

## People of Lyme

### 3: Cyril Wanklyn – Historian of Lyme

by Richard Bull

November 2013, Revised October 2014



**Cyril Wanklyn BA (Cantab)**

See also *Wanklyn's Lyme Leaflets: The Story of the Town's Court Rolls* by Thea Hawksworth at [http://www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk/images/stories/research/lyme\\_leaflets.pdf](http://www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk/images/stories/research/lyme_leaflets.pdf)

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## Introduction

Cyril Wanklyn (1864-1943) was, without doubt, one of Lyme's greatest historians, ranking with the two other greats, George Roberts (1804-1860) and John Fowles (1926-2005). He wrote the first unprejudiced account of the town's history: Roberts' account<sup>1</sup> being tarnished by his involvement as a protagonist in the hundred year dominance of the town by the absentee Fane family. Single-handedly Wanklyn saved the town's ancient records from oblivion, having them translated, summarised and bound. He popularised their contents in a regular newspaper column, published in book form shortly after his death<sup>2</sup>. Like John Fowles, he was curator of the Lyme Regis Museum and put his own resources into it. For his devotion to Lyme's history he received the Freedom of the Borough in 1938.

A Cambridge classics graduate, Cyril Wanklyn's first job was in teaching. By the time he retired to Lyme in 1920, he had enjoyed a glittering career in the City of London as a stockbroker and company director, only to be invalidated out by increasing deafness. He had chaired a number of public companies with interests varying from gold mining in Australia, insurance and distilling. He was known as kind and generous man, with a sense of humour and a fine written style.

## Cyril Wanklyn's family background

Cyril Wanklyn was born in the emerging town of Bournemouth in the fourth quarter of 1864, the youngest son of clergyman James Hibbert Wanklyn (1826-1894) and Elizabeth (nee Leslie). He had two brothers, Herbert and James, 2 and 4 years his senior, and three sisters, Mary and Ellen, 8 and 6 years his senior and Jane, three years his junior.

James Hibbert Wanklyn was the son of John Bradshaw Wanklyn (1790-1873) of Salford, Manchester. J B Wanklyn had been a merchant in the River Plate trade and had lived in Buenos Aires, before retiring to Bournemouth. Already a widower by 1851, he later moved to Cheam, where he died. He left almost £70,000 (£6.5M today<sup>3</sup>), which became the source of the income which the family subsequently enjoyed.

In 1843 James was initially articled to a law practice, but went up to Trinity College, Oxford in 1845, gaining his BA in 1850. He went into the church, becoming in 1855<sup>4</sup>, the incumbent of the Stonehaven parish of the Episcopalian Church,<sup>5</sup> the Anglican Church in Scotland.

<sup>1</sup> George Roberts *The History & Antiquities of the Borough of Lyme Regis & Charmouth* Bagster/Pickering, London 1834.

<sup>2</sup> See Thea Hawksworth *Cyril Wanklyn's Lyme Leaflets* [www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk](http://www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk) accessed 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013.

<sup>3</sup> All conversions were made using the Bank of England's on-line Inflation Calculator.

<sup>4</sup> David Bertie, ed. *Scottish Episcopalian Clergy 2000* T&C Clark (an imprint of Bloomsbury) Edinburgh.

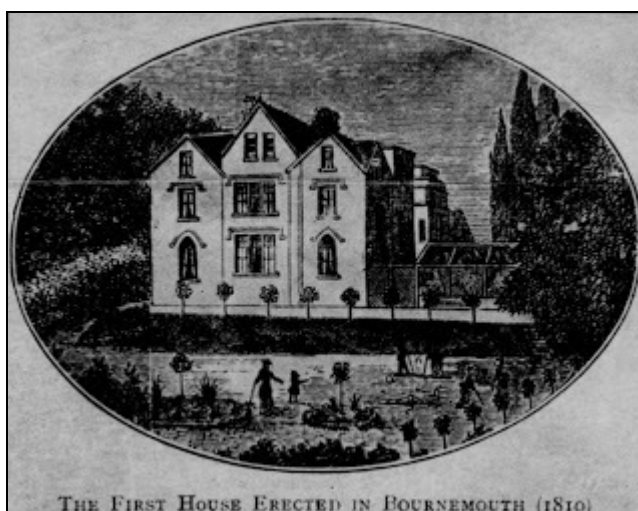
<sup>5</sup> A parish troubled after Culloden, with no substantive church until 1875-77 (information from the web site of St James & St Philip Stonehaven).



On 7<sup>th</sup> January 1856<sup>6</sup> he married Elizabeth Leslie (1826-1894), daughter of John Leslie of 60, Conduit Street (off Regent Street) in London. James and Elizabeth lived at Carron Lodge<sup>7</sup> (since demolished) in Stonehaven, where their first child, Mary Elizabeth, was born on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1856<sup>8</sup>.

Later that year they moved from Scotland and James became chaplain<sup>9</sup> of the then new Royal National Hospital, also known as the Bournemouth Sanatorium. This convalescent hospital for consumptives was opened in 1855 in the health resort and developing town of Bournemouth, an area which had been remote coastal heathland and pine woods only a few years previously.

Mary Graham describes<sup>10</sup> the Sanatorium and Wanklyn's position in a post which appeared to her, from examining the Board Papers of the hospital, as un-paid until 1869, when a stipend was provided. He also set up and ran a small private boarding school, built a house next to the Sanatorium called The Glen (maybe intended for the school, but which was let in multi-occupancy in 1871) and was involved in other clergy work at St Peter's, in which parish the Sanatorium was situated. In addition he was involved in the parish church of St James', Pokesdown<sup>11</sup>, which his mother had endowed in part. He wrote religious works, including a book for the preparation of sermons, *The Lessons of Holy Scripture*. He would likely have been involved in the building of the surviving G E Street-designed Sanatorium Chapel in 1865-7.



**Exeter House** (with thanks to Bournemouth Libraries)

At first the Wanklyns lived at Exeter House, which is now hugely expanded as the Royal Exeter Hotel on Exeter Road, a short distance from Bournemouth's first pier. This early Regency villa was built by the founder of Bournemouth, Captain Lewis Tregonwell, in 1810-

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<sup>6</sup> *Morning Chronicle* 19<sup>th</sup> January 1856.

<sup>7</sup> Sutherland & Knox *Directory of Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats, Villages etc in Scotland* 1857. Digital online version per Google Books/Bodleian Library.

<sup>8</sup> Information from birth records for Fetteresso Parish, the civil parish which included Stonehaven.

<sup>9</sup> Crockford's Clerical Directory for 1885.

<sup>10</sup> Mary Graham *The Royal National Hospital: The Story of Bournemouth's Sanatorium* Bournemouth Local Studies paper 719, 1992.

<sup>11</sup> William White *History Gazetteer and Directory of Hampshire and the IOW* 1859.

12. It was the first house to be built in what became the town and it was where James first set up his small boarding school. The Sanatorium was a short walk away across the Bourne Valley, which became Central Park.

It is not known if when James and Elizabeth moved into Exeter House directly from Stonehaven, but they were there at the time of the 1861 census - with their children Mary, Ellen and James, six pupils aged 12-16 and a staff of seven. It was near a house called Ellendale, where James' father was living. The boarding school presumably provided his main income and it was here that James provided the first cricket pitch in Bournemouth.

### **Cyril's Childhood and Overton House**

Cyril was born towards the end of 1864, probably at Exeter House<sup>12</sup>. Nothing is known of his early childhood there. By 1871 the family had moved to Westbourne, also not far from the Sanatorium, to a new or new-ish house amidst the heathland along the Poole Road. This house, Overton House, may have been built suitable for school use. It is not certain why the Wanklyns called it Overton House - maybe it was so called – but the name became important to Cyril, as we shall see later. It could be related to their association with the Popham family: the Hampshire villages of Overton and Popham are but four miles apart, whilst another Overton lies a few miles west of Stonehaven, but there are at least 15 villages and hamlets called Overton in the UK. By this time Bournemouth was becoming as much a centre for the Wanklyn family as Salford – for example Cyril's uncle the Rev. Edward Wanklyn became Curate of St Michael's and lived at 4 Beaumont Terrace nearby.

Overton House and its setting must have made a great impression on young Cyril. Here he would have enjoyed the freedom of the heaths and pine woods, and a very short distance away, the cliffs, wooded chines, sandy beaches, sea views, the first pier and its steamer trips to Purbeck and the Isle of Wight, Sandbanks and Poole Harbour – things which rapidly became part of the psyche of Bournemouth people<sup>13</sup>. Later, in his *Lyme Regis: A Retrospect*<sup>14</sup> he rails against the artificiality of developed seaside resorts with their “wooden piers”, amusements etc in defence of the prosaic charms of Lyme – maybe he was harking back to the undeveloped Bournemouth he knew, rather than the resort it became.

In 1871 Cyril lived at Overton House with his parents and sisters Mary (14), Ellen (12), Jane Wilson (3) and brothers James Leslie (10), Herbert (8) and John (2), who appears not to have survived childhood. Arthur Wanklyn from Ashton, Lancashire was visiting. James Wanklyn's school continued in this new home, with a tutor, Thomas Walford, 5 pupils (7-16 years) and six servants. However, at the time Cyril, aged 6, was staying with the Leslies, his maternal grandparents, at 60, Conduit Street. Only the year before Bournemouth had gained its first proper train service to London - that is a through train, not as hitherto, a horse bus connection to a mere branch line service at Christchurch. Visits to the capital, which would ultimately become his future home, to see his grandparents, were now easy - even at a tender age if taken by a parent, sibling or servant.

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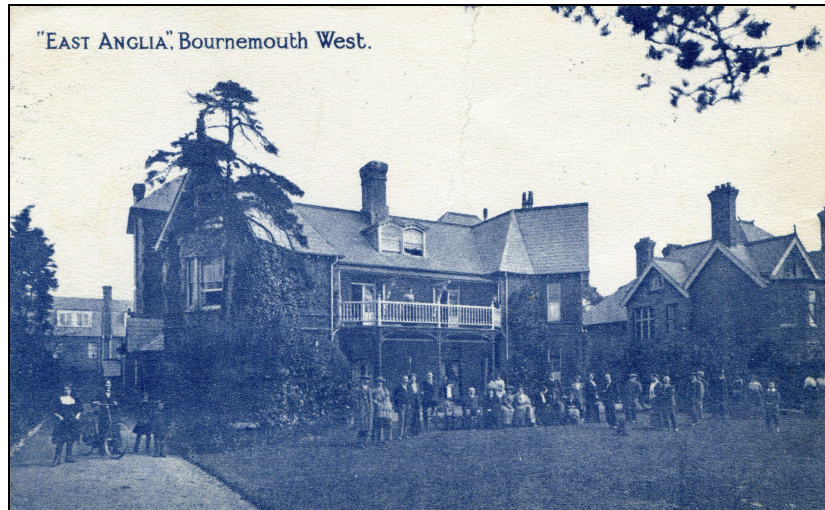
<sup>12</sup> Cyril always gave his birth place as Bournemouth, although it did not legally exist as a town at the time, being a hamlet in the Hampshire parish of Holdenhurst in the district of Christchurch. It was created as a Municipal Borough within Hampshire in 1890. Nowadays the Borough of Bournemouth is a unitary authority but part of the County of Dorset for ceremonial purposes. Records are held both by Hampshire and Dorset Record Offices.

<sup>13</sup> So my Mother, who was a teenager in Boscombe the 1920s, taught me.

<sup>14</sup> See the later section on this book.

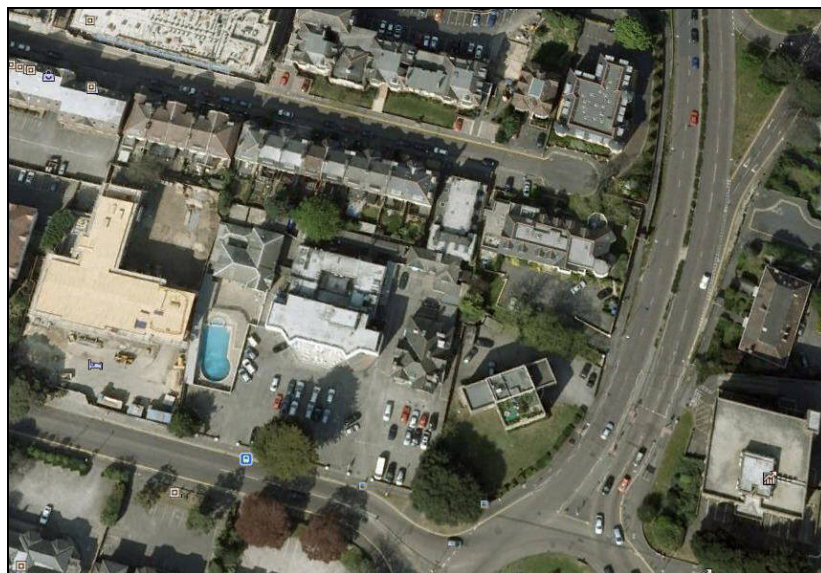






**Overton House, masquerading as the East Anglia Hotel, just before 1914.**  
(postcard photo Alwyn Ladell/Flickr).

Overton House was a large, rambling Victorian house. Although it was not set in particularly extensive grounds, it had a large front garden which set it back from Poole Road. The house immediately west was also a school, St Aloysius<sup>15</sup>. The French poet Paul Verlaine<sup>16</sup> taught French and classics there around 1876-7, after his release from Mons prison for shooting his lover. It was just before the Wanklyns left Overton House, although whether Cyril, aged 12-13, would have met him is unknown. By the 1880/90 the house was called Overton Hall. It became the East Anglia Hotel, 6 Poole Road, sometime before 1914, and was later enlarged massively on three sides and upwards, almost out of all recognition. It was demolished in 2010.



**Overton House/East Anglia Hotel, centre frame in white, engulfed by suburban development just before demolition in 2010. The two pointed bays in the air photo are the same two bays in the pre-1914 postcard above (image from Google Earth).**

<sup>15</sup>Alwyn Ladell's page on [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) .

<sup>16</sup> The Paul Verlaine page on [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) .

## The Move to London

In 1875 events transpired which changed young Cyril's life entirely and resulted in a move to the Notting Hill area of North Kensington in London in the coming year or two. This must have been a terrible blow for a teenage boy. He must have found that the move limited his freedom to roam, removing altogether the delights of coast and countryside, although he went on to live in central London for many years thereafter.

In that year concern was raised in the Sanatorium Board that James Wanklyn's chaplain's duties were not compatible with his school duties. A vote was taken and it was decided to seek a chaplain who could devote his whole time and attention. Seemingly James was often not available for Sanatorium duties, which involved counselling patients, prayers two or three times a day in the wards, as well as officiating at chapel services.

By January 1876 the Board decided that James was *not endowed with the peculiar talents and aptitude required of a chaplain*, which seems pretty damning seeing that he had been doing the job, possibly in part unpaid, since 1856. The committee sought his resignation and in July advertised the post, but would not tell James the rate of remuneration, so that he could consider whether he could afford to give up other duties - and thereby be a more effective chaplain<sup>17</sup>.

Although it looks as if he was pushed, the break cannot have been totally acrimonious, as he continued to be a supporter of the "San" for many more years. Whilst the problem appears to have started through taking on too many commitments, a contributory factor could have been his health – for it has been suggested that it was not good<sup>18</sup>. It could even have been TB coming out of latency. In those days it was thought that TB was more to do with social standing and living conditions, whereas it is caused by a bacterium and can be contracted from the sputum of patients by anybody without natural immunity, run-down and exposed to enough infective organisms. Some Sanatorium staff did indeed catch TB and at least one died from it.

Although the exact date of the move is not known, by 1881 the family were together at 8 Colville Square, a terrace of houses which still stands in the area north of Paddington Station, then called North Kensington. The house was in the middle of a 4-storey stucco terrace of well-to-do, but not over wealthy-looking houses, now divided into flats and bed-sits. On the census schedule his father's occupation is barely legible, but appears to read "Clergyman Church of England without a parish". His occupation was given elsewhere as a director of Lloyds, whether the Bank of that name or Lloyds of London is not clear<sup>19</sup>. The family consisted of parents James (54) and Elizabeth (48) and siblings Mary (24), Ellen (22), James (20), Herbert (18), Cyril (16) and Jane (13) together with their live-in servants.

Pamela Horn<sup>20</sup> gives a very good idea of life, above and below stairs, in a similar well-to-do Kensington house at this time from the diaries of Marion Sambourne and from the study of the artefacts in her perfectly preserved Victorian house and contents at 18 Stafford Terrace,

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<sup>17</sup> Graham, *idem*.

<sup>18</sup> Alan Haig *The Victorian Clergy* 1984 Croom Helm.

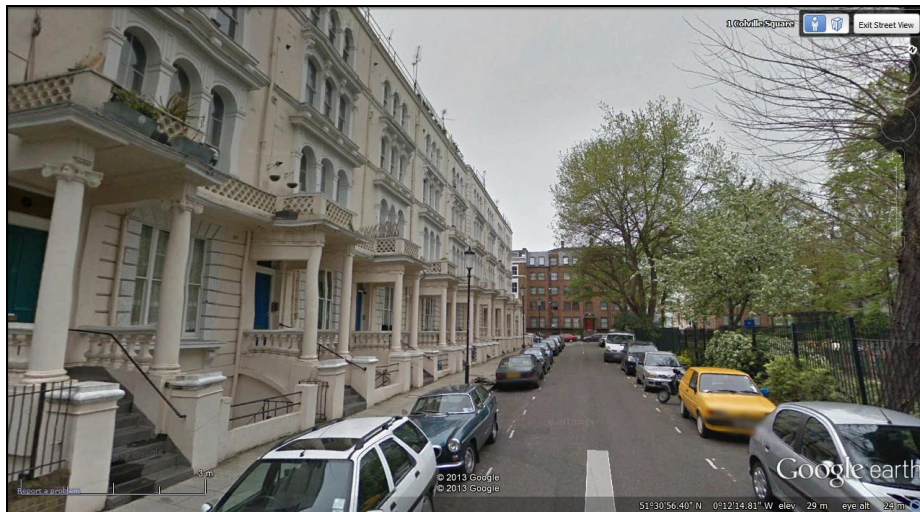
<sup>19</sup> According to marriage entry in the Surrey registers for 1906 – see later.

<sup>20</sup> Pamela Horn *Life in a Victorian Household*, 2007 The History Press





near Kensington High Street. A difference was that the Sambournes social climbing eventually resulted in the marriage of their grand children to royalty and the aristocracy.



Colville Square with No 8 a few doors along on the left. (Google Earth)

### Cyril's Education

In London Cyril Wanklyn was educated at King's College School, which was then in the Strand<sup>21</sup>, during the headship of the renowned Rev Dr T H Stokoe. He went up to Jesus College, Cambridge in 1883, reading for the classics tripos, graduating in 1886, aged 22. He rowed in the college boat club - the Museum has a trophy oar blade bearing the college crest and the names of the college eight dated Lent 1884. Wanklyn rowed at the Bow 3 position (oar to his left) and weighed 10st 6lbs (62kg). "Bumps" (wins) are recorded against Clare, Trinity and Christ's colleges.



Jesus College Boat Club trophy oar blade inscribed C Wanklyn Lent 1884  
LRM 1993/172

### Cyril's Career – School Master then City Businessman

After graduation Cyril was employed as an assistant master at Rev E D Stone's Preparatory School in Broadstairs from 1886-1890. Afterwards he retained a connection with East Kent, being Commodore and Treasurer of the Royal Temple Yacht Club of Ramsgate in 1897<sup>22</sup>.

In 1891, whilst on holiday with his sister Jane in Aberdyfi, on the coast of Cardigan Bay, he gave his profession as a "stock broker agent" in the census of that year. Around 1895 Cyril

<sup>21</sup> It did not move to its familiar site in Wimbledon until 1897.

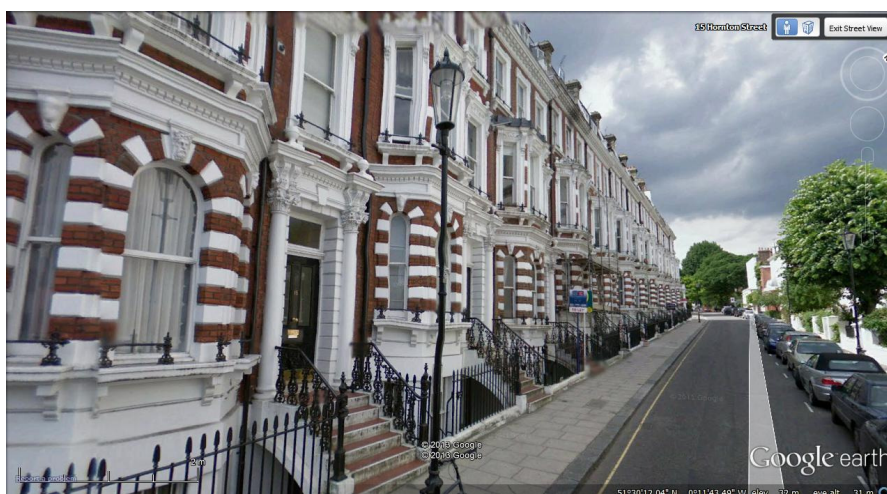
<sup>22</sup> *London Standard* 4<sup>th</sup> January 1897.

left the parental home, living at various well-to-do addresses within the 1900-1963 boundaries of the City of Westminster - Hyde Park Court, Albert Gate (with his brother James) in 1897, Belgrave Mansions, Grosvenor Square (again in part with his brother James) and 1 Park Lodge, Park Place, St James's from 1905-1907.

As a City of London stockbroker and businessman he forged a successful business career, gaining the directorships of several public companies. He was chairman of Holland & Co<sup>23</sup>, Gin Distillers and Bond Stores, Deptford in 1898<sup>24</sup>, and the Vulcan Boiler and General Insurance Co Ltd (now part of Aviva). From 1898-1908<sup>25</sup> he was chairman and managing director of the Sons of Gwalia Ltd, a mining company whose principal asset was the gold mine of that name in Western Australia<sup>26</sup>. The office was at Broad Street House, New Broad Street, London EC. He also chaired the Berry United Deep Leads alluvial gold mine in Victoria, near Bellarat, north of Melbourne<sup>27</sup>.

### Marriage and move back to Kensington

On 11<sup>th</sup> October 1906, aged 41, Cyril married Ada Beryl Harrison (1867-1933) of Rutland House, Kensington at Christ Church, Epsom<sup>28</sup>. Their engagement notice of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1906<sup>29</sup> indicated that the wedding was to be quiet, presumably because of bereavement. Subsequently they lived at 21 Hornton Street, Kensington, part of a red brick terrace banded with white stucco ornamentation. This 2 bay, 5-storey house is desirably located behind both Church Street and High Street, had 15 rooms and required three servants<sup>30</sup>.



**Hornton Street, Kensington - 21 is near the sale board (Google Earth)**

<sup>23</sup> *Pall Mall Gazette* 14<sup>th</sup> January 1898.

<sup>24</sup> On Deptford Creek – the offices are a listed building and survive. Info from *Deptford Creek Conservation Area Appraisal* Mayor of London 2010.

<sup>25</sup> Various articles in *The Times on-line* and in the *Yorkshire Evening Post* 15<sup>th</sup> June 1903, fellow directors were Arthur Johnstone-Douglas, C Ogilve and James Dawson.

<sup>26</sup> The Sons of Gwalia Mine was a deep gold mine, opening in 1897 and operating in fits and starts until 1963, although there was a major decline in its fortunes in 1921, which would have affected any share holding that Cyril retained. Overall the mine produced 82.24 tons of gold and was Western Australia's largest gold mine outside Kalgoorlie, and the deepest of its kind in Australia. Info from [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org).

<sup>27</sup> *The Argus* Melbourne Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 1908.

<sup>28</sup> Surrey Marriage Registers in Surrey Record Office on-line collection.

<sup>29</sup> *Surrey Mirror* 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1906.

<sup>30</sup> See Pamela Horn *Life in a Victorian Household*, 2007 The History Press.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Cyril Wanklyn	Head	46	Married	4	man				Director of Public Companies	9917		4	Barnham, Herts	161
Ade Bury Wanklyn	Wife	43	Married	4	woman								Padding, Herts	019
Ellen deard	Servant	32	Single						Cook (domestic)	010		0	2nd Mansel, Herts	150
Caroline Edith Bowmen	Servant	19	Single						Parlour maid (domestic)	010		0	2nd Mansel, Herts	150
Maria Grace Bowden	Servant	21	Single						Housemaid (domestic)	010		0	2nd Mansel, Herts	150

Cyril's handwriting in the days when it still legible – his 1911 census return. Later his script became more “interesting” – a series of characteristic, mostly triangular, hieroglyphs which can just be made out with patience and experience. Here Cyril gives his occupation as a director of public companies.

### Deafness and the end of Cyril's Career

Lyme folklore has it that sometime in the early 1900s Cyril contracted an illness which gradually rendered him profoundly deaf. It is certain that at some time between 1914 and 1920, between the ages of 50 and 56, his deafness forced him into early retirement. A move in 1913/4 from London to the Berkshire countryside might mark this step, or it could have been a normal move for a successful stockbroker and company director to enjoy fresh air and country pursuits in the Home Counties. Fast trains to London would have been available from nearby Theale Station on the new Great Western main line to Devon, so regular forays to the capital would have been easy and comfortable in a first class carriage. He was still able to take the chair at a company meeting in 1915<sup>31</sup>, but, for whatever reason, had to cry off in 1916.<sup>32</sup>

That they lived at Hornton Street until 1913 is clear from electoral registers, but a share prospectus<sup>33</sup> in 1914 gives his address as The Lambdens, Beenham, Reading, where he was still to be found in 1920<sup>34</sup>. The Lambdens is an impressive Regency villa set in its own parkland near the village of Beenham in the Kennett Valley, to the west of Reading. It is reminiscent of similar period villas in Lyme.



The Lambdens

<sup>31</sup> Gloucester Citizen 28<sup>th</sup> April 1915.

<sup>32</sup> Gloucester Citizen 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1916.

<sup>33</sup> Manchester Courier and General Advertiser 26<sup>th</sup> January 1914.

<sup>34</sup> GPO Phone Book.



### Retirement in Lyme

In the autumn of 1920<sup>35</sup> aged 56, Cyril settled with Ada in Lyme Regis at Timber Hill, perhaps led by a desire to be back by the Channel coast where he grew up. The Wanklyns could have been regular Lyme visitors for many years previously, but 1920 marks the start of their permanent residence here. There is, however, no evidence of earlier visits. Cyril was first registered for jury service in Dorset in 1921 and Cyril and Ada first appear on the electors' list for Lyme Regis in October 1921. A major fire at the Sons of Gwalia gold mine might have dented his finances after the move - the damage caused mining to stop for three years.

The move to Lyme cannot mark his first interest in the town, for the first edition of his *magnum opus*, *Lyme Regis: a Retrospect* (see later) was published in 1922. The work is of such quality and breadth (although he later called the first edition a bad book) that it cannot have been put together in a year, suggesting that he must have been collecting material and working on the volume long before he came here.

### Overton, the Wanklyns' Lyme home



**Overton, Lyme Regis – now Treetops Residential Care Home**

Cyril bought *Navarre*, a substantial detached house in its own grounds, now in the angle between the new and old Charmouth roads at Timber Hill, from Captain Edmund Lart<sup>36</sup>. Lart took the name for his new house in Sidmouth, so Cyril renamed it Overton, after his boyhood

<sup>35</sup> Ald W J Emmett, Mayor of Lyme Regis, on presenting the Freedom of the Borough to Cyril Wanklyn in 1938 *Western Morning News* 14<sup>th</sup> January 1938.

<sup>36</sup> In a letter from Dr Joan Walker to John Fowles dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 1982 in the Museum's Wanklyn file.

home in Bournemouth. Donald Hardy, the son of the owner of the Regent Cinema in Lyme, stated emphatically in a letter<sup>37</sup> to John Fowles, *I know he came from Overton - in fact he called his house Overton*, as if John had queried it (we do not have Fowles' letter). Of course Cyril did not come from one of the 15 or so places in Britain called Overton, but from one particular Overton House, which clearly his very special boyhood home.

Lart appears have acquired the undeveloped 2.7 acre plot in 1910<sup>38</sup>. It seems that the construction of Navarre was started in 1913 and was finished by 1915. Lart used Navarre to claim a Lyme vote in 1913 although still living in Charmouth. In 1914 he had moved to Lyme but was living at 19, Mill Green (the large house called Lima) and he did not finally settle into Navarre until 1915.

In design terms Navarre/Overton/Treetops is “turn of the century with arts and crafts elements”, including a rendered white-painted square tower over the principal entrance, with a red-brick flattened elliptical arch forming a shallow internal porch behind which is a solidly wooden door. The tower is capped by a tiled steeply pyramidal roof, with a marked splay towards the bottom of the pyramid above generously overhanging verges. The white-painted rendered walls support a steeply-pitched red tile roof with marked terminal splay and verge overhang matching that of the tower. The dormers appear to be modern additions. The walls were painted white by 1926<sup>39</sup>, although the three rendered chimney stacks are still not painted. Each has a distinctive moulded cap, similar to the pediments on doorcases. Replacement casement windows have been set too far forward, but one double window by the front door has narrow red-brick surrounds and may be original, probably reflecting what all the arts and craft window openings were once like. This window is leaded in small square panes, and it is would be in character with the period if all the windows were once leaded.



**Left 1929 OS 25” map, right 1974 OS 25”.** Apart from changes to the drive and development creeping up to its boundaries, Overton changed little in Wanklyn’s time and right up to the 1959, but sometime between then and 1974 it was renamed Treetops (Lyme Regis Museum).

<sup>37</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> November 1982, also in the Wanklyn file.

<sup>38</sup> Rights of access to Lart recited in conveyance of adjoining property dated 1910.

<sup>39</sup> Photo dated 1926 from High Cliff in the Lister Thesaurus.



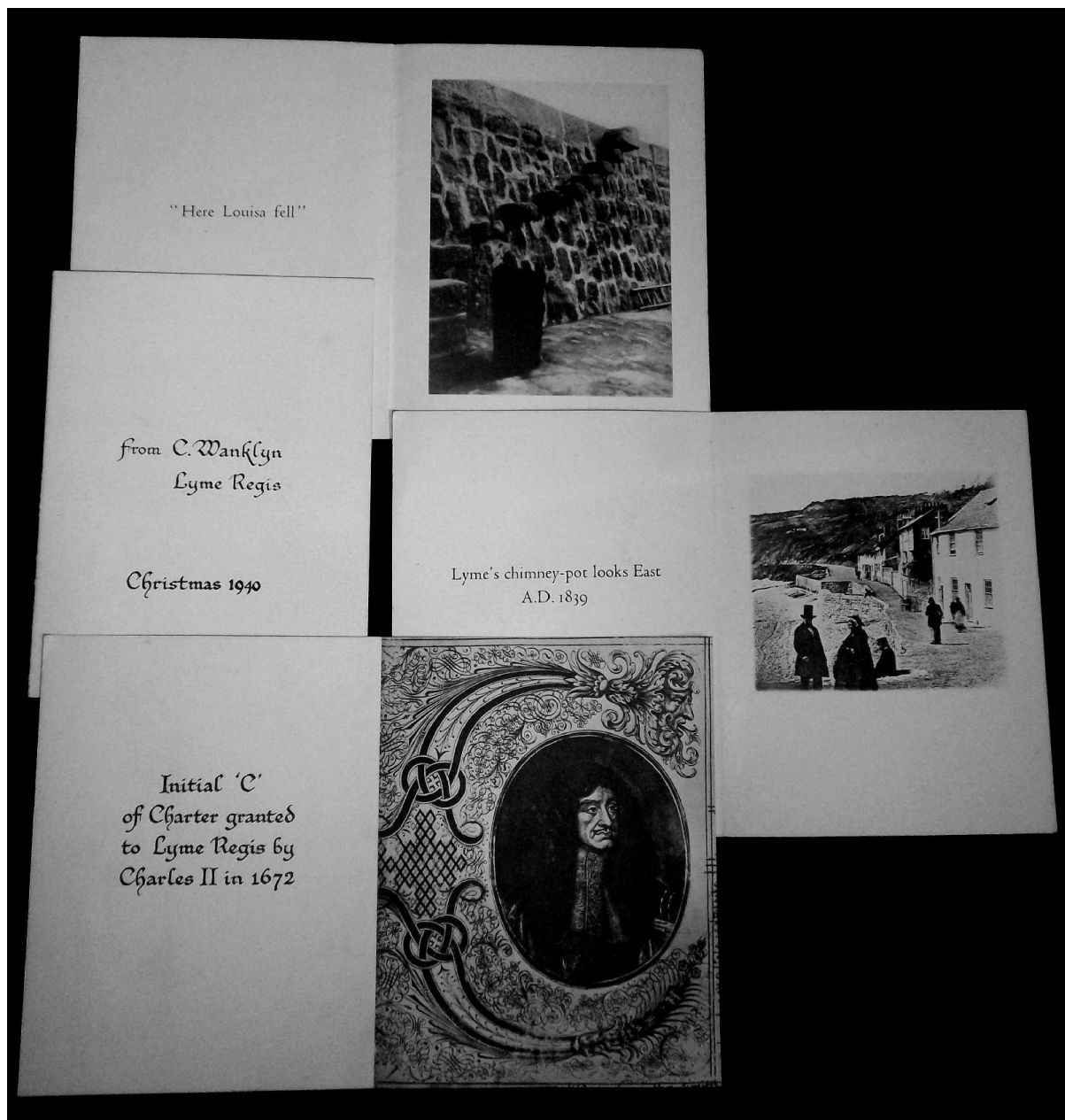


**Overton (arrowed) showing its position high “over the town” (2013).**

The house does not appear on the 1919 OS 1” map sheet 139: the triangle of land is still a field, but the survey revision date for the sheet is 1912. The 1929 6” map shows the house standing in its own grounds filling the tongue of land left between the new Charmouth road (which as built in 1927) and the old road. The site was just up from the site of the old tollgate at Colway Gate, locally called Frost’s Corner, but which Wanklyn called the Three Legged Cross. It has commanding views across Lyme Regis, the Cobb, Lyme Bay and to Uplyme, although modern development and tree cover obscures the view to some extent. It can be clearly seen from the Cobb. Coincidentally, the setting is very much “Over Town” and the name may have a double meaning.

When the house was built the town water supply came from Nellie Brown's Well near Rhode Barton Farm. This was too low to reach the Timber Hill by gravity, so a windmill was installed to help pump water up to tanks in the roof of the house<sup>40</sup>. By 1981 the windpump had gone and seven bungalows had been built in the grounds. A new road was pushed into to serve 5 of these bungalows and the old Overton, named Overton Close. The house is now Tree Tops Residential Care Home, but the name Overton still appears on its sign. Unfortunately no old close-up photographs of the house or grounds are known.

<sup>40</sup> From Memories of Jack Wiscombe, typescript at LRM.



**A selection of Cyril Wanklyn's Christmas cards -**  
the date of the photo of Marine Parade is more like 1850-5.

### **Cyril's Life in Lyme**

Apart from Cyril's work at the Museum, nothing is known about the Wanklyns' social life in Lyme and there is nothing recorded about Ada at all, apart from the basic facts. It is clear from the printed but unsigned Christmas cards which he sent to friends<sup>41</sup> that Cyril had a good sense of humour. The cards always had a picture of an historical object or discovery, often with humorous by-line, such as *Lyme's chimney pot looks east* to describe the earliest photograph of Marine Parade. After moving to Lyme they travelled abroad together, sailing

<sup>41</sup> Including Muriel Arber, Dracenia Allhusen and Gulielma Lister FLS, whose collections have come to the Museum.

from London with P&O to Gibraltar in 1926 and in 1928 to Toulon. In addition Ada went to Sydney in 1930, possibly to visit the various Wanklyns in Australia and New Zealand<sup>42</sup>

The couple had no children and sadly Ada died on 1st August 1933 at St Albans Villas, Highgate Road in St Pancras. She left £3,833 18/2d (£232,370 today) and her executors were W Foster (Solicitor) and Dorothea Maxwell-Heron. Strangely at probate her address was given as 54, Hillway, Highgate.

Cyril continued to travel overseas: he visited relatives in Malta in 1935 and 1938<sup>43</sup> and went to Yokohama in 1938<sup>44</sup>.

### **Curatorship of the Lyme Regis Philpot Museum**

Cyril shared the honorary curatorship of the Museum from 1927 to 1940, concentrating on history, giving talks and publicising the work of the Museum and his work on the town records. The curatorship was shared with Dr Vitruvius Wyatt Wingrave of Cobbe House, a retired ENT specialist and pathologist, allowing Wingrave to concentrate on geology. Wingrave had caught a disease from his work which made him profoundly deaf, but Cyril and he managed to communicate using closely wielded ear trumpets.

After 1935 Cyril shared the role with a retired consultant from Swansea Hospital, Dr Ernest le Cronier Lancaster lived at Penard<sup>45</sup> in Colway Lane, named after the village on the Gower where he used to live. Penard was only a few hundred yards from Overton.

After 1937 Dr W D Lang FRS assisted and took over the honorary curatorship entirely in 1940, as Cyril's health declined, enabling him to finish his great work on the town records before he died in 1943. A long time devotee of Charmouth and the local Lias strata, Lang had retired there from the keepership of palaeontology at the British Museum (Natural History). Unfortunately Lang was not overly interested in the historical side and later found himself unable to safeguard the Museum from Charmouth.

Cyril's main legacy at the Museum was that of careful research and historical accuracy, but apart from his work on the town records, his two books and his bequest, very little survives in the Museum's records of his activities or talks, considerably though they must have been. Any displays he mounted have long-since been changed without record, and internally the Museum has been rebuilt since his tenure. The only inklings occur from 1929, at the third summer meeting of the Dorset Field Club in Lyme, held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1929<sup>46</sup>. Cyril told the party that *two years ago the Museum was a neglected offspring of an unloved stepmother...our Borough Council*". *Dr Wingrave alone kept the dirty, ill-clad infant alive.*

A trust deed was drawn up and three trustees appointed, William Wyatt Wingrave, Cyril Wanklyn and, *ex officio*, the Mayor. This must have taken much administrative skill, won from his days as a company director. He spoke about the most important exhibits which he had framed for the Museum and which came from the Town Hall – Henry Fielding's note of

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<sup>42</sup> Although the name combination is very unusual, there was another Cyril Wanklyn, living in Foxton, New Zealand.

<sup>43</sup> As he wrote in a letter to R C Edwards on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1943 (DHC D1163/1/10).

<sup>44</sup> P&O Passenger Lists (on [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) but beware of a record in February 1926 from Brisbane to London, which is impossible given that he sailed to Malta only a fortnight before.

<sup>45</sup> Although the Gower village is *Pennard*.

<sup>46</sup> Proc Dorset NH&AS vol 51 1930 p 61-5.





defiance; Thomas Coram's acknowledgement of his Freedom of the Borough, a case of a trial for witchcraft in 1700; a letter from Admiral Byng; a letter from Henry St John, Lord Bolingbroke, Queen Anne's minister; a letter from the Tangier Commission of 1662 asking Lyme to send Cobb builders to construct a harbour at Tangier, signed by Samuel Pepys as well as the Market Bell of 1674, which he found in the Police Station in 1925 and had hung in the Museum stairwell. Wyatt Wingrave continued, listing the relics of the Monmouth rebels' execution<sup>47</sup>; the town stocks; part of the Assembly Room floor on which Jane Austen danced and Disraeli lounged; the aumbry stones and tracery from the Bridge Chapel and masonry and brackets from the old Cobb Gate.

Cyril was clearly very generous, not only in helping researchers such as Gulielma Lister and Muriel Arber, but also in providing what he called the Borough Records Fund. This was almost entirely at his own expense, as the Museum was not to be a charge on the rates. Once he quipped that the fund *was one of those titles under which I trade*<sup>48</sup>. He seems to have paid for the conservation and cleaning of records and their binding or framing appropriate. He bought back from a dealer one of the Court Books, which had gone missing at the hands of a London solicitor many years before - and he bought many other prints, letters, maps and records which he either presented to the Museum or bequeathed to it, amounting to over 82 items in all.

As a result of his joint efforts with Wingrave visitor numbers soared, probably from 3,000 a year in the 1920s to "over 12,000" a year by 1937<sup>49</sup>. However, despite all his efforts and those of fellow curators, war intervened and the Museum lay virtually closed from 1939 until 1960, long after Cyril's death. Visitors must have all but dried up, at least until the threat of invasion receded after 1944. Barbed wire entanglements were all about and passes were needed to visit Marine Parade. The ground floor was used as council offices, the cellar as an air-raid shelter - it seems that without Cyril Wanklyn's guiding hand the Borough Council lost, or was forced to lose by circumstance, its interest in the Museum. In fact during that period it was opened to the public without supervision and with what limited curatorial control the ageing Dr Lang could provide until he resigned in 1946, regarding the situation as hopeless. Objects, archives and record books disappeared: if this was happening before Cyril died in 1943 and he knew about it, then he must have been greatly depressed that the medieval town records, which he had saved from oblivion, were at risk again.

### **Freeman of the Borough**

The town recognised Cyril's curatorial contribution by admitting him as a Freeman of the Borough in 1938<sup>50</sup>, alongside Wyatt Wingrave, the pair of them having put the Museum on a sound footing. Cyril had special mention for saving and cataloguing the Borough archives. A brass plaque in the Guildhall records the town's gratitude to him. In addition he was presented with a certificate of his freedom, lists of freemen, burgesses and electors for 1848, which he later gave to the Museum. Cyril indicated that he not been well, although he did not

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<sup>47</sup> Later thrown out as too ghoulish by Dr William Lang.

<sup>48</sup> Cyril Wanklyn, in his acceptance speech on being admitted to the Freedom of the Borough from an unlabelled cutting in the *Bridport News* (Lyme Regis Museum Wanklyn file).

<sup>49</sup> Ald Emmett's address on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1938 mentioned above, reported in the *Western Morning News* 14<sup>th</sup> January 1938.

<sup>50</sup> Lyme Regis Borough Council *Order of Proceedings for the Presentation of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough* 1938 (Lyme Regis Museum Wanklyn box).



know why, speculating that it was overwork and now that he had received his “wages” that day, he could go on strike or become unemployed in order to recuperate.<sup>51</sup>

Amazingly his freedom certificate was found by Debi Johnson of Crystal Brook, north of Adelaide, in Hazel’s Antiques in Blakeview, South Australia. Debi had no idea of its significance until an internet search threw up this an earlier version of this paper. Although this paper details Wanklyn’s known Australian connections, there is no knowledge of how the certificate got there. Debi and her husband Jeff brought the certificate back to Lyme and kindly presented it to Museum Director David Tucker at a ceremony in the Guildhall in October 2014, in exchange for a copy to hang in their new coffee shop in Crystal Brook.



**Cyril Wanklyn receiving the Freedom of the Borough from the Mayor, Alderman William J Emmett, in Lyme Regis Guildhall on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1938.**  
Cyril is wearing an early hearing aid.

**The Freedom of Lyme certificate**  
Photo by Mike Applegate

<sup>51</sup> *Western Morning News* 14<sup>th</sup> January 1938.



**Debi and Jeff Johnson present Cyril Wanklyn's Freedom of Lyme certificate to David Tucker, Director of Lyme Regis Museum, on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 photo by Maisie Hill**

### Memories of Cyril Wanklyn

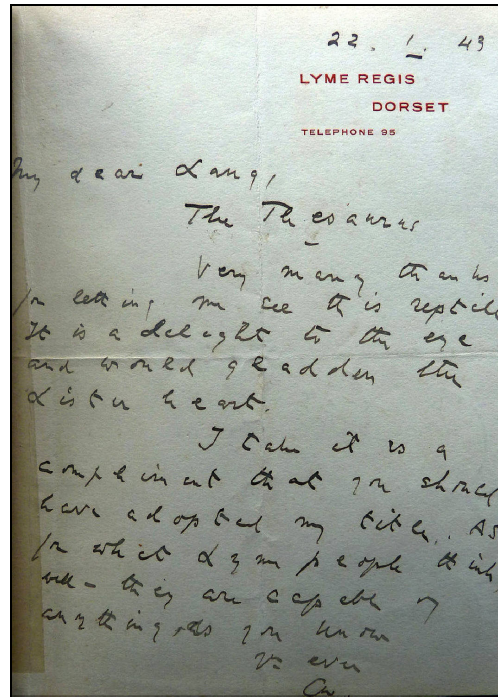
Although from a different generation, Muriel Arber<sup>52</sup> knew him well, says *he lived alone in what I thought to be a rather pathetic state of isolation, but he came to town by bus with his small white dog which he called Jane Austen. It was many years before I met him, but on my visits to Lyme in 1940 and 1942 he invited me to tea and we sat in what had been built as the music room of the house. He had an ear trumpet and it was possible to make him hear, but he was sadly conscious of his infirmity and its effect on him.* The impression of a recluse, which Muriel paints, is not borne out by his earlier frenetic activity, and refers to his last three years - he stated himself that from 1938 he felt unwell.

Likewise Donald Hardy, of the Regent Cinema, clearly knew the house because he refers to it in later years as being full of admonishing notices, such as to *put everything back in its place.*

Gulielma Lister FLS corresponded with Cyril extensively as she and Blanche Palmer put together a huge scrapbook of Lyme history. She left Lyme in 1927, but in 1942 gave it to Cyril for the Museum. He christened it the *Lister Thesaurus.*

<sup>52</sup> Muriel Arber 1988 *Lyme Landscape in Figures* Dorset Books pp36, 59-60. At first Muriel only knew him through correspondence.





**Letter from Cyril Wanklyn to Dr William Lang eulogising about the Lister Thesaurus.**

Other letters in the Museum suggest that, whilst accuracy was his overriding concern, he showed humility when the rare error was pointed out, accepting that he had “blundered” (his word”) if the complainant turned out to be correct. Since his time few have found errors in his work, only further information enabling re-interpretation of his conclusions.

**Life’s Tasks Complete**

Cyril Wanklyn died shortly after completing his great undertaking on the history of Lyme Regis Borough Records. He had already suffered a heart attack and survived in 1941<sup>53</sup>. On 16<sup>th</sup> December 1943, aged 79, he suffered another heart attack at Overton. He did not recover.

The funeral service took place in St Michael’s Church in Lyme Regis, led by the Vicar, Rev C Carew Cox. An appreciation of his life was given by Dr Ernest le Cronier Lancaster<sup>54</sup>. He was buried in Lyme Regis Cemetery, the grave marked by a simple headstone. A short obituary appeared in *The Times*<sup>55</sup>.

He left not only placed the borough records in the Museum, conserved, bound, indexed and summarised, but all the old prints, paintings, photographs, maps, books, objects and records he had collected during his study of Lyme, many already published in *Lyme Regis: A Retrospect*. Despite spending his own money on the records and Museum objects, he still managed to leave £9,637 13/7d (£372,000 today) and £100 (£3,861) each to Cyril Popham, nephew, Helen Clemens (niece) and Esther Ann Jones<sup>56</sup>.

<sup>53</sup> Mentioned in a letter he wrote to R C Edwards *idem*.

<sup>54</sup> Copy in Wanklyn file, Lyme Regis Museum.

<sup>55</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> December 1943.

<sup>56</sup> *Western Morning News* 29<sup>th</sup> February 1944, and calendar of the Probate Registry for Llandudno.





**Cyril Wanklyn's Headstone in Lyme Regis Cemetery –**  
*In loving memory of Cyril Wanklyn Overton Lyme Regis Dec. 1943.*

### **Cyril's Great Retirement Project – the History of Lyme Regis**

Whether Cyril Wanklyn came to Lyme in 1920 intending to become immersed in the history of the town is unknown. As already stated he rapidly produced the first edition of his *magnum opus* on the history of the town and published it by 1922. It was that publication that opened the door to the town records and, having finished the second edition in 1927, to being invited to share that year to share the curatorship of the Museum.

Nowhere does he indicate that he had a plan – did he get sucked in, or did he plan his involvement? If the first edition was – in his own words - a colossal cheek, it implies that at that stage he still thought himself an outsider (Roberts was a Lymeite), and that he had not worked by invitation. But he cannot have produced the work in isolation. He must have relied on a local network to collect the information and steer him in the right direction, particularly as the Museum's collection was much weaker than now, the network of county record offices did not exist and there was nothing like our modern internet access to records. Unlike Roberts' offerings, his principal book contains no acknowledgements and few sources, yet it reads authoritatively as if written by someone who not only understood Lyme and its history closely, but understood the national stage in which all local history is set. He does acknowledge that George Roberts had built up an extensive data base, but we do not know if he had access to his notes and cuttings, as they were given to the Museum a decade after Wanklyn's curatorship by HVF Johnstone of Poole. Johnstone<sup>57</sup> (1908-1988) was the Reference Librarian for Poole and gave items to many Dorset museums, but was of a later generation to Wanklyn and not in a senior position until he returned from the 1939-45 war, so it is unlikely that they were collaborators. He certainly did not copy Robert's published ideas, although he will have used them in forming his own opinion. He must have spent many days at the British Museum Library, the Public Record Office (where he used his contacts to good effect later to get the Lyme archives translated) and amongst the various book, map and print dealers in London and probably Dorchester.

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<sup>57</sup> Obit, Proc Dorset NH&AS vol 110 for 1988, published 1989



Cyril was a classics graduate, so when, in 1922, the Mayor invited him to look at the ancient records in the Guildhall, he had a head start to understanding the Latin script in which most of it was written, even if classical Latin is far removed from the vernacular version of Latin used by local legal clerks in medieval and restoration England.

As it happens, there was probably no-one else with sufficient interest and grip to write his first history, let alone sort and classify the ancient rolls. Wyatt Wingrave was principally interested in geology (although he did write historical papers) and Gulielma Lister was principally interested in natural history (although she did compile her historical scrapbook, before returning to Leytonstone for good in 1927). The last previous full-on historian of Lyme was George Roberts, who left the town for good some 70 years before Wanklyn came. The field was Wanklyn's and, as we shall see, his first book opened the door to the neglected treasury of ancient records.

### The Retrospect

Cyril's first book was *Lyme Regis – A Retrospect*<sup>58</sup>. He published this masterpiece summary of the town's post medieval history privately in 1922. It ran to 132 pages illustrated with many plates of maps, portraits and drawings which he had collected. His clarity of writing is impressive, as his analysis of the town's history, making a complete contrast to Robert's dense Victorian writing and biased view of Fane mongering in the town's affairs. It was Wanklyn that exposed the Fanes for what they were: corrupt outsiders who strangled the town for their own personal need to cling to national power.

However, he himself regarded this, his first book, *as a colossal cheek because I had only been in Lyme a few months...and in some respects a rather bad book...but it was well got up and sold well, although it brought no profit. Its chief value was it gave me entry to this room [the Council Chamber]. This room and the room opposite [the Muniment Room in the tower above the Mayor's Parlour], although you may not know it, are full of hundreds, possibly thousands of very dirty and very illegible, but sometimes very interesting documents of the past*<sup>59</sup>. The much expanded second edition in 1927<sup>60</sup> contained 247 pages and many more illustrations.

The Retrospect is a very accessible narrative, written in clear, easy to read and absorbing style. It is not a full history: basically it covers topics, each of which could have stood alone as an essay. Roberts attempted to cover Lyme and Charmouth from pre-history to his present day and his was to function as a guide as much as a history. It came out in a handy pocket size for visitors, but would have been useful as a textbook and as a primer for councillors etc. Wanklyn covers the period from around 1600 to a few years after the Reform Acts, ie around 1850 - and only Lyme at that. Unlike Roberts his book is not pocket sized, the pages were left uncut on two sides, he had no subscription list and no dedication to a local dignitary: his only dedication is "to A. B W.", ie his wife Ada. He tells us it sold well but that it made no profit – the pitfall of a privately published book. It must have been expensive to print, because (in the second edition) it contains 57 plates, some colour, some fold-outs, each of which would have required photographing, screening and metal block making and, after printing separately, binding into the quires or tipping-in, depending on size. The colour plates would have

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<sup>58</sup> Cyril Wanklyn *Lyme Regis: A Retrospect* 1922 Arthur Humphreys London.

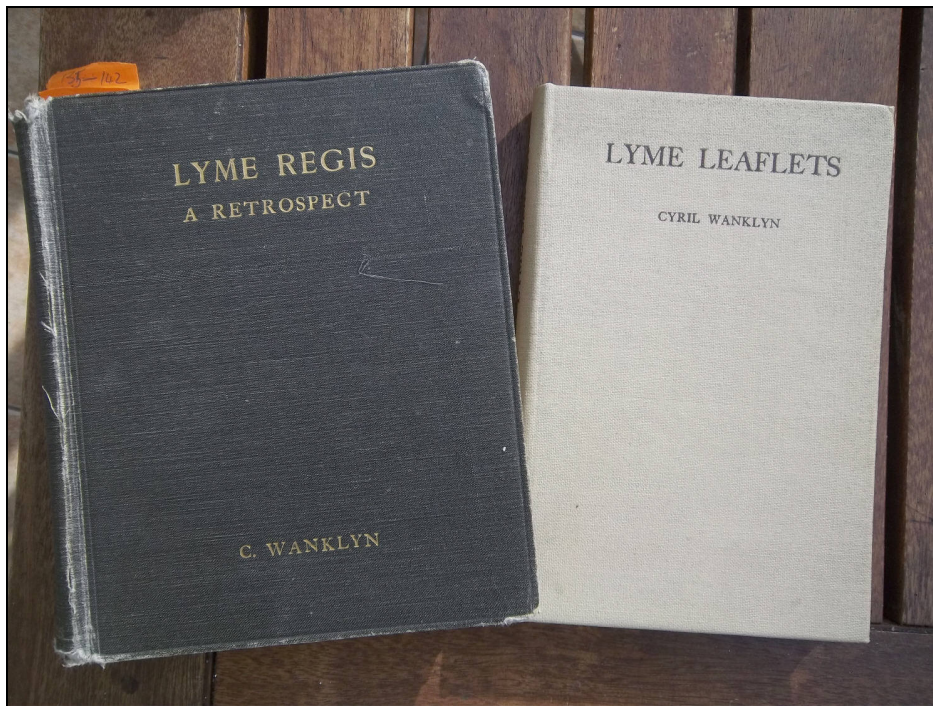
<sup>59</sup> Cyril Wanklyn's freeman's acceptance speech 1938, *idem*.

<sup>60</sup> Cyril Wanklyn *Lyme Regis: A Retrospect* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1927 Hatchards, London.



required four blocks each. The cover of the second edition is gold-blocked cloth on boards with the top edge of the quires cut and gilded. Without a subscription he must have paid for all this work himself.

The topics covered are in both editions are the same, ie Lyme Regis and Dissent, The Siege of Lyme, The Adventure of Monmouth, Depression and Revival, The Parliamentary Borough, The Church, Natives and Notabilities, The Plan of 1841 and Unchanging Lyme. In effect this forms a complete history of the town's development as a special place during the period when information is readily available: it fell to Lyme Letters to cover the previous period - inevitably in a more disjointed manner as it was written as chance brought each record to light.



**Cyril Wanklyn's main published works – still eagerly sought after by collectors and students of Lyme Regis.**

### **The discovery of a lifetime**

One day around 1921 Cyril Wanklyn was invited by the Mayor to enter the muniment room in the tower of the Guildhall and found, to his great delight and amazement, in total disarray, in that damp and dirty room, quantities of parchment rolls, including the Town's Court Books, dating from the late twelve hundreds to 1835. He must have felt a bit as Harold Carter and Lord Carnarvon did on entering the Tomb of Tutankhamen. Apart from some missing items, which he traced elsewhere and recovered, the record was almost complete. It is rare for any town to have such a complete record as this and, if it were not for Cyril Wanklyn, its future would have been bleak had the room been cleared – already the documents must have been moved when the Guildhall was rebuilt in the 1887/8s and put back afterwards. Single-handedly he saved, led and funded the conservation, translation, indexing and analysis of the precious medieval and later records.

## Lyme Leaflets

His book, *Lyme Leaflets*<sup>61</sup>, details the fruits of his labours of twenty years of dedicated work on the precious town archives. The “leaflets” were originally published as a series of articles in local papers in Dorset, Devon and Somerset, between 1923 and 1943, the pull-off reprints, (i.e., leaflets) of these articles were collected by his friends and admirers, so much so that the Museum has ended up with several sets of varying completeness.

Cyril provided a short explanatory preface and an index. The compilation was ready when his sudden death in 1943 delayed publication until the following year. He left money to each of three friends to fulfil his plan. Hence Helen Clemens, Cyril Popham (nephew) and Catherine Ede had some 250 copies printed privately and distributed them to his friends, etc. He did not attempt to bring the leaflets into single narrative, probably knowing that he did not have the time. In a way this is a pity, as there is a lot of repetition, but on the other hand it is possible to see how the project progressed just as the newspaper reader would have done.

There are reference copies of his books in Lyme Library and copies come up from time to time (try Nigel Cozens of Lymelight Books). Be aware that many of the available copies of *The Retrospect* are short of plates and that the first edition is not really worth having compared with the much expanded and corrected second.

### Cyril’s work on the Borough Archives, as explained in *Lyme Leaflets*

[This section much reduced from *Wanklyn’s Lyme Leaflets: The Story of the Town’s Court Rolls* by Thea Hawksworth to which the reader is referred for details:

[http://www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk/images/stories/research/lyme\\_leaflets.pdf](http://www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk/images/stories/research/lyme_leaflets.pdf) .

Cyril Wanklyn found a badly stored set of rolls and books, probably the result of the archives merely being dumped and then forgotten in that damp in the Guildhall. He collected an almost complete set of Lyme Regis Borough records and Court Books from 1309 to 1835, the date of the Municipal Reform Act, when the courts were abolished. Sundry other items he called “fugitive pieces”. Work just had start “in the middle”, as to sort them before cleaning and translation was impossible and any attempt a waste of time. He arranged for transcription and translation at the Public Record Office (now The National Archives) in London. This gave three sets of documents to work with, the originals, the transcriptions and the translations. Calendars, typed summaries and indexes in English provide the key. These were bound in cloth. In addition he paid for over eighty volumes to be bound in vellum, costing hundreds of pounds. In the preface to *Lyme Letters* he says in conclusion that *the methodical inspection, arrangement and interpretation of Lyme’s wonderful collection of municipal documents, which was begun over twenty-one years ago is now complete. Everything that was worth doing has been done... what was dark is now made plain.*

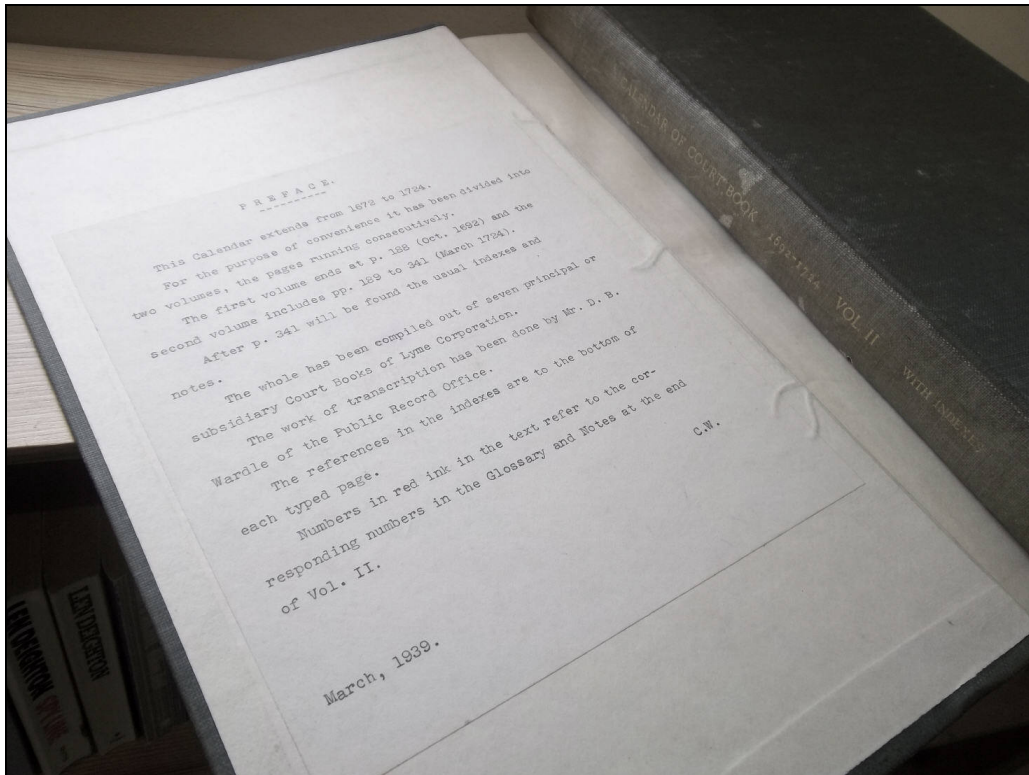
One record, covering the period from 1309 -1328, thought to be the earliest manuscript on paper, as opposed to parchment, was already in the British Museum Library: it is now in the British Library. A copy was obtained, transcribed, calendared and bound. One missing Court Book he purchased from a London book dealer and added to the set: it had been borrowed for a court case and not returned. In the late 1930s Wanklyn put the documents into safe keeping in Lyme Regis Museum. The Museum Minute Book records some of these acquisitions, but, I there ever was one, no complete museum accession list of them survives.

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<sup>61</sup> Cyril Wanklyn *Lyme Leaflets* 1944 Spottiswoode Ballantyne & Co 146pp.







**Calendar of Court Book with index 1962-1724 with Cyril's preface to vol I open and vol II closed to the right.**

The principal records are:

- **Court Leet.** This met just after Easter and just after Michaelmas, when a jury of freemen of the town sat in judgement on everyone's shortcomings towards the community, including those of the Mayor.
- **Hustings Court**, established by the Charter of 1285. This was held weekly and dealt solely with commercial cases. These records are incomplete: it would be a unique survival if the whole 527 years was covered, but the 370 years which do survive are an exceptional record.
- **Annual Meeting for the election of the Mayor** by the freemen on the first Monday after August 24<sup>th</sup> (St Bartholomew's Day).
- **The elections for Members of Parliament.** Unfortunately, these were infrequently recorded, even during the times of general elections. For example, one volume, which covers the period 1563 – 1571, fails to mention that there were two general elections during those years, and it was the 1563 election that so important a person as Sir Francis Walsingham, Elizabeth I's Spymaster, became MP for Lyme.

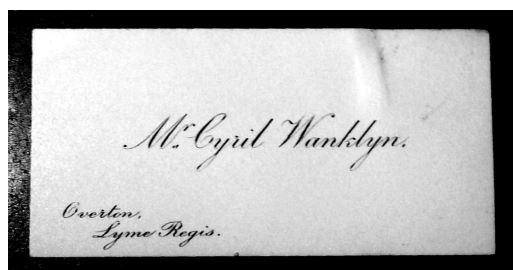
These records show us that Lyme was not insignificant in the wider history of the nation. As Wanklyn said in *Lyme Letters the Court Book volumes are an exceptional, possibly unrivalled series...and this is a series possibly unequalled by any other old English borough.*

### Where are the town's ancient records now?

Subsequently the burden of keeping these ancient documents dry and safe in the then crumbling Museum became too great and under an agreement with the Dorset Heritage Centre (DHC, formerly Dorset Record Office) they were deposited there, whilst remaining the property of the Museum. There they joined all but one of the town's many royal charters. **Researchers should make initial enquiries at the Dorset Heritage Centre.** A search of the DHC website <http://archives.dorsetforyou.com/adlibwebapp/> using terms such as Lyme Regis Museum, D/LR, D/LRM and Lyme Regis Court Rolls will reveal the items. For post 1835 records and the charters search under "Lyme Regis Borough".

The following archives are deposited at Dorset History Centre:

**Court Books and Calendars 1309-1328** in the British Library, copy in file DHC D/LR; **Court Books and Calendars 1437-1508, 1560-1575, 1578-1584, 1592-1602, 1604-1608, 1613-1627, 1647-1670, 1672-1724** (Museum only retains one copy); **1724-1765, 1766-1835** in file DHC D/LR; **Sundry Mayors' Accounts 1573-1685** in file DHC D/LR; **Mayors' Vouchers 1587-1838; Lyme Regis Quarter Sessions Book 1578-1856; Borough Finances 1544-1699** in file DHC D/LR; **Misdemeanour Book 1681-1751; Order Books to 1835; Fugitive Pieces 1496-1696, 1288-1859 and 1340-1712** - hundreds of individual items in files D/LR and Uncatalogued Accession 6786 at the DHC. In addition, in "Lyme Leaflets" Wanklyn discusses the **Accounts of Lyme Regis & Crewkerne Turnpike Trust and the various Burgess Rolls 1835-1891**, also formerly in the Museum and now in the DHC.



Visiting card and signature (the latter from 1911 Census Return).

### Acknowledgements

The idea of compiling this biographical note came from the work of Thea Hawksworth on Lyme Leaflets - and I am grateful for her help and encouragement. I have also received much help from Dr Michael Taylor, formerly of National Museums Scotland, on tracing the Wanklyns and their houses in Stonehaven and Bournemouth – and thereby settling the question as to why Cyril named his house in Overton "from whence he came". Graham Davies cheerfully supplied photographs as well as information about the previous owner of Overton and about Cyril's businesses. However, any *blunders* are all mine.

Richard Bull

November 2013 Revised October 2014.



## Appendix: Items given to Lyme Regis museum by Cyril Wanklyn

### Key

Date/number	LRM Accession Number
M	further details and thumbnail image on LRM Modes database
F	found, awaiting inclusion on Modes database
Unlettered	yet to be identified, misfiled or went missing in the curatorial gap years 1946-1960.

Many of these items are reproduced in Cyril Wanklyn *Lyme Regis: A Retrospect 1927*.

### List 1: Given during his lifetime

1. 1937/11 M cast of Armada Medal
2. 1937/13 M token of admission to Pidcocks Menagerie late 18thC, found near Summerhill
3. 1937/25 M coin, Elizabeth I 6d from Assembly Rooms
4. 1937/26 M original document signed by Thomas Coram
5. 1938/1 M painting 'The Great Storm of 1824'
6. 1938/2 M watercolour of The Cobb, c.1826
7. 1938/3 M watercolour of The Cobb, c.1826
8. 1938/8 M 8-10 are a set of three: large print on Lyme's Walk, 1819 Marryat/Cruickshank
9. 1938/9 M large print on Lyme's Walk, 1819 Marryat/Cruickshank
10. 1938/10 M large print on Lyme's Walk, 1819 Marryat/Cruickshank
11. 1938/11 M painting of the Old Fossil Shop before 1913 by Daisy Eastment
12. 1938/12 M gouache of Adams Shop before 1927 by Daisy Eastment
13. 1938/13 M cartoon of Thomas Coram, 1741
14. 1938/17 M J Lidon token, Uplyme
15. 1941/2 M print by George Roberts of the Cobb in Queen Elizabeth's time
16. 1942/1 F a fragment of a book 'The Great Storm of Nov 23rd 1824'
17. 1942/2 F Dunster-published book 'Peeps into an old Playground', memories of Lyme
18. 1942/3 F 'Dowlands Landslip of Christmas Day 1839' by J Hallett
19. 1942/4 book 'Jane Austen, Lyme Regis' by Emma Austen Leigh, ed J A Austen Leigh

### List 2: Items bequeathed by Cyril Wanklyn

[Accessioned with the date 1943, but accepted noted in Trustees Minute Book in 1944 following CW's death in December 1943].

1. 1943/1 M watercolour, Charmouth beach looking towards Lyme, c1862
2. 1943/2 M watercolour 4 small & 4 smaller views of Lyme and around
3. 1943/3 M watercolour by Gulielma Lister of "Wings" at western end of The Walk where CW thought that Austen stayed in 1804
4. 1943/4 M print 'Lyme Regis from the Cobb'
5. 1943/5 M print 'Lyme Regis from a drawing in the possession of the Rev F D Hodges'
6. 1943/7 M small pencil drawing of Colway Manor, 1916
7. 1943/8 large print 'Interior of Lyme Regis Church, Dorset'
8. 1943/9 M very small black/white print 'Lime Regis'
9. 1943/10-1 M Lister Thesaurus
10. 1943/10-2&3 cards removed from Lister Thesaurus
11. 1943/11-1to12F 1830s-1868 election posters & handbills
12. 1943/12 M sketch of St Andrew's Well by G Lister
13. 1943/13 F printed plan for water supply, from plans deposited with Lyme Regis Improvement Act, 1845
14. 1943/14-1 F 1834 summons



15. 1943/14 1to7F 1831-4 election ephemera, printed
16. 1943/15 F 1859 cheque book
17. 1943/16 F 1859 cheque book
18. 1943/17-1to7 7 posters for 1847 election
19. 1943/18 F printed account to HM Treasury for Lyme Regis Corporation property sale, 1838
20. 1943/19 printed sale particulars for estates, 1867
21. 1943/20 list of Freemen etc Lyme Regis Borough, 1848
22. 1943/21-1to5 printed papers Lyme Regis church, 1840s & 1880s
23. 1943/21-6to49 photographs
24. 1943/22 F Fane pedigrees etc, Tudbold Will, Rolls, Lyme leaflets, Privy Council Acts, letters to Muriel Arber from Cyril Wanklyn, various newspaper cuttings
25. 1943/23 transcripts etc
26. 1943/24 F Pinhay footpath manuscript from 'Examiner', March 28th 1841
27. 1943/25 F Pinhay footpath manuscript, Elizabeth Philpot's evidence
28. 1943/26 F Pinhay footpath printed subscription leaflet
29. 1943/27 F Pinhay footpath from 'Bridport News', 1902
30. 1943/28 2 boxes of glass slides
31. 1943/29 F Particulars for Corporation land sale, 1823
32. 1943/30 F Wanklyn's list of Lyme MPs
33. 1943/31 F Extracts from French National Archives re Admiral Tourneville
34. 1943/32 Proclamation. 21<sup>st</sup> June 1837
35. 1943/33 F Illustrated London News 18 vol 44, article on Great Fire of Lyme Regis, 1844
36. 1943/34 F The General Advertiser, 26th March 1785
37. 1943/35-1 F Lyme Regis Mirror, 12th Jan 1901
38. 1943/35-2 F Sherborne Gazette, 11th Aug 1859
39. 1943/35-3 Sherborne Gazette, 15th Sep 1859
40. 1943/35-4 F Lyme Regis Mirror, 1st May 1886
41. 1943/35-5 F Lyme Regis Mirror, 23rd Nov 1889
42. 1943/35-6 F Lyme Regis Mirror, 30th Nov 1889
43. 1943/35-7 F Lyme Regis Mirror, 14th Dec 1889
44. 1943/35-8 F Lyme Regis & Seaton Times, 27th Aug 1869
45. 1943/36 map, Isaac Taylor's map of Dorset, 1795
46. 1943/37 map, Pinhay right-of-way map, 1841
47. 1943/38 map of New Charmouth Road, 1925
48. 1943/39 25'' OS map of Horton Heath
49. 1943/40 F plan for two roads and a bridge over Coombe St deposited with Lyme Regis Improvement Act, 1845
50. 1943/41-1 F map, John Wood's The Plan of 1841
51. 1943/41-2 map of seafront, 1813
52. 1943/41-3 map of late C18 seafront
53. 1943/41-4 map of seafront, 1827
54. 1943/42 F typed letter re Assembly Rooms, 1927
55. 1943/43 M report on the Cobb with maps, 1818
56. 1943/44 F extract from Lyme Regis Mirror on 1889 Lyme fire
57. 1943/45 maps, 5 OS 6'' sheets, 1904
58. 1943/46 maps, 2 copies of Lyme maps
59. 1943/47 postcard of tapestry in church
60. 1943/48 postcard of tapestry in church
61. 1943/49 F programme from Theatre Royal Drury Lane
62. 1943/50 F printed Lyme Regis Mechanics Institute 1<sup>st</sup> annual meeting, 1845
63. Un-numbered book, George Roberts' *Social History of the Southern Counties*, 1856.