



LANGTON LONG, BLANDFORD

This is a long name for a small place, and is moreover tautologous, for Langton means 'a long village,' so why the 'Long?' It is really only a hamlet, with correspondingly few facilities. As its church is just 1/2 mile from the centre of BF town, the denizens are hardly isolated. In 1801 there were only 72 of them, but the number slowly rose to a peak of 295 in 1901, then declined again. In the 1933 Local Government Act the manor of Littleton was transferred to BSM together with a SE corner of BF, further reducing the area and population of LLB. The latter figure was 112 in 1981, and up to 120 in 1991. Among the 183 souls in 1851, no surname stood out, but the list was headed by FORD, the manorial family FARQUHARSON, and WAREHAM. INSOLL and MEKLE were uncommon names.

There are 1200 acres in today's parish, on the N bank of the river Stour. There the land is about 100 feet above sea-level, from which it rises to 350 feet on the chalk downs to the N, forming an area 1/2 miles square, with a 1/2 mile square box on the NE corner. The border leaves the Stour along the SE side of the town of BF for a 1/2 mile then crosses the A354 ring road to follow a small stream N for over a mile towards the village of Pimperne, which parish has become its neighbour. Near the farm of Langbourne the boundary turns 90° E for a 1/2 mile to reach the W edge of Blandford Camp, which occupies the 330 feet top of Monkton Down and lies entirely within Tarrant Monkton parish, now the neighbour.

The border then makes another 90° turn due S for about a mile to the wooded purlieu of a house, the Down Wood; then goes SE for a 1/2 mile with Tarrant Rawston on its E, to reach the Iron Age fort of Buzbury Rings, and then directly SW for more than a mile in company with a third Tarrant, Keynston. Here it meets the minor road that traverses LLB from BF to Spetisbury, and after that the Stour, which becomes the border N to BF with BSM on the other bank.

LLB was part of the Domesday properties of the Count of Mortain: it was divided into two manors, named Langton Botiler and Langton Latile after the families who held them at an early date. In 1279 John BOTILER possessed the larger southern part of the parish in exchange for his Hampshire Manor of Ringwood. Thirty years later he alienated it to Sir Henry le GULDEN. This knight of the Isle of Purbeck became Commissioner of Array in 1324 for the King's army in Dorset, and later a King's Justice. He died in 1334 leaving several estates in Somerset and Dorset. His heir was his 12-year-old son, Alan, who was later knighted. He died in 1361 leaving an infant son Roger as heir, who died young, leaving the considerable estates to his 13-year-old sister Avice.

It did not take long for this desirable prize to be snapped up; success came to an Essex man, Stephen DERBY, who became the MP for Dorset from 1372-94 and was knighted. By 1403 Avice Derby was widowed, but managed the estates during the minority of her son. These Derbys were short-lived: upon his mother's demise in 1420, Robert Derby became lord, but died within the year, leaving a young widow, Michaela, and as heir a nephew, Walter Derby aged seven. Michaela married Robert COKER, of Stourpaine, who acted as lord of the family's manors, until in the Derby tradition Walter died while still a minor, in 1433. Coker then held the manors by the right of his wife.

In a NW part of the parish, adjacent to BF, the smaller manor known as Langton Latile was held in the 12C by the TILLE or la Tille family of West Harptree in the Mendip hills and also of Corfe Castle. It passed to the Guldens in the early 14C and was united with L. Botiler. Probably by an unidentified marriage between Robert Coker's descendants and the Rogers of Bryanston, the two Langton manors became part of the extensive holdings of the latter family.

The main line of the Rogers family ended with Sir John, born about 1607. He died childless and his estates were dispersed among his nieces and others, but he left his LLB property to his only sister Joan. She had married Roger Coker of the same family that had previously been lords. John Coker of this family, who was rector of LLB in 1721-65, built Langton House during his incumbency. In 1800 the estate came into the hands of the FARQUHARSONS.

James Farquharson (1728-95) was an East Indian merchant, living in London, who bought the Manor of Littleton. His second wife, Ann STAINES, daughter of the rector of Winfrith, bore him ten children, of whom only his son James John I, born in 1784, and a daughter, lived to adulthood. The son, who inherited when a child, had a passion for hunting, in which he indulged constantly for over 50 years. In 1800 the trustees purchased the Manor of LLB, making the family lords of all LLB. His eldest son, James John II, succeeded and complicated the family tree by marrying Mary PHELIPS of Montacute, the daughter of his stepmother, Mary Ann Phelips of Bayford. The Farquharsons remain the owners of the estate and in recent times have built a new Rectory for the parish.

The parish church of All Saints in the E of the village was rebuilt in 1861 to a design of T.W. Wyatt, incorporating walls of flint and stone bands, and elaborate pinnacles on the tower. Little remains of the church built about 1740, but fittings from the earlier structures were used in the new building, and one of the three bells dates from 1674. No trace exists of the 1333 chantry chapel built by Sir Henry le Gulden which functioned until the dissolution in 1547. One impressive aspect of this little church is however its monuments, which include six for the Farquharsons on the walls and seven smaller tablets in the nave, four of them for a FRASER family.

The principal house in the parish was Langton House, built about 1830 for James John I on the site of an earlier manor-house, about 500 yards SE of the church. It was demolished in 1949, but there remain the handsome stables, built of ashlar to form an octagonal court; the coach-house, converted to a dwelling-house; the kitchen wing of the house; and the brewhouse, all of the same period as the main house. Langton Farmhouse adjoins the church; it is two-storeyed and has a tiled roof. There is a NW 17C range, extended early in the following century, and in the NE front there has been reset the stone porch from the demolished house. The old Rectory is mainly 19C; it has three bays, the centre decorated with pilasters and a small pediment. One other house of significance is in the N of the parish: Langbourne House is two-storeyed and built of rubble and brick in two ranges, one 18C and the other of about 1840.

The parish registers begin in 1591-3, and are continuous except for 1688-94. Baptisms run to 1937, marriages to 1995 and burials to 1812. There are banns for 1754 to 1890. There is a transcript of the combined register for 1591-1812. Indexed transcripts are available for marriages 1593-1995 and baptisms for 1813-38. Churchwardens' accts survive for much of 1636-97 and solidly for 1814-87. Accts of Surveyors of the Highways may be seen for 1769-1854 and Vestry Minutes for 1837-54 and 1874-97. MI's have been recorded.

There are a few secular records in the DRO. D/WLC/T71 is a final concord concerning the manor of LLB for 1466, along with the manor of BSM. There are sale particulars of 1929 for the Langton estates, including two maps ref. D/WLC: E77; and for Langton Farm of the same date ref. D/795/5. There are also deeds relating to Langton Lodge in 1893-5 ref. D/PIT: T406.

The tithe map of 1841 has an apportionment of 1842, altered in 1865.

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SOME DORSET BURIALS

Some items I have found whilst transcribing parish records.

BURTON BRADSTOCK

Burials register

- 3 Nov 1636 Steven SANDFORD killed by the Dunkerks.
- 9 Feb 1661 Daniel POLDEN drowned on 9th Feb.
- 26 July 1839 Unknown female but supposed to be the body of Jane WADE who was wrecked on this coast near the harbour on the 19th and found on the 25th.
- 6 Sept. 1853 John EVANS aged 15 off the ship *Ocean of Whitby*.
- 26th Nov 1861 John GERRARD aged 33 and Susan TIBBS aged 42 killed whilst assisting a boat to land on Burton Head.
- 15 July 1880 Henry PALMER aged 22 drowned by boat upsetting.
- 4 August 1888 Anthony LANGAN aged 7 drowned while bathing at West Bay.
- 6 March 1897 Unknown man found on beach, afterwards identified by the widow and relatives from the clothing etc to be George LAST aged 29 who was, with two others drowned at Exmouth 4 Dec. 1896.
- 20 Feb 1915 an adult male later presumed to be Alfred Joseph CHAPMAN aged 24 a private in the Royal Marine Light Infantry no 13698 late of HMS *Formidable* sunk in the English Channel.
- 11 Children died at Sipton Gorge between 12 June and 3 August 1842 which must have been a terrible blow for such a small village, whilst only 6 died in Burton Bradstock of fever between 20 Sept and 14 Oct 1842. No cause of death was given for the Sipton Gorge children.

UPWEY Burials Register

- 14 June 1842 Edward Russel STANFORD of Bridport. Thrown out of a carriage and killed on Martinstown Hill aged 23.
- 17 Oct 1842 by Coroners warrant William BIRD. Thrown from the shafts of a waggon & killed aged 23.
- 10 Feb 1847 William ORCHARD killed falling down railroad shaft aged 49 from Preston.
- 3 Aug 1848 Frederick READ aged 15 killed on railroad.
- 24 Feb 1854 Robert ROBERTS aged 22. Killed on railway.
- 24 Feb 1867 John SYDENHAM aged 32. Killed on railway.
- 24 July 1868 Robert BURT aged 58 died in harvest field.
- 29 Sept 1872 William KEATS aged 60. Killed in railway tunnel.
- Died 12 March 1873 William HARVEY aged 23. Killed working on railway.
- 29 July 1885 George BURN (from?) Somerset. George found dead on the High Road.
- 5 Nov 1885 Sarah ESSEX. Gipsy died in caravan aged 44.
- 5 June 1887 Lewis STICKLAND aged 15. Killed at Weymouth.
- 7 March 1897 William JEFFERIES aged 42. Killed sinking well on Bridport Road.
- 7 July 1897 Lina Lefevre FINUCANE aged 23. Died in a fire in Paris 4 May 1897 at The Hotel Bazar de Charite. She lived in Paris and Upwey.
- 13 July 1899 Joseph IRELAND aged about 48, a stranger lodging in Weymouth killed in Upwey by falling from cart under the wheel.

As you can see they were very accident prone at Upwey. They were also preoccupied with their stomachs as the names in the village show, CAKE, BUN, BUNN, ROLLS, ROLES, even the baker was Mr. BAKER for many years.

PUCKNOWLE Burials Register

- 30 Dec 1802 Robert VINCENT and Robert HANSFORD, drowned wrecking.

MELCOMBE REGIS Burials Register

- 21 Nov 1563 Walter & Henry BUCLER sons of Andrew died of plague.
- 1 Nov 1579 John LONDON drowned of (off?) Wight.
- 6 Aug 1593 Nicholas BAILY drowned swimming. Obviously swimming was popular before the time of George III.

- 15 Feb 1593/4 Thomas LOCKE killed by one MOTVER.
- 16 Jan 1595/6 an unnamed Frenchman killed.
- 22 June 1607 Ellen COMFRY buried in common.
- 27 June 1607 Mary SCOTT buried in common
- 10 July 1607 John GROASE on Common. Labourer.
- These are the only 3 burials which say they are buried on the Common.
- 11 August 1615 Joseph HARRICE killed by cart. He was a servant.
- 21 July 1685 Base born child of Elizabeth BAYLY, reputed father E. BENSON. If only all registers were so informative.
- 3 July 1689 Base born child of Sarah TOBY reputed Father L.HOLMAN.
- 9 Nov 1689 Francis base born son of Mary KING reputed Father E. JOANY.
- 24 May 1692 William POCOCK killed by blockhouse gun.
- 27 Feb 1692/3 Dorothy POLLARD daughter of Agnus. Drowned of bridge.
- 29 April 1695 Henry CLARK of New England.

The Melcombe Regis register is a joy to transcribe because it is so varied with people from all over the world, and most rectors seem to put plenty of details which makes it much more interesting. The following are two interesting passages from the register; there are also two drawings of galleon ships, one not complete.

Memorandum that on ye 19 day of Sept 1691 was landed here Two hundred & od men who came prisoners from France and were for the most part sicking of flux soo that many died as also many Towns people of ye same Distemper.

King Charles the 2nd dined in Weymouth 18 September 65. In a different hand but next on the page. King Charles ye 2d dined in this corporation Sept 18 1665. Signed James NEW, Daniell ? ARDEN.

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