

TITLES AVAILABLE

Continued

“Mehalah” Paperback. Praxis Books 1998 £8.50

“Guavas the Tinner”. Paperback. Praxis Books. 2000. £7.50

“Cheap Jack Zita” Paperback Praxis Books. 2001. £8.00

“Kitty Alone” Paperback. Praxis Books. 2001. £9.00

“The Broom Squire” Paperback. Blackdown Press. 1996. £9.99

“Bladys of the Stewpony” Paperback. Praxis Books. 2003.
£8.50

“The Chorister” Paperback. Praxis Books. June 2004. £6.00

Biography:

“Now the Day is Over” by Harold Kirk-Smith. Richard Kay.
1997

“ ‘Half My Life’ The Story of Sabine Baring-Gould and
Grace ” by Keith Lister. Charnwood Publications, 2002. £12.95
(£2.00 P&P) Available from the author at 13 Grove Road, Hor-
bury, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF4 6AG

Literary Criticism:

“The West Country as Literary Invention” Simon Trezise.
2000 University of Exeter Press. £13.99

Family History, centred on Lew House:

“The Mana of Lew” by Cicely Briggs. Praxis Books. 1994.
£5.00 Available from Sallie Briggs, Whispering Winds, Brentor,
Tavistock, Devon. PL19 OLS

A Bibliography is available from the Hon. Secretary.

SABINE BARING-GOULD APPRECIATION SOCIETY



Spring 2004: Lew House

Newsletter No. 45

June 2004

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

To enable those interested in the man and his work to share their enthusiasm and spread the interest among others. This is to be achieved by means of three Newsletters per annum (October, February and June), a membership list, a website, an Annual Gathering at venues with some association with Sabine Baring-Gould and publication of the Transactions. The annual subscription is £6.00. Members joining during the year will receive back copies of the Newsletter for the current year, which is deemed to start with the October issue, when subscriptions are due.

THE COMMITTEE

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- **Sabine Baring-Gould** was born on 28th January 1834 in Exeter and died on 2nd January 1924 at Lewtrenchard
- Hugely influential collector of folksongs at a time when such songs were being rapidly forgotten.
- Prolific novelist. Among the ten best of his time?
- Folklorist. Magpie collector of anecdotes, practices, beliefs.
- Archaeologist. Pioneer of over 60 excavations on Dartmoor .
- Loved and respected pastor to a widespread Devonshire community
- Reconstructor of buildings - he made enormous changes to both house and church at Lewtrenchard
- Wrote or translated well known hymns and carols.

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Cover

**Celia Eastlake and
Cherry Peurifoy re-
laxing in the Ballroom
of Lew House during
a break in the Spring
Meeting on 9 May**

Editorial

It really is quite astonishing how regularly articles and references to SB-G appear in journals and newspapers, but, before we put the flags out, it is as well to remind ourselves that this can be something of a mixed blessing. Editors are in the business of selling as many copies of their product as they can and so it is that many articles that tend to magnify, let alone dwell on, the quirky aspects of their subject. If we believed much of what they print we would conclude that SB-G was an eccentric whose claim to fame, apart from 'Onward Christian Soldiers' was eccentricity, teaching with a pet bat on his shoulder, inspiring Pygmalion and failing to recognise any of his horde of children. It falls to SBGAS to set the record straight and to promote an extraordinarily talented and industrious but very human man. The painstaking research patently undertaken by the authors of articles in this issue go a long way towards doing that.

Issue 46, October 2004

The success of the Newsletter is dependent, not on the editor, but on contributions from the membership. The more varied the better. Long hand, typescript, or e-mail—it matters not. **Deadline for the next issue, 20 September 2004**

SBGAS at Lew House: Spring 2004

Jenny Metcalf writes: The ballroom of Lew House, now known as Lewtrenchard Manor Hotel, was the perfect setting for the SBGAS spring meeting on Sunday 9 May and the hotel staff made the 22 members and friends of the Society who came feel very welcome. Some of us were local while others, including Merriol Almond, Judy Baring-Gould Orthwein and Carol Moss all the way from America, came from further afield. Sybil Tope had put together a leisurely programme with an enjoyable emphasis on time to talk and take in the magical atmosphere.

After introductions and coffee Ron Wawman introduced us to, arguably, the most important document in the Baring-Gould Archive held by the Devon Record Office, '**The Diary of Sabine Baring-Gould,**' Most of us, including Merriol, were unaware of its existence until Keith Lister published his biography. Now, at Merriol's suggestion, Ron had transcribed the whole diary. It had been a time consuming but very rewarding experience. We were fascinated to hear of way in which Ron had tackled the diary and the problems thrown up by the cramped handwriting, idiosyncratic spelling and the hundreds of names of people and places. Many apparently indecipherable or uncertain words and entries had now been solved, but there was still much work to be done and some entries would remain enigmatic. It would be some time before the diary could be made more generally available and decisions had yet to be taken on how that could be achieved. The diary covers the years 1880 to 1899, includes almost 50 sketches and, after transcription, took up 133 pages of A4. It is a substantial document but, conveniently for the reader, it divides naturally into 4 sections of roughly equal size each dealing with a period of residence in a different location and each revealing very different pre-occupations and activity.

(Continued on next page)

Spring 2004' continued

The first half of the diary covers a period of 15 months during which Sabine was on a sabbatical from Mersea and very much enjoying the social round of a country gentleman at first in Lew House for 4 months, and then—when the money ran out, after borrowing £1000 from Aunt Fanny Bond and leasing Lew House for 5 years—as a member of an expatriate community living very cheaply in Freiburg for 11 months. A great fund of anecdotes, many of which found their way into later publications are a feature of these 2 sections. At Freiburg the family lived in a 4-roomed apartment for £1 a week all found! This section is marked by two significant events. The first a bitter legal dispute with *Wilhelmine von Hillern* over a play which Sabine had translated into English for her; the second, a novel, *Zitta*, which he wrote in German and sold for serialization in the magazine, *Deutes Familienblatt*. The subject and fate of this novel remain as yet unknown. Following the death of Uncle Charles, Sabine returned to Lew as rector, and the 3rd section of the diary covers the four years in which he lived in the rectory before finally fulfilling his dreams and taking up permanent residence in Lew House. During his time in the rectory he still enjoyed an active social life but also began to be drawn into a regular pattern of writing novels as a way of significantly supplementing his income. The last section of the diary covers a period of 14 years dominated by the extensive restoration of Lew House, a demand for money to fund this and an increasing need to divert much of his creative energy into novel writing, which he loathed, to meet this demand. He no longer had much time for socialisation or the accumulation of anecdotes and entries in the diary became infrequent, brief and generally more serious.

One important feature of the diary is the occasional review of crucial events in Sabine's life and, throughout the 20 years, brief comments on the doings and health of various members of his immediate family. The diary ends suddenly and unexpectedly and in mid-flow. Ron could only speculate why? *(continued over)*

Spring 2004 continued)

After a splendid buffet lunch, a wander through the bluebells led us to **St. Peter's Church** where John Hunwicke entertained us to an impishly humorous account of the antics of garter kings of arms and the efforts of Victorian gentry to put a favourable gloss on their pedigrees. It was perhaps easier for Sabine to do this than most, as he conveniently carried out much of the heraldic research needed for a new edition of the *'The 1620 Visitation of Devon'*. John posed many searching questions, such as why did Sabine gloss over the humble Germanic origins of the Exeter wool merchant, Johann Baring of Bremen. John brought the whole discussion alive by relating his researches to the stained glass windows, bench ends and memorials in the church. Both Lew House and the church were statements of a somewhat reconstructed status, pedigree and history.



Just look at those bench ends!

Mary Rolfe then updated us on the plans of St. Peters Church for the **Sabine Baring-Gould Heritage project**. She reminded us of the origins of the project, such as the need to provide toilets and disabled access, and we saw at first hand the problems facing the p.c.c. Ambitious plans have been put to the Church Advisory Committee and West Devon Borough Council for a substantial structure with a turf roof built into the steep bank to the north of the church.

(continued on next page)

Spring 2004 continued)

The centre would be mostly hidden from the road and with level access to both church and a car park discretely sited east of the church by courtesy of the Baring-Gould Corporation.

On leaving the church we drifted, via a peek at the atmospheric 'Ramps' cottage and Sabine's dogcart, back to Lew House for tea with the most delectable biscuits imaginable. We all enjoyed ourselves hugely and looked forward to a similar occasion next year

How Did I Get Into This?

Geoffrey Wrayford writes: "Part of my education was at Shebbear College where, with many other boys during the 40s and 50s, Bickford Dickinson endeavoured to teach us history (or Rural Science). 'Dickie' was, as I learnt later, the grandson of SB-G (his mother was Sabine and Grace's eldest child, Mary). A true gentleman, Dickie as a man of many gifts (his immaculate ship models were displayed in the library; I fear they were later lost in the fire that destroyed Dunsland House), and a great Christian.

Later he was ordained in the Church of England, served (as junior curate and senior magistrate, as he told me) at Holsworthy, and completed his ministry as Rector of Lew Trenchard. I visited him there, where he and Madge lived in the house his grandfather had built for his curate.

He must have introduced me to the name of his distinguished ancestor, for I then recognised Sabine's *Book of Devon* on our shelves at home, which became the first of what is now a somewhat larger collection. Amongst other items, I have also acquired a scrapbook of prints and small watercolours with the name *Mrs Baring Gould* inscribed on the inside of the front cover. This is almost certainly Sabine's grandmother, Diana Amelia but awaits comparison with other examples of her work."

How did you get into SBGAS? Why not share your story with the membership. The editor would love to hear from you.

Baring-Gould and Gladstone

By Martin Graebe

On a recent visit to the British Library to discover more about the collection of ballads that Sabine Baring-Gould donated to them I took the opportunity to look at the Library's small collection of his letters. Among these are three that add a little to our knowledge about his relationship with W E Gladstone. It is well documented that Baring-Gould owed his translocation from Dalton to East Mersea to Gladstone, who had been impressed by his book *The Origin and Development of Religious Belief*. This was Gladstone's first term as Prime Minister and he had the gift of this Crown living. Clearly Baring-Gould kept in touch with Gladstone afterwards, though their correspondence was probably limited.

The first letter, written on March 15th 1873 (less than two years after arriving in Mersea) is the most revealing. Sabine writes:

"I venture to ask if you would take me into consideration when you dispose of the vacant canonry at Westminster. I ask because my literary work necessitates my being near the libraries, as many of the books I am obliged to consult are not producible by me.

I have not been idle since you so kindly presented me to this living, for in the two years I have written ten volumes.

Talmudic Legends of the Old Testament Characters, 2 vols.

Lives of the Saints, 4 vols. Published and 6 written out of 13 that will complete the series

One Hundred Sermon Sketches for Extempore Preachers

Village Conferences on the Creed, (in the press).

Besides editing a quarterly review of Ecclesiastical Art "The Sacristy".

(continued on the next page)

Baring-Gould and Gladstone continued)

My 'Lives of the Saints' will occupy me two or three years more and will be, I really think, a useful contribution to Ecclesiastical history and biography. In addition I have been collecting for two other works I have in view, a History of the Hussite wars in Bohemia and a History of Anabaptism.

I have now to make at times a journey to London merely to verify a quotation and this takes up time and is expensive; I am twelve miles from a railway and with high tides cut off from the mainland occasionally.

I can promise that preferment will not make me idle, for I only seek it to enable me to get more among books and use my pen more nimbly"

On the reverse of the letter is an exchange of messages between Gladstone and his secretary which confirm that his name was put forward for the Canonry, though we know, of course, that he was not successful. Gladstone also agrees that Baring-Gould should be thanked for his gift of the two volumes of *Legendary Lives of Old Testament Characters* and offered him £50 to buy books. I think we can assume that Sabine would have accepted this offer.

The second letter was written on 23rd September 1876 and shows us clearly the depth of Baring-Gould's feelings about the Government's support for an ally who has committed barbarous acts against civilian 'insurgents'. In this case the Prime Minister was Disraeli and the atrocity took place in Bulgaria where the Turks massacred an estimated 12,000 villagers. Disraeli's policy was to protect the Turks and the British Fleet was placed to deter the Russians from intervening. When the news of the atrocity was first reported Disraeli made a speech which, like so many heard more recently, dismissed the events in a very light-hearted manner. This enraged Gladstone who was then in semi-retirement after his first premiership and set him off on a crusade that was to become the platform for his second term of office two years later.

(continued overleaf)

Baring-Gould and Gladstone continued)

Gladstone wrote a pamphlet on *Bulgarian Horrors and the Questions of the East*, which attacked Disraeli's government. Baring-Gould was also incensed and, having seen the pamphlet, wrote to Gladstone on 23rd Sept 1876

"Excuse a line to express the depth of gratitude I feel for your letter, pamphlet and speech on the Eastern Question. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks and after Lord Beaconsfield's outrage at Aylesbury I cannot contain myself from expressing my feelings.

I enclose some lines on the question somewhat too stinging for publication but true"

The second sentence is a paraphrase of Luke 6:45 and the attached verses clearly demonstrate the depth of Baring-Gould's feelings. Only verse one is quoted here:

The Turk and the Tory

By Allah the Turk with his blade and brand
Is ruthlessly thinning a people down
Red rapine and murder race hand in hand
Through hamlet and village and town
And the fleet of old England is keeping the ring
That the Turk unmolested may have his fling

This powerful set of verses also appears in Plymouth Notebook 2 (the fair copy of SB-G's own verse) with slightly 'improved' lyrics. There is a note attached to it which reads *"After the Bulgarian atrocities D'Israeli in the House had the indecency to make them the subject of a joke. The English fleet was used to watch against Russian interference"*. There is another poem on the topic in the Plymouth notebook entitled 'The Tory Warcry'. Both poems were pasted into Sabine's diary in 1890 with the note *"have found the following copies of verses, made at the time of the Bulgarian atrocity excitement. They have been lying in an old box or drawer for years"*.

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Baring-Gould and Gladstone continued)

The final letter, written on the 21st May 1877 is included in a volume of correspondence related to dinner invitations in which Baring-Gould replies:

I am much obliged to you for so kindly asking me to call on you next month but unfortunately I shall not be in England in June, as I go abroad next Monday, but if you will allow me, on my return in July, I will do myself the honour of accepting your kind invitation

Gladstone was to return to office in the following year and there is no record of a subsequent invitation.

News from the Membership

New Members: We welcome the return of **Chris (Harold) Waters**, son of Dora Baring-Gould Waters and grandson of Arthur, Sabine's half-brother. Chris is a poet, emeritus professor of black francophone studies at the University of Rhode Island and author of books on poetry and research. Also joining us are the **Rev. Kenneth Jackson** who followed Bickford Dickinson as rector at Lewtrenchard; **Arthur and Margaret Perkins**, born and bred at Lew Trenchard and living at Lew Mill; **Mr G E Dye** of Wakefield; **Joanne Brown**, originally of East Mersea but now of Great Torrington where folk music led her to Wren Trust and then SBGAS; **Cherry Peurifoy** of Atlanta, Georgia whose wide interests include collecting silver, travel, English countryside and houses and, of course, SB-G.

Becky Smith tells me that Praxis books have added yet another of SB-G's books to their splendid collection. **'The Chorister'** will be published, late June, in good time for the annual meeting at Cambridge and is available from Becky at Crossways Cottage, Walterstone, Herefordshire, HR2 0DX. **Price £6.00. p&p free.** Becky has also been busy on a panel of Crime writers at a Crime Writers day at the **Daphne Du Maurier Literary Festival** at Fowey, in May. *(continued overleaf)*

News from the membership continued)

Under her pen name, Rebecca Tope, Becky also has a new crime novel, *A Cotswold Killing*, coming out later this month. If that wasn't enough, with the arrival of Luke, she has also found time to become a grandmother for the third time. Congratulations, Becky!

Keith Lister tells the editor that it's all happening at **Horbury**. Whitsunday saw the re-enactment of the historic **Whitsuntide march** lead by the Bishop of Wakefield. The Horbury Victoria Brass Band accompanied the repeated singing of *'Soldiers'* by more than 130 marchers.



If that wasn't enough the people of **Horbury Bridge** have been very busy giving the names **Baring-Gould Way** and **Sabine Fold** to roads on a new housing development. When the developers substituted 'Bearing' for 'Baring' several eagle-eyed locals put them right.

Ray Scott, writing about a recent review of "*Cheap Jack Zita*" in the annual journal of The Littleport Society, is green with envy that the society owns an illustrated copy of "SB-G's best ever novel" If anyone out there knows of an available copy they could make Ray a contented man again.

Spot The Quotation

No one spotted the 'teaser' in issue 44, or, if they did, they didn't tell me. The answer is '*Early Reminiscences*', the penultimate page of chapter 18. As a quote of a quote, a bit naughty. This one should be easier. Tell the editor what book the quote comes from and to what place SB-G refers?

"What brought ——— into existence? It is not fathered by the castle, nor mothered by the church. Both have withdrawn to a distance and repudiated responsibility."

SBGAS Annual Meeting: Clare College Sept. 18, 19

An outline programme for the Annual Meeting was given in the previous *Newsletter*. The detailed programme and time table, although still not finalised, will not differ significantly from that already published. However, as those members (32) who have already signed up know, two additional items are the planned social gathering and evening meal on the night of Friday 17th (c. £12.50) in a pub just behind Westcott House, and Sunday lunch (£7.50) at Westcott House. For the few members who have not responded to my letter detailing these events, can you let me know as soon as possible whether you would like to attend either/both/neither please?

It is not too late for anyone who wants to join the Annual Meeting – just let me know, so that I know the numbers involved. Unfortunately, there is no more double accommodation at Westcott House, although one or two single rooms are still available.

Full details of the meeting, including maps showing the location of Clare College and Westcott House, will be sent to the participating members nearer the time.

Roger Bristow (tel. 01363 84815)

Dear Lew in Winter Garb

Dear Lew though in winter garb showing signs of spring. The rooks noisy and busy about their nests. The crocus out in the avenue and in the flower beds. Below the lawn the daffodils swelling and ready to shake out their golden fringes. A day of brilliant beauty, clear sky and sunshine, but an East wind blowing cold from the moor. Alas for the great elm, the largest tree on the property that stood near Lew House by the drive. In the storm last week it was blown down. The trunk sawn through just above the roots is 8 ft in diameter. It was a magnificent tree, one of the noblest elms I have ever seen.

The Diary of Sabine Baring Gould. 16 Feb 1881

Further reflections

By Jane Marchand

In Newsletter No. 41 Tom Greeves considered the respective contributions made to Dartmoor studies by Sabine Baring Gould (SBG) and Robert Burnard (RB). He concluded that the two men complemented each other and played an equal part in this. Nevertheless the impression given by the article was that SBG was a lightweight when it came to archaeology, with no reference made to his already lengthy and distinguished involvement with the subject starting many years before his work on Dartmoor with RB. It is against this backdrop of experience that his archaeological endeavours on Dartmoor are more accurately measured.

There is no doubting how he regarded RB, they were the greatest of friends and colleagues, and he referred to RB "*as my alter ego in all that concerns Dartmoor.*" His admiration for his archaeological work on Dartmoor is also very clear; in a letter to the Western Morning News after RB's death he generously wrote "*I reckon confidently that Robert Burnard did a work that can never be forgotten in establishing the epoch to which the prehistoric stone monuments on Dartmoor belong, and that as such his name must never be forgotten*".

By the time of their joint excavations on Dartmoor, starting in July 1893, SBG was nearly 60 years old with 40 years excavating experience, dating from his schoolboy excavations carried out on a Roman villa near Pau in the Pyrenees. The museum at Oloron Ste Marie displays his well executed plan of this in its main display panel. Whilst living at Pau he also excavated other sites within the area where his name is still known. In 1851 he was the youngest ever contributor to *Archaeologia* with his article on an Ancient Camp near Bayonne.

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(Further Reflections continued)

This boyhood interest and involvement in archaeology continued throughout his life as seen by references in his Reminiscences and indeed in his other writings.

In 1891 he carried out excavations at Trewortha Marsh on Bodmin Moor. This, the first ever of a deserted medieval settlement, and set amongst the remains of a prehistoric settlement, caused him understandable confusion.. Nevertheless his plans and descriptions of the site were later to be described by the acknowledged expert of this type of site, Maurice Beresford, as *being a model for the time.*

He was also to also excavate many other sites in Cornwall and in Wales too; for the latter he was to be described by Mortimer Wheeler as a *sturdy pioneer of Welsh archaeology.*

His name lives on not just in the Welsh Annals; in a recent volume of the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* he receives good mention for his excavations in 1898 of some hut circles and a chambered tomb at Clawdd y Milwyr, St David's Head.

At the time of the formation of the Dartmoor Exploration Committee (1894) SBG had well established contacts within the Victorian antiquarian community, and his familiarity with this served as a useful reference point for their work on Dartmoor. Rev W C Lukis, an important and respected name in mid nineteenth century archaeology, stayed with him at Lew Trenchard whilst on a commission from the Society of Antiquaries to carry out a survey of Dartmoor's stone rows. SBG was not just his hospitable host, he acted as his guide and mentor on Dartmoor and many of Lukis' plans also carry his name. The correspondence between the two men shows that Lukis regarded Baring Gould very much as an equal.

The reports on the Dartmoor Exploration Committee's work were mostly the result of his flowing pen;

(continued overleaf)

Further Reflections continued)

these were published with admirable regularity in the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*; essentially a local journal. In addition he wrote many more articles on both the DEC's work and Dartmoor's archaeology in general which were published outside the county (many of which are not listed in the *Dartmoor Bibliography*). By so doing he promoted Dartmoor's archaeology to a far wider audience, which resulted in a number of both national and county societies visiting Dartmoor. Following one such a visit to Grimspound in 1910 by the Royal Archaeological Institute, its President described SBG as *one of the most fertile and picturesque antiquaries in the realm, he had never known a man so versatile who has done so much work which had been so excellent.*

It was following his work at Trewortha Marsh that SBG wrote to the Ordnance Survey suggesting that the archaeology there should be marked onto subsequent editions of the OS map. Edward Thomas, the OS surveyor, was duly dispatched and accompanied him there; their subsequent adventures in the Red Mire bog are, of course, vividly retold in his *Further Reminiscences*. It was again at SBG's request that Edward Thomas was later to visit Dartmoor to carry out more mapping for the OS.

SBG was later to write to the OS deploring the fact that so much of the archaeological detail recorded by their field surveyors like Thomas had been removed by the OS revisers who were "indifferent to matters of archaeological interest". These must be seen as the actions of someone who was much more than just a "populariser". It was his active promotion and intervention which helped to foster general interest and enthusiasm for Dartmoor's archaeology at a time when so many sites were being destroyed through both expedience and ignorance

SBG regarded his greatest achievement as being his collections of West Country folk songs,
(continued on the next page)

Further Reflections continued)

but his interest in folk music and its singers permeates through to his stories and anecdotes about Dartmoor life. His regional writings should surely be seen as another important part of his contribution to Dartmoor studies and were overlooked by Tom Greeves. In his *Book of Dartmoor*, his novels such as *Urith: a Tale of Dartmoor*, *Guavas the Tinner*, *Court Royal*, *John Herring*, *Royal Georgie*, plus many other short stories he captures the very essence of the Moor. These are largely set against the backdrop of "the region he loves best in all the world". It is into this landscape, which he knew so intimately, that he was able to place those who were connected with it and of whom he had such a unique knowledge. Thus he weaves his tales around tin miners, the quarrymen, the wall builders, the convicts, the farmers and the shepherds, bringing alive their way of life and preserving it for posterity.

To conclude I would suggest SBG's overall contribution to Dartmoor studies were as eclectic and enthusiastic as with everything else that he was ever concerned with.

References in Print

This regular feature in the Newsletter is a measure of SB-G's influence on present day writing and thought. We are dependent on the sharp eyes of members as they read the wide variety of material out there. If you see something, tell the editor.

Up To The Minute References

The Guardian: Simon Goldsworthy has spotted that **Smallweed** continues his "monthly salute to the writer, hymnodist, cleric, folk song collector and general good egg" SB-G. On **20 March 2004** he gave a brief account of the 1862 Iceland venture.

Western Morning News, Friday Sept. 13 2003: In an article on the church of St. Michael de Rupe, Brentor, 'the ubiquitous cleric,' SB-G is quoted, on problems posed there by the weather.
(continued overleaf)

(References in print continued)

Western Morning News, 3 Feb 2004: West Devon readers first became aware of this article, commemorating the 170th anniversary of SB-G's birth, through the correspondence generated by it over the ensuing weeks, on the present day fashion for rewriting hymns. (Your editor made some forthright comments) For some reason the article only appeared in the Cornish edition and it was Sybil Tope's tenacity that finally tracked down the original. The author, Michael Williams pays warm tribute to 'a remarkable character.' This is a charming article marred only by some mistakes, a perpetuation of myth and an emphasis on eccentricity.

Western Morning News, 20 May 2004: Spotted, as ever, by Sybil Tope, a delightful article by member Trevor Beer, on 'The Snail a Symbol of Christianity and fertility'. In it are references to the Victorian woodcarver Violet Pinwell and the fact that, apart from carving snails, she was commissioned by SB-G to do work at St. Peter's, Lewtrenchard.

Not So Recent

The Literary Landmarks of Devon and Cornwall - R Thurston Hopkins - Cecil Palmer 1926 p.26, 134-6, 139f, 222-4 (qu. The Vicar of Morwenstow - only this ref, indexed.)

Cornish Mysteries - Michael Williams - Bossiney Books 1980 p.22, 77

Ghosts of Cornwall - Peter Underwood Bossiney Books 1983 p.37 Dockacre House: John Herring & SB-G's residence there (are there any other refs. To corroborate this)

Who's Who in Victorian Britain - Roger Ellis - Shephard-Walwyn 1997

The Mid-Victorian Generation 1846-1886 K Theodore Hoppen - OUP 1998 only refs in this scholarly tome: Onward Christian Soldiers, SB-G's 16 (sic) offspring & the story of the little girl at the party - sad!

A Fortnight in Cornwall - Gordon Cooper Marshal, Jan 1962 (orig. 1949) p.2, 84

BARING-GOULD TITLES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

This list is constantly expanding, and older titles are gradually being left out, to save space. There are, however, almost certainly some omissions. Bossiney Books and Llanerch are regularly producing books by or including SBG. If anyone is aware of additional titles, please let the Editor know.

"Myths of the Middle Ages" Edited by John Matthews. Hardback. Blandford 1996. New illustrations: £16.99

"Yorkshire Oddities, Incidents and Strange Events" Smith Settle. Paperback. 1987

"Lives of the British Saints" Llanerch. 1990 onwards. Various volumes.

"The Book of Werewolves" Senate 1995. Introduction by Nigel Suckling. Paperback

"Five Devon Seafarers". Taken from SB-G's *Devonshire Characters*. Bossiney Books. 2000. £2.99

"Six Devon Rogues" Taken from *Devonshire Characters and Strange Events*. Bossiney Books. Paperback 2000

"A Book of Folklore" Paperback. Praxis Books 1993. £5.00

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