

**The Liberty of
PRESTON AND SUTTON POYNTZ**

¹This liberty, a peculiar of Sarum, always belonged to the lords of the manor of Sutton Poyntz as paramount over that and Preston, and since to William Harvey, esq. of Chigwell, in Essex, as such. But it is now vested in the Weld family by purchase of Thomas Weld, esq. 1789.

In the Rot. Nonarum and the Escheat Rolls it is reckoned in Culfordstree, Culvardestre, of Colyfordstree (Cullifordtree) hundred.

Sutton Poyntz

a little vill and manor, situated half a mile north from Preston, appears to have been (and still is) the principal lordship, on which that of Preston depends. Putton in West Chickerel and Stokewood belong to this liberty. It is styled Sutton, *i.e.* Sutton *quasi* South Town, from its situation with regard to some neighbouring place.

In Domesday Book we find two places called Sutone and Sudtone. The Sudtone held by Waleran being almost certainly Sutton Walrond, we may infer that this was the Sutton held by the King with Dorchester, Fordington, &c².

The parish contains 2009 a. 2 r. 16 p.

Preston

a little vill situated near the sea, a mile west from Osmington. The etymology of this word seems to be Priest Town, from its relation to the church of Salisbury.

In Domesday Book we meet with but one place called Prestetune, which by its small extent seems to be either Tarent Preston or Preston in Gillingham.

In this part of the liberty is a prebendal farm and small manor, which lies on the south side of Preston Street, held by the Gollop family of the church of Sarum; and (1867) vested in George T. Gollop, esq. of Strode, near Netherbury.

We meet with very little account of this place in ancient records; so that we know but little of its early lords; but they most likely, as lords of Sutton Poyntz, held Preston too, without particular distinction. In later times the Nappers of Puncknoll had a concern here about 1600; but whether lords of the liberty or manor, or lessees of either, is uncertain.

A small rivulet rises at the foot of the down north of Sutton Poyntz, and falls into a little creek about a mile south of this place. Part of its water, lifted by a turbine to a large reservoir on a hill west of Preston, is conveyed thence in pipes to Weymouth for the supply of that town.

34 Geo. III an Act of Parliament was passed for dividing and inclosing the open common fields, common downs, commons, marshes, and waste lands within the manors of Preston and Sutton Poyntz, and for extinguishing all right of common upon certain inclosed lands within the said manors.

The most ancient lords of this vill that we find were the Poinz's or Poyntz's.

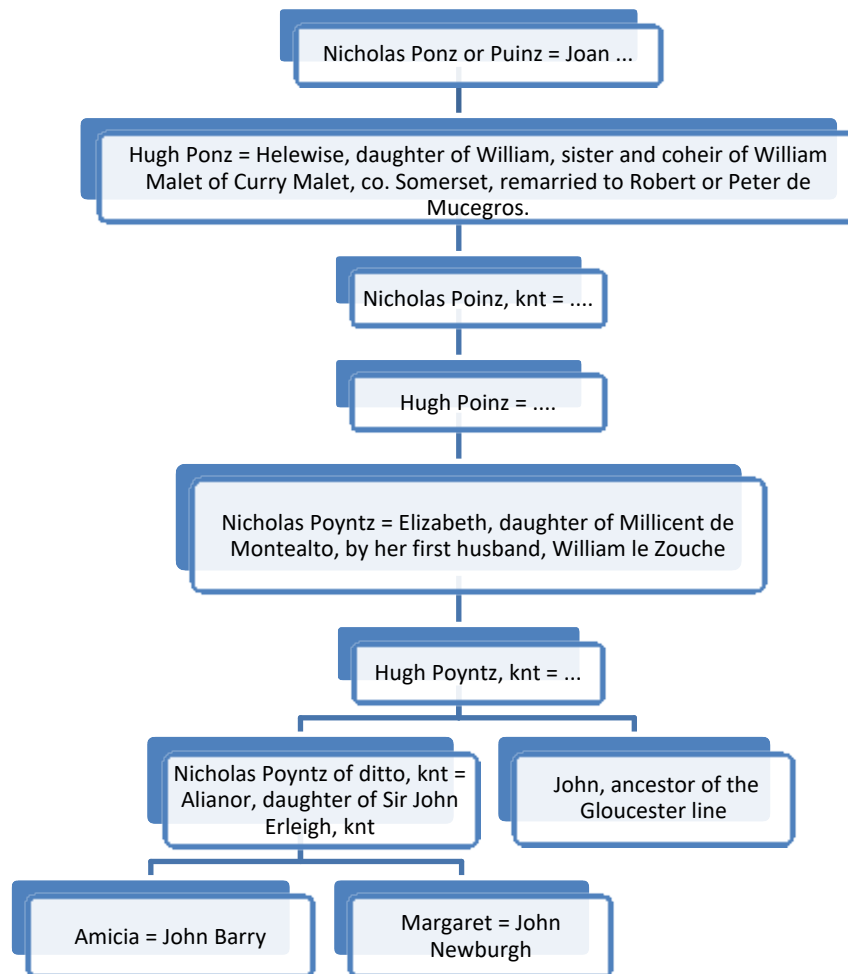
Mr. Coker³ says this place was a liberty or free manor of the Poyntzes, an ancient family in these Western parts, held by Nicholas Pontz *de honore Gloverniæ, et pertinent vavasoriæ suæ, et facit servitium suum D. Regi*⁴. Sir Nicholas Poyntz in Edward the Second's time gave it in frank marriage with his daughter Margaret to Sir John de Newburgh.

"The name of Poyntz or Pontz is very auncient, and supposid to be one of them that cam yn with or soon after the Conqueror. The eldest of the Pontz that I can here of dwelled in Dorsetshire at a place

caullid Sutton. Dyvers of them lay in a monasterie thereby.⁵ The last was caullid Nicolas, and he dying without issue male, the lands by heyres generales cam to Newborow and Fitz-James, Western men; two parts to Newborow, one to Fitz-James. Pontz of Gloucestre cam owte of a house of a younger brother of Sutton Pontz. They had, by heire general of one Fitz-Nicol or Nicholas, a younger sunne of one of the Barkeleyes, a goodly lordship caullid Hulle, and commonly Hille, standing on the hither ripe of Severn. This lordship was given owte of the Barkeleyes' lands. They had afterwards by heires generals of Acton the lordship of Acton.”⁶

The Pedigree of POYNTZ ⁷ of Sutton Poyntz, from Dugdale's Baronage, vol. ii, p. 1, 2 ⁸

Arms: Barry of eight, or and gules.



Hugh Ponz, who married Helewise, daughter of William Malet, with Nicholas his father, 17 John, took part with the rebellious barons, for which their lands in the counties of Dorset, Somerset, and Gloucester were seized and given to Godfrey de Craucumbe. 18 John, Nicholas, returning to his obedience, had restitution of them; but Hugh persisted in his rebellion, and was imprisoned in Bristol Castle. Nicholas, and Joan his wife, 3 Hen. III. obtained a market at their manor at Amptill, co. Bedford. Hugh died 4 Hen. III. on which the sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk had orders to seize his lands in those counties. 4 Hen. III. Helewise his wife did her homage, and the King ordered to give her seisin of her hereditary lands.⁹ 5 Hen. III Robert de Mucegros gave a fine of 100 marks to have her to wife, and their lands were seized into the King's hands for non-payment.¹⁰

Hugh Ponz left a son Nicholas, whose wardship, in his minority, was granted 6 Hen. III. to Hugh Lupus (he also being one of the coheirs of Robert Bardolf); and 9 Hen. III. to Gilbert, Earl of Gloucester, with the benefit of his marriage. 38 Hen. III. he answered for 23l. 9s. 5d. for the moiety of the fees of William Malet; and 41 Hen. III. residing in Gloucestershire, he was ordered to be at Bristol to attend

the King into South Wales; and 42 Hen. III. to be at Chester to march with the King into North Wales. 49 Hen. III. he took part with the rebellious barons; and died 1 Edw. I. when he held this manor in chief of Gilbert Earl of Gloucester and Hertford of the honour of Gloucester, by service of one knight's fee; the manor of Curry Mallet, co. Somerset; that of Hoo, co. Kent; a moiety of that of Bollingham, co. Cambridge; and the manor of Tokington, co. Gloucester; Hugh his son and heir, aet. 21.¹¹

Hugh Ponz, the second of that name, 10 Edw. I. was in the expedition into Wales. 11 Edw. III. [sic] he paid 50*l.* for his relief for the moiety of the barony of W. Malet. 25 Edw. I. he was in the wars of Gascoigne. 26 Edw. I. in those of Scotland. He was summoned to Parliament as a Baron from 23 Edw. I. to 1 Edw. II. inclusively, when he died seised of this manor, and the hundred of Culvardestre of Colyfordestree, *cum pertinentiis*, held of Gilbert, son of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, by service of two knight's fees; also the manors before mentioned and those of Lullingston Castle and Tokington; Nicholas his son and heir, aet. 30.¹²

Nicholas Poyntz, the third of that name, was in the Scottish wars, 27 Edw. I. and 4 Edw. II.; and 1 Edw. II. He did homage, and had livery of his father's lands. By his wife he had the manor of Batecumbe in frank-marriage. He was summoned to Parliament 2, 3, and Edw. II. [sic] and died 5 Edw. II. Seised of this manor, with the hundred of Colyford-Estre, and lands in Stoke St. Edward. He also held, with Elizabeth his wife, the manor of Stoke St. Edward; and lands in Batcombe. He held the other manors in his father's inquisition; also these knight's fees, one third in Wolcombe Bingham, one third in Podyngton and East Chickerel, one in Langton, Brodeway, and Radeslaw, one eighth in Winterborne Regis, one twelfth in Wurgrod, one sixteenth in Crawford, one third in Bovington; and many fees and fractions co. Somerset; Hugh, his son and heir, aet. 18.¹³

18 Edw. II. This Hugh was made Knight of the Bath, and was summoned to Parliament from 11 Edw. II. to 7 Edw. III. when he died, Oct. 13, seised of the manors of Tokington, Cory Mallet, Stoke St. Edward, and Batcombe; Nicholas his son and heir, aet. 17, 11 Edw. III.¹⁴ who had livery of his father's lands, 14 Edw. III.; and 27 Edw. III. was made a knight, and died about 50 Edw. III. From his younger brother John, the family of the Poyntz's residing in Gloucester, now extinct, were lineally descended.

12 Ric. II. Guy de Bryenne, knt. and Alice his wife, had a plea concerning this manor and hundred of Cullifordestre. 3 Hen. IV. John Syward held lands here and in Horyland of Guy de Bryan, as of his manor of Sutton Poyntz. 10 Hen. IV. William Payn, John Newburgh, &c. release to Alice, once wife of Guy, son of Guy de Bryan, chev. their right in this manor and hundred of Cullifordtree for life.¹⁵ 13 Hen. VI. the said Alice at her death held them of Richard Duke of York; and the same year Elizabeth, late wife of Robert Lovel, their daughter, held them. ¹⁶ 35 Hen. VI. Alice Countess of Wilts held them.

Shortly afterwards John Newburgh, esq. held the manor of Sutton Poyntz of the King as of his honour of Gloucester by knight's service, to wit by the mediety of a knight's fee; also the manor of Winterborn Martin of the King as of his manor of Mersshewod by the service of a knight's fee. ¹⁷

In the general Act of Attainder, 1 Edw. IV. allusion is made to this parish as follows: "Provided alwey, that this present Acte of Atteyndre extend not ne stretcch, ne hurt ne be prejudiciall to John Neuburgh, in the shire of Dorset, gentilman, nor to his heires of, to, or for the maner of Sutton Poyntz with the appurtenaucez in the seid shire of Dorset, not any part thereof; ne of, to, or for the hundred of Colyforestr', nor of, to, or for any part thereof; nor of, to, or for any landes and teñtes within Sutton Poyntz abovesaid, nor of, to, or for any part thereof; nor of, to, or for the right, title, entre, or possession of the seid John, the which he hath or had, to or yn the seid maner, hundred, landes, and teñtes, and every parcell thereof; the which maner, hundred, landws and tenementes James late Erle of Wiltshire had by fyne resid' in the courte of Henry late ycalled Kyng Henry the Sixt, Kyng of Englande in dede and not of right, to the seid James, and to the heires of his body begoten; and for defaute of such issue, the remayndre thereof to the seid John Newburgh, and to his heires in fee for evermore". ¹⁸

The Bryans and their successors must have held them by lease from the Newburghs; for it appears by the inquisitions of that family that they and their descendants possessed them for several generations; for, 24 Eliz. Thomas Lord Viscount Bindon at his death held them, as of the manor of Cranborne, value *13l. 6s. 8d.*¹⁹ How or to whom it passed from that family does not appear. William Harvey, esq. before mentioned was some time owner; and the present lord is Edward Weld, esq. of Lullworth Castle.

In 1645 Mr. George Arundell's tenement here, value *16l.* per annum, was sequestered.

At Sutton Poyntz was anciently a Chapel of Ease to Preston. In Dean Chandler's Register, 1405, at his primary visitation, it is said to have two altars, of St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen. The only remaining portion in 1867 of this chapel are three hip-knobs surmounting the gables and porch of the school buildings. The site of the chapel was occupied by a poor-house called the Church-house, till it was pulled down on the alteration of the poor law.

"The Church at Preston"

says Hutchins, "is very ancient, and seems formerly to have been of very considerable note; for in Dean Chandler's Register, 1405, it is said to be dedicate to St Andrew, and to have ten pensionary chapels belonging to it".

The church is most picturesquely situated on an elevated site in the south-east of the village, in full view of the island of Portland with its breakwater and roads. It was restored in 1855 under the superintendence of the present Vicar, who defrayed three-fourths of the expense. It consists of a chancel, nave, south aisle, tower at the west end of the nave, and north porch.

The arcade between the nave and aisle consists of four depressed four-centred arches, supported by piers which have: an attached shaft, with capital and base, on each cardinal-face; a shallow hollow, and fillets between, and stand on a square set diagonally. The chancel arch is pointed and richly moulded, and is probably belongs to the early part of the fifteenth century. In the centre of the piers are shafts with foliated capitals, and moulded bases and plinths. The tracery and details of the windows of this church are of varied character; those of the aisle and nave are of three trefoil cusped lights, with segmental heads; those in the south wall being without cusping to the lights. The windows to the west of the porch on each side have an attached shaft to the inside jamb, with foliated capital and base. The exterior hood-mould of one has a square termination with a four-leaved flower in the centre, on the other two elegantly formed male and female heads. The window to the east of the porch has a curiously moulded jamb interiorly resembling the details of the chancel arch. The hood-mould outside has large sculptured terminations; the one on the west represents a male figure in loose surcoat in a standing posture, resting the left leg upon and over the knee of the other. The left hand grasps a tilting spear, which rests upon the shoulders of a large dog crouching at the side. On the same shoulder of the figure rests a bear astride, its two nearest legs clinging to the shaft of the spear. In the right hand is some object, perhaps a horn. The corbel on the east represents a female seated, and busy spinning with a distaff between her knees. Both are elegantly carved.

The tower is of plain massive form, but well fitted to withstand the tremendous south-easterly and westerly gales which sometimes blow up from the sea. It has double buttresses at the western angles terminating at the first stage under a string course, which has bold gurgoyles at the angles. The parapet is embattled, but there are no pinnacles. There is a west door with high four-centred arch and double ogee continuous moulding, and a similar doorway (but blocked up) is in the south wall. There is a window over the west door, and a square-headed window to the belfry on each face.

The porch has a pointed arch on the exterior with shafts in the centre of the pier on each side standing on a plinth, and having foliated capitals and moulded bases. There is a hollow moulding and

fillets between. The font has a square Norman bowl of Purbeck marble, supported by a Perpendicular stem.

There are four bells:

I. "1671".

II. "O REPENT, I SAY, BE NOT TO LATE X THYSELFE AT ALL TIMES REDY MAKE. 16—".

III. "SEE IN WHAT A STATE THE POORE THEY GIVE, 1629".

IV. (or tenor bell). "1629. AT THY DEPARTURE SHALL I SOUND, AND BRING THEE TO THE GROUND"

A few steps which formed the ascent to the rood-loft, and the door leading to them, still remain. There is also a hagioscope from the aisle; and a low four-centred arch forming a recess in the south wall, nearly on a level with the floor, near the west window, must not be overlooked. Hutchings says, "it seems to have anciently contained a tomb, but scarce any vestiges now remain".

The roof, seats, desk, pulpit, &c. are all new and of appropriate character. In 1855, on the removal of the font from the aisle close to the south door, numerous fragments of encaustic tiles were found of various patterns, yellow on a red ground. Amongst other devices was a griffin winged or lion rampant on a pointed shield with the letters Z A in the angles of the tile. Another is a bird, apparently without feet, or a wyvern. Another is a fleur-de-lis with a small five-pointed flower and stem on each side, &c.

When this church was restored in 1855 a handsome east window of stained glass was presented by some members of the Vicar's family.

In the north wall of the chancel is an ancient monument, somewhat mutilated, exhibiting the effigies of a clergyman in an M.A. gown and trunk hose in the attitude of prayer, kneeling on a cushion, with flowing hair and narrow-pointed beard. At the bottom is this inscription:

THE VICAR HERE INTOMBED LYES
WHOSE PATRON HIM DOTH ETERNIZE
YT HIS FAYR WORKS OF CHARITY
MAY NOT WITH HIM STILL BURIED BE
BUT LIVE IN LASTING MEMORY
HE DIED ANNO DOMINI 1614 AETATIS 32

In the chancel, on a flat stone:

Spe resurrectionis hic jacet
JOHANNES HANKINS SHUTTLEWORTH, A.M.
Vicarius de Preston,
mortallium miserrimus,
quippe sub podagrâ,
et paroxismis nefrictis,
per totam penè vitam
ægre laboravit,
Obiit die Februarii 18°, 1752,
ætat. 50.
Natus Feb. 21°, 1702.
Sepultus 1752.

There are other tablets with inscriptions, as follows:

1. In memory of CAPT. WILLIAM LORD, R.N. who died at Southdown in this parish, on the 15th March, 1865, aged 62. And of FAIRLINA EUPHIMIA his wife, who died at Southdown on the 4th February, 1865, aged 42. Arms: On a fess azure between three cinquefoils two pheons. Crest, a hawk.

2. Sacred to the memory of ROGER KEATING, esq. a Captain in Her Majesty's 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers, youngest son of Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Sheehy Keating, Knight Commander of the most honorable military order of the Bath, and Colonel of Her Majesty's 54th Regiment. He was born on the 31st of April, 1805, and died on the 4th of May, 1842. ²⁰

3. OCTAVIUS PIERS, B.A., for thirty years the faithful and beloved Pastor of this parish, rested from his labour of love Feb. 23rd, A.D. 1848, aged 59.

4. To the beloved memory of JOSIAS WALLIS, who died at Wyke Oliver, in this parish, December 2nd, 1863, aged 49 years.

5. In affectionate remembrance of CHARLES GILL, who slept in Jesus on the 21st of November, 1859, aged 38 years.

On the floor:

6. Here lyeth the body of JAMES LINTON, whilst here did wonderful cures boath to the rich as well as to the poore in giving his medicens, and likewise the cure, who departed this life ye 15th of October, aged 66 years. Anno Domini 1730.

7. In assured hope of a glorious resurrection resteth here interred the body of MRS. MARY LIGHT, late wife of Mr. John Light, minister of the gospel in this parish, who slept in Jesus August the 4th, Anno Domini 1660.

A school-house and Church of England school were built here in 1850, and there is a small Wesleyan chapel, erected in 1816.

Parish Registers

First entry of Baptism Nov. 7 1693/4. Burials ditto Jan. 12, 1693/4. Marriages ditto March 25 1695.

The Prebend or Rectory

The great tithes of Preston and Sutton were very anciently appropriated to the prebend of Preston, in the cathedral of Sarum.

In 1291, this prebend was valued at 25 marks; but no vicarage or chapel is then mentioned.

List of PREBENDARIES of Preston, from the Sarum Registers.

Raymond de Ferrara.

Gilbert Lovel, 3 id. Oct. 1292, per mort. Ferrara. ²¹

Francis de Luca.

Alexander de Hemingsby, 10 cal. Jul. 1304, per mort. Luca. ²²

John de Kirkby, 3 Jul. 1334. ²³

Nich. Branche, 18 Mart. 1337, per cess. Kirkby. ²⁴

Robert Frescles.

John de Buckingham, 8 Maii, 1351, ²⁵ per mort. Frescles. ²⁶

John Gogh, 12 Mart, 1351. ²⁷

Rad. de Codeford, 31 Oct. 1361. ²⁸

Richard Ravenser, exchanged for the wardenship of the free chapel of Totehulle, of exempt jurisdiction of the abbot of Westminster. ²⁹

John de Winthornwicks, 7 Maii, 1366, ³⁰ by exchange as above. ³¹

Richard Beverle, exchanged with John Carpe for the prebend of Whytegrave, provost of the free chapel of St. Mary at Stafford, Lichfield diocese. ³²

John Carpe, 11 Sept. 1387, by cession of Beverle. ³³

Walter Metford.

Richard Derham, 5 Maii, 1402, per cess. Metford. ³⁴

John Mackworth, 11 Jul. 1412, per resig. Derham. ³⁵

William Nessingwick, 30 Aug. 1450, per mort. Mackworth. ³⁶

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John Redehall, 26 Mart. 1454, per resig. Nessingwick. ³⁷

Edmund Audley, 26 Jan. 1472, per mort. Redehall; ³⁸ bishop of Rochester, 1480; Hereford, 1492; Salisbury, 1502.

George Tythingham, 18 Dec. 1475, per resig. Audley. ³⁹
Simon Harcourt.

Edward Hawtrey, 1 Mar. 1492, per resig. Harcourt. ⁴⁰

Edm. Hawtrey, 15 Feb. 1516, per resig. Edw. Hawtrey. ⁴¹
Rich. Arche.

John Mason, 8 Maii, 1524, per resig. Arche. ⁴²

Richard Petre, 23 Feb. 1547, per mort. Mason. ⁴³

Anthony Brasier, 17 Jul. 1570, per depriv. Petre, ⁴⁴ present. a Johe Pettye, arm..

Richard Johnson, 23 Dec. 1595, per resig. Brasier, ⁴⁵ present. a Gul. Blacker.

Edward Thornburgh, 10 Sept. 1623, per mort. Johnson. ⁴⁶

Thomas Triplet, 6 Oct. 1645, ⁴⁷ per mort. Thornburgh.

Jerameel Terrant, 13 Apr. 1662. ⁴⁸

John Martin, 6 Oct. 1677, per mort. Terrant. ⁴⁹

Robert Townsend, 20 Jan. 1690, per depriv. Martin. ⁵⁰

John Hankins Shuttleworth, about 1730.

John Fisher. ⁵¹

John Spicer, ⁵² 1779.

Reynold Gideon Bouyere, 1785.

Edward Bouverie, on the death of Bouyere Feb. 16, 1826.

The Vicarage

was endowed very early, but when does not appear. The patron and impropiator has always been the prebendary of Preston, or his lessee.

It is a discharged living.

This parish was inclosed by an act of parliament, in the year 1795.

	£	s.	d.
Present value	8	18	1½
Tenths	0	17	9¾
Clear yearly value	44	11	6

INQUISITIO NONARUM.

Parochia de Preston et Soutton.

Galfridus Bourt, Johannes James, Johannes in the Feld, Willielmus Knyth, Roger Knoll, Robertus le Hyne, Willielmus in the Nenne, Willielmus Wyse, Willielmus Compton, Willielmus atte Croch, Willielmus atte Welle, et Willielmus le Wyse senior, parochiani ibidem, jurati, presentant quod ecclesia ibidem taxatur in xxv. marcas. Et quod ix^{us} pars garbarum, vallerum et agnorum valet viij l. vi s. viij d. Ed sic minus taxa viij l. vi s. viij d. eo quod rector ibidem habet unum messuagium cum curtallagio quæ valet per annum iij s. iij d. Item habet lxxvi acras terræ ut dos ecclesiæ suæ quæ valent per annum xxv s. iij d. Item xxij acras prati quæ valent per annum xxxij s. iij d. Item riæ cum finibus heriotti et capitis quæ valent per annum xiv s. iij d. Item pasturam averiorum et bidentium x s. Item decimas feni et arundinis, lini, canabi, et alias minutas decimas quæ valent per annum xxij s. iij d. Item oblationes, obventiones, piscaria maris quæ valent per annum xx l. iij s.

Summa ix^{us} partis viij l. vj s. viij d.

The return of the commission, 1650, was, that Mr Benjamin Maber was incumbent, placed there by the committee, the former incumbent Dr. Alcorne, a delinquent, being displaced. Value of the vicarage 45*l.* per annum They wanted no church or chapel to be erected. Sutton Poyntz present as before, and that Mr Edward Napper was impropiator and patron; that there was intermixed with the parsonage three tenements, the tithes whereof did belong to the vicarage about 30 or 40 years since, and were worth 8*l.* per annum. They had no chapels.

Patrons	Vicars
John Carpe, canon of Sarum and prebendary of Preston	John Ford, exchanged with William Bishop, vicar of Osmington, instituted 1393, ⁵³ exchanged with William Melton, rector of Winfrith Neuburgh, inst. 1388 ⁵⁴ William Chappel, prb. instituted ult. July 1395 ⁵⁵ Robert Chandose, occurs 1405 ⁵⁶ William Sherrard, instit. 31, 1419, ⁵⁷ occurs 1422 ⁵⁸ William Baker, 1650 ⁵⁹
James Napper	James Macy, on the death of Baker, instituted 14 April, 1558
The Queen.	David Williams, presented, 1575 ⁶⁰
Richard Andrews	John Jones, on the resignation of Williams, instituted 7 May, 1585
William Napper	Richard Johnson, on the death of Jones, inst. 3 June, 1574 George Hawfield, on the resig. of Johnson, inst. 22 Dec. 1595 Alcorne, D.D. Thomas Horne
Andrew Loder	John Hardy, and Laurence Bayne, on the death of Horne, instituted 22 April 1662 Benjamin Maber, inst. 23 Oct. 1662 Thomas Donne Benjamin Blaxton, on the death of Donne, inst. 22 Nov. 1693
Robert Tounsend, prebendary	John Shergold, was afterwards rector of at Devizes, on the death of Blaxton, instituted 25 Oct. 1720
John Shuttleworth, prebendary	John Preston, afterwards rector of Melcomb Regis, on the resignation of Shergold, inst 11 Jan. 1721 Farwel Hawkins, B.A. on the cession of Preston, institut. 5 March. 1724. John Hankins Shuttleworth, B.A. on the resig. of Hawkins, inst. 9 March, 1725, died 1752. John Burrows. John Fisher, ⁶¹ M.A. fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, institut. 1773, translated from the bishopric of Exeter to Salisbury, 1807.
John Spicer, prebendary; master of the free grammar school, at Reading	Charles Coates, LL.B. vicar of Osmington, inst. 1780
Reynold G Bouyere, prebendary	Octavius Piers, B.A. inst. 1815, youngest son of Sir Pigott William Piers, 4 th baronet of Tristernagh

Abbey, co. Westmeath, died 1848.
Edward Bouverie, M.A. prebendary Talbot Hastings Bendall Baker, M.A. Christ Church College, Oxford, brother of Sir Edward B. Baker, Bart. of Ranston, inst. 1848, on the death of Piers.

Antiquities

Mr. Medhurst, a former resident at Weymouth, was instrumental in bringing to light many vestiges of the Romans and Roman-British in the neighbourhood of Weymouth, and the most important of his discoveries occurred within the area of this parish.

The dry summer of 1842 having shown in the then growing crop of corn in a field here indications of extensive buildings, excavations were made in the spring of 1843, which soon brought to view the foundations of a massive wall, 5 feet in thickness, and forming a square of about 280 feet; within this quadrangle were the foundations of another building 35 feet square; the soil within this inner building was removed, and the few coins and fragments of pottery which were turned up clearly proved it to be of Roman origin.

In 1844, at the first annual meeting of the Archæological Association, Dr. Buckland⁶² delivered a long oral account of the Roman remains found at Jordan Hill, near Weymouth, visited by him under the guidance of Mr. Medhurst.

The professor stated that there could be no doubt that the Romans maintained a settlement of importance in the neighbourhood of Dorchester, and that Poole was probably the harbour of their fleet, and he gave his opinion that in a few years it would again become important as a harbour of refuge for steam boats. In the area where these remains were discovered, were the foundations of a building supposed to have been a temple, 37 yards square. In a large well or cesspool were found several swords, large quantities of bird's bones, etc. And a great number of Roman coins had at different times been discovered.

At a meeting of the Oxford Ashmolean Society Nov. 11, in the same year, Dr. Buckland gave a more detailed account of the remains.

Dorchester was undoubtedly a large military Roman station, and the neighbourhood abounds with vestiges.

The situation of Weymouth Bay and Weymouth Harbour, close to the sheltered road of Portland (Vindelis), and the distance of Dorchester from any other port, must have rendered Weymouth a most convenient and necessary naval station during the residence of the Romans in Dorset.

The nearest rising grounds on the north-west and north-east of Weymouth are strewn with fragments of Roman buildings, tesserae, bricks, pottery, and tiles, and small Roman copper coins; and Mr. Medhurst discovered the foundations of several villas, of a Roman temple, and of a Roman road; Dr. Buckland supposed these villas to have been occupied by the families of Roman officers or civilians connected with their military establishment at Dorchester.

The most remarkable discoveries made by Mr. Medhurst in 1843, and visited in October 1844 by Dr. Buckland and Mr. Conybeare⁶³, were foundations of a temple on the summit of Jordan Hill, and of a villa a quarter of a mile distant, in the meadow between the hill and the village of Preston. The temple appears to have consisted of a cella 24 feet square surrounded by a peristyle, the walls of which inclosed an area 110 feet square. In the earth which occupied the peristyle Mr. Medhurst found more than four sacks of bones, and many horns (chiefly of young bulls), also many Roman coins, fragments of Roman pottery, cement, etc.

Near the centre of the south wall were the foundations of steps, indicating the ascent to the door of entrance; and 4 feet in advance of this wall were the foundations of four small columns.

A layer of cement, which probably supported a pavement that had been removed, occupied the interval between these pillars and the foundations of the south front wall.

Within the temple, in the south corner, was a dry well 14 feet deep, and 4 feet by 2½ feet in diameter, that had been filled in a very curious and unexampled manner. It was daubed all round with a lining or pargeting of clay, in which were set edgewise (like Dutch tiles round a fireplace) a layer of old stone tiles, which, from their pegholes, appear to have been used or prepared for use on the roofs of houses; at the bottom of the well, on a substratum of clay, was a kind of cist formed by two oblong stones, and in this cist two small Roman urns, a broad iron sword 21 inches long, an iron knife, and steelyard, two long irons resembling tools used by turner, an iron crook, an iron handle of a bucket, &c. but no bones. Next above this cist was a stratum of thin stone tiles, like those which lined the well, and upon it a bed of ashes and charcoal; above those ashes was a double layer of stone tiles, arranged in pairs, and between each pair was the skeleton of one bird, with one small Roman coin; above the upper tier of tiles was another bed of ashes. Similar beds of ashes alternating with double tiers of tiles (each pair of which inclosed the skeleton of one bird and one copper coin) were repeated 16 times between the top and bottom of the well, and halfway down was a cist containing an iron sword and spear head, and urns like those in the cist at the bottom of the well. The birds were the raven, crow, buzzard, and starling; there were also bones of a hare. At the bottom of the shaft were two capitals of pillars apparently Doric.

Dr. Buckland conjectures that this building may have been a temple of Esculapius, which received the votive offerings of the Roman families and invalids who visited Weymouth for sea-bathing and for health; the bones of young bulls found in the peristyle being those of the victims offered in ordinary sacrifice; while the smaller birds, whose bones are found so remarkably arranged in the well, may have been the votive offerings presented by those who received their cure from sea air and sea-bathing, and possibly from the mineral waters of Radipole and Nottingham, all in the salubrious vicinity of the temple.

Dr. Buckland then described the remains of a villa in a meadow between Jordan Hill and the village of Preston, and exhibited specimens of tiles, both stone and brick, and various bones and the claw of an eagle found in the ruins of this villa.

In November 1845, Mr. Medhurst recommenced his researches assisted by three men. His attention was first drawn to what he considered an ancient cemetery about a hundred yards on the south-east side of the temple, and his suspicions were soon confirmed by the quantity of sepulchral remains brought to light. The shape of the cemetery appeared to have been somewhat of a parallelogram, bounded on each side by a low thick stone wall giving it slightly the appearance of a raised vallum, and extending over an area of 500 feet. On removing the earth about two feet deep at the north-east part of the cemetery, three large flat stones were discovered, beneath which was a human skeleton, and around it several nails, and particles of decayed wood, clearly showing that the person had been buried in a coffin. At each of these stones was a clay cist 3 feet in diameter, and filled with burnt bones, broken pottery, and ashes; and running in a north-east direction from the cists were three flues or drains formed of flat stones placed edgewise, and paved at the bottom and top with thin slabs of Purbeck limestone. The two outer flues were formed by merely placing the stones together, but the centre one was cemented in the interior with clay and filled with ashes, pieces of Kimmeridge coal money, burnt bones, and a double stone amulet; about three feet from this were two altars, neatly built with small stones cemented together, and having a flat square stone on the top. The pathway round them 2 feet wide and 5 feet long was still apparent, and a quantity of burnt bones and limpet shells were thickly strewn on the floor. By the side of one altar, just without the pathway, was the skeleton of a man interred with his legs drawn up and one arm resting upon his breast; by the side of the other was a small terra-cotta urn filled with ashes and burnt animal bones. Close to this was another skeleton interred in a similar way, and by the side of it were two small black pateræ, an urn, and three cists filled with limpet shells and burnt bones. A little to the west of these interments was a thick crescent-shaped stone wall; in the centre was an altar covered on the top with a large flat

stone, and on it a quantity of bones of sheep, and ashes; the wall was partially covered on the top with flat stones. Immediately opposite the altar was a bullock's skull, a quantity of limpet shells, and several small pieces of chipped flint designedly placed, for some purpose connected with this singular sacrifice. Intermediate between the altar and the eastern wall of the cemetery was a bed of whit clay 18 feet long by 12 feet wide, containing a quantity of ashes interspersed with fragments of pottery, and the bones of bullocks, sheep, goats, and birds. The bed was bounded on each side by a wall neatly jointed, clay being used instead of mortar for cementing it together. At the extremity of the east side of the crescent-shaped wall was the skeleton of a man with his knees drawn up, around which was a quantity of nails, and close to the ankle bones several rivulets, shewing that he had been buried with his sandals on, and in a coffin. Immediately by his side lay another skeleton with the arms folded over the chest, and a portion of a small black earthen patera resting on them.

Pursuing his researches in an easterly direction, Mr. Medhurst discovered several large flat stones, beneath which were two cists 4 feet deep and 5 feet wide, cased with stones and cemented with clay. These contained ashes of the bituminous Kimmeridge shale mixed with calcined bones of the deer, bullock, sheep, and of birds. Contiguous to these singular cists were two large square altars built with stone. On the top of one was a bullock's skull surrounded with limpet shells, broken pottery, and ashes; and on the top of the other was the perfect skeleton of a lamb. On removing these altars the first was found to contain ashes, animal bones, those of birds, and several pieces of coarse pottery. In the other was found an urn and a bracelet of bronze.

In the same field in 1812 was dug up an urn filled with Roman coins, chiefly from Gordian to Postumus, many of which in fine condition are in the cabinets of Charles Warne, esq. and of C. Hall, esq. of Osmington.

A very remarkable piece of Kimmeridge coal, now in the possession of Mr. H. Durdon of Blandford, about four inches long by three inches wide, on which a lion couchant is sculptured in relief, was dug up in a neighbouring field associated with Roman pottery and many Roman copper coins. A gold coin of Constantine discovered here was in the possession of Mr. George Frampton.

¹ [Text transcribed from pages 833 to 839 of Volume 2 of John Hutchin's "History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset" in its 1861-1874 edition, revised and edited by William Shipp and James Hodson. The endnotes are as in the published text, except where enclosed in square brackets (as here) where I have added my own notes.]

² Tit. 1.

³ P. 40.

⁴ Inq. t. Edw. I Cotton. Lib. Julius, C. I. II. lib. 2.

⁵ Bindon

⁶ Leland, Itin. Vol. vi. p. 56.

⁷ This ancient family of Poinz or Poyntz had probably the same ancestors as the Cliffords; for it is plain that one Ponz was father of Richard Fitz-Pons, and he of Walter, who, residing at Clifford Castle, co. Hereford, first assumed his surname thence; also that some younger branches of that house seated themselves in Gloucestershire. It is also certain that a Ponz was father of Osbert Fitz-Pons, mentioned in the Pipe Roll for that county, 5 Stephen, from whom Hugh Ponz, afterwards written Poinz, who, 15 John, attended the King into Poitou, undoubtedly descended.

⁸ [The family tree in Hutchins is incorrect, in showing the Gloucester Poyntz line as descendants of the third Hugh Poyntz. John Poyntz was in fact the son of the third Nicholas, by a second wife Matilda de Acton, and so a half-brother of the third Hugh]

⁹ Rot. Claus. m. 4.

¹⁰ Rot. Fin. m. 3.

¹¹ Esch.

¹² Rot. Fin. m. 3. [N.B. there may be some footnotes missing here in the published edition].

¹³ Esch.

¹⁴ Esch.

Hutchins History and Antiquities of Dorset

- ¹⁵ Rot. Claus. m. 16.
- ¹⁶ Rot. Fin.
- ¹⁷ MS at Rushmore
- ¹⁸ Rot. Parl. v 483.
- ¹⁹ Esch.
- ²⁰ Brother to Sir H. S. Keating, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas.
- ²¹ Reg. Gandav. f. 10.
- ²² Ib. f. 144.
- ²³ Wyvil, f. 31.
- ²⁴ Ib. f. 56.
- ²⁵ Ib. f. 239.
- ²⁶ Corffe, f. 70.
- ²⁷ Ib. f. 81.
- ²⁸ Wyvil, 285. a.
- ²⁹ MS. E. R. Mores.
- ³⁰ Wyvil, f. 313.
- ³¹ MS, E. R. Mores.
- ³² Ib.
- ³³ Ergham, f. 84 a.
- ³⁴ Metford, f. 77.
- ³⁵ Hallam, f. 35.
- ³⁶ Beauchamp, l. f. 7.
- ³⁷ Ib. f. 30.
- ³⁸ Ib. f. 170. [N.B. printed text gives 1742 for 1472.]
- ³⁹ Ib. ii. f. 2.
- ⁴⁰ Langton, f. 45.
- ⁴¹ Audley, f. 70.
- ⁴² Ib. f. 98.
- ⁴³ Capon, f. 38.
- ⁴⁴ Jewell, f. 35.
- ⁴⁵ Coldwell, f. 10.
- ⁴⁶ Davenant, f. 15.
- ⁴⁷ Duppa, f. 4 - He was born in or near Oxford, and became student of Christ Church there. Being deprived of his preferment soon after the year 1645, he retired to Ireland, and taught a school at Dublin, from whence he returned to England, and undertook the same employment at Hayes, in Middlesex. After the restoration he was made prebendary at Westminster, and died 1670. He was esteemed a great wit, a good Grecian, a poet, and hath several copies of verse extant. Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy, part ii, p. 68.
- ⁴⁸ Henschman, f. 10.
- ⁴⁹ Ward.
- ⁵⁰ Burnet.
- ⁵¹ Father of the Rev. John Fisher, D.D. Bishop of Salisbury, and formerly vicar of Preston.
- ⁵² See Gent. Mag. vol. lxii. p. 238, master of the Free Grammar School at Reading.
- ⁵³ Reg. Ergham.
- ⁵⁴ Reg. Ergham.
- ⁵⁵ Waltham.
- ⁵⁶ Chandler.
- ⁵⁷ Sydenham.
- ⁵⁸ Warmwell Deeds.
- ⁵⁹ [sic. Text shows 1650]
- ⁶⁰ Rymer's Fœdera, vol. xv. p. 743.
- ⁶¹ [This John Fisher was a nephew of Bishop John Fisher, who was a personal friend and patron of John Constable. This younger John Fisher also became a great friend of John Constable, who, stayed at Osmington Vicarage during their honeymoon.]
- ⁶² [Presumably Dr. William Buckland FRS, Dean of Westminster and one of the giant figures of early archaeology]
- ⁶³ [Presumably William Conybeare, another very significant figure in early archaeological research]