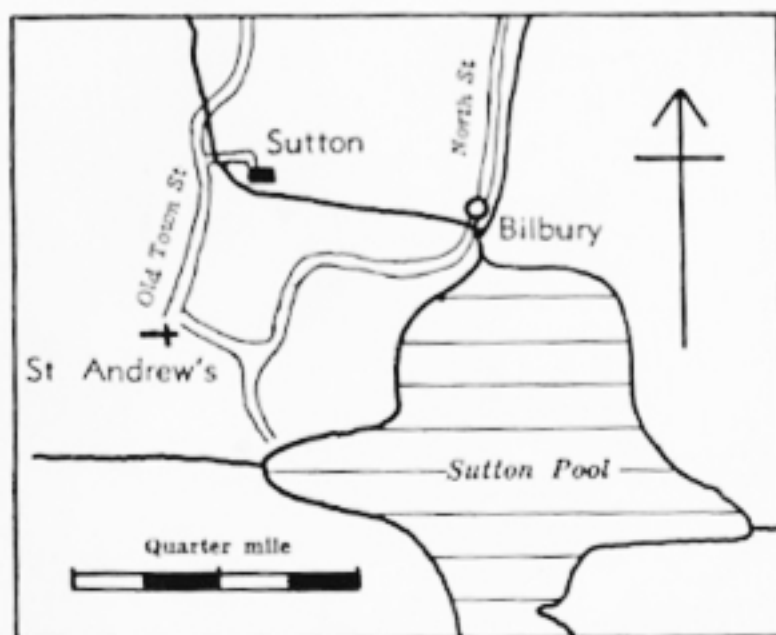


manor farm who also had to operate the saltworks on the marshes. It was their task to guide the sea into shallow pans, wait for the sun to evaporate the water and then to gather the remaining salt.

Second largest of the manors was Stoke (a Saxon word for dairy farm). Its church, again on the southern boundary, is beside Stonehouse Creek, with the manor running north along Tamar-side to Weston Mill Creek where the Ham brook reached the



SAXON SUTTON. Both the positions of Bilbury, the original Celtic settlement, the Sutton, the first Saxon farm, are conjectural, based in geographical evidence. Bilbury was at the end of the ridge road, and the two streams made it defensible. The Saxons first need for their farm was water and a sheltered position; given an empty countryside the position marked is the logical answer and Old Town Street, as the town grew up between the church and the harbour, was the street leading to the old town, or old farm, of Sutton. If Celts survived at Bilbury they would have made their own path to the church, with a side path down to the beach where boats were kept.

estuary. At the confluence large mud flats formed, early maps mark them as the Ham ooze (or Ham mud), and so there emerged the modern name of the Tamar estuary, the Hamoaze. Stoke church no doubt marks the original settlement point but at some time the manor house moved to the north bank of the Keyham Creek and took the Celtic name of Keyham. It was a long creek, reaching right up to Swilly (a hollow place), and at its narrowest point there was a ford which gave its name to our modern Ford.

The third big estate was Egg Buckland, and though it is difficult now to imagine how it could have been reached from the sea, the tide then flowed up a side branch of the Plym over the present wet fields of Marsh Mills to the flat alluvial meadows less than a quarter of a mile from the church. Egg Buckland could even boast the only other saltworks in the area.

Two other settlements from the sea, though quite small, were Lipson, at the head of another creek of the Plym, and Leigham, on the main stream of the Plym, at nearly the highest point reached by the tide at Plym Bridge. Leigham's Domesday name was Leuricestone, which starts an interesting hare. The river Tamar's name, like those of so many English rivers, is old, older even than the Celtic language. The river Plym is believed to have got its name by a back inversion from Plympton, the first place in the valley to achieve any importance. Yet it is on a side stream, and the main river must have had an older name. Its estuary is still called the Laira, and a point of land in the estuary, between the Lipson and Tothill creeks, is called 'the Leurie Point' on a seventeenth century map. Beside Leigham are still farms called Mainstone and Rock; was this stone or rock also called Leurie's Stone, the stone beside the Leurie? And was Leurie, or Laira, the original name of the river Plym? After all the lower estuary, the Cattewater, took its name from a land feature as did Cattedown. Probably there was a rock which looked like a cat; it may have been the feature across from Fisher's Nose which later maps called the Bear's Head Rock.

6. The late Canon G. H. Doble's *Saints of Cornwall* are the major source books for St German and St Budoc. J. Brooking Rowe in his *Parish and Vicars of St Andrew's* (*Trans. Plymouth Inst.* 1873-6), maintained that the pre-1566 church at St Budeaux was near Lower Ernesettle Farm, that the farm buildings were on the chapel walls and that the site was known as the churchyard. Before the marshes were reclaimed, this site would have been on the exposed main bank of the Tamar, and may be the priest's house and cemetery of 1482.
7. Before the Second World War there was a stained-glass window in Pennyross Church depicting the boy martyr. Brooking Rowe (*Trans. Plymouth Inst.* 1873) quotes a tradition that the church is older than St Andrew's. Worth dates the church from the fourteenth century; G. W. Copeland and Masson Phillips (*Ancient Buildings of Plymouth*, 1956) believe it to have originated as the fifteenth-century chapel of Pennyross; in 1535 it was the chapel of Pennyross Barton, Ham and Manadon. But in 1869 the plinth of a Norman font was found, usually evidence of an ancient right to baptism, and cannot have been part of the font brought from St Budeaux in 1820 by the Rev C. T. Collins-Trelawny.

CHAPTER TWO Saxons and Normans

Principal authorities: For the Saxons: W. G. Hoskins' *Westward Expansion of Wessex* (Leicester University Press, 1960), his *Devon* (Collins, 1954) and *Devon and its People* (Wheatons, 1959). For Domesday Book and the Normans: the Rev O. J. Reichel's chapter in the *Victoria County History of Devon*, papers in the *Trans. Devon Assn.* and specially the extra volume for 1930, *The Hundreds of South Molton and Roborough*. William the Conqueror's castle building: H. R. Watkin's *History of Totnes* (1917). Compton: R. N. Worth's paper on *The Tithing of Compton Giffard* (*Trans. Devon Assn.* 1896).

DOMESDAY BOOK: W. G. Hoskins has advanced the theory that the villeins were farmers, the bordars smallholders, and the serfs literally slaves working for the lord of the manor, and that one can often find the number of farms in each manor to match the number of villeins. Applying that to the Plymouth manors, and the method indicated in the caption to Map No 4 of establishing the boundaries, a tentative picture of all the manors can be drawn. The Domesday Book also gives the value of the manor in 1066 and in 1086, which gives a clue to their prosperity.

The Plymouth manors, dealing first with those settled from the sea, are:

TAMERTON FOLIOY (originally Tambretona). Value 60s rose to 100s. Mainly arable, one wood $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles by $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, probably the modern Porsham Wood. The manor was probably on the knoll now shared by the church and Cann House, and had seven slaves and a saltworks. There were sixteen farmers and six smallholders; the old farm names are Belliver, Horsham, Warleigh (the look-out place on the Tamar), Haysend, Pound Cross, Southway, Ashleigh, Coppers, Webbers, four Broadleys and Witsun (all names recorded before 1400). Loosleigh (the clearing in the woods for the pigs) appears in 1498 but must be older; Clittaford, Trehills and the three Coombes are all old names.

STOKE (Stoches). 40s to 70s. Manor at Keyham (now lost under Barton Avenue) with five slaves, fifteen cows, twelve swine, 160 sheep and forty goats. Two acres of woodland, twelve of pasture, sixteen farmers and four smallholders. Few farms can be traced, but Ham, Higher and Middle Swilly, Pennycomequick, Ford (a Nicholas de la Forde in 1238), Upper and Lower Stoke are probables.

EGG BUCKLAND (Bochelanda). 50s, no change. Manor near church, ten slaves. Saltworks, the only packhorse in the district, three cattle, seventy sheep. 200 acres of woodland, probably Glen Holt. Ten farms and eight smallholdings. John Austen of 1333 took his name from the farm; there was Mainstone (1201), Bowden (1321), Pool and Frogmore (1572), Shallowford (1623), Thornbury, Deer Park (near Efford), Doidges, Goosewell, Cressbrook, Estover and Roek.

KING'S TAMERTON (Tanbretona). Part of the area, Saltash Passage, was in the Honour of Trematon and part of Cornwall until 1895. Value 1086 20s, manor possibly at Barne Barton, small with one slave. Six farms and two smallholdings, likely farms East and West Barne, Gubb, Weston Mill, Kinterbury (first mentioned 1330) and Moor Farm.

SUTTON (Sutona). One slave, fifteen sheep (probably grazed on the short turf of the Hoe, where Lambhay means sheep-enclosure). 20 acres of pasture. Four farmers and six smallholders, identification beyond hope.

ST BUDEAUX (Bucheside). Value 30s. Woodland $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles by $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, traces still on south side of Buddhead Creek. Four slaves. Five farms, probably including the three Ernesettes (1281) and Agaton (1333).

LIPSON (Lisistona). Value 20s, fell to 10s. One slave, six cows, twenty-eight sheep and thirty goats on demesne, probably Lipson farm which was across the road from the modern 'Penguin' inn. Four farms and three smallholdings; to fit in this amount of land, Lipson must extend south of Lipson Creek and probably down to the edge of Tothill Creek. The farms might be Higher Lipson, Laira, one now lost under Connaught Avenue, and Little Saltram (Salisbury Road School stands on the site). The Orthopaedic Hospital occupies the site of three small farms, Mount Gould, Higher Mount Gould and Lower Mount Gould, which acquired these names after the Civil War and might be the three smallholdings, isolated at the end of the peninsula.

LEIGHAM (Leurichestona). 10s. One slave, two farms, eight acres of wood, three of meadow. Until the 1966 plans for a new housing-estate invaded the manor, it was still as it was in 1086, between the Plym and the Forder Valley with the Plym Bridge-Egg Buckland road as its third side, with just Leigham, the manor-house beside the river, and two farms, Higher and Lower Leigham. Even the woods and meadows remain. Worth and Bracken tried to fit this manor in between Lipson and Sutton, but the ownership descent alone justifies Reichel's identification.

STONEHOUSE (Stanehus). Poorest and smallest of all the Plymouth manors, there was one farmer who paid 5s. The manor-house must have been on the Stone Hall knoll (the last 'big house' was demolished about 1964), probably on the Roman villa site.

EFFORD (Elforde). Value 10s, improved to 20s. Two slaves, three farmers, one smallholder; twenty acres of woodland (probably the tangled hills be-

and a pillory in Stonehouse. But Stonehouse, as part of the hundred of Roborough was still controlled by the abbot of Buckland, who made Durnford close the court, remove the pillory, and pay him £20 in compensation. In 1472 Stonehouse, which had been part of the parish of St Andrew's, had its own chapel of St Lawrence licensed for divine worship. This church was removed in the last century to make way for the Royal William Victualling Yard, though part of its tower is the folly in Mount Edgcumbe Park, visible from the Hoe.

The Wise family acquired Stoke by 1428 but they continued to live in their big house at Sydenham, near Lifton, letting the Keyham manor house remain as a farm. In 1525 they relinquished their rights on the northern bank of Stonehouse Creek to allow the new owner of Stonehouse, Sir Piers Edgcumbe, to build a tidal mill at Millbridge. This bridge opened up a new route from Stonehouse up Molesworth Road and down the hill to a ford over the Keyham Creek (which in time gave its name to the modern district of Ford), and so to St Budeaux.

Here the Budockside family was prospering and by 1482 the population had increased sufficiently for them to complain to the Bishop of Exeter that it was unreasonable for them to have to go all the way to St Andrew's for baptisms and funerals, when they could celebrate the other services of the church in their own chapel. The Bishop agreed and gave them the licence they wanted, on condition that they provided a priest's house and a graveyard. Successful yeomen, and merchants of Plymouth moving out into the country were building houses big enough to have private chapels licensed, such as for the Haisendes at Kinterbury and for Roger Boswynes, the seaman.

It was all very pastoral. Leland came over the Saltash ferry and rode over Weston Mill Bridge, down Swilly Road to Pennycomequick and so into Plymouth. 'The ground between the passage of Asche and Plymmouth', he wrote, 'hath good corn but little wod.' Shipbuilding had long since bitten into the big timber; the unproductive coppices had made way for golden barley and

oats to feed the new town. The new Mill Bridge was evidence of agricultural prosperity. Was anyone aware, in all this quiet pastoral of waving cornfields, that the world was opening up? Certainly on the Plymouth quayside they must have known that a man named Columbus had opened for Spain a new way to what he thought were the Indies, and that Cabot had sailed from Bristol to a New Found Land. But they could little have foreseen that this opening up of the Atlantic was in time to cover all their fields with close-packed houses.