

SOCIAL HISTORY

In the Middle Ages, Hill Deverill's estates were occupied by lesser knightly tenants, and the homes of the peasant families were clustered around the manorial farmsteads and the church.²⁵⁴ The manor was acquired by 1462 by William Ludlow (d. 1478), possibly a younger brother of Sir Richard Ludlow of Longbridge Deverill. William Ludlow rose to prominence through royal service, and represented Ludgershall in several Parliaments during the reign of Henry VI.²⁵⁵ He had extensive property interests in Salisbury and elsewhere in the county,²⁵⁶ and joined with his patrons the Hungerford family in refurbishing the Church of St Thomas, Salisbury, where he is buried.²⁵⁷ Members of the family served as justices and sheriffs during the 16th and 17th centuries.²⁵⁸ George Ludlow (d. 1580) acquired monastic estates at the Dissolution,²⁵⁹ and consolidated his wealth and position through service in the household of Edward Seymour, earl of Hertford.²⁶⁰ Sir Edmund Ludlow (d. 1624) and his two sons Henry (d. 1639) and Sir Henry (d. 1643) sat in Parliament during the late 16th and early 17th centuries.²⁶¹ The Ludlows were prominent in opposition to the policies of the Personal Rule. Henry (d. 1639) was censured by the Privy Council for refusing to contribute to the Forced Loan and removed from his captaincy of the militia.²⁶² Sir Henry (d. 1643) defaulted on the militia musters of 1636, and refused a royal request for a loan in 1639.²⁶³ This radical streak and opposition to the Crown may also explain the decision of Gabriel Ludlow of

²⁵⁴ *VCH Wilts. II*, 136, 140, 155, 162, 167; *V*, 308; Crowley (ed.), *Tax List 1332*, pp. 71–72; above: intro., *settlmt.*; *popln.*

²⁵⁵ *Hist. Parl.* 1439–1509, pp. 561–62.

²⁵⁶ *VCH Wilts. VI*, 104, 127; *XI*, 57; *XV*, 125, 130, 159; *XVI*, 85.

²⁵⁷ *VCH Wilts. VI*, 150; Tim Tatton-Brown, 'The Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, Salisbury', *WAM*, XC (1997), p. 106; J. Davies (ed.), *Tropenell Cart.* (Devizes, 1908), I, 274.

²⁵⁸ *VCH Wilts. IV*, 32; *L&P Hen. VIII*, II(2), 298; *V*, 706; *PRO, Lists*, IX, 154.

²⁵⁹ *VCH Wilts. XIII*, 10, 42, 63; *L&P Hen. VIII*, XIX(1), 167.

²⁶⁰ *VCH Wilts. X*, 111; *HMC Bath*, IV, 185, 194, 198; Pugh (ed.), *Antrobus Deeds*, 58; *Hist. Parl.* 1604–29, V, 187–89.

²⁶¹ *Hist. Parl.* 1558–1603, II, 497–98; 1604–29, V, 189–91.

²⁶² *Hist. Parl.* 1604–29, V, 189.

²⁶³ *VCH Wilts. V*, 87; *Hist. Parl.* 1604–29, V, 190.

Baycliffe to emigrate to New England,²⁶⁴ where his brother held colonial office.²⁶⁵ However, this had not prevented him from profiting through royal service, first as a Particular Receiver for the Duchy of Lancaster,²⁶⁶ and then as Deputy Ranger of Selwood Forest.²⁶⁷ Sir Henry was elected to one of the county seats in the Long Parliament, where he was censured in 1642 for criticism of the King.²⁶⁸ Three of his sons, including the future regicide Edmund, took up arms in the Parliamentary cause. This Edmund (d. 1693) was elected to replace his father as MP for the county in 1646;²⁶⁹ his uncle, also Edmund, had been elected MP for Hindon in 1645.²⁷⁰ William Ludlow, a younger son of Henry (d. 1639), was a militia commissioner during the Interregnum, and sat for Old Sarum in the Parliament of Richard Cromwell, when the regicide Edmund was also elected for Hindon.²⁷¹

In their domestic affairs the Ludlows had a reputation for rapaciousness, and they frequently resorted to litigation. In the late 16th century the Ludlows were the most prosperous of seven large farming households in the parish,²⁷² but the inclosure of the parish by Sir Edmund (d. 1624) was said to have reduced their tenant farmers to the status of day labourers and paupers.²⁷³ The Privy Council was forced to intervene in the affairs of Henry Ludlow (d. 1639) when he refused to pay maintenance to his eldest son in 1630, and again in 1635 for his treatment of tenants on his Hampshire estates.²⁷⁴ This situation was exacerbated by bitter feuding between himself, his father and his eldest half-brother, Sir Henry (d. 1643), who he believed was receiving more favourable treatment from his father.²⁷⁵ He died leaving

²⁶⁴ Hoare, *Mod. Wilts.*, Heytesbury, 33–34.

²⁶⁵ *New DNB*, 17164, accessed 20 Jan., 2012.

²⁶⁶ R. Somerville, *Office Holders of the Duchy of Lancaster* (Chichester, 1972), 199.

²⁶⁷ Ludlow, *Memoirs*, I, pedigree.

²⁶⁸ *VCH Wilts.* V, 138; *New NDB*, 17161, accessed 20 Jan., 2012; *CJ*, II, 563–64.

²⁶⁹ *New NDB*, 17161, accessed 20 Jan., 2012.

²⁷⁰ A double return prevented him from taking up his seat, however; *Members of Parliament*, I, 496.

²⁷¹ *Members of Parliament*, I, 510.

²⁷² Ramsay (ed.), *Taxation Lists 1545 & 1576*, p. 144.

²⁷³ *VCH Wilts.* IV, 46; TNA: PRO, 5/A8/37, 5/A11/8, 5/A34/10, 5/A58/12.

²⁷⁴ *Hist. Parl.* 1604–29, V, 189.

²⁷⁵ *Hist. Parl.* 1604–29, V, 189.

his estates heavily in debt.²⁷⁶ This and the family's actions during the 1640s and 1650s no doubt account for their decline after the Restoration. Sir Henry Coker (d. 1692), husband of Elizabeth Ludlow and lord of the manor, was rewarded by Charles II for his service in the Royalist cause during the civil war,²⁷⁷ and served as sheriff in 1662–3.²⁷⁸ Nevertheless, he was buried in a wooden tomb that was painted to look like stone,²⁷⁹ and none of his successors achieved the same prominence within the county. After the sale of the manor in 1737, the landlords were not resident within the parish.

No public house is recorded, although the village carrier ran a shop in 1848.²⁸⁰ Hill Deverill was probably a larger agricultural community in the Middle Ages than it was in the 19th and 20th centuries, when its population dwindled and its identity merged with its neighbour Longbridge Deverill.²⁸¹

Education

Although schoolmasters were licensed either side of the Civil War,²⁸² no school is recorded. The children were usually educated at Longbridge Deverill, where 22 children attended Sunday school and three or four attended day school in 1819.²⁸³ There was a Sunday school in Hill Deverill during the incumbency of Revd William Barnes,²⁸⁴ towards which the Duke of Somerset paid £4 in 1848,²⁸⁵ and £3 in 1857.²⁸⁶ £1 of the duke's money was donated to Longbridge Deverill,²⁸⁷ where 12 children

²⁷⁶ TNA: PRO, C 142/595/85.

²⁷⁷ 'An Act for Distribution of Threescore thousand pounds amongst the truly Loyal & Indigent Commission Officers (1662)', *Statutes of the Realm V: 1628–80* (1819), pp. 380–88.

²⁷⁸ PRO, *Lists*, IX, 154.

²⁷⁹ Below, church fabric.

²⁸⁰ *Kelly's Dir.* (1848).

²⁸¹ WSA, L 8/1/134.

²⁸² WSA, D 5/19/39, John Davis, 1634; D 5/9/1, Ephraim Westley, 1670.

²⁸³ *Educ. of Poor Digest*, 1025.

²⁸⁴ WSA, 1332/20, letter, 14 Sep., 1857.

²⁸⁵ WSA, 1332/20, letter, 28 Dec., 1849.

²⁸⁶ WSA, 1332/20, parish accounts, Brixton Deverill and Hill Deverill, 3 Jan., 1857.

²⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

from Hill Deverill attended school in 1859.²⁸⁸ In 1864, children below the age of 12 attended schools at Longbridge Deverill, Horningsham and Maiden Bradley, and adult education classes were held at Longbridge Deverill, although there was reluctance to attending night school outside the parish.²⁸⁹

Charities

At Christmas 1856, 12 tons of coal was distributed in the parish, and there was a clothing club at that date.²⁹⁰ In 1875, John Clifford of Brixton Deverill bequeathed £100 to Hill Deverill to provide eight elderly parishioners with coal and bread every Good Friday: in 1907, eight parishioners received 4½ cwt. of coal and 10 lbs. of bread each. Because this small parish had few needy inhabitants, it was suggested that the charity might also cover Longbridge Deverill.²⁹¹ In 1952, the trustees brought the charity into line with modern requirements;²⁹² it then covered the enlarged parish of Longbridge Deverill,²⁹³ but ceased to exist in 1993.²⁹⁴

²⁸⁸ *Account of Wilts. Schools, 1859*, p. 19.

²⁸⁹ WSA, D 1/56/7.

²⁹⁰ WSA, 1332/20, parish accounts, Brixton Deverill and Hill Deverill, 3 Jan., 1857.

²⁹¹ *Endowed Charities, 1908*, p. 231.

²⁹² WSA, L 2/86.

²⁹³ 'Parochial Charities in Wiltshire' (unpublished transcript, [n.d., c. 1980]) (copy in WSHC, local studies collns.).

²⁹⁴ 'John Clifford Charity (Reg. Charity 262607)', *The Charity Commission*, <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>, accessed 17 June, 2010.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Manor

Brixton Deverill and Baycliffe came under the jurisdiction of the Selwood forest eyre in the 13th century.²⁹⁵ Manorial jurisdiction was exercised by the lords of the various manors: in 1356 the tenants of Thomas Carey, himself the tenant of a Giffard estate, owed suit of court at the Giffard honour court of Sherrington.²⁹⁶ In 1812, the Duke of Somerset's agent held a court baron, when a hay-ward was appointed, and reported that the Duke of Marlborough continued to hold a court leet for the manor at Heytesbury.²⁹⁷

Parish

No records of parochial government survive for this small community until the 18th century.²⁹⁸ A parish meeting had been established by 1894,²⁹⁹ which ceased in 1934 when Hill Deverill was annexed to Longbridge Deverill civil parish: from 1872 to 1974 the area was under the authority of Warminster Rural District Council,³⁰⁰ and under West Wiltshire District Council from 1974 to 2009.

Poor

In the mid 18th century, the overseers of the poor were making regular payments to poor children and widows and the sick. Sums ranging from £30 in 1742 to £56 in 1755 were spent on doles of wheat and fuel, making clothes and blankets, and burials. In 1742, the overseers provided indoor relief at 'ye poor hose', and were also paying some of the parish's young 'maids' to nurse the elderly.³⁰¹ The parish spent on average £48 between 1782 and 1785, and £61 the following year. Costs had risen

²⁹⁵ *VCH Wilts. IV*, 414–17.

²⁹⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m. X*, 260.

²⁹⁷ WSA, 1332/20, manor court book, Oct. 1812; letter c. 1812, James Dean to duke of Somerset.

²⁹⁸ WSA, 1180/25–26; 1961/43.

²⁹⁹ WSA, 2656/1.

³⁰⁰ Youngs, *Admin. Units*, I, 536–7.

³⁰¹ WSA, 1180/26.

to over £174 for the year ending 1803, spent on permanently relieving 15 adults, six aged 60 or above, and 20 children, 12 aged under 5, and on occasional relief for a further 32 persons.³⁰² Costs rose further to £281 for the year ending 1813, when 34 adults were in permanent receipt of out-door relief, a number which dropped to 18 the following year, rising again to 24 by Easter 1815, although only £99 was spent that year.³⁰³ The Overseers provided subsidised accommodation as well as doles of money and necessities: in 1813, they were leasing Mill Farm House, which had been subdivided into four tenements, and several cottages on poor, marshy ground by the river from the Duke of Somerset,³⁰⁴ the leases for which were renewed in 1826.³⁰⁵ The average expenditure was £115 in the three years before Hill Deverill joined Warminster Poor Law Union in 1835.³⁰⁶ The dramatic fall in expenditure after 1813 enabled the parish to spend more on church rates, county rates and highway maintenance: in the year ending 1813 just £9 was spent, but in the next two years £40 and £32 were spent.³⁰⁷

³⁰² *Poor Law Abstract, 1804*, pp. 564–65.

³⁰³ *Poor Law Abstract, 1818*, pp. 496–97.

³⁰⁴ WSA, 1332/L2.

³⁰⁵ WSA, 1332/18, leases, 1826.

³⁰⁶ *Poor Law Com. 2nd Rep.*, App. D, 560.

³⁰⁷ *Poor Law Abstract, 1818*, pp. 496–97.