

The Monmouth Rebellion 1685

There are many articles and books available about the Monmouth Rebellion which provide in considerable detail full, and sometimes varying, accounts of the campaign. The research undertaken by CHRG does not intend to duplicate this work. Instead we have concentrated on the "Men of Chardstock" who supported Monmouth. In doing so, we have made extensive use of the Parish Registers of St. Andrew's Church, supplemented, as appropriate, by information available from other sources.

James, the Duke of Monmouth and the bastard son of Charles II, intended to lead a Protestant rising against the Roman Catholic King James II. Monmouth sailed from Holland with three small ships and 82 men and landed at Lyme Regis on the evening of Thursday June 11th, 1685. His intention was to establish an army based at Taunton, from where he could march on Bristol and London.

As news of Monmouth's arrival spread rapidly throughout the West Country, men came to enlist under his flag. When he left Lyme Regis on Monday June 15th he was at the head of three thousand men. Axminster was easily taken since the Somerset militia sent to oppose him broke up in disorder and fled.

On the night of June 15th part of his army under Colonel Wade camped on Membury Down and Baaley [Bewley] Down. It is also said that a large party of Monmouth's followers, including the Duke himself, was entertained by Mr. Richard Cogan upon the lawn in front of Coaxden Hall. This is highly probable, for Robert Cogan was a rigid dissenter.

During this period "recruiters" would have been sent throughout the Parish of Chardstock encouraging men to join the cause. 23 men or roundly 10% of the adult male population of Chardstock did so.

Monmouth continued his northward journey via Chard and Ilminster, recruiting as he went. His arrival at Taunton was most enthusiastically greeted with a procession through the town on Friday June 19. At the Market Cross the next day he was proclaimed King in the presence of a large and very supportive crowd.

On Sunday June 21 the army marched to Bridgwater. It was then ten days since he had arrived at Lyme Regis and events were beginning to work against him. The King's forces had been mobilised with Lord Churchill at the head of 400 regular troupers harassing Monmouth's troops at their rear. The main regular troops under Lord Feversham and Colonel Kirke and assisted by the Wiltshire militia were guarding Bristol and ready to resist any movement eastwards. Just as importantly, Monmouth did not have the support he expected from landowners and the "Whig gentry" with the result that he was badly lacking horses, cannon, guns and even ammunition. Finally, the weather, which had been so favourable, turned to torrential rain, drenching the men and making it difficult for them and their horses to drag themselves through muddy, flooded lanes.

Over the next thirteen days Monmouth's army marched ever more aimlessly through increasingly difficult conditions via Glastonbury, Wells, Shepton Mallet, Keynsham, Bath, Norton St. Philip, Frome and back via Shepton Mallet and Glastonbury to return to Bridgwater on July 3rd.

Monmouth intended to regroup and strike out again to Bristol, when word reached him that Feversham and his troops were encamped on the moor at Weston Zoyland. A plan was then devised to attack the camp on the night of Sunday July 5th in the hope that the element

of surprise would secure victory. The plan failed and the better equipped and well trained forces under Feversham were victorious.

When dawn arrived the task began of rounding up survivors of the battle. The numbers killed in action is not known, but the heavy Royalist losses enraged their leaders. Kirke and others are recorded as having slain the fugitives and prisoners with great cruelty and are said to have buried the wounded with the dead in clearing up the battlefield. The corpses of other rebels who had tried to escape through adjoining fields and had died of their wounds were left and not found until the harvest was reaped in the autumn. An account by the drummer of the Wiltshire militia states that he saw a mass grave of 174 bodies. The Parish Register of West Zoyland Church carries the entry "About 500 prisoners brought into our church, of which there was 79 wounded and five of them died of wounds in our church".

The Wiltshire Militia, leaving Sedgemoor for home, marched to Glastonbury, where they hanged six rebels without trial. They then moved on to Wells, where they were received by the jubilant clergy. After a church parade, five rebels were hanged in front of the Cathedral, also without trial.

The search for survivors continued. Churchill had patrolled the area around Bridgwater with five hundred cavalry and an equal number of footmen. On Tuesday 7th July he brought many wounded rebels in carts to Weston Zoyland and the next day on Feversham's orders men were strung from a long line of gibbets from Bridgwater to Weston Zoyland. Kirke and his troops zealously and efficiently combed the towns, villages and the surrounding countryside for remaining rebels. Their cruelty, in hanging men taken as prisoners, earned them lasting hatred. Those prisoners who survived were taken to Bridgwater. On Thursday 9th July a long train of manacled prisoners were marched to Taunton, where, again without trial, nineteen were hanged. Ten were interred at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene and nine at the Church of St. James. The cruelty continued at Taunton under Kirke's command with more hangings and quartering of bodies.

Kirke was not only cruel, but corrupt. For thirty or forty pounds he sold "safe conduct" to a seaport for escape to a foreign country. He also tried to sell pardons for wealthier men who could meet his demands. The Government soon became dissatisfied with Kirke's conduct and he was recalled.

Orders were then issued that all rebels were to be held in prison pending trial. They suffered badly from the dreadfully insanitary conditions in which they were held, especially those wounded.

Orders were also issued to all Constables of the Hundreds to compile lists of all the men in the villages under their jurisdiction who were absent at the time of the rebellion. These lists are known as "The Monmouth Roll" and record 2611 names. They were used by the Kings forces to hunt fugitives from the fighting.

Meanwhile Monmouth had been captured at Horton in Dorset, taken to London and beheaded on Tower Hill on July 15th.

The "Bloody Assize"

For the work of judicial retribution King James chose a man noted for his brutality and lack of mercy. His full title was George, Lord Jeffreys, Lord Chief Justice of England, Baron of Wem, but he is more commonly known as Judge Jeffreys.

The Court of the Assize was held at Winchester (August 25th), Dorchester (September 5th), Exeter (September 12th), Taunton (September 18th) and Wells (September 22nd). The mood of the courts was set by Jeffreys's pronouncement at Dorchester that he was there to "breathe death like a destroying angel" and that "let it be understood that the only chance of obtaining pardon or respite was to plead guilty" By pleading "not Guilty", prisoners upon conviction could be certain of execution.

At these sessions a total of 250 prisoners were subsequently executed. They were hung, drawn and quartered; their hearts being throw on fires and their body parts boiled in pitch and hung up at all crossways and public places across East Devon, South Somerset and West Dorset.

Another 890 had their death sentences reduced to transportation for a period of ten years to the West Indies and small numbers were either reprieved or pardoned.

Of the estimated 5000 members of Monmouth's army, over 1000 are believed to have been killed, but it is not clear whether this includes those who died from their injuries or were hanged by the King's forces.

The entire judicial and administrative process was corrupt with payments being made for prisoners to be pardoned or selected for transportation instead of hanging down to jailers and officials being paid to improve the conditions for favoured prisoners. Solicitors acting as "pardon-mongers" were able to charge between £60 and £500 for securing a pardon, while Judge Jefferys persuaded the King to "give" him Edmund Prideaux of Forde Abbey. Jeffreys then had the right to set his own terms for the release of Prideaux. He settled for the enormous sum of £14,500 sufficient to purchase to manor estates in Leicestershire.

Lord John Churchill was rewarded by being granted the lands and property of John Hucker, a sergemaker hanged at Taunton.

The Crown also made a considerable profit from the sale of convicts for transportation at a rate of £10 to £15 per man,

Chard Borough was considered by the Crown to have sympathised with Monmouth's cause and was made to pay a Personal Estate Tax of £56 5s 0d a year. The payment was not repealed until 1834.

A General Pardon was issued by King James on 10th March, 1685/6, nine months after the rebellion started. From this date any survivors still at large could come out of hiding and resume work life.

The Men of Chardstock

The records of the day show 22 men as being resident in Chardstock when they joined the Rebellion. A Richard Cogan was shown as being of Coaxdon Hall and was recorded as being of Axminster. Coaxdon Hall, although geographically close to Axminster, was actually well within the boundary of the then Parish of Chardstock and so he has been included in our researches.

The fate of the 23 persons named is summarised below:

Hanged	3
Transported	3
Escaped and free	1
Pardoned	1
Believed survived and returned to live in Chardstock	8
Unknown (either killed or survived and untraced)	7

Some of those who are believed survived may have left the rebel army and returned home before the battle of Sedgemoor.

Of those whose ages are known, the youngest was 23, the oldest 48 and the average 34. Six men are recorded as married and seven as single.

Their individual stories are recorded below:

BROWNE Thomas

Aged 33 and baptised at Chardstock in 1651. Recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" (the Constables' Presentments of 2611 names prepared for the Assizes at Dorchester, Exeter and Taunton) as being "suspected guilty".

The Parish Registers suggest that Thomas Browne survived and managed to return to his wife, Elizabeth, and family in Chardstock. He had two children baptised at St. Andrew's Church, Chardstock in 1678 and 1682 before the rebellion and a further three baptised there in 1686, 1689 and 1690 after the rebellion failed. The baptism in 1686 took place on the 1st August indicated that Thomas had returned to Chardstock by about October, 1685 and had remained hidden until the General Pardon was proclaimed in March, 1685/6.

His wife, Elizabeth, was buried at Chardstock in 1692 and he followed six years later in 1698.

BUDGE John

of Chardstock, recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty". Tried at Taunton. Recorded in a report from Judge Jeffreys to King James as having been transported on the *John* from Bridgwater Prison via Bristol on 24th October 1685 to Barbados. Sold in Barbados to John Burston.

There are no entries in the Chardstock Parish Registers for the surname **Budge**, nor for any obvious spelling variations of the name. The Registers do, however, record a marriage in 1650 between John **Bugg** and Margaret Waglon and on the same day the baptism of their son John **Bugg**.

CHAPHAM [CHAPMAN] Thomas

Thomas **CHAPHAM** of Chardstock, recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty". The Gaol Delivery Book for the Western Circuit records that he was presented at Exeter March, 1686 and pardoned.

The Parish Registers for Chardstock do not record any references for the surname **Chapham** for the period 1670 to 1700). They do, though, record two families with the surname **CHAPMAN**, Thomas & Elizabeth and John & Mary. Both couples had sons baptised Thomas, who would have been too young to participate in the rebellion,

suggesting that the person involved may have been Thomas **Chapman** senior, the husband of Elizabeth.

CLODE [CLOAD] Edward

Aged 43 and baptised at Chardstock in 1642. Recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty".

Edward married Phillipa (date and maiden name unknown). Between 1676 and 1684 they had five children baptised at Chardstock, all recorded under the surname **CLOAD**. The youngest of these, also named Edward, was buried at St. Andrew's Church in March, 1685, just ten weeks before the Duke of Monmouth arrived at Lyme Regis.

There are no entries in any of the Chardstock Parish Registers for the family after the rebellion was over.

COGAN Richard ff Coaxdon Hall.

After the battle of Sedgemoor a warrant was issued for his arrest and scouts were sent to apprehend him. He took flight and hurried to Axminster, where he sheltered at the Green Dragon PH. When troops came to search the premises, the landlord's daughter, Elizabeth Gray, hid him amongst some bedclothes, then continued with her chores. Despite the room being searched, he was not found. After the General Pardon was issued in March 1685/6, he returned to Axminster and married Elizabeth.

COLLIER Robert

Aged 30 and baptised at Chardstock in 1655. Recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty".

The Parish Registers suggest that Robert Collier survived the rebellion because in June, 1686, just three months after the General Pardon, a Robert **Collier** married Anne Speed at St. Andrew's Church. There are no records of any children of this marriage having been born at Chardstock, but there is an entry for the burial of a Robert **Collier** in April, 1722.

See also John Speed for a possible connection between the Speed and Collier families.

DABINETT [DABNOT or DABENET] John

Aged 35 and baptised at Chardstock 1650. Recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty".

The Parish Registers for Chardstock record John **DABNOT** marrying Elizabeth Cookeny in August, 1683. They had three children baptised in September, 1684 (Elizabeth), July, 1687 (Jane) and April, 1690 (John). The dates of these baptisms are consistent with a husband away from Chardstock during the Rebellion and until the General Pardon was proclaimed in March 1685/6. Also the first born daughter and the first born son, one baptised before the Rebellion and one after, have the same forenames as the parents of this marriage, suggesting that John managed to survive and return to his family. When John died in 1748, he was buried at St. Andrew's Church under the recorded name of **DABENET** and was the last person with this surname (and variations) to be buried there.

GILLETT Nicholas

of Chardstock, recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty".

The date and place of baptism for Nicholas **Gillett** is not known. He married Susanna Morley at Chardstock, St. Andrew's Church in 1681. The Parish Registers record a baptism at

Chardstock in December, 1685 of Nicholas **Gillett**, the son of Nicholas & Susanna. This is seven months after the Battle of Sedgemoor and suggests that the fate of the father was not known at the time of the baptism. Matters become clearer in 1693, when Nicholas, aged 7, died and was buried at St. Andrew's. The Parish Registers then record him as being the son of widow Susan. There is no record of the father having been buried at Chardstock between 1685 and 1693, suggesting that he did not survive the Rebellion. Susan/Susanna **Gillett** died in 1695 and was also buried at St. Andrew's.

KNIGHT Henry

Aged 48 and baptised at Chardstock 1636. There is no record in the Parish Registers of him marrying nor having any children baptised at Chardstock. Recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty". Recorded in reports from Judge Jeffreys to King James as having been tried at Exeter and hanged at Honiton 7th October 1685. Land forfeited and for sale.

The records of the Chardstock Manor Estate do not list Henry **Knight** as a land holder in his own right, although he may have held lands which were either not part of the manor or were outside the parish. However, the **Knight** family were significant land owners in Chardstock. In the Manor Court Rolls for 1673 (new style) Nicholas **Knight** took over the copyhold of a 30 acre tenement at "Crawlway" in the northern tithing with the lives recorded as George **Knight** the younger, William **Davy** alias **Wheeler** of Huntsay in the Parish of Stockland and Matthew **Smyth**. The Manor Estate land survey show that in 1671 Mary **Knight**, the mother of Henry **Knight**, "*houlds one Cottage cont one dwelling howse and garden and one acre of grownd*" and that in 1701 Nathaniel **Knight**, a younger brother of Henry, held "*a cottage*".

The relationship between the **Knight** and **Smith/Smyth** families was perhaps unfortunate for Henry **Knight**. Judge Jeffreys was undoubtedly a most cruel and vindictive person. His treatment of Thomas **Smith** (q.v.) at the Dorchester Assizes on 5th September, 1685, may well have influenced his treatment of Henry **Knight** when he was tried at Honiton five weeks later of 7th October, 1685.

The other life recorded on the copyhold agreement, William **Davy** of Stockland, also joined the rebellion and was recorded in the Monmouth Roll as "suspected". He was not brought to trial and his fate is unknown.

LORCOMB [LARCOMBE] Stephen

of Chardstock, recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty".

Larcombe (and the many spelling variations of the name) is probably the most common surname to appear in the Chardstock Parish Registers, yet during this period there are not any entries for the surname **Larcombe** with the christian name Stephen (or Steven).

MANLY John of Chardstock, recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty".

The date and place of baptism for John **Manly** are not known. The first entry in the Chardstock Parish Registers for anyone with the surname **MANLY [MANLEY or MANLEA]** occurs in 1676 with the baptism of Elizabeth Manley the daughter of John. Further baptisms appear in 1677 (Jane), 1681 (Robert) and John (1688); all being recorded as the children of John. In 1695 there is the burial of Jane **Manley**, the wife of John, and in 1703 a marriage between John **MANLEY** and Susanna **Jones**. These six entries are the only ones recorded with the surname **Manley** between the period 1676 to 1703 suggesting that they relate to the same family. They also suggest that John Manley survived the Rebellion and returned to live with his family in Chardstock.

PARRISH [PARRIS] Thomas

of Chardstock, recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty"

Parris was a fairly common surname in Chardstock during the second half of the 17th Century. The Parish Registers record two people named Thomas Parris (baptised 1651 and 1657 respectively) living in the parish in 1685. It has not been possible to identify whether either of them joined the rebellion.

PHIPPEN [FIPPEN] Richard

of Chardstock, recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty".

In 1679 at St. Andrew's Church, Chardstock Richard Phippen, then of Membury, married Joane **Knight** of Chardstock. The Parish Registers record baptisms in 1693 of Phillip Fippen, son of Richard, and in 1697 of Samuel Phippen, son of Richard & Joane and burials in 1686 of Richard Phippen, son of Richard, and in 1695 of Deborah and Philip Fippen, daughter and son of Richard buried on the same day. These entries suggest that Richard Phippen survived the Rebellion and returned to live in Chardstock.

PINNEY [PYNNEY] George

Aged 27 and baptised at Chardstock 1658. Recorded in the Monmouth Roll as being "*suspected guilty*".

In 1681 at St. Andrew's Church, Chardstock George Pynney married Margaret Legge. This marriage subsequently produced eight children baptised at Chardstock in 1682 (Richard), 1684 (Sarah), 1685 (John), 1688 (Joan), 1690 (John), 1697 (Elizabeth), 1700 (George) and 1704 (Sarah). In addition there were three burials all recorded as the sons of George - George jnr (1691), Richard (1703) and John (1703).

The baptism of John is significant as this occurred on 1st February 1685 just five months after the defeat of Monmouth's army at Sedgemoor. The Parish Register records the baby as being the "son of George" indicating that the father was presumed, or known, still to be alive. The christening of five further children of the marriage after the rebellion was over, all of whom are recorded as the sons or daughters of George indicate that he survived the rebellion and returned to live with his family in Chardstock.

Margaret, the wife of George **Pinney**, died in 1729 and was buried at St. Andrew's, Chardstock. A burial date for her husband George is not known.

PINNEY John

of Chardstock, recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty". Recorded in a report from Judge Jeffreys to King James as having been tried at Dorchester and transported on the *Happy Return* from Weymouth on 25th September 1685 to Barbados. Sold in Barbados to Capt. George Terwight.

The Chardstock Parish Registers do not record either a baptism or a marriage for a John Pinney. There is, though, on 9th August 1685, just six weeks after the battle of Sedgemoor, a baptism of a child named John Pynny, whose father is recorded as John.

ROWE Henry

Aged 23 and baptised at Chardstock 1661. Recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "supposed guilty". Recorded in a report from Judge Jeffreys to King James as having been tried at Dorchester 10th September, 1685 and hanged at Sherborne 15th September, 1685.

His parents, Henry Rowe and Jone Savery, were married at Chardstock in 1650 and Henry had an elder brother, Charles, baptised at Chardstock in 1653.

Note: Jone Rowe (nee Savery), the mother of Henry Rowe, was the sister of Nicholas Savory. He married Jone Turner at Chardstock in 1651 and one of their sons was George Savory, who also joined the Rebellion (see below). Henry Rowe and George Savory would have been cousins.

SAVORY [SAVERY] George

Aged 23 and also baptised at Chardstock 1661. The cousin of Henry Rowe (see above). Recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty".

George Savery was the eldest son of Nicholas and Joan Savery (nee Turner) and was one of seven children of this marriage baptised at Chardstock between 1655 and 1672.

There is no record of him having been brought to trial, nor do the Parish Registers indicate that he managed to return to Chardstock, where he had strong family connections. This suggests that either he did not survive the rebellion or, having learnt the fate of his cousin, Henry Rowe, fled Chardstock and his family for ever.

SEARLE John

Aged 39 and baptised at Chardstock 1645. Recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty"

He was not brought to trial and his fate is unknown.

SMITH [SMYTH] Thomas

husbandman and constable of Chardstock. Recorded in a report from Judge Jeffreys to King James as having been tried at Dorchester 5th September, 1685 and hanged there 7th September, 1685. Land forfeited and for sale (TB).

Thomas **Smith** is believed to be the son of John **Smith**, who married Elizabeth **Wyet** at Chardstock in 1630. She died and was buried at Chardstock in November, 1646, just three weeks after the baptism of her daughter Mary. John **Smith** did not remain a widower for very long. Five months later he married Anges **Westoffer** at St. Andrew's Church, Chardstock. It is not known whether Thomas **Smith** was the issue of the first or second marriage.

There is no record in the Parish Registers of Thomas **Smith** marrying or having any children baptised at Chardstock, nor do the records of the Chardstock Manor Estate list him as a land holder in his own right. He may have held lands which were either not part of the manor or were outside the parish.

However, his father, John **Smith**, held lands under four separate copyhold agreements. In the Manor Court Rolls for 1673 (new style) he surrendered a tenement of 15 acres at "Ryotte in the north tithing" and a tenement, size not given, called "Lower Howse in the north tithing", Both tenements were to be taken over by Elizabeth **Bently**, late Elizabeth **Smyth**, John **Bently** the younger and John **Bently** the elder "immediately after the aforesaid John **Smyth's** death". John **Smith** died in May 1674 and was buried at St. Andrew's Church. The remaining two copyholds were dealt with at the Manor Court of April 1675, when both were surrendered to the Lord of the Manor. The tenements were recorded as "a copyhold tenement containing 15 acres and a parcel of a copyhold tenement containing 15 acres"

The transference of land from John **Smith** to his married daughter Elizabeth is a further indication that Thomas **Smith** had no issue.

John **Smith** was a Churchwarden for St. Andrew's Church in 1647/8.

See also the entry above for Henry **Knight** (q.v.).

Extract taken from *Fox's Book of Martyrs - A Universal History of Christian Martyrdom* published in Philadelphia, America in 1840 with the caveat "now corrected throughout":

*Another eminent person that suffered with Mr Bragg, at the same time and place, was one **MR SMITH**, who was constable of **Chardstock**, and having some money in his hands belonging to the militia, which came to the knowledge of some of the duke's friends, they obliged him to deliver it to them; for this he was indicted for high treason, in assisting the duke of Monmouth, to which he pleaded not guilty. The witnesses against him were the same with those that had been against Mr Bragg.*

And when Smith told the court and the jury, what little credit ought to be given to such perjured wretches, the lord chief justice [Judge Jeffreys] thundered at him, saying "Thou villain, methinks I see thee already with a halter about thy neck; thou impudent rebel, to challenge these evidences that are for the king!" To which the prisoner replied, "My lord, I now see which way I am going, and right or wrong I must die; but this I comfort myself with, that your lordship can only destroy my body; it is out of your power to touch my soul. God forgive your rashness; pray, my lord, know it is not a small matter you are about; the blood of a man is more precious than the whole world". He was then stopped from saying any more.

The witnesses being heard, a strict charge was given to the jury concerning him; and, as was to be expected, they brought him in guilty; so that he and those who were tried with him, received sentence together, and were ordered to be executed on the Monday following: but by particular directions from Jeffreys, he was to suffer first. The day for his execution being come, Mr Smith, with a courage undaunted, was brought to the place, where, being ordered to prepare for death, he spoke as follows:

"Christian Friends, I am now, as you see, launching into eternity: so that it may be expected I should speak something before I leave this miserable world, and pass through those sufferings, which are dreadful to flesh and blood: which indeed shall be but little, because I long to be before a just Judge, where I must give an account, not only for the occasion of my sufferings, but for sins long unrepented of, which indeed have brought me to this dismal place and shameful death. And truly, dear countrymen, having ransacked my soul, I cannot find my small concern with the duke of Monmouth doth deserve this heavy judgment on me: but I know, as I said before, it is for my sins long unrepented of. I die in charity with all men; I desire of all you to bear me witness, I die a true professor of the church of England; beseeching the Lord still to stand up in the defence of it. God forgive my passionate judge, and cruel and hasty jury; God forgive them, they know not what they have done. God bless the king; and though his judges have no mercy on me, I wish he may find mercy when he standeth most in need of it; make him, O Lord, a nursing-father to the church; let mercy flow abundantly from him, if it be thy will, to those poor prisoners to be hereafter tried; and, Lord, if it be thy holy will, stop this issue of Christian blood, and let my guiltless blood be the last spilt on this account. Gentlemen all, farewell, farewell all the things of the world."

After singing some few verses of a psalm and putting up some private ejaculations, he said, "O Lord, into thy hands I commend my spirit," and so submitted to the executioner, September 7, 1685.

SPEED John

Recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty".

Between 1600 and 1685 there were no less than six entries in the Parish Registers for baptisms in the name of John **Speed**, but three of them died in infancy and one would have been only 14 years old at the time of the Rebellion. The remaining two, baptised in 1623 and 1635 are probably accounted by entries in the burial register of "John **Speed** of Hook" in 1681 and "John **Speed** of Brockfield" in 1683; both deaths occurring before the Rebellion.

There are, however, two other possibilities.

The first concerns a "John **Speed** of Burr ridge" who is recorded as the father of John (baptised 1671) and Martha (baptised 1672). There is no record of the marriage taking place at Chardstock. Fifteen months later, in February, 1673, there is an entry in the burial records of Anne **Speed** "wife of John of Burr ridge". When the Rebellion started, the two children would have been 14 and 12 years old and would probably already have been in work. If this is the John **Speed** who joined the Rebellion, he survived and returned to Chardstock to live, as there is a further entry in the burial register for April, 1791 "John **Speed** of Burr ridge".

The second possibility is a John **Speed** who married Rebecca **Freake** in July, 1677. There were no recorded children baptised at Chardstock as a result of this marriage and Rebecca is recorded as being buried at Chardstock in September, 1684, nine months before the Rebellion started. Unusually, the entry in the register reads "Rebecca **Speed** daughter of widow Anne", whereas reference to her as being the wife of John would have been more usual. After Rebecca's death there is no further record of this John **Speed**, so if he did join the Rebellion, his fate is unknown.

See also Robert **Collier** for a possible connection between the **Collier** and **Speed** families.

SPILLER Richard

Aged 45 and baptised at Chardstock in 1641. Recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty". Recorded in a report from Judge Jeffreys to King James as having been tried at Wells and transported on the *Port Royal Merchant* on 25th October, 1685 to Jamaica.

STAPLE John

Recorded in the "Monmouth Roll" as being "suspected guilty"

The registers record a John **Staple** being baptised in 1643, but he would then have been 53 in 1685 and rather old to be taking up the cause. The more likely person was the John **Staple** baptised at Chardstock 1661 and thus aged 24. If it was the latter, the records show that he survived the Rebellion because in June, 1688 he married Sarah **Larcomb** at Chardstock and eight months later their first child, also named John, was baptised.

WILLIS Thomas

of Chardstock, 'suspected'. The Gaol Delivery Book for the Western Circuit records that he was presented at Exeter March, 1686 and pardoned.

There is not a single entry in any of the Parish Registers for the surname **Willis** for the period sixty years before to sixty after the Rebellion, suggesting that Thomas **Willis** was either a sojourner or his surname has been mis-recorded.

END

