

# Epilogue

**End notes**

**List of Resources**

**Contributors**

## End Notes,

**Legend, Myth or Facts - Lost in the Mists of Times past...**

### 1. Evidence of Romans, C4th

There are some clues regarding Roman presence in this area – after all the Fosse Way borders a portion of the parish to the south east, the Roman highway stretching from Exeter - York. *Mrs Joy Burden*, of Kingweston, reports that an amateur archaeological dig began in **Copley Wood** near Maggoty Paggotty - on the west of the Kingweston estate in 1827.

It uncovered coins, pottery and tiles of the Constantine period C300 A.D. Further investigations at **Hurcot**, revealed a villa with hypercaust and mosaics and, recently, a modest outline of similar foundations in Keinton Quarry.

In Keinton, stone coffins were found in two distinct places. Kath Cross tells of how 13 lead-lined ones were found, while quarrying near the roadside **between Christian Cross and Charlton**. This was also on Kingweston lands.

The second place is located on a map of Keinton dated, c1840, at a spot, near the road junction of **Babcary Lane and Castle Street**. The map is marked with the inscription ‘stone coffin and armour found’. Mysteriously, Taunton Museum records show a note to this effect but there is no knowledge of what happen to the items, much less where they are now.

Verification of date/circumstances will never be fully known.

**2. King Arthur.** From Keinton, looking south east, we can see the hills which include a Bronze Age fortress, possibly used as a border post (a ‘*Camelot*’?) on Cadbury Hill, linked to King Arthur. Around Arthur’s ‘burial place’ in Glastonbury - the 12 mile radius is divided into the 12 sectors of the horoscope: Keinton is said to be in the Virgo sector with Cary, Queen Camel and Cadbury, while royal Somerton is in Leo.

(Suggested by M Caine *Glastonbury Zodiac* and

K Maltwood *Enchantment of Britain*)

**3. King Alfred:** Looking east, we can also see *Alfred's Monument* which commemorates the probable site of Alfred's victory over *Guthrum, King of the Danes*, c 878A.D. *Guthrum* was baptised in Wedmore. It was in the west, near Althelney, that, earlier, Alfred is supposed to have been berated for letting a peasant woman's cakes burn (while despondently pondering how to defeat the Danes during a period when he was sheltering from the advancing armies in the woman's hut!).

**4. Sir John Mandeville: C14<sup>th</sup> explorer *extrodinaire*.**

Sir John Mandeville, said to be a knight from St Albans (Geoffrey de Mandeville and family had extensive lands in this area and therefore a possible distant relative of the Mandevilles in Keinton), who left England at Michaelmas in 1322, travelled throughout Asia and the Far East, returning in 1366. His tales contain fascinating descriptions - some of which are convincing as eye-witness reports, others are of fanciful tall stories as told by sea-salts to gullible listeners!

Recently retold, in verse, as *Mandeville: Tales of Sir John*  
by Matthew Francis, pub.by Faber poetry, 2007

**5. The Civil War and Monmouth Rebellion, C17<sup>th</sup>**

Major battles occurred at Taunton, while an ambush of Royalist troops took place near neighbouring Hurcot. It was the *Duke of Monmouth's* tour of recruitment around Somerset, ending in a rout at Sedgemoor in 1685 (the last battle fought on British soil) and leading to the terrible excesses of the trials by *Judge Jeffries* followed by hangings and transportation of the rebels, which finally ended this bloody period of history.

Because of this connection, Queen Victoria is reputed to have always pulled down the carriage blind when travelling by train through Somerset, '*so as not to view these most rebellious subjects*'!

## And now, Times present ...

Many businesses typical of the C19<sup>th</sup> have all disappeared, even some of the ones we still like to use in the C21<sup>st</sup> – like the post office. Will this seem old-fashioned in 50 years' time, as we move on-line for many postal and monetary transactions?

### Communications

While the *post van* has certainly changed in style, as well as colour, over the years, (see photos below) we also still have a range of postmen delivering to individual houses coming out from the Somerton sorting office.



It was only with the extension of electricity to the village that many innovations could be introduced – not only in the matter of new communications. Who would have envisaged broadband, or ‘digital’ in 1965 when this switch on was recorded!?

Weymouth Gazette  
FTE, FRIDAY, 22 OCTOBER, 1965

### OLD SWITCH ON THE NEW



Two residents of Kelton Mandevilla, whose combined ages total 199 years, Mrs. Ida Paul and Mr. Harry Squire, switch on the new street lighting, watched by members of the Parish Council at a ceremony in the Village Hall.

## ...Back to the Future?

**Organics:** Some of our remaining businesses are going back to basics: *Thistledown Farm* at the bottom of Common Lane has gone organic and rears sheep, goats, Devon cattle, chickens and Muscovy ducks, kept on lush organic meadows with nitrogen-fixing clover and golden buttercups (see below and for photo of sheep-shearing on Open Day) .This would probably look quite familiar to our Victorian ancestors.



And *Westfield Farm*, down Coombe Hill, has recently replanted an orchard which may help to continue the tradition of apple-growing in the village.

### **Craftsmen and artists:**

*Quercus Ltd*, which makes fencing and other garden items from sustainably sourced oak and uses green energy. The company has successfully participated in RHS show gardens and is recognised as producing original and creative products.

And... a potter, *Paul Stubbs*, who makes a wide range of articles on his wheel, which then receive experimental glazing and firing treatments using a modern, electrical kiln – which, as a ‘pyromantic’, he also designs and builds for others.

Keinton has both a *painter-sculpture*, *Michelle McCullagh*, and also a *painter-engraver*, *Julia Manning*, who both show during the annual Somerset Art Weeks when their village workshops are open for others to visit and wonder.

Several others villagers paint privately for their own pleasure.

### Care Services

The village is home to both a Nursing Home - *Beech House* (at the west of the village) and to a Residential Home – named *Castle House* (at the east of the village). Both of these provide care for the increasingly aging demographic profile, common throughout the country.

Staff include carers from many corners of the world, including the Philippines and from eastern Europe, which gives a wider mix to the village population

**Finally**, two of the remaining visible businesses left in Keinton are on the High St. On the corner, where once there was a draper and machine shop, we now have a very C21<sup>st</sup> facility - a Data Communications centre and, further along, an enduring photographic studio specialising in weddings and portraiture.



Last but not least, Keinton has had a *hairdresser* for about a 100 yrs! First, in a cabin at West View House in Queens St, then in a premises on Castle St (which briefly housed Lloyds Bank). It continues to serve all who wish to use this facility – of which not many villages can boast!

Many other enterprises are conducted from home, online and are therefore not visible. Future local business directories will not be as rich in detail, as it is harder to monitor the screen-world of businesses which is increasingly taking the place of the past more publically visible one.

### **Millenium priorities**

So what will the future hold?

With ecological and energy reduction issues to the fore, new options arise. Councillors and residents are currently debating whether to reduce street lighting, how to increase recycling, the siting of additional allotments, how much expansion the village can sustain .. and many other such topics.

For now, we must leave the unfolding village story to the next generation to record their experiences in the following pages....

**Sources for Keinton Mandeville researches:**  
**local, and family history.**

**A. online sites**

Victoria County History

Historical Directories (including *Kelly's C19<sup>th</sup> Business Directories*, *Post Office Directories*)

[someset.gov.uk/history/Historical Environment Records](http://someset.gov.uk/history/Historical%20Environment%20Records)

[british-history.ac.uk](http://british-history.ac.uk)

*History of Somerset Vol 2*

*St Johns Hospital, Wells*

*History of Wilts Vol 3*

*Priory of Monkton Farleigh, Cluniac + Bratton estates*

Topographical Dictionary of England  
section 329 Kaber-Kelfield, on Keinton

Keinton Mandeville Ecclesiastical Parish  
general background

[nationalarchive.gov.uk/documentsonline](http://nationalarchive.gov.uk/documentsonline)  
at Kew Gardens: or, Tel 020-8876-3444

[ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk)

[findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk)

for family links  
similar

## **B. Local Institutions**

Historic Environment Services, Taunton, CO Hall  
Tel 01823 355426

Local Studies **in** Taunton Library, Paul St.  
Tel: 01823 340300

Somerset Heritage Centre, Silk Mills Road, Taunton  
Tel: 01823 278805 / 337600

*Somerset Co Museum*, Taunton (centre, nr M&S)  
Tel: 01823 320200

*South Somerset Museum/Info Office*, Yeovil  
Tel: 01935 845946

*Family History Centre*, Ch of Latter Day Saints, Forest Hill,  
Yeovil Tel: 01935 426817

*Community Heritage Access Centre*, Artillery Rd, Lufton,  
Yeovil Tel: 01935 462855

*Glastonbury Rural Life Museum*  
(also, *Voices of Somerset* archive) Tel: 01458 831197

*Wells Museum*, Cathedral Green, Wells  
Tel: 01749 673 477

*Somerset and Dorset Family History Society*, Sherborne  
Tel: 01935 389611  
The Parade, Cheap St (nr Abbey)

*Somerset History and Archaeology Society*  
Tel: 01963 31426

*Somerset Vernacular Buildings Research Group*  
Tel: 01935 824868

## **Book References and Sources of Information**

*Background Books: contemporary diaries*

The Diaries of Parson Woodeforde of Ansford:1758-1802  
*(near Castle Cary.. he occasionally preached in Keinton)*

Diary of a Shopkeeper: Thomas Turner 1754-1765  
*(also member of the Vestry, nr Lewes, Sussex)*

Diaries of Rev William Holland 1799-1818 : Paupers and Pigs Killers (*Quantocks*)

Voices of Morpath: Reformation and Rebellion 1530-1580  
Eamonn Duffy(*on the Devon / Exmoor borders*)

One from the Plough: Life and Times of George Mitchell  
1826-1901 Brendon Owen (*labourer from Montacute*)

Cidermaking in Somerset (Somerset Rural Life Museum)  
Philippa Legg

Somerset Years (*social conditions including emigration data*)  
Florence Clunk

Somerset Light Infantry: 1914-1918  
Everard Wyrall

[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) Commonwealth War Graves Commission

*Locally produced books*

Wing Westward (*Kingweston*)  
Joy Burden

Butleigh, a 1000 years  
Rev. E. F. Syngé

Baltonsborough 744-1972  
E.M. Somers Cocks

Barton St David (a pamphlet in the church gives an outline)

Many local churches have booklets which include not only details of the church building but also information about the parish as well.

**Keinton Sources:**

One of the main sources of information was the valuable collection of data (extracts from early legal documents and census relating to Keinton, and also local articles and anecdotes) collated by the late *Mr Colin Myles-Hook*, kindly lent by his wife *Mrs Muriel Myles-Hook*.

This is a detailed and meticulous resource for anyone interested in the history of the village.

A **Keinton History Archive** of items relevant to village history is being collected. Still in its early stages, it is housed in the basement of the Village Hall. It is for anyone to use. Access can be obtained using the Village Hall undercroft key, held by a member of the Hall Committee.

## **List of Contributors**

*Very many thanks to all these listed below for the time and effort taken in contributing so much.*

Marwood and Hazel Brown  
Roy and Megan Cabble (nee Gould)  
Trevor and Sandra Cook  
Kath Cross (nee Wilcox, Squires)  
Ted and Marion Green  
John and Mary Matthews (nee Cook)  
Councillor John and Jean Allen

Barbara Adams (nee Paull)  
Dorethy Pollard (nee Chalker, granddaughter)  
Phillis Harvey (nee Lamberton, friends of Oliver Chalker)

Mrs Joyce Pitman (nee Bennett )  
Jean Maynard  
Janet Pearce

### *Key farming contacts*

Brenda Carter  
Howard Dunn  
Tony and Anne Holland  
Mick and Grace Ridewood (nee Cribbs)  
Chris and Diane Ridewood  
Mike and Shirley Stocker

*Many thanks to all the others who stopped in the street and gave interesting additional tidbits!*

Any comments, corrections and further contributions always welcome....please do make contact and add your bit too.  
Use the Village Forum web page.

*Coordinator Sarah Villiers, 2008-12*

## **Index of Key Sections:**

Prologue	
Origins	3
<b>Part 1 Agricultural Foundations</b>	
1. Lands of Keinton	9
2. Farms and Farming	14
3. Somerset Cider	22
4. The Mills	26
5. Coombe Hill, Manor, contract farming	29
6. High Days and Holidays	37
<b>Part 2 Businesses</b>	
1. Butcher, Baker...	46
2. Blacksmith, Wheelwright, Carpenter	52
3. Cobbler, Draper, Glover	57
4. Financial Institutions	63
5. Main Employment: Quarries	70
6. Social Club – Village Hall	83
<b>Part 3 Professions and Services</b>	
1. Parish Governing Body: clerk, police	92
2. Pubs and Inns	105
3. Road and Rail	109
4. Religious Institutions	113
5. School Days	122
6. Welfare and Medical Matters	132
7. Women’s work: home and family	137
<b>Part 4 World Wars</b>	
1. Somerset Light Infantry	151
2. In Memoriam	156
3. Keinton Soldiers	158
4. Home Guard	169
Epilogue	
End Notes	179
Index	190