Extracts from Weston Zoyland (Westonzoyland) Church Registers and Notes Thereon referring to the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685.

First printed in 1929 in aid of Westonzoyland, St Mary's Church Fabric Fund. Compiled by Philip Sturdy of Sydenham Manor, Bridgwater, with the consent and approval of The Rev. P. Davies, late vicar and of The Rev.G. M. Evans for the later editions.

If you are searching for historic references to relatives or other historic characters then below is a list of names that appear in the pamphlet. Other names from that period may be found in other documents in the gallery section of www.zoylandheritage.co.uk

Thomas Palmer and John Field – 1787 (page 5)

Daniel Defoe – 1685 – (page 6)

Archdeacon Farrer, Rev Pryce Davies, Rev G. M. Evans – 1930 – 1936 (page 6)

Abbot Beare – 1493 – 1524 (page 7)

Maurice Page of Bridgwater 1928 (pages 7 and 9)

William Stradling, Rev Samuel Luscombe, (page 9)

Tho. Perratt, Thomas Croker, Richard Alford – 1685 – (page 9)

Richard Alford & Leatitia or Lettice Kaysar – 1641 – (page 10)

Ringers, Monmouth, Ben Page, Andrew Newman, John Jones, Andrew Elroy, John Fransis, Thos Perratt, Richard Alford, Theo. Bunter, Willm. Bagg, William Martin, Edward Bragg – 1685 (page 12)

John Whiting, Sarah Hurd, Thomas Hurd, Scott Hurd, - 1685 (page 13)

Ben Page, John Keyser, Thomas Cole, James Somers and John Tugbeard ringing. Richard Cole, Antho. Evens, James Somers. Richard Hoared – 1686 (page 14)

Other historic references

That Violent Wind – 26th November 1703 (page 5)

Tower struck by lightning – 1811 (page 5)

The Great Restoration – 1930 - 1936 (page 6)

The font – 1325, The priest 1290, The Chancel 14th century, The Vestry 13th century. (page 7)

London Gazette extract 30th August 1686 (page 14)

This document was donated by Mr Ron Crouch to be used in fund raising for the Church. If you found this document of use to you please consider making a donation to our worthy charity through the contact us link on the website www.zoylandheritage.co.uk

Weston Zoyland Church Records

REFERRING TO THE

MONMOUTH REBELLION

1685

11TH EDITION.
Making 5,500 copies.

Price 6d.

The whole proceeds are devoted to the
CHURCH FABRIC FUND.

Reprinted from
"SOMERSET & DORSET NOTES & QUERIES"
Vol. XIX, Part clxii.
with additions.

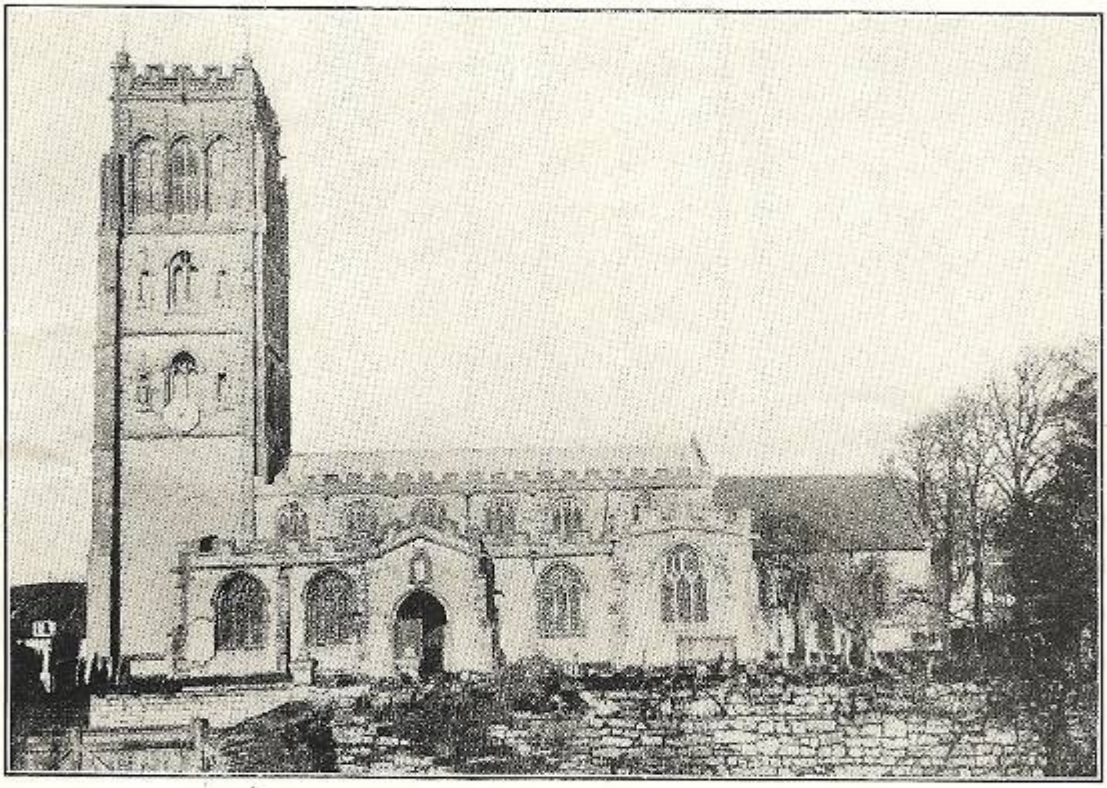
MONMOUTH REBELLION, 1685

Extracts from Weston Zoyland Registers and Notes Thereon

By
PHILIP STURDY
Sydenham Manor, Bridgwater,
with the consent and approval of
The Rev. P. Davies, late Vicar
and
of The Rev. G. M. Evans for
the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th,
8th, 9th, 10th & 11th Editions.

SHERBORNE :
SAWTELLS of SHERBORNE, LTD.

1929 1st.
1932 2nd.
1932 3rd.
1933 4th.
1933 5th.
1934 6th.
1935 7th.
1936 8th.
1937 9th.
1939 10th.
1940 11th.



THE TOWER AND SOUTH SIDE
BEFORE THE RESTORATION 1933—1936

WESTON IN ZOYLAND

NOTES

The correct name of this parish is Weston in Zoyland. Zoyland is derived from Sowiland. Sowi contains a stream name, identical with Sow, Sowe,—i being OE ēg īeg īg= island. See Concise Dict. of Eng. Place Names.

Reports show that during the nineteenth century the condition of the splendid roofs was alarming. In 1822 (probably), 1847 and 1866 work was done although admittedly inadequately, on the plea of no money and in 1847 tradition says that much carved woodwork was removed, and evidences of such removal are numerous.

In connection with the cost of former repairs the two following entries are of interest, they are written immediately below: "Ann account of the ffight" on the end page of the Register and although the last is dated over half a century after the register itself was closed, they follow the precedent then set of recording events of outstanding importance.

"That Violent Wind which we had in Twenty six of November One thousand seaven hundred and three did as much damage in the pish (parish) as will not be made good againe by a loe Computation under FIVE HUNDRED Pound."

(The sum inserted in capitals above is inserted in another hand).

"In 1811 the Tower of the Church was struck by Lightning the Reparation of which exceeded 500 Pounds."

It is possible that the falling masonry may have destroyed the western-most bays of the Roof of the North Aisle, which before the restoration of 1933-36 were very inferior to the rest of the roof of that Aisle.

In 1787, March 25th, a contract was made with Thomas

Palmer and John Field to repair the West Bay with English oak and deal and nails for £12, the work to begin in May.

Extract from records 1846. The lath and plaster ceiling of the chancel was pulled down preparatory to the roof being pannelled with oak. The East Window removed, having been most unsightly from its discordance with the style of Architecture of the Church or in fact with any style of Arch at all. It was replaced with a new one after the pattern of the Western window in the Tower. The square window in the Vestry replaced by a pointed one. The oak pulpit on stone base against the middle pier of Nave replaced by a stone one. Many square pews from the chancel and N. transept removed. These works paid for by funds raised by the Vicar independently of parish funds.

Historical note.

Daniel Defoe was at the Battle of Sedgemoor and Paul Dorrin in "His Life and strange and surprising adventures of Daniel Defoe" says he owed his escape to the fact that he was mounted. Three of his fellow students from Newington were killed or hanged. He wrote Robinson Crusoe 36 years later.

1930-1936.

The fund for the great restoration was opened in 1930 by the late Archdeacon Farrer holding a meeting in the parish, presided over by the Vicar, the Rev. Pryce Davies. The Rev. G. M. Evans become Vicar on Jan. 1, 1932, and work began in March, 1933. The whole of the roofs were carefully repaired including new work in the Western bays of the N. and S. aisles and over S. transept. The tower pinnacles were re-newed. The photograph facing this book shews the tower without pinnacles. A drawing in Taunton Castle of 1832 shews it with them. The bells rehung, clock repaired, tracery inserted in the upper windows of the tower in place of wood shutters. The paving throughout the Church relaid, and some new. The glazed modern tiles in the chancel were replaced with paving. The walls, plaster and glazing repaired and

renewed, the heating apparatus installed, the East window of 1846 raised about 1 foot. The Arch of the old window is still in the wall. The lead on the roofs all re-cast, and the organ fitted with a new case and repaired, together with two new altars, clergy stalls, rood and screen, etc., at a cost of about £8,000, and the opening service was held on Oct. 6th, 1936.

A sketch map kindly prepared by Mr. Maurice Page of Bridgwater, who has made the Battle of Sedgemoor the study of many years, is given for the guidance of those wishing to visit the batlefield.

The photograph on the last page shews the appearance of the roof and one of the buttresses before the restoration of 1933-36.

The sale of the first edition of these notes on the battle and extracts from the register produced enough to pay for repairing the old volumes of the registers and Churchwardens' accounts. Afterwards 6 more editions were published, making 3,500 copies, which produced the substantial sum for church restoration of about £90.

The furniture in the two chapels was added in 1937 and blessed by the Dean of Wells on October 24th.

Generous donations to the fabric fund, placed in the black tin box, will be appreciated so that this lovely church may now be kept in proper repair.

The great nave, aisles and tower were built by Abbot Beere, the last abbot but one of Glastonbury, between the years 1493-1524.

The font dates from about 1325.

The priest in Eucharistic Vestments is about 1290.

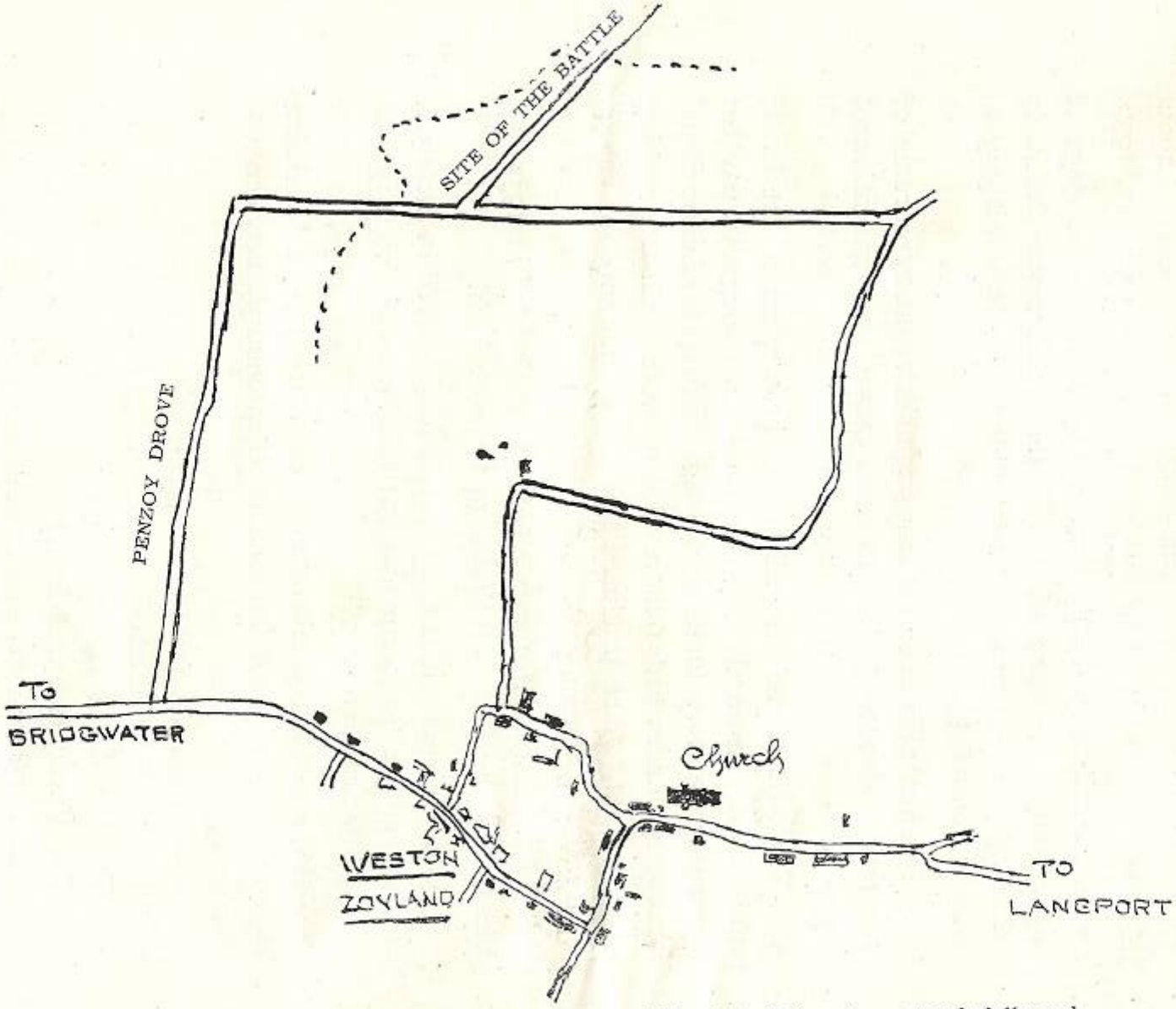
The Chancel is 14th century.

The Vestry is 13th century.

The N. Transept was raised for some unaccountable reason after the clerestory was built.

G. M. EVANS.

The Vicarage,
Weston in Zoyland.
1937.



Sketch Map showing way to the Battlefield. The dotted line shows track followed by the ancient Bussex Rhine, which played so prominent a part in the Battle.

Mr. Philip Sturdy, formerly of Sydenham Manor, Bridgwater, compiled the following pages in 1929.

WESTON ZOYLAND CHURCH RECORDS.—In the autumn of 1928 in conversation with Mr. Maurice Page of Bridgwater upon the Monmouth Rebellion, he mentioned that Weston Zoyland Parish Registers and Account Books as far as he was aware had never been really carefully searched for references to the Battle of Sedgemoor, although at various times extracts had been printed. On application to the then vicar, the Rev. Price Davies, I was allowed access to them.

The Registers contains entries of,

Baptisms 1682-1767.
Weddings 1682-1754 (the end of the page for 1754 is cut off).
Burials 1682-1767.

The front cover is of cardboard; the back, and end cover are missing. The pages are of parchment in fair condition. Their greatest interest is an apparently contemporary note upon the Battle written on the last page.

The following transcript differs in some details from that given on pp. 110-111 of William Stradling's "Description of The Priory of Chilton-super-Polden 1839," as extracted from this register by Rev. Samuel Luscombe and from the transcript in Jarman's History of Bridgwater. The ink is faded and in places rubbed by thoughtless thumbing.

"Ann account of the ffight that was in Langmore the six of July 1685 between the Kings Army and the D. of M.....

The Jniadgement began between one and two of the Clock in the morninge. It contineued near one Hour and halfe. Their was kild upon the spott of the King's souldiers sixtenn : ffive of them Buried in the Church : The rest in the Church yeard : and they had all Christian Buriall. One Hundred or more of the King's Souldiers wounded of wch. wounds many died : of wch. wee have no certaine account : Theire was kild of the Rebils upon the spott about 300 : Hanged with us :22 : of which 4 weare Hanged in Gemmacess : About 500 prisoners brought into our Church. of wch. there was 79 wounded and :5 : of them died of thire wounds in our Church."
The D. of M. beheaded July : 15 : A.D. : 1685 :

The entries in the Registers for Baptisms, Weddings and Burials for 1685 are signed by

Tho. Perratt Vicar.
Thomas Croker
Richard Alford Churchwardens.

"Ann account of the ffight" is not signed, but perhaps a hand writing expert would say that it is in the Vicar's hand, however "Alford Family Notes" (pub. 1908, copy in Taunton Castle Library) infers that Richard Alford wrote and signed it.

Richard Alford who came of the Westonzoyland branch of a well known Somerset family was baptized at Westonzoyland 9 October 1641, married Laetitia, or Lettice, Kaysar when about 23 years of age, and died 5 Dec. 1693, she 30 Aug. 1700.

This book gives the interesting fact that he was a cousin of Gregory Alford, mayor of Lyme Regis at the time of Monmouth's landing. The family had strong Loyalist leanings.

Richard and his wife are commemorated on one large Blue Lias slab in the floor of the Nave Aisle at its crossing by the Aisle between the North and South Doors, the inscription is rather curiously arranged and written in Latin and records the deaths of their three Grandsons, Rev. Samuel, A.M. on (?)March (?)1730; Richard on 4 May 1711 (by fever); Marmaduke on 2 September 1712, (by drowning).

It is much to be regretted that this slab lies in front of the heating stove, which should be moved, it is being worn away, and the inscription mutilated.

Along side this stone is another large one having only an incised floriated cross on a square base below which is written Anno Domini 1613.

A closely similar slab with a slightly different cross, but the same square base and Anno Domi 1627 lies partly covered by the Font. A matrix for a brass figure, and another for an inscription are visible, and Mr. Winmill suggests that the Font should be moved, and possibly in so doing a brass may be uncovered. It might give the key to those recorded.

"Ann account of the ffight" has been construed by some, and recorded in word and print, to indicate that rebels were hanged from the Church Tower. I believe this to be an entirely wrong reading, and I know of no grounds for supposing that such a sacrilege took place. Were it so I should imagine a re-consecration would have been necessary, and of this I have found no record.

The Church Wardens Account Book is of paper, the back and both covers have long been detached and lost, obviously many earlier and later pages are missing: the earliest year is now probably 1669 and the latest 1752. A careful search through the chest failed to recover any other pages: many pages are much rubbed away and torn.

Entries for Church Repairs are fairly regular, many relate to the windows, lead, roofs, bells and seats; few to the main structure. The custom of providing beer for the workmen on these repairs is well attested by entries throughout, as are similar ones for the entertainment of the wardens when arranging for and inspecting such works. Doubtless the custom was found to work well although in the aggregate the cost was proportionately rather high. Very few entries appear as to relief of the poor up to about 1686; after that year they steadily increase, especially as to small sums paid to poor travellers, women with children, soldiers and seamen and people who had lost all by fire, shipwreck, etc.

This relief probably indicates the distress following the civil war, rebellion and the Dutch and other wars.

In 1728 entries of payment for killing vermin, polecats, hedgehogs, etc. begin, and by 1730 are quite astonishingly numerous and costly.

Remembering how the "Bussex Rhine" turned the fortunes of the battle we find the parish had to repair these drains traversing Sedgemoor. Rhine, Reen, Ryne, Rynne, (the spelling showing how, as now, the word was variously pronounced) cleaning and throwing became an increasingly heavy burden and I suppose so continued until the passing of the Commissioners of Sewers Act of 1833, and the Somerset Drainage Commissioners Act of 1879. Indeed among the parish books is one bound in leather "Land Drainage A/cs 1799-1843."

There are but few entries for Highways in this book but there is a regular Highway book in 1832-1850.

All the entries were apparently written up at the end of the year, payments being regularly made for "engrossing" of the Register. Very few days or months are given, so the sequence is uncertain.

The cost of bell ringing was always heavy in proportion to the total expenditure.

The Parish Chest in addition to the before mentioned books contains two earlier Registers beginning 1558, an enclosure Act with map dated 29 July 1801, in pigskin roll. Another Act with map 1833, in leather binding, Church-wardens' a/c books, 1753-1775, 1775-1800, 1800-1814. Bible 1717, Sermons and Homilies 1801, Homilies 1713, Prayer Books of 1752(?), 1822, 1803-5 and several pages of the Apocrypha in Black Letter.

ENTRIES. THE YEAR OF SEDGEMOOR. 1685.

Expended upon the ringers the 10th of February being the day King James was proclaimed [Charles II died Feb. 6]	0	8	0
Paid for ye King's procklamason and frame ...	0	1	0
Paid ye apparrator ffor bring of ye prockla^{m} ...	0	1	0
Expended upon Middellsoy parish(?) when they went through Weston a prison(?)	0	2	6
Expended ye 29th May upon the ringers (i.e. Oak Apple Day)	0	7	6
Expended when Monmouth was taken upon the Ringers	0	8	8
Paid Ben Page ffor mending a seat in the church ...	0	1	6
Paid Andrew Newman for mending of ye Clocke and righting of the Key of ye North Dore ...	0	1	9
Paid Ben Page ffor laying of the stones in ye church [qy. after burial of the five King's soldiers] ...	0	5	0
Paid John Jones and Andrew Elroy ffor cleansing of the Church	0	10	6
Expended upon the ringers this Crounnason day being the 23 day of Aprell	0	17	6
Paid ffor ffranckenssence and peivey ["Peates" or "Saltpeter"] and reffon [Resin] and other things to burn in the Church after ye prissoners was gon out	0	5	8
Expended upon the day of [erasure] Thanks given after the ffight upon the ringers	0	11	8
Expended when we viewed the winddows wither John Fransis had done his werks well	0	0	6
Paid John Fransis ffor 10 Pds of soder [solder] ...	0	10	0
Paid John Franses 2 dusson and halfe of quarrells ffor mend^{g} the Church windowes			

The Churchwardens Disbursement accounts for 1685 are signed by

Thos. Perratt Vicar
Richard Alford
Tho. Bunter
Rich. Bunter
Willm. Bragg
William Martin
Edward Bragg

Apparently it was not the custom to sign the Receipts account in this Parish.

It will be noticed that Thomas Croker the other Churchwarden did not sign.

The *"righting of the key"* mentioned in the item above, may well be connected with the following incident

quoted in Stradling's 'Chilton Priory' p. 112, from John Whiting's "Persecutions exposed in some memoirs relating to the sufferings of John Whiting and many others of the People called Quakers." London 1791. 2nd Edn. (Copy in Taunton Museum Library) p. 296 sqq.

Whiting was engaged (in July 1683) to be married to Sarah Hurd of Long Sutton, daughter of Thomas Hurd of Somerton. He would have married her in the spring of 1685 "but the troubles breaking out prevented it one year longer," they were married 20 March 1686 and lived at Long Sutton and later at Wrington. He writes :—

"At Gregory Stoke—where we heard how the duke was come with his army to Taunton, but six miles off, and how the country flocked in to him.....I met with my friend Sarah Hurd's sister Scott who looked exceedingly sad and sorrowful. I asked her what the matter was : She told me that her husband had gone out with his horses to the duke (he being one that dealt in horses) expecting to make advantage of them, which proved a snare for him"—They both went to Taunton, both saw and talked with the Duke, but could not prevail on Scott to leave his dealing and return home with them,—Thus on p. 302 "As to brother Scott in particular, he was wonderfully preserved, being taken and put into Weston Steeple-house, with many more, the night after the fight, in order to be hanged next day, as many were, but he got out at the little north-door, while the watch was asleep, and so escaped with his life : lying in cornfields by day, and going by night till he got home, and so lay about till after the general pardon."—[10 Jan. 1686 as on p. 332].

"The little north door"—it is a question which one of the two north doors is referred to. That in the N. Aisle is hardly a little one, though it is considerably smaller than the south door opposite. The other, really a small door, leads from the sanctuary into the vestry. The door is an ancient one with an 18th century lock and brass drop ring handle, and if Scott escaped through this he would have had to break the glass and climb through the little East window,* which is just wide enough, and has no sign of iron bars.

Whichever door it was, did he escape because the key was broken and therefore the lock could not be bolted, or did he break the key in unbolting it?

ENTRIES IN THE YEAR FOLLOWING SEDGEMOOR BATTLE.

1686.

Expen^{d} the 5 of November upon the Ringers in bread cheese beere tobarkoo 0 12 6

*Mr. Sturdy did not know this window was made only in 1846.

P[d] the apperittor ffor bringing 13 Bookes the Bishop sent [i.e. forms of prayer] 0 1 0
P[d] the apperittor ffor bringing of to Bookes one to be read ye 30 of January the other to be read ye 6 of February [i.e. for King Charles the Martyr's Day, and King James II's accession] 0 1 6
P[d] ye appertor for the King's proclaymation [The King's Declaration of Indulgence] 0 1 0
Expend[d] upon the ringers the 6 of July in remembrance of the great deliverance wee had upon that day in the year 1685 ... ... 0 7 0
P[d] Ben Page John Keyser Thomas Cole James Somers(?) and John Tugbeard ffor ringing when the King was in the more 0 5 0
P[d] ffor writting our present[mt] at Bridgwater when the King's Commis. was there 0 1 6
P[d] Richard Cole, Antho. Evens and James Somers taking up the planks(?) wh. was laid over brod(?) ryne when the King was in the more 0 1 6
(next item is erased, may be the same entry).
Expended then in beere on the next day when the King came through Weston 0 8 10
P[d] Rich. Hoared(?) ffor carrying the planxes down to broad ryne 0 1 0

A new fact appears from these items: namely that the King paid two visits to Sedgemoor; one to the moor to see the battlefield; the next day to Weston Zoyland itself.

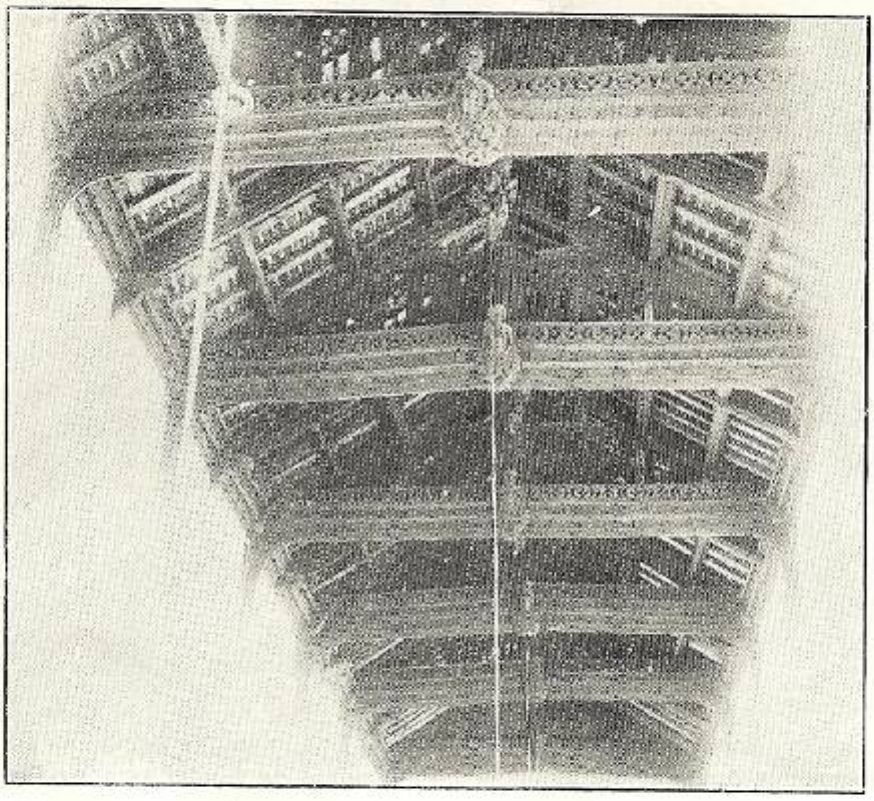
Mr. S. G. Jarman in his History of Bridgwater (p. 98) quotes an extract from the London Gazette of 30th August, 1686.

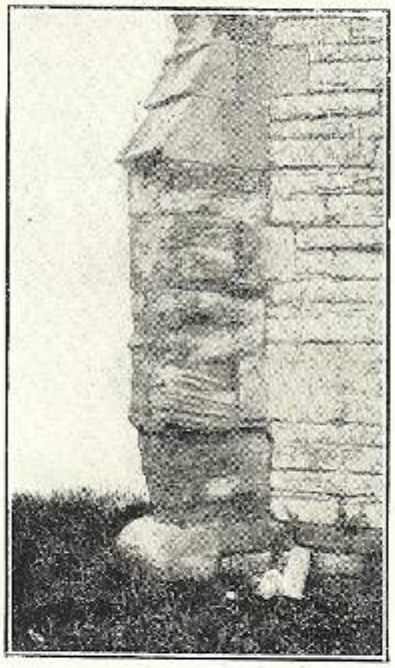
"Bridgwater. Aug. 27. His Majesty parted from Bristol about six this morning.—About 5 this afternoon his Majesty arrived here, viewing in his passage Weston Moor. The Mayor and Alderman of this place, in their formalities, attended his Majesty, and the people followed his Majesty with continued acclamations."

Nothing is said about the next day's visit, nor does Rev. A. H. Powell in his "Ancient Borough of Bridgwater" mention it.

PHILIP STURDY.

Sydenham Manor, Bridgwater.





THE ROOF AND ONE OF THE BUTTRESSES
BEFORE THE RESTORATION OF 1933—1936