdiscott parish church is enlarged.
- 1866 A bailiff travels to Lundy to attempt to claim payment of a debt but is stoned off the island by irate inhabitants.
- 1866 The first trawler is built for the Bideford Deep Sea Fishery Company at Mr Johnson's yard at East-the-Water.
- 1866 William Huxtable, a silversmith of South Molton, offers to place a clock in the new Market there. His



offer is accepted.

- 1866** The sailors of Appledore who work on the limestone ships between South Wales and North Devon go on strike for an extra 10p per voyage on top of their usual 50p. They win the increase.
- 1866** The 'memorial stone' of a new Bible Christian chapel is laid in South Street, Torrington.
- 1866** After complaints about the stink from the mud, the 'small quay' in Barnstaple is filled in. (The site later houses the Strand bus station).
- 1866** Grace Gorwill dies at Torrington aged 86 after spending 78 years as a servant to the Friendship family.
- 1866** Edward, Prince of Wales, joins the Golf Club at Westward Ho!
- 1866** A 'mock mayor' is elected at East-the-Water, Bideford.
- 1867** The 210 room Ilfracombe Hotel is opened in May. It is considered to be one of the finest such establishments in the country.
- 1867** George and John Cox of Cleavehouses shipyard at Northam go bankrupt for £16,000 and some 150 men are thrown out of work.
- 1867** Fremington church is rebuilt to the designs of Gilbert Scott the leading church architect of the period.
- 1867** The cost is £1,650.
- 1867** A letter writer to the *Journal* describes the women of Appledore as being 'fierce and cruel, as starved tigresses; tearing of hair and scooping of eyes being their usual style.'
- 1867** A group of fishermen, out in their boat off Ilfracombe, see an 'unidentified flying object' enter the water near them.
- 1867** A mob of 3,000 people rampage through the streets of Barnstaple during a riot over food prices. The local Volunteer Rifles and 200 special constables bring the town back to order.
- 1868** 400 special constables are sworn in at Barnstaple to help protect the town from 'Fenians' (the forerunners of the IRA) thought liable to infiltrate the area from South Wales.
- 1868** The foundation stone of eight almshouses is laid in Meddon Street, Bideford. They are being financed by James Haycroft of London who was born in Bideford.
- 1868** A new turnpike road is opened between Combe Martin and Ilfracombe and a celebration dinner is held to mark the occasion.
- 1868** On July 17 a new waterworks at Lynton is opened to supply the village with constant clean water.
- 1868** The foundation stone of a new church at Westward Ho! is laid. The total cost is estimated to be £2,000.
- 1868** A fatal accident on the Instow ferry sees Edward Fishley aged 11 being shot.
- 1868** The North Devon Musical Festival is held at Torrington. The singing of a 'processional hymn' is described as a 'highly objectionable innovation.'
- 1869** The vicar of Woolseery begins a school for 'young gentlemen' at his rectory. He draws on his experience as chaplain to both Dartmoor and Portland prisons.
- 1869** A new Wesleyan chapel is opened at Landkey designed by A. Lauder of Barnstaple. The same sect's chapel in Boutport Street in Barnstaple is reopened after a complete rebuilding.
- 1869** Richard Hobbs dies at Bideford aged 81. He had been press-ganged into the Navy from Bideford Quay aged 17 and served at Trafalgar.
- 1869** Barnstaple Town council vote to build a new prison on a site in Castle Street.
- 1869** The east wing of the Raleigh cabinet factory in Barnstaple is completely destroyed by fire. Damage amounts to £7,000 and is said to be the largest conflagration in 20 years.
- 1869** On June 17th a new set of Public Rooms are begun in Bridgeland Street, Bideford. They later become a theatre and later still a cinema.
- 1869** A pier and harbour are opened at Countisbury on June 19th to serve some limekilns built there three years previously.
- 1869** The foundation stone of a new Independent chapel is laid at Northam.
- 1869** A W Hearson of Barnstaple uses a 'velocipede' (an early form of bicycle) to travel to Exeter at a speed of 7 to 8 mph 'without fatigue'.
- 1869** In Chulmleigh 25 houses including two shops and the London Inn are destroyed by fire.
- 1869** South Molton is completely covered by a type of cotton-like cobweb.
- 1869** The 'North Devon Savages', a bizarre family living at Nymet Rowland, are mentioned in national newspapers after some years of notoriety in the area.
- 1870** The Northam Burrows and Landing Pier Company is established to build a pier at Westward Ho! It isn't finished until 1873 and only lasts seven years.
- 1870** Arrangements are made for starting the construction of the railway from Bideford to Torrington.
- 1870** The new church at Westward Ho! is opened and the Bishop of Exeter preaches the first sermon.
- 1870** C Dornat and W Hazell move their soda water factory from Holland Street to a building known as

Maunder's Factory in Tuly Street.

- 1870** The new Cottage Hospital at Ilfracombe is opened on April 21st.  
After heated discussions Torrington Town Council decide not to amalgamate their police force with the Devon County force.
- 1870** The erection of 'villa residences' is begun in what is described as the 'little hamlet' of Orchard Hill, Northam.
- 1870** It is decided to build a new lighthouse at Hartland Point.
- 1870** At South Molton fire destroys 17 houses in South Street.
- 1870** During a gale in October, 50 feet of the Quay wall at Appledore collapses.
- 1870** A start is made on the Bideford-Westward Ho! railway. It isn't actually finished for another 30 years.
- 1870** The gazetter lists TAGERT Rev. Samuel William, B.A., rector
- 1870** The gazetter lists VOWLER John, Esq., J.P., Parnacott
- 1870** The gazetter lists BADCOCK William, farmer, Leonards
- 1870** The gazetter lists BAILEY Richard, farmer, Monks
- 1870** The gazetter lists BANBURY William, farmer, Pinkworthy
- 1870** The gazetter lists BASKERVILLE Elias, farmer, Crinnacott
- 1870** The gazetter lists BINES Miss Elizabeth, farmer, Dinnicombe
- 1870** The gazetter lists BELLAMY Timothy, farmer
- 1870** The gazetter lists BOLES James, farmer, Villavin
- 1870** The gazetter lists BOLES John, farmer, Thorndon
- 1870** The gazetter lists BOX William, farmer, Ridon
- 1870** The gazetter lists BRIMACOMBE William, miller, Derriton mills
- 1870** The gazetter lists BROMELL Caleb, farmer, Derriton
- 1870** The gazetter lists CARWITHEN Arscott, carpenter, Bounds
- 1870** The gazetter lists CROKER Willam, farmer, East Yeomadon
- 1870** The gazetter lists DOWNING Robert, farmer, Bounds
- 1870** The gazetter lists FRY Samuel, miller, Ridon
- 1870** The gazetter lists GERRY Richard, farmer, East Yeomadon
- 1870** The gazetter lists GILBERT John, farmer, Thorndon
- 1870** The gazetter lists HANCOCK Thomas, jun., farmer, Bradford
- 1870** The gazetter lists HOSKIN Richard, farmer, Piper's pool
- 1870** The gazetter lists JONES John, farmer, Killatree
- 1870** The gazetter lists JONES Samuel, farmer, Ridon
- 1870** The gazetter lists LUXTON Korah, farmer, Hopworthy
- 1870** The gazetter lists MEDLAND Richard, farmer and collector of taxes, Moor
- 1870** The gazetter lists NEWCOMBE William, farmer, Haggaton
- 1870** The gazetter lists OLIVER John, farmer, Hopworthy
- 1870** The gazetter lists OLIVER Thomas, farmer, Strawberry bank
- 1870** The gazetter lists PARKHOUSE William, yeoman, Winscott
- 1870** The gazetter lists PENWARDEN Simon, "Pyworthy" inn, and farmer
- 1870** The gazetter lists PETHERICK Thomas, farmer, Killatree
- 1870** The gazetter lists PHILP John, farmer, West Yeomadon
- 1870** The gazetter lists ROBINS John, tailor and draper
- 1870** The gazetter lists ROGERS James, farmer, Derrill
- 1870** The gazetter lists RUDLEY Abraham, farmer, Derriton
- 1870** The gazetter lists SANDERS William Hacker, farmer, Little Knowle
- 1870** The gazetter lists SANGWIN John, farmer
- 1870** The gazetter lists SAUNDERS Gilbert, farmer, Hoppatown
- 1870** The gazetter lists SAUNDERS John, farmer, Derriton
- 1870** The gazetter lists SLEEMAN James, carpenter and shopkeeper
- 1870** The gazetter lists STACEY Thomas, millwright
- 1870** The gazetter lists STEVENS William, cottager, Broadshill
- 1870** The gazetter lists YELLAND Azarias, farmer, Derriton
- 1871** In July 82-year-old Anthony Clements of Parkham is murdered. Izet Williams a local prostitute is arrested but released as evidence is lacking.

- 1871 The Barnstaple Ragged Free School is opened in Trinity Street under Frank Hammond.
- 1871 A new lifeboat is provided for Morteheo, it is named *Jack-a-Jack*.
- 1871 A decision is taken at Chulmleigh to erect a Cottage Hospital.  
Anne Prevost funds the erection of a drinking fountain at the corner of Montpelier Terrace and Portland Street in Ilfracombe - for the use of both 'man and beast'.
- 1871 A new schoolroom costing £800 is opened at Beaford.
- 1871 Barnstaple Bridge Trust decide to build 'Chambers' at the town end of the Long Bridge.  
Mrs Mary May retires aged 83 as Mistress of Barnstaple Blue Coat Girls' School. She has worked there 37 years and is given £10.50 by the governors.
- 1871 The first sod of the Ilfracombe-Barnstaple railway is cut amidst great celebrations.  
In Bideford a factory is set up to make shirt collars - the industry later becomes extremely important to the town.
- 1871 The railway in North Devon is extended both to Ilfracombe and to Torrington. The building of the new 'Junction' station in Barnstaple destroys the old harbour area that used to exist in front of Queen Anne's Walk - new quays are built at Castle Quay to replace them.
- 1872 A new school in Halsdon Road, Torrington is erected.  
Barnstaple blacksmiths, carpenters and plumbers go on strike for a 54-hour week. The strike crumbles after a few weeks with no movement on the part of the employers.
- 1872 Local schoolmasters meet to form the North Devon Elementary Teachers' Association.  
John Cann of Bradworthy reaches the age of 100. He fought under Wellington both in Spain and at Waterloo.
- 1872 The first record of any sort of football match in North Devon occurs in February when South Molton plays a team from the Devon County School (West Buckland). The latter loses.  
A petition is organised at Ilfracombe to stop further excavations at Lantern Hill as it is danger of complete demolition.
- 1872 The still-surviving railway station at Bideford is opened on June 10th.
- 1872 The brick field in Barnstaple behind Trinity Street is laid out as an estate for 75 houses.
- 1873 The promenade pier at Ilfracombe is completed and opened to the public. It cost £10,000.  
John Lock, schoolmaster of Parracombe and the local Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths, freezes to death in a country lane during a snowstorm.  
Miss Elizabeth Hutchings, described as 'a young woman of highly respectable parentage' from Barnstaple dies after overdosing on opium and alcohol.
- 1873 A visitor to Exmoor finds local labourers are earning just 35p a week.  
A Female Rescue Association is operating in North Devon saving 'fallen women' from the streets and sending them to a home in Exeter for training as servants.
- 1873 The vicar of South Molton introduces a new hymn book called *Hymns Ancient and Modern* which 'occasioned a violent controversy'.
- 1873 A vein of lead is discovered in Buckland Wood, Braunton and plans are drawn up to mine it.
- 1873 A Lynmouth correspondent writes of the 'spiritual destitution' of the place.  
91-year-old Thomas Mouse of Hartland reaps three-quarters of an acre of wheat with a sickle hook in just one day.
- 1873 Kingsley Terrace, Westward Ho! is to be converted into a school to be called the United Services College. Rudyard Kipling is its most famous pupil.
- 1873 The first hospital in Bideford is opened. It has six beds plus one for emergencies.
- 1874 The first Catholic Mission to Ilfracombe begins.  
A new wing is added to the Derby lace works in Barnstaple. Soil from the foundations is used to build the base of the new railway station in town. A damaging strike hits the factory and creates much bad feeling.
- 1874 The railway line to Ilfracombe from Barnstaple is finally completed after many difficulties.
- 1874 The lighthouse at Hartland Point is opened by Mrs Stucley of Hartland Abbey.  
The Torridge Vale butter factory is established at Torrington by Robert Sandford; it later becomes the milk factory.  
For their annual 'wayzgoose' 120 workers from the Derby lace factory in Barnstaple go by train for the day to Exmouth.
- 1874 There are said to be more widows in Appledore than any other settlement of its size in England.
- 1874 Only 12 people bother to turn out to vote in Torrington's Town Council elections.
- 1874 Lynton's District Cottage Hospital is opened on May 18th.
- 1874 A new police station is opened in Fore Street, Ilfracombe.

- The annual Lady Day or 'Gigglet' market is held at South Molton. It acts as a labour exchange as many young people turn up to obtain jobs for the coming year.
- 1874**
- John Gould offers emigrants to the USA an all-found journey for £3.
- 1875**
- A noisy meeting is held in Torrington to discuss rights-of-way on the Commons. At the end people refuse to sing the National Anthem but give three cheers for the Mayor, T. Jackson.
- 1875**
- A petition bearing 500 names is presented to the MP for Barnstaple asking that all pubs be closed on Sundays.
- 1875**
- The North Molton Inn in Bear Street, Barnstaple is purchased by the Bible Christians as a site for the Thorne Memorial Chapel.
- 1875**
- A new gas works is opened at West Appledore. To celebrate, the vicar provides a public tea.
- 1875**
- A Volunteer Artillery Corps is formed at Ilfracombe.
- 1875**
- Barnstaple Town Council decide to officially change the name of Back Lane to Queen Street.
- 1875**
- At Swimbridge 40 children march past the Rev Jack Russell's house carrying banners reading 'Many Happy Returns of the Day' worked in holly berries.
- 1875**
- Foot and mouth disease breaks out in North Devon. Barnstaple cattle market is disinfected.
- 1875**
- In Bideford the Library and Art School is established in Bridgeland Street in what is now the Masonic Hall.
- 1875**
- A new golf course is opened at Croyde.
- 1876**
- The Fremington Annual Ploughing Match attracts 22 horse teams.
- 1876**
- A new company is set up to work the Combe Martin silver mines, shares are priced at £2 each 'so that is within reach of the many.'
- 1876**
- In Barnstaple 'midnight marauders' are destroying ornamental shrubs and seats.
- 1876**
- Much of the pebble ridge at Westward Ho! is washed away. Hundreds of golfers turn up 'because they feel it is the last time they will be able to play there, in consequence of the certain destruction of the links during the coming Winter.'
- 1876**
- Several houses in Adelaide Terrace, Ilfracombe are destroyed by fire.
- 1876**
- Boys using catapults smash many windows in South Molton church.
- 1876**
- An old woman in Barnstaple fills a bottle with pins and needles - to prick the heart of whoever it is who has bewitched her.
- 1876**
- South Molton Council decide to use money left to them by Hugh Squiers to build a fountain 'of considerable size and height.'
- 1876**
- A dinner is held in the Music Hall in Barnstaple to celebrate the election of the town's MP, Sir Stafford Northcote, to be Leader of the House of Commons.
- 1876**
- 'Dr' John Harper, a white wizard then living in West Down is charged over the death of one of his patients - Mrs Sanders of Bishops Nympton. The charge is dismissed.
- 1877**
- The foundation stone of a new church at Parracombe is laid. Total cost of the new building is put at £3,000.
- 1877**
- The Bethel Chapel at East-the-Water in Bideford is opened.
- 1877**
- A 190-ton clipper schooner is launched from Westacott's shipyard in Barnstaple. It is named the *Marion*.
- 1877**
- The first school is built at Littleham.
- 1877**
- West Buckland School directors announce a dividend of 5% to shareholders.
- 1877**
- A serious outbreak of rabies occurs in North Devon, dogs being shot on sight if they are not on a lead.
- 1877**
- Parracombe Cricket Club is formed, one of its rules reads that the Captain has to 'admonish any member who may use improper or profane language' on the field.
- 1877**
- The *SS Ethel* of Newcastle is wrecked on Lundy and 19 of her 20 man crew are drowned. The mate survives by clinging to wreckage 'until he was dashed ashore.'
- 1877**
- Hampton House Boarding School, Holsworthy closes after a widely reported civil action concerning its premises being infested with vermin and other allegations about cleanliness.
- 1878**
- Chulmleigh is struck by a disastrous fire which destroys 25 houses and leads to damage costing £4,000. Some 60 hens and a dog die.
- 1878**
- In Bideford 24-year-old Mary Perry accidentally poisons herself after using too much arsenic-based spot remover on her face and also spreading some on bread and eating it.
- 1878**
- 'General' Tom Thumb the world famous midget visits North Devon.
- 1878**
- Prospect College, Shebbear is built. The architect is a Mr Crocker.
- 1878**
- A portion of the embankment near the Quay Station in Barnstaple collapses and the Ilfracombe train is derailed but no-one is hurt.
- 1878**

- 1878 A referendum in Torrington is held to close public houses on Sundays: 505 vote for closure, eight against and 22 stay neutral.
- 1878 The pebble ridge at Westward Ho! is breached and 100 acres of the Burrows are inundated. The piles recently put in at a cost of £600 'were torn up like so many pipes.'
- 1878 The Government order that Barnstaple Gaol is to be discontinued from April.
- 1879 A fund is set up in Barnstaple for 'the relief of those shareholders in the West of England Bank who have been ruined by its failure.'
- 1879 The completion of the Okehampton-Holsworthy railway is 'quite an important event for Holsworthy.'
- 1879 Barnstaple reduces its rates from 70p to 55p in the pound.
- 1879 Northam Gas Company agree to light Appledore and Northam for 100 guineas.
- 1879 The Department of Education order the Braunton School Board to be dissolved 'In consequence of the notoriety gained' by it.
- 1879 A new church clock is provided by public subscription at Parracombe.
- 1879 A new lighthouse is erected at Bull Point at a cost of £7,000. It will 'exhibit a powerful white triple-flashing half minute light.'
- 1879 A new Wesleyan chapel is opened at Morteheo.
- 1879 A new poultry, butter and vegetable market is opened at Holsworthy.
- 1879 W F Rock formally hands over Rock Park to Barnstaple Town council and asks the Mayor not to make any special testimonial for him.
- 1880 The Ilfracombe Hotel Baths are opened in August being the largest indoor seawater baths in the whole of SW England.
- 1880 The Rev Churchward raises enough money to build a Men's Club in the village of Northam. It still stands today, opposite the library.
- 1880 The Seamen's Mission is established at Appledore.
- 1880 In order to stop sand blowing across the road at Instow 100 yards of posts 'entwined with brushwood and furze' are erected along the sand-hills.
- 1880 W F Rock purchases the large house in the Square in Barnstaple as a home for the Literary and Scientific Institution. It now houses a museum.
- 1880 A 'coffee tavern' is started at Torrington under the auspices of the local temperance movement.
- 1880 A meeting in support of 'Female Suffrage' is held at Ilfracombe - it is run by three men.
- 1880 A Reformed Episcopal Church is erected in Summerland Street, Barnstaple.
- 1880 A roller skating rink is built at the Nunnery in Bideford - on the site now occupied by the police station.
- 1880 Tollgates throughout North Devon are sold off now that the old toll road system has been done away with.
- 1880 A fight between villagers from Romansleigh and Kings Nympton leads to the death of Richard Buckingham of the former place. His killer John Hulland is sentenced to a year's imprisonment with hard labour.
- 1881 The Torrington and Marland Light Railway is completed in just seven months.
- 1881 The pebble ridge at Westward Ho! is breached and some houses in Westbourne Terrace are said to be 'untenantable' due to the constant flooding.
- 1881 Anchor Lane in Barnstaple is renamed Market Street after residents petition the council.
- 1881 In Barnstaple a 70-year-old publican Richard Forrest is cited by his 18-year-old servant girl Jane Fry as the father of her newly born son. He is ordered to pay 20p a week to her for the child's upkeep.
- 1881 A poltergeist case occurs at Buckland Brewer when Lewis Withecombe's farmhouse is stoned by unseen hands. The case centres on his 16-year-old servant girl Sarah Ann Budd.
- 1881 Old Town Almshouses in Bideford are empty, one has collapsed and the others are in a very dangerous state.
- 1881 Bideford Town Council purchase the title of Lord of Manor from John Cleveland of Tapeley Park. The Manor Court which goes with the title is still held today.
- 1882 The Bideford Bridge Trust open the Bridge Buildings at the end of the Long Bridge, now used by Torridge District Council. The cost of £4,500 virtually bankrupts the Trust.
- 1882 A temperance meeting in the Music Hall, Barnstaple is disrupted 'by an organised band of roughs' who keep up an 'almost continuous stamping and shouting.'
- 1882 The Kingsley Memorial College at Westward Ho! is formally opened by The Earl of Portsmouth.
- 1882 The Ilfracombe Histrionic Club puts on two plays at Oxford Hall.
- 1882 The Bideford Amateur Rowing Club is formed.
- 1882 Joseph Simmons announces that he will cross the Bristol Channel in a balloon. Setting out from

- Ilfracombe he only gets as far as Hacketts Farm, Swimbridge - 16 miles away.
- 1882** Riflemen attempt to shoot four porpoises that are seen 'frolicking' under Bideford Bridge.  
The memorial stone of the new Wesleyan chapel is laid at South Molton. It is a 'handsome Gothic building' which replaces 'ugly and almost useless cottages.'
- 1882** The first electricity works are opened in Ilfracombe at Hospital Road.
- 1883** In June North Devon experiences an earthquake severe enough to be noticeable, indeed at Holsworthy 'houses shook to their foundations'. The shock is later tied in with the explosion of Krakatoa in the Dutch East Indies.  
Bideford Town Council start building a new Pannier Market which is not opened for another year.
- 1883** The market is moved to the bottom of Meddon Street in the meantime.
- 1883** A fireworks factory is operating in Weare Giffard.  
Local clergyman Parson Jack Russell, breeder of the dogs named after him dies and special rains are laid on to bring numerous mourners to his funeral.
- 1883** A packed public meeting is held at Torrington to mobilise opposition to the Hon Mark Rolle who is trying to extinguish commoners' rights on the Commons.
- 1883** The YMCA is established in Ilfracombe and 300 attend the inaugural meeting.
- 1883** Lionel Bencraft, Town Clerk of Barnstaple, retires after 39 years in office.  
A 'novelty in the district' is announced when the first telephone is set up in North Devon. It runs between two tanning businesses owned by the Smyth family at Swimbridge and Barnstaple. The 'distance of six whole miles was made as nothing by this form of communication.'
- 1884** Plans are drawn up for a new post office in Bideford's High Street. The site is owned by the Bridge Trust and now houses the TSB.  
The Lundy Island Cable Company successfully lay a telegraphic cable between the island and the mainland.
- 1884** A huge gale hits Clovelly and sweeps away part of the breakwater whilst many boats are sunk.  
A reward of £1 is offered in a bid to catch the person destroying the inscriptions on the gravestones in Braunton churchyard.
- 1884** South Molton Town Council petition Parliament to 'allow marriage with a deceased wife's sister.'  
A special train is laid on to carry 300 members of the Fremington Wesleyan Sunday Schools on a day trip to Ilfracombe.
- 1884** At Torrington the Salvation Army is charged with obstruction after parading the town and stopping at various points to preach.  
C H Brannam wins royal approval and sales for his pottery and renames his product Royal Barum Ware.
- 1885** At a dinner for his tenants Sir T Acland announces a cut in rents of 10% owing to hardship amongst agriculturists.  
General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, visits Ilfracombe and delivers 'an inspiring address' there.
- 1885** At Clovelly the breakwater still in use today is built.  
Thomas Western of Pixford dies and leaves eight of his children out of his will as he considers they bewitched him with a bad case of eczema. The will is challenged in court and a compromise reached.
- 1885** Stowford House. Chittlehampton, home of Colonel Chichester burns down.  
Apps Brewery at Littleham and Horwood Parsonage burn down in the same week which prompts moves to start a Volunteer Fire Brigade in Bideford.
- 1885** The Bishop of Exeter dedicates the new church on Lundy that has been built by the Rev Heaven.  
The pottery firm of Brannam in Litchdon Street, Barnstaple open their small but ornate showroom which fronts their new works.
- 1886** The Lynton Local Board build a new Esplanade and sea wall costing some £1,195. The report adds 'There is also to be a lift which will work between Lynmouth and Lynton.'
- 1886** A temporary 'iron church' is erected at Combe Martin by its female owner.
- 1886** The first telephone in Bideford is inaugurated in December.  
Sunflower Road is built in Barnstaple and Fort Street and Sunnybank are also being constructed.  
The Vicarage Lawn estate 'has fallen into the builders' hands' and is to be developed with 90 houses.
- 1886** WF Rock presents a sports ground to the town. It is an extension to the existing Rock Park.  
In Boyton, William Parnell, of North Tamerton, 20, lab, bach marries Mary Elizabeth Phillips of Boyton, 21m serv, spin
- 1886** At Torrington the Rolle Arms Hotel in South Street is gutted by fire.

- Rumours of financial irregularities in the Ilfracombe Local Board (the council) 'enraged a section of the ratepayers' who demand that all meetings are open to the public.
- 1886** A new Post Office is opened in High Street, Bideford.
- 1886** South Molton purchase a new fire engine from Merryweather & Co. Queen Victoria's Jubilee is celebrated throughout North Devon with bonfires and 'monster processions'.
- 1887** Westacott's shipbuilding yard at the Sticklepath end of Barnstaple Bridge is closed following the launch of the ketch *Emma Louise*.
- 1887** A new Volunteer Fire Brigade is set up in Bideford. Its 10 men are to be paid £1 a year plus an extra fee for attending fires. The captain is paid £3.
- 1887** A new hospital is opened in Meddon Street, Bideford; it later becomes a maternity unit and is now a nursing home.
- 1887** In Barnstaple a diphtheria epidemic leads the Medical Officer of Health produce a report which 'condemned many of the old dwellings.'
- 1887** The first electric light is installed in Barnstaple. George Sloman, a baker and confectioner, lights his shop on the corner of Joy Street and Green Lane. A large crowd collects to view this marvel.
- 1887** The *Monarch*, a 10-ton pleasure yacht, sinks near Tunnels Beach at Ilfracombe, and 14 drown. Licensing and stringent checking of such boats is introduced.
- 1887** In Appledore battles between Roman Catholics and Protestants occur.
- 1887** In Barnstaple, church services are boycotted as being too 'papist' for the Protestant congregation.
- 1887** A coffee tavern and reading room is opened at Combe Martin.
- 1887** The Salvation Army 'invades' South Molton and builds a new 'barracks' there.
- 1887** WF Rock pays for a convalescent home to be built at Morteohoe.
- 1888** Barnstaple Town Council lay out the embankment gardens lining the river along Taw Vale Parade and erect the dolphin-based lamp standards.
- 1888** Shaplant and Petter's Raleigh Cabinet Works in Barnstaple is destroyed by fire, damage totals £35,000 and 250 are thrown out of work. Within nine months a new factory has been built at the end of Barnstaple Bridge.
- 1888** The Victoria Pavilion, made of glass and wrought iron, is opened at Ilfracombe to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee the previous year.
- 1888** Charles Murch, the Recorder or chief judge of Barnstaple and Bideford, is asked to resign by the former's Town Council following his drunkenness in the streets and at church on various occasions.
- 1888** The North Devon Athenaeum is opened in its building in the Square, Barnstaple.
- 1888** Victoria Chambers is opened in the High Street, Barnstaple as a Temperance Hotel (it now houses Fosters' Menswear shop).
- 1888** On the 300th anniversary Barnstaple and Bideford both claim to have sent more ships than the other to join the fight against the Armada. Bideford has the strongest claim.
- 1888** W.Vaughan, owner of a Torrington glove factory, builds 'the finest and pleasantest building in the town' in South Street.
- 1888** A new golf clubhouse is built at the Westward Ho! links.
- 1888** A new shopping arcade and an adjacent Masonic Hall are built in Ilfracombe.
- 1888** South Molton Town Council changes market day from Saturday to Thursday. Local people ignore them and the Saturday market continues.
- 1888** The old market house in South Molton Square is converted to a Post Office.
- 1889** The first elections for the new Devon County Council are held in January.
- 1889** Herbert Harris of Buckland Brewer batters his wife in a drunken rage. Five of his fellow villagers then tie him up, put a placard reading 'Mayor Of Buckland Brewer' on him and parade him around the lanes to general ridicule.
- 1889** Charles Sweet Willshire of Barnstaple dies after being a councillor for 30 years and twice Mayor. A memorial bust is erected in the Square which is still there today.
- 1889** The rail line between Ilfracombe and Barnstaple is being 'double tracked' owing to the amount of business.
- 1889** Shaplant and Petter's new factory is lit by electricity.
- 1889** It is noted that there are no empty shops at all in Bideford. Messrs Tardrews in the High Street (now the New Look store) is the first place in town to use electricity.
- 1889** At Ilfracombe new 'villas' are erected at Tors Park.
- 1889** The Great Torrington Commons Act is passed which safeguards the land for the town.
- 1889** Bideford police force is amalgamated with the Devon County force.

- 1889** A branch of the Devon and Cornwall Bank opens in East Street, South Molton.
- 1889** In Bideford the new Higher Cemetery is opened at Handy Cross.  
John Pine-Coffin a local landowner and magistrate for Bideford dies. His portrait bust is later erected at the end of the Long Bridge where it still survives.
- 1890** The Lynton Cliff Railway is inaugurated.
- 1890** James Tossel is stabbed by James Heale at Bratton Fleming but the offender is only gaoled for four months.  
Charges of cowardice levelled against the Appledore lifeboat crew 'were clearly refuted in open Court'.
- 1890** The widening of Bideford Quay goes greatly over its estimated cost.
- 1890** The South Molton Shirt and Collar Co. is formed.
- 1890** August was 'the busiest month ever known' for tourists in Ilfracombe.  
Torrington Town Council decides to stop the cattle market being held in the streets and to provide a proper fixed site for it.
- 1890** Free Reading and Recreation Rooms are opened in Halsdon Terrace, Torrington.
- 1890** St Peter's church at East-the-Water in Bideford is consecrated.  
An inquiry into the state of the water supply to Braunton reveals that over a third of the houses in the village have no supply at all.
- 1891** A massive blizzard hits the area, closing the railway and blocking many roads for weeks.
- 1891** The Shebbear Bible Christian school celebrates its jubilee.
- 1891** Pilton Park is opened to the public.  
There is a large muster of the Volunteers at Westward Ho! and the Royal North Devon Hussars visit Bideford.
- 1891** Torrington Pannier Market is roofed over at the expense of the Hon Mark Rolle.
- 1891** The census reveals that Ilfracombe's population has grown by a third since 1881.
- 1891** Two banks open in Lynton and electricity is brought to the village.  
A North Devon Footpath Society is established to stop farmers illegally closing paths crossing their land.
- 1891** The North Devon Photographic Society undertakes a photographic survey of Barnstaple.  
The vicar of Pilton flees the area after a warrant for his arrest is issued over allegations about child sex.
- 1891** A temporary 'iron church' is opened at Woolacombe to provide a place of worship for both locals and tourists.
- 1891** **Harriett Shackson living at Yeomaddon**  
North Devon farmers say their 'position is desperate and that it is imperative that some assistance should be rendered them if the greatest national industry is not to mean ruin to all engaged in it.'
- 1892** All the coastguard stations in North Devon are linked by telephone.
- 1892** An epidemic of flu hits South Molton and Torrington, many die.
- 1892** A fire at the South Molton Workhouse kills three women and causes £100 worth of damage.
- 1892** A vegetarian restaurant is opened in Ilfracombe being the first in North Devon.  
The Roman Catholic church in North Road, Bideford is opened, This year also sees the erection of the 'Nonconformist Cathedral of North Devon' when the Wesleyan Methodists open their new chapel in Bridge Street, Bideford.
- 1892** Frank Barrington a railway worker of Braunton is fined 25p for assaulting his 90-year-old neighbour Mary Helson after accusing her of being a witch.  
A heavy plaster ceiling and the gas lamps it supported collapses onto a class of infants at the Bideford Board School in Gunstone. Incredibly, no-one is hurt.
- 1892** At Lynton the local council purchase the water works to ensure a good supply.
- 1893** **Tinney Moor Kelly's Directory - William Youlden**  
Mrs Roget of London presents Clovelly with a new lifeboat costing £700. It is named after her daughter Elinor Roget.
- 1893** In Torrington the cattle market moves from the Pannier Market to a new site in School Lane.
- 1893** **1893 – Ann Bassett died, Holsworthy**  
To celebrate the marriage of the Duke of York to Princess Mary the Mayor of Bideford presents 1,500 local children with medals specially struck for the occasion.  
John Pratt, a builder's labourer of South Molton, bets he can drink four pints of beer in 10 minutes.  
**1893** He wins his bet but chokes to death on his own vomit.



- 1893 The Benita coach carrying 18 passengers crashes on Direction Hill, Lynton. Three fall into the Lyn ravine and two including the guard, 20-year-old Alfred Sollis, die.
- 1893 The first meeting of the Barnstaple Radical Association, which can be seen as the forerunner of the Labour Party, is held.
- 1893 A Ratepayers' Association is formed in Barnstaple to fight elections on behalf of the 'ordinary man'. In Barnstaple Petter's collar factory is taken over by Symons, Sanders and Huxtable. It employs 500 girls to produce the stiff stand-up collars that are currently high-fashion.
- 1893 A brothel in Fry's Court, Silver Street, Barnstaple is closed by the police and Ellen Leaher and Lena Shaddick are gaoled.
- 1893 A fire at the North Road pottery in Bideford destroys the last link between this area and a centuries old industry.
- 1893 The *Journal* publishes Rudyard Kipling's reminiscences about his schooldays at Westward Ho! Edward Capern the 'postman Poet' of North Devon dies aged 75. He is buried at Heanton Punchardon.
- 1894 The famous zig-zag paths on Capstone Hill at Ilfracombe are laid out, whilst on the Promenade a large and very ornate bandstand is built.
- 1894 JH Taylor of Westward Ho! wins the first of five British Open Golf Championships. It is announced that a 130 bed 'Golfifarium' Hotel is to be built at Westward Ho!
- 1894 Some 3½ins of rain falls in three days in North Devon and flooding is widespread. Caen Street in Braunton is under 3ft of water and a local boy called Corney is swept to his death.
- 1894 The Sticklepath estate is laid out next to Shapland and Petter's factory in Barnstaple.
- 1894 A factory to produce butter from locally produced milk is opened at Witheridge.
- 1894 The first elections to the newly formed parish councils are held.
- 1894 Barnstaple wins the Devon County Football Championship.
- 1894 The SS *Devonia* begins operating from Bideford.
- 1894 A new bank is built in East Street, South Molton.
- 1894 A bowling club is opened at Oxford Park Gardens in Ilfracombe.
- 1894 A new Drill Hall is provided for the Braunton Volunteers.
- 1895 Leading agriculturists declare 'that the year has positively been the worst they have ever experienced.'
- 1895 Very severe weather occurs at the start of the year and skating takes place on the River Taw at Barnstaple. In Bideford ice skating takes place on the marshes adjoining the river.
- 1895 Various buildings in Ilfracombe including the Golden Lion pub are demolished to widen the entrance to the pier.
- 1895 A new gun battery is built at Appledore. One hundred local Royal Navy Reservists march to its opening carrying rifles, cutlasses and flags under their officer Mr Martin.
- 1895 An epidemic of scarlet fever breaks out in North Devon and 17 die. Houses are fumigated 'by means of buroing sulphur' but 'this causes such an intolerable smell on the clothing, bedding etc., which remains for many months, that the majority prefer to go without being disinfected rather than subject themselves to such an annoyance.'
- 1895 Lower Litchardon Farm in Fremington is completely destroyed by fire but prompt work by the Barnstaple Bridge Wharf fire brigade saves Higher Litchardon.
- 1895 The Ilfracombe Fire Brigade resign en bloc after a bitter dispute cannot be resolved peacefully.
- 1895 The Belvoir Mission Rooms are opened in Bideford in what is now Lime Grove.
- 1895 An Ilfracombe man invents a machine for producing fried eggs to order in shops.
- 1895 Two lighthouses are under construction on Lundy.
- 1895 A new pier is built at Wooda Bay by a local resident.
- 1896 A new art school is opened on Bideford quay. It bears a very large terracotta plaque recording its building although far greater prominence is given to the Mayor of the day than the architect.
- 1896 St Helena's church on Lundy is built.
- 1896 Thomas Cory Burrow starts the *Hartland and West Country Chronicle* newspaper which he prints by hand. It runs for 44 years and is labelled the 'World's Strangest Newspaper' owing to its rather eccentric style of production and contents.
- 1896 A major fire in July destroys 34 houses and shops in and around Portland Street in Ilfracombe.
- 1896 Damage is estimated at £50,000.
- 1896 An earthquake hits North Devon on December 17th.
- 1896 A new gasholder is erected at Barnstaple Gas Works to meet rapidly increasing demand.
- 1896 A children's ward is built at the North Devon Infirmary in Barnstaple.

- 1896** The Mayor and council 'beat the bounds' of South Molton for the first time in 40 years.
- 1896** A new police station is built at Parracombe.
- 1896** The Rev Edward Reynolds of Appledore dies after 53 years in the post.
- 1897** The cairn at Bone Hill, Northam is erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.
- 1897** The foundation stone of a new Methodist chapel is laid at Swimbridge.
- 1897** A huge storm hits North Devon blowing down various buildings and the pinnacle of Holy Trinity church in Barnstaple.
- 1897** In October the first telephone exchange in the area is opened in Barnstaple - it has just 12 subscribers.
- 1897** In Bideford the Pill, an arm of the estuary, is culverted.
- 1897** At Torrington the Town Council buy out the private owners of the town's Water Company.
- 1897** An attack of vandalism at Braunton churchyard is traced to a lunatic ex-soldier.
- 1897** Sir George Newnes offers a town hall, a mechanics' institute and a library to Lynton - 'Sir George's princely offer was heartily accepted' by local people.
- 1897** Barnstaple Town Station is built, replacing an earlier one near Queen Anne's Walk. Construction of the rail link to Lynton sees the in-filling of a formal pleasure ground laid out on what is now the site of the Civic Centre.
- 1898** At Bideford the present police station is built on a site that overlooks the river whilst a new Cattle Market is opened in Honestone Street.
- 1898** Torrington uses money raised to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee to fit out a house in New Street as the town's first Cottage Hospital.
- 1898** In Barnstaple two fields between Gloucester Road and Victoria Street are bought by house builders whilst C. Youings buys Litchdon House and begins enlarging it to form the Imperial Hotel.
- 1898** The Lynton and Barnstaple railway is opened and all schoolchildren in the latter place receive a specially struck medal to mark the occasion.
- 1898** At Challacombe a small bog breaks away and slides half a mile.
- 1898** A new 'mission church' is opened at the bottom of Calf Street, Torrington.
- 1898** A newly rebuilt Arcade is opened in Ilfracombe, it is said to be 'far superior to the original one.'
- 1898** Saunton receives its first post office.
- 1898** At Lynton a new Volunteer Corps is established and 40 men join.
- 1898** Stanbury and Son open their steam-powered Victoria Flour Mills on Rolle Quay. They can produce 100 sacks of flour in just 24 hours.
- 1899** The new Masonic Temple at Ilfracombe, with its strong Egyptian influence, is opened in December.
- 1899** A new steamer is specially built to serve the Fremington-Liverpool run.
- 1899** At Lynmouth Trinity House officials are constructing a new lighthouse at a cost of £10,000.
- 1899** Bideford Town Council complete the culverting of the Pill.
- 1899** William and Harriet married in Holsworthy, Harriett was from neighbouring Yeomaddon farm
- 1899** Sticklepath officially becomes part of Barnstaple.
- 1899** A polo club is started in North Devon in August.
- 1899** Castle Hill, Torrington is planted with trees 'and as they grow up they will afford considerable shelter.'
- 1899** In South Molton the Cottage Hospital closes but a Local Nursing Association takes its place.
- 1899** The Boer War breaks out and Ilfracombe raises over £500 for the 'victims' of it.
- 1900** The Tome Stone is set up in its present position in Queen Anne's Walk in Barnstaple.
- 1900** The old pottery kilns in North Walk, Barnstaple where the firm of Brannam's first started are demolished.
- 1900** Work begins on construction of the Market Hall in Market Street and Avenue Road, Ilfracombe, Building takes a year and the cost is £4,900.
- 1900** A massive storm hits North Devon, the church tower at Braunton is stripped of lead and timber and two large boats are beached at Fremington Quay.
- 1900** The new parish of Queensnympton is established.
- 1900** The Devon County Show is held at Pottington but visitors are fewer than anticipated - probably due to the Boer War.
- 1900** Lynton's new town hall, which cost £20,000, is opened.
- 1900** A 'Steam Laundry, equipped in the most modern fashion' is opened at Rawleigh, Barnstaple.
- 1900** Robert Chapman is the oldest preacher in North Devon - he is 98.
- 1900** A new tennis and croquet club is opened in Chanters Road, Bideford.

- 1900** South Molton church is restored at a cost of £2,000.  
The first public telephone in North Devon is opened in the Post Office in Cross Street, Barnstaple. A local call costs 1p for 3 minutes which rises to 5p up to 100 miles plus 2p for every 40 miles over that.
- 1901** The Miller Institute is opened in Barnstaple. Designed for the recreation of the workers in the Derby lace factory it now houses Yeo Vale School.
- 1901** Members of the North Devon Yeomanry who fought in the Boer War are presented with medals in Barnstaple Guildhall.
- 1901** Barnstaple Town Council decide to spend £27,000 lighting the town with electricity.
- 1901** Ilfracombe is linked to Barnstaple by telephone in August.
- 1901** Benjamin Lake JP and owner of Wooda Bay is gaoled for 12 years for the theft of trust money.
- 1901** A new waterworks is opened at Torrington to serve the whole town.  
At the proclamation of King Edward VII a ceremonial gun explodes killing Thomas Lee, Barnstaple's Foreman of Works.
- 1901** A 600-seat Kursaal or theatre is opened on Ilfracombe pier in March to cater for the thousands of tourists arriving annually in the town. It is removed only four years later.  
Bonfires are lit across the area to celebrate King Edward's coronation - unfortunately it is not held as he is taken ill.
- 1902** The first 22 houses of the Yeo Vale Estate in Barnstaple are built.  
Peace Day, to mark the end of the Boer War, is held at Ilfracombe. Medals are given to the schoolchildren 'as a permanent memorial of the happy event.'
- 1902** A new post office is built and opened in Cross Street, Barnstaple.
- 1902** North Devon is linked into the national telephone system via Tiverton.
- 1902** A French sailor is murdered by a compatriot on board their ship at Appledore.
- 1902** A new Conservative Club is opened in Broad Street, South Molton.
- 1902** It is decided after long debate to completely re sewer Ilfracombe at a cost of £31,200.  
October is the wettest month ever known with over 10ins of rain falling. The whole Taw valley is under water.
- 1903** The telephone service in North Devon becomes a 24 hour one.
- 1903** Smallpox breaks out in Braunton; John Basset aged 31 dies.
- 1903** The memorial stone of a new Bible Christian chapel is laid at Buckland Brewer.  
The Lynton and Barnstaple railway is opened and all schoolchildren in the latter place receive a specially struck medal to mark the occasion.
- 1903** At Challacombe a small bog breaks away and slides half a mile.
- 1903** A new 'mission church' is opened at the bottom of Calf Street, Torrington.
- 1903** Much of the sea wall at Instow is washed away in a huge storm in September.  
The still imposing building at the corner of Gammon Lane and Tuly Street in Barnstaple is opened by Glidden and Squire as an agricultural implement workshop.  
The Barnstaple Electricity Company opens its generating buildings in the Strand. The building with its imposing plaque is still in place today. By the end of the year it has 158 customers. Electricity is also brought to Ilfracombe in May.
- 1903** General Sir Redvers Buller unveils a memorial in Barnstaple Guildhall to those who served in South Africa.
- 1903** Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show visits the area.
- 1903** The clock on South Molton Town Hall is illuminated at a cost of £50.
- 1903** Ilfracombe decides to begin advertising itself as a tourist resort.
- 1904** Westleigh is hit by a diphtheria epidemic, 26 cases are recorded and two die.
- 1904** A section of the Royal Naval Volunteers is begun at Barnstaple.  
The iron foundry at the bottom of Newport is closed after 80 years and 30-40 men are made unemployed.  
The US philanthropist Carnegie offers Ilfracombe £3,000 towards the cost of a new library, the local council, however, cannot decide on a site.
- 1904** A community of Ursuline nuns travels from France and settles in Bideford where they open what later becomes the Stella Maris Convent School.
- 1904** The United Services College leaves Westward Ho! for Harpenden.
- 1904** The use of cars has spread: two Barnstaple doctors and a vet are now using them.
- 1904** The Liberals take over the old post office in Cross Street for their HQ.

- 1904** General Booth of the Salvation Army visits Bideford and South Molton.  
The *Ilfracombe Chronicle* is 'bought out' by its foreman J. Moore who enlarges and considerably improves the paper.
- 1904** The foundation stone of a new Rechabite (teetotalers) Hall is laid at Ilfracombe. The building is completed in July.
- 1905** Mixed bathing is allowed for the first time at the Tunnels Beach in Ilfracombe.
- 1905** A sale of the Portsmouth Estate in North Devon sees 43,000 acres change hands.
- 1905** A new secondary school is built in Ashleigh Road, Barnstaple.  
Princess Christian, sister of King Edward VII visits the area staying at the Imperial Hotel in Barnstaple.
- 1905** As income does not match expenditure a special meeting of the Board of the North Devon Infirmary decides to cut the number of beds.
- 1905** The Master of the Cheriton Otter hounds and his servant were heavily fined for torturing cats in Barnstaple whilst 'training' his dogs.
- 1905** A new gas works said to be 'one of the most up-to-date in the country' is built at Hele near Ilfracombe.
- 1905** The statue of Charles Kingsley on Bideford Quay, that has been paid for by public subscription, is unveiled by Lord Clinton.
- 1906** The Carnegie Free Library, named after the American philanthropist who paid for it, is opened in Bideford.
- 1906** Lundy is offered for sale at £19,250.
- 1906** The De Forrest Wireless Telegraphy Syndicate set up a station on Hartland Point.
- 1906** Prideaux & Son, coachmakers of Bear Street, Barnstaple add a 'motor department' to their works.  
In December Henry Ash of Sticklepath murders his lover Lydia Brown, stabs a man who tries to stop him and then throws himself in front of a train at Barnstaple station.
- 1906** The Mayor of Bideford plus the council all attired in their robes go to the Pannier Market to check the weights being used by the stallholders.
- 1906** HMS *Montague*, a new battleship, runs aground on Lundy.
- 1906** An earthquake hits Ilfracombe on June 27th.
- 1906** Lynton is linked to Ilfracombe by telephone.  
A vein of silver is discovered at Harford in Landkey by a local water diviner J. Gabriel. Further excavations peter out.
- 1907** Trinity House agree to place a 'light' at the entrance to Barnstaple Bar.  
A new Wesleyan chapel is opened at Bucks Mills. The 'moveable' chapel at Yarnscombe is replaced by a permanent structure.
- 1907** The Ebenezer Baptist chapel in Vicarage Street, Barnstaple is demolished and replaced with three cottages.
- 1907** In November an Ambulance Corps was started in Barnstaple - the first in North Devon.
- 1907** The Devon County Agricultural Show is held at Moreton near Bideford.
- 1907** Glovemaking, the chief industry of Torrington, has a profitable year.  
Ilfracombe Town Council examine the viability of buying a 'destructor' or a 'manipulator' to help get rid of their rubbish. They decide to buy the Pier and Harbour for £43,750.
- 1907** The residents of Orchard Hill and Raleigh in Northam ask to join Bideford; Northam Town Council fights this strenuously.  
Joseph Becklake of Woolsery dies after living for 23 years in the fireplace of a large chimney which was all that had remained after his farmhouse was burnt down around 1885.
- 1908** Parracombe church tower is struck by lightning and tremendous damage done.
- 1908** The Castle Flour Mills at Landkey are completely destroyed by fire.
- 1908** A new road giving access to Lynmouth from Minehead is opened to the public.  
The first detachment of 'Baden-Powell Boy Scouts' is set up in Barnstaple. Troops soon follow in Swimbridge and Braunton.
- 1908** The foundation stone of a new Cottage Hospital is laid at Torrington.  
The Territorial Army is set up in place of the Volunteers. The Barnstaple Volunteers march through the town at midnight and sign up to the new force en bloc thus becoming the first Territorial unit in the British Army.
- 1908** The Bideford-Westward Ho! railway is extended to Appledore at a cost of £10,000. A return fare to Bideford costs 3½p though a special workman's early morning fare costs just 2p.
- 1908** A 'large and unsightly gap directly opposite the entrance to the town from the Railway Station' in

- South Molton is filled with new houses.
- 1909** The first ever old-age pensions - worth 25p a week - are paid out in North Devon. Those recipients at Clovelly are so grateful they club together to send a telegram of thanks to the local MP.
- 1909** During a storm in December the steamship *Thistle-mor* sinks in Bideford Bay and 21 of its 31 strong crew are drowned.
- 1909** The foundation stone of Barnstaple's Public Secondary School is laid. The school later becomes Park School.
- 1909** A mysterious fast-moving airship bearing a searchlight is spotted over Ilfracombe by a local policeman - at a time when no such machines existed.
- 1909** The first council-built school is erected at Appledore.
- 1909** Bideford is visited by 'a band of militant Suffragettes' seeking 'an interview with Mr Asquith, the Prime Minister' who was staying at Clovelly Court.
- 1909** An international polo match between England and Wales is held at the Hotel Baths in Ilfracombe.
- 1909** The telephone continues to spread in Ilfracombe and has 25 subscribers by the end of the year.
- 1909** A new bridge over the River Mole links South Molton and Chittlehampton.
- 1909** Torrington Town Band are revived after the original one faded away.
- 1910** St Anne's chapel in St Peter's churchyard in Barnstaple is finally closed after serving as the town's Grammar School for many years.
- 1910** A gale in February upsets the Instow ferry boat and three men drown.
- 1910** At Ilfracombe Copp's Coaches become one of the first companies in North Devon to change from horses to motor charabancs.
- 1910** A massive gale hits Ilfracombe and causes extensive damage. A 'tidal wave' hits the pier destroying much of it. Westward Ho! pebble ridge is pushed 9 yards back and is lowered in height by 4 feet.
- 1910** The Braunton Electric Lighting and Power Company is set up to light the village.
- 1910** Miss Chichester of Arlington Court presents 50 acre of Morte Point to the National Trust in memory of her parents.
- 1910** Albert Kingdom is charged with speeding in his car doing 24mph going through Fremington - he is fined 50p.
- 1910** Sir George Newnes, founder of *Tit-Bits* and the *Strand Magazine* and great benefactor to Lynton dies in the village.
- 1910** The first labour exchange is set up in North Devon when an office is opened for one day a week in the shop under Barnstaple Guildhall.

Kind Regards  
Steve

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**From:** Ken Chilton (googlemail) [mailto:kenneth.chilton@googlemail.com]

**Sent:** 11 August 2009 11:58

**To:** Diane Soall

**Cc:** John Burnard; Ken Chilton; Derek Hambly; Jackie Parrish; Janet and Ivan Abrey; Frances Billinge; Stephen Gardner; Mike Godfrey

**Subject:** FYI: notes on Holsworthy - to help with any essays etc

*Historical Notes on Holsworthy*

<http://www.foda.org.uk/main/projects/eighteenthcentury/holsworthyarea/holsworthyintro.htm>

According to *The Universal British Directory* (1793-98) Holsworthy is 'a large place between two branches of the Tamar.' '8 miles north from Stratton, 14 miles east from Hatherleigh, 14 miles south-west from Launceston. About 5 miles east of Holsworthy is Dunsland, the seat of George Beckford, Esq.'

The name is said to originate from Haroldsworthy, and is a port town, i.e. a safe place to stay. Holsworthy still is officially a port town, with a court leat, and all the traditional officers with a portreeve at the head. It lies within Black Torrington hundred, with some estates falling within the Duchy of Lancaster.

Risdon's *Survey of Devon* (1714) notes that the manor of Holsworthy passed down through different families until 'by means of an entail it was purchased by Prideaux of Soldon.' In 1713 the Prideaux estates were sold to Thomas Pitt, Lord Londonderry, from whom it has descended to Earl Stanhope. In the 20th century the estates were sold to various people.

The Manor of Thorne belonged to the Holland family up to 1703 after which it was sold to John Coham, who resold it to John Ebbott. Following a law suit in 1703 Ebbott married one of the aunts who originally inherited Thorne from the Holland family. His name appears on the oath rolls as having sworn at the Crown and Sceptre, Holsworthy, on 12 September 1723. The Manor of Ugworthy in 1822 'now belongs to Sir Arscott Ourry Molesworth, Bar., and Mr. John Cole'. Cole may be descended from the John Cole who is named as a freeholder in 1762, 1771 and 1783.

Risdon's *Survey* states 'there was a meeting of Independents at Helston, the congregation were afterwards Presbyterians'. The 1744 visitation returns state that there were '5 or six of them [families] are Presbyterians, one Meeting House', but according to the Rev. Meyrick in 1779, 'nor is there any meeting house, nor ( I believe) one dissenter - for which I thank God'.

The visitation replies show changes in Holsworthy. The 1744 visitation returns give the population as between three and four hundred families, and 100 Communicants. In 1779 there were 'about 170 families', and the communicants were from 90 to 40.

In 1744 Holsworthy had no charity or endowed schools but several [religious] schools, by 1779 this does not seem to have changed, 'There is no school except a common one for reading & writing.' There was 'an almshouse and Lands left for the Benefit of such poor People as the Trustees shall nominate' in 1744, but by 1779 there was no almshouse, or charity.

The Rev. Thomas Orchard in 1744 resided 'on my Vicarage, which is in Cornwall', by 1779 there was a change of Minister and residence. The Rev. Owen Lewis Meyrick noted, 'I reside personally upon my Cure, in the Parsonage house.' This is possibly the new parsonage which was the subject of the 1727 church terrier, 'The Manor became the Parsonage with approx 12 rooms.' Four of the five signatories to the Terrier were also 1723 oath-takers: Dan Warren, J. Elliott, Joseph Bussoke (possibly Bullock) and Wm. Hartop. The fifth was Roger Dark, who was Overseer.

The Church dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul is Norman in origin, and according to *Holsworthy Through the Lens* 'The Tower which dates from 1450 has suffered at least twice from lightning strikes, 1890 and 1914. There were 3 bells in 1553, 5 in 1727, and in 1836 8 new bells were cast.

[http://www.visitholsworthy.co.uk/info.php?in\\_id=2](http://www.visitholsworthy.co.uk/info.php?in_id=2)

Holsworthy is a wonderful town which has a market charter dating back to the 12th century. One thousand years ago it was described as a Port Town. The word Port was a Saxon term for a secure place for trade - a market.

Holsworthy is mentioned in the Domesday Book as being in the estates and earldom of Harold, son and heir to Godwin in the year 1053. Remains of a small Norman Oratory (circa . 1130) can be found in the town's present church.

The date of the original Market and Fair Charter is 1155 to 1185. Since there was very little national government at the time, civil and criminal matters were dealt with locally. The spokesman for the villagers was known as the Portreeve and the ruling council as the Court Leet. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Court\\_leet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Court_leet)) These positions were established in 1154 and this group was responsible for controlling things like weights and measures, the quality of bread and ale and hedge maintenance. The Court Leet used to hold their tribunals beneath the Great Tree. The last tree, an elm, died at the end of the 19th century, and its site is marked by a metal disc set in the road on Stanhope Square.

In 1992 an oak tree was planted in the square, it is hoped that this will rekindle interest in old traditions and the Portreeve and Court Leet (whilst having no power as such) still meet every year on the eve of St. Peter's Fair at the beginning of July. A second charter was granted by James I to Sir Nicholas Prideaux in 1614, this is proclaimed by the Town Crier during the Pretty Maid Ceremony on the Wednesday of St. Peter's Fair.

The coming of the railway in 1879 produced two graceful viaducts that can still be seen.

<http://www.holsworthy.zig-d.co.uk/history/?cat=hh&placefind=hols>

Entries listing Holsworthy

- 1086** Holsworthy was referred to as “Haldeurdi”, (Exon), and “Haldeword”, (Exch)
  - 1189** Knight Methew Del Jartye was Lord of the Manor of Holsworthy.
  - 1226** Pagan De Chaworth, Lord of the Manor of Holsworthy, died.
  - 1228** The earliest known land transfer — Hamelin de Waunford acknowledged two messuages in Holsworthy to be the right of John de Donilande and his heirs.
  - 1228** Holsworthy was known as “Haldeworth”.
  - 1244** Holsworthy was listed as “serjeantie”, meaning a service holding, i.e. one presented by a monarch for services rendered. It was not known what sort of service was involved, but by 1285 it was converted to military service.
  - 1250** An Early English style Church was built to replace the original building.
  - 1250** Holsworthy was described as a “free” Manor.
  - 1257** Patrick De Chaworth, Lord of the Manor of Holsworthy, died.
  - 1262** First known mention of Holsworthy Fair in the Hundred Rolls.
  - 1268** Bishop Bronescombe visited Holsworthy Church.
  - 1270** 1270-1282 Henry de Halleswordi instituted as Rector at Holsworthy.
  - 1272** Holsworthy Fair and Market rights given by Edward I. More about [Edward I](#)
- Images of [Edward I](#)

- 1274** Henry de Tracey held the Manor of Holsworthy of Sir Payn de Charworth.
- 1274** Ten tenants in burgage in Holsworthy Manor on Common Moor.
- 1291** Holsworthy described as “Halleswrthia”.
- 1308** Holsworthy described as “Holdesworthe”.
- 1314** Holsworthy Manor held of the Honour of Odocombe (in Somerset).
- 1327** Holsworthy described as “Hollesworthi”.
- 1483** Sir Thomas Saint Leger, of Annery, Monkleigh, Lord of the Manor of Holsworthy, died.
- 1485** September 20th. The King, (Henry VII), appointed Richard Selman, Yeoman of the Guard, to be Bailiff of Holsworthy and Torrington.
- 1487** March 22nd. Henry VII granted the Manor of Holsworthy to his mother Margaret (Beaufort), Countess of Richmond. More about [Henry VII](#) Images of [Henry VII](#)
- 1509** Margaret, Countess of Richmond and Lord of the Manor of Holsworthy, died.
- 1509** July 21st. Henry VIII appointed William Poole, Sergeant-at-Arms, as Bailiff of Holsworthy.
- 1513** July 29th. Edward Stanbanke appointed as Bailiff, sub-let to William Leight.
- 1525** July 22nd. Holsworthy was granted to Henry, Duke of Richmond and Somerset, by Henry VIII, his father.
- 1536** Henry, Duke of Richmond and Somerset, Lord of the Manor of Holsworthy, died, “not without suspicion of being poisoned by the late Queen and her brother, Lord Rochford”.
- 1539** Henry VIII granted Holsworthy to Charles (Brandon), Duke of Suffolk.
- 1573** Record of John Cole, a miller, In Holsworthy. Presumably the derivation of Coles Mill.
- 1661** A court of the Duchy was held regularly at Holsworthy at which the Southcott paid the chief rent.
- 1667** Record of Holsworthy token coin “Henry Cadd 1667” and an anchor on the obverse and “of Holsworthy H.A.C. ¼” on the reverse.
- 1669** Holsworthy token coin “George Hingston 1669” on the obverse and “of Holsworthy H.A.C. ¼:” on the reverse.
- 1675** Holsworthy spelt “Houlsworthy”.
- 1692** Land Tax valuation for Holsworthy £284.16s.0d. assessment of 4s. in the £.
- 1765** Holsworthy first pronounced HOLSERY.
- 1807** Mr M.G. Woodward wrote in his “Eccentric Excursions” — “It is a well known fact that the people of Holsworthy are never so happy as when they are going to law or drinking brandy. The latter they do in a manner peculiar to themselves. The addition of the simple element of water they abhor, and consider the liqour spoilt if diluted. They have another curious liqour called ‘tear brain’, composed entirely of rum and brandy. The women take their brandy to the amount of two or three.
- 1844** Phillip Henry, Earl Stanhope owned 2,327 acres in Holsworthy Parish