

*fmvas*

Fontmell Magna Village Archive Society

# Documentary Sources for the History of Fontmell Magna



Published by the Fontmell Magna Village Archive Society  
with the support of the Local Heritage Initiative  
Second Edition June 2003

# Documentary Sources for the History of Fontmell Magna

Edited by Ian Lawrence

## Introduction

There are four major obstacles in researching the village archives:

- The documents belonging to Shaftesbury Abbey, responsible for the village until the Reformation, are scarce
- Parish records of baptisms, marriages and burials from 1538 to 1653 are presumed destroyed
- Bishops' transcripts of parish registrations passed from Salisbury to Bristol from 1542 to 1836 and may have been lost in fire
- Although most of the important records of the village are located at the Dorset Record Office, many of those relating to the Arundell and some to the Glyn estates are located at the Wiltshire Record Office.

Since the publication of the first edition, new material has been added at the record offices and at the Fontmell Magna Village Archive, and this is now included in the material collected here. This publication has been supported by the Local Heritage Initiative which is a national grant scheme that helps groups to investigate, explain and care for their landscape, traditions and culture. LHI was developed by the the Countryside Agency and is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Nationwide Building Society.

## Contents

1 Registers	1
2 Rates and Taxes	3
3 Charters, Maps & Surveys	4
4 Sales	6
5 Deeds & Wills	7
6 Quarter and Petty Sessions	10
7 Manorial Court	11
8 Memoirs	12
9 Miscellaneous	13
Locations	16

*The cover photograph (taken in about 1930) is of Collyer's Cottage in Lurmer Street which is the oldest surviving domestic building in Fontmell Magna, dating from the 15th century.*

## 1 Registers

### Parish Registers from 1653

**Contents:** Christenings 1653-1993, Marriages 1653-1993, Burials 1653-1948, Banns 1824-1865 **Location:** DCRO Ref: PE/FOM:RE 1/1-4, 2/1-2, 3/1-4, 4/1-2, 5/1 and MIC/R511, MIC/R 1100 & 1107 **Format:** Manuscript and Microfilm [Original documents are not produced when microfilm copies are available.]

**Note:** The most recent records are to be found at the Parish Church. Registers between 1538 and 1653 are presumed lost or destroyed at the time of the Commonwealth (1648-1660). From September 1653 until 1660 registrars were appointed to keep records of births, marriages and deaths. In 1694 'for carrying out the war against the French', a duty was levied and as each charge might represent more than a week's average agricultural wage, there was perhaps a disinclination to register. The duty was later abolished. (See note in next entry). Between 1783-94 a Stamp Duty of 3 pence may also have limited registrations.

### Parish Register - Marriages 1654-1837: Transcription

**Contents:** Part 1: Indexed entries Part 2: By year **Location:** DCRO Open shelves **Format:** Typewritten. **Note:** There is a gap in the original records between 1692-1700, but 2 marriages (1697 & 1698) were recorded in the Overseers of the Poor Accounts Book for 1681-1703 and are included in this transcript. This may suggest at least 12 missing marriages. After the Hardwicke Act of 1753, all marriages except those of Jews and Quakers had to take place in the parish church.

### Parish Register - Baptisms 1769-1812: Transcriptions

**Contents:** Indexed lists of surnames and chronological order of baptismal dates **Location:** DCRO Open shelves **Format:** typescript

### Parish Register - Baptisms and Burials 1813-1837; Christenings 1653-1876/7; Baptisms 1769-1812: Transcriptions

**Contents:** Indexed lists **Location:** DCRO Open shelves **Format:** typescript

### Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths from 1837

**Contents:** Quarterly returns of all registrations by name only - registration district for Fontmell Magna is *5A Shaftesbury* (ie. the same organizational area as the 1834 Poor Law District - the Poor Law Guardians usually acted as superintendent-registrars.)

**Location:** Public Record Office **Format:** Printed

### Bishops' Records

Fontmell Magna was located in the Dorset archdeaconry of the diocese of Salisbury until 1542 when it was transferred to the newly created diocese of Bristol. It was returned to Salisbury in the 1836, by which time national records were starting. Some of the bishop's registers from 1315 have been transcribed in modern editions and are available at WCRO. Wiltshire County Council has published a *Guide to the Record Offices: Part IV* for the Diocese of Salisbury (including the records from the Bishop of Bristol's sub-registry for Dorset), compiled by Pamela Stewart. See pp.135-136. The sub-registry was located at Blandford and later at Sherborne.

### Bishops' Transcripts

**Contents:** Marriages 1731-1754 Discrepancies between parish records and bishop's transcripts: 11 entries **Location:** DCRO Ref: Open shelves **Format:** typescript (1 page)

### Bishops' Transcripts

**Contents:** Registers for period 1731-1879 **Location:** DCRO Ref: MIC/R/131 **Format:** microfilm

### Bishops' Documents 1554-1779

**Contents:** Presentation deeds - seven documents of diocesan records of the presentation of the presentation of new clergy to the bishop **Location:** BRO Ref: EP/A/3/154 **Format:**

manuscript on parchment

**Bishop Secker's Record Book 1735-1779**

**Contents:** Records of the Bishop of Bristol's visits to parishes in Dorset, including Fontmell visits in 1735, 1741, 1766, 1776 and 1779. In 1735 he recorded that the rector, Dr Thomas Dibben was 'disordered in the head' and that in the 'large parish' there were 'two dissenters and no Papists' and that the church had a low tower, a belfry and only one aisle. In his 1766 visit he recorded 120 families in the parish, of which one was Presbyterian and none were Methodists or 'Papists'. St Andrew's held two services every Sunday while the chapel at East Orchard held Sunday services at 8am in summer and 9am in winter. **Location:** BRO **Format:** manuscript

**Clothing Club Book 1861**

**Contents:** List of those members paying subscriptions **Location:** FMVA 2301 **Format:** Manuscript

**St Andrew's Church Service Registers 1894-1973**

**Contents:** Lists of attendance **Location:** DCRO PE/FOM SE 1/1-6 **Format:** Manuscript

**Bell Ringers' Belfry Book 1872-1914**

**Contents:** St Andrew's Church records **Location:** DCRO AO1/1 **Format:** Manuscript

**Church of England Men's Society 1907-1919**

**Contents:** Minute Book **Location:** DCRO AO2/1 **Format:** Manuscript

**Registers of Voters from 1807**

**Contents:** Lists of eligible voters, annually from 1833 (but occasional from 1807); Fontmell is found in County Roll 1833-1838, in Shaftesbury Division from 1838 and in North Dorset from 1885 **Location:** DCRO Ref: QDE(R) **Format:** Printed lists by streets and microfilm from 1840-1900

**Census Returns for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901**

**Contents:** List of all residents (including children) with age, profession and place of birth **Location:** DLSC Ref: D:312 DCRO Ref: (1841) MIC/R 765, (1851) MIC/R 634, (1861) MIC/R 770, (1871) MIC/R 779, (1881) MIC/R 797, (1891) MIC/F/5/30 (1901) **Format:** Microfilm (1841-81) Microfiche (1891, 1901)

**Census for 1851: transcription**

**Contents:** Index by names of 1851 census **Location:** DCRO Open shelves **Format:** Printed

**Census for 1881: transcription**

**Contents:** Index by names of 1881 census **Location:** DLSC D:312, DCRO **Format:** Printed

**Census for 1891: transcription**

**Contents:** Index by names of 1891 census **Location:** DLSC, DCRO open shelves **Format:** printed

**Registers of Electors for Fontmell Magna 1901-1922**

**Contents:** Annual Voters' Lists **Location:** DCRO **Format:** Printed

Year	Ref: QDE(R)	MIC/R number
1901	3/16/1	1239
1902	3/17/1	1242
1903	3/18/1	1244
1904	3/19/1	1246
1905	3/20/1	1254
1906	3/21/1	1256
1907	3/22/1	1258
1908	3/23/1	1261

1909	3/24/1	1265
1910	3/25/1	1267
1911	3/26/1	1269
1912	3/27/1	1271
1913	3/28/1	1273
1914	3/29/1	1279
1915	3/30/1	1281
1918	3/31/1	1292
1918	3/31/5	1296 Absent voters list
1919	3/32/1	1294
1919	3/32/9	1299 Absent voters list
1920	3/33/1	1300
1921	3/34/1	1304
1922	3/35/1	1308

## 2 Rates and Taxes

### Domesday Book 1086

Contents: Transcription of Fontmell survey *Victoria County History of Dorset* vol 3 (1963)  
Location: DLSC DCRO Format: Printed

### Shaftesbury Abbey Surveys of 1135 and 1175

Contents: Facsimile of *Registrum peructustum Abbatie Shastoniensis sine Shaftisbiriensis*, (Harley MSS 61 in British Museum) includes Fontmell. Location: DCRO Ref:MIC/R/13  
Format: Microfilm

### Dorset Lay Subsidy Rolls 1327 & 1332: transcriptions

Contents: Lists of tax payers Location: DCRO Open shelves Format: Printed

### Dorset Tudor Subsidies from 1523

Contents: Short lists of Fontmell tax-payers. Includes names of 59 male residents paying tax in 1527. Location: DCRO Open shelves Format: Printed

### Tudor Muster Rolls of 1539-42 and 1569

Contents: List of able-bodied men Location: DCRO Open shelves Format: Printed

### Protestation Returns of 1641-42

Contents: List of male residents Location: DCRO Open shelves Format: Printed

### Hearth Tax Returns 1662-1674

Contents: Lists of local tax payers Location: DCRO Open shelves Format: Printed

### Church wardens' accounts 1675-1989

Contents: Expenditure : church wardens were the main lay officials and the legal guardians of church property. They had substantial secular duties during this period. Location: DCRO Ref:PE/FOM:CW1/1-6 MIC/R/1516 Format: Manuscript and Microfilm

### Overseers' of the Poor accounts 1681-1830

Contents: Accounts of payments made Location: DCRO Ref: PE/FOM: OV 1/1-6 and OV2/1-3, MIC/R/1516-17 Format: Microfilm

### Overseers' of the poor papers 1686-1832

Contents: Settlement examinations, settlement certificates, removal orders, apprenticeship indentures, bastardy bonds, bastardy orders, examinations and warrants. Location: DCRO Ref: PE/FOM: OV 3-10 MIC 1517 Format: Manuscript & Microfilm. Also: 3 dwellings used as 'Houses of Industry' 1798-1817 [D/GLY(B): T29]

**Surveyors' of the highway accounts 1750-1836**

**Contents:** Local taxes or rates listed annually **Location:** DCRO Ref: PE/FOM: SU1/1-2 & MIC/R/983 **Format:** Manuscript & Microfilm

**Tithe Valuation Papers 1813-1838**

**Contents:** Papers concerning valuations **Location:** DCRO IN 1 **Format:** Manuscript

**Land Tax Redemption Office Quotas and Assessments 1780-1832**

**Contents:** Annual Fontmell Records included under Sixpenny Handley Hundred **Location:** DCRO Ref: 1780-1812 MIC/R/509, 1813-1832 MIC/R/513 **Format:** Microfilm

**Tithe Commutation Act 1836**

**Contents:** Tithe Redemption maps and tithe apportionments carried out by Tithe Redemption Commission. **Location:** PRO, Kew Ref: I.R.29.10.87 (apportionment) & I.R. 30.10.87 (map) **Format:** Manuscript Fontmell apportionment dates 1837, map dated 1839

**Shaftesbury Union (Workhouse): Guardians' Minutes 1835-1930**

**Contents:** Fontmell residents are occasionally found in these minutes as the Shaftesbury Board of Guardians had generally taken over responsibility for tasks formerly in the hand of the Fontmell vestry, such as the Overseers' of the Poor accounts (see above). In some cases local authorities took charge from 1894, but the Shaftesbury Union continued until 1930.

**Location:** DCRO Ref: BG/SY: A1/1-19 **Format:** Manuscript

**Church Wardens' Quinquennial Surveys 1956-1976**

**Contents:** Reports **Location:** DCRO PE/FOM CW4/1-4 **Format:** Manuscript

### 3 Charters, Maps & Surveys

**Saxon Charters: Transcriptions**

**Contents:** Transcriptions of Shaftesbury Abbey's landholdings (including Fontmell) are contained in HPR Finberg (1964) *The Early Charters of Wessex*. **Location:** DLSC **Format:** Printed

**Saxon Charters: Transcriptions**

**Contents:** Transcriptions of Shaftesbury Abbey's landholdings (including Fontmell) are contained in G.B.Grundy 'Saxon Charters of Dorset' *Dorset Year Book*, 58, 103-136 **Location:** DLSC **Format:** Printed

**Saxon Charters: Transcriptions**

**Contents:** Transcriptions of Shaftesbury Abbey's landholdings (including Fontmell) are contained in S.E.Kelly 'Charters of Shaftesbury Abbey', Oxford 1996 **Location:** Shaftesbury Library, DLSC **Format:** Printed

**Domesday Book 1086**

**Contents:** Transcription of Fontmell survey *Victoria County History of Dorset* vol 3 (1963) **Location:** DLSC DCRO **Format:** Printed

**Survey of Manor 1575**

**Contents:** Fontmell, West Orchard and Hartgrove **Location:** DCRO Ref: D/GLY(B): M7-8 **Format:** Manuscript (Latin)

**Survey 1588-89**

**Contents:** Bailiff's accounts for Arundell Estate including Fontmell **Location:** WCRO Ref: 2667/12/91 **Format:** Manuscript

**Survey of Manor 1599**

**Contents:** Fontmell is included in survey of lease holders throughout Arundell estate

**Location:** DCRO Ref: D/GLY(B):M9 **Format:** Manuscript (Latin)

**Survey of Manor 1698**

**Contents:** list of freeholders, leaseholders and copyholders of Fontmell **Location:** WCRO Ref: 2667/11/90 **Format:** Manuscript

**Surveys of Manor 1699-1719**

**Contents:** Fontmell is included in survey of lease holders throughout Arundell estate. **Location:** WCRO Ref:2667/11/94, 103 **Format:** Manuscript

**Survey of Manor 1717**

**Contents:** Fontmell is included in general survey of Dorset manors in Arundell estate. **Location:** WCRO Ref: 2667/11/116 **Format:** Manuscript

**Surveys of Manor 1736-1803**

**Contents:** 12 surveys of Fontmell estate **Location:** WCRO Ref: 2667/11/ 121, 125, 145, 171, 189, 190, 232, 235, 243, 246, 252, 264 **Format:** Manuscript

**Tenants' Contract Books 1711-1798**

**Contents:** Details of estate contracts for work undertaken on estate including Fontmell lands **Location:** WCRO Ref: 2667/11/289, 297-303 **Format:** Manuscript

**Hutchins Survey 1774**

**Contents:** J.Hutchins (1774) *The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset* includes description of 18th century Fontmell. **Location:** DCRO, DLSC, DCML **Format:** Printed, 2 vols. 2nd edition 1796-1815, 3rd edition 1861-1874, reprinted 1973.

**Map of 'The Wains Way' 1767**

**Contents:** Track leading to Fontmell (Parson's) Hollow shown in OS Archaeological Section, nos AO 279, 285 and 308 [see *Somerset and Dorset Notes & Queries* XXVII (1956) p121-2] Grundy's *Saxon Charters* (qv) refers to WINES WEIE. **Location:** DLSC

**Map of Arundell Estate 1774**

**Contents:** 2 maps (1) of Fontmell Magna (2) of Hartgrove Important pre-turnpike road maps **Location:** DCRO Ref: D/GLY(B): P3-4 **Format:** Large-scale maps

**Survey of glebe and tithes 1813**

**Contents:** Survey and valuation of glebe (land belonging to the rector) and tithes (the tenth part of the produce of the parish given to the rector) **Location:** DCRO Ref: PE/FOM: IN/1/1/1-22 **Format:** Manuscript

**Map of Roads controlled by Turnpike Trusts 1821**

**Contents:** Turnpikes between Shaftesbury and Blandford 1821 **Location:** DCRO Ref: QDP(M): TT7 **Format:** Manuscript

**Map of Tithe Commutation Act 1839**

**Contents:** Map 1839, Apportionment 1840, altered apportionment 1853. Map shows new toll road (South St) and toll gate **Location:** DCRO Ref: T/FOM SD1/1-2 **Format:** Map & papers *See also under Rates and Taxes: Tithe Commutation Act 1836*

**Map of Enclosure award and text 1853**

**Contents:** Tenantry Down **Location:** DCRO Ref: Enclosure 58 **Format:** Manuscript and map

**Map of Glyn Estate 1860?**

**Contents:** Pen and ink map on linen of East Orchard (36" x 24") bordering on Fontmell Magna and showing roads and tracks **Location:** FMVA

**Map of Glyn Estate 1893**

**Contents:** Fontmell Magna Cottage Book - 7 sketch maps drawn by W.R.Day, Sir Richard Glyn's agent, together with list of tenants. Each tenant is numbered and the location identified on the map **Location:** FMVA 2769 **Format:** Photocopied maps and notes

**Map of Water Supply 1920**

**Contents:** Shaftesbury and district **Location:** DCRO Ref:QDP(M):GW42 **Format:** Map, plans and notes

**Map of Electric Light Undertakings 1925**

**Contents:** Shaftesbury and district **Location:** DCRO Ref: QDP(M) : E 27 **Format:** Map, plans and notes

**National Farm Survey 1941**

**Contents:** Detailed survey by Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of 29 farms in the village **Location:** FMVA /PRO Ref: PRO MAF 32/462/158 **Format:** Map, plans and notes

**Survey of Fontmell Hill Estate 2001**

**Contents:** Survey of Gore Farm **Location:** FMVA 2201 **Format:** Printed

## 4 Sales

**Sales Documents 1800**

**Contents:** George and Charles Young estate sale 1800 **Location:** DCRO Ref: D/GLY(B): E16 **Format:** Manuscript

**Sale of Arundell Estate 1806**

**Contents:** Particulars of sale published by Hansard **Location:** DLSC Ref:D5.333.3:381.17 **Format:** Printed documents

**Sale of Arundell Estate 1807 (1)**

**Contents:** Extensive collection of conveyance documents (including pedigree of Arundell family from 4th Baron to 9th). **Location:** DCRO Ref: D/GLY(C): E1 **Format:** Printed documents

**Sale of Arundell Estate 1807 (2)**

**Contents:** Sale particulars for Auction of estate: includes list of leaseholders and holdings **Location:** DCRO Ref:D/GLY(C):E2 **Format:** Printed document

**Sale of Arundell Estate 1807 (3)**

**Contents:** Complete estate listings **Location:** DCRO Ref: D/GLY(B):E40 **Format:** Printed document

**Sales Documents 1919**

**Contents:** First Glyn sale - outlying properties and farms in parish **Location:** FMVA **Format:** Printed document with plans

**Sales Documents 1919**

**Contents:** Fontmell Magna Estate with plans (Rutters of Shaftesbury, Solicitors) **Location:** DCRO Ref: D/RUT:A/39/1 **Format:** Printed document with map

**Sales Documents 1921-28**

**Contents:** Farms and other properties, including Blatchford's, Cowgrove, Middle, Pipers Mill, Woodbridge (Rutters of Shaftesbury, Solicitors) **Location:** DCRO Ref: D/RUT: A/39/2-11 **Format:** Printed document with maps