

## THE WORLD OF SBG (2) SBG'S WEST COUNTRY

Although SBG spent much of his childhood touring Europe - and many of his adult winters and other holidays too - and although he lived his early adulthood largely in the south, north and east of the country, he was overall a Westcountryman.

He was born and baptised in Exeter (1834), lived for a while in Bratton Clovelly, took student vacations in Tavistock (1851-5), and of course came home to roost and finally die at Lew Trenchard (1881-1924). It was his world by ancestry and adoption.

In view of his strong sense of vocation to the work of restoration of his ancestral family home and parish church, it is perhaps surprising that, even after 1881, he still travelled so extensively and wrote so much about other parts, both descriptive and imaginary. But it was the two most southwesterly counties that really claimed his attention, Devon in particular, and of that, Dartmoor was his first love.

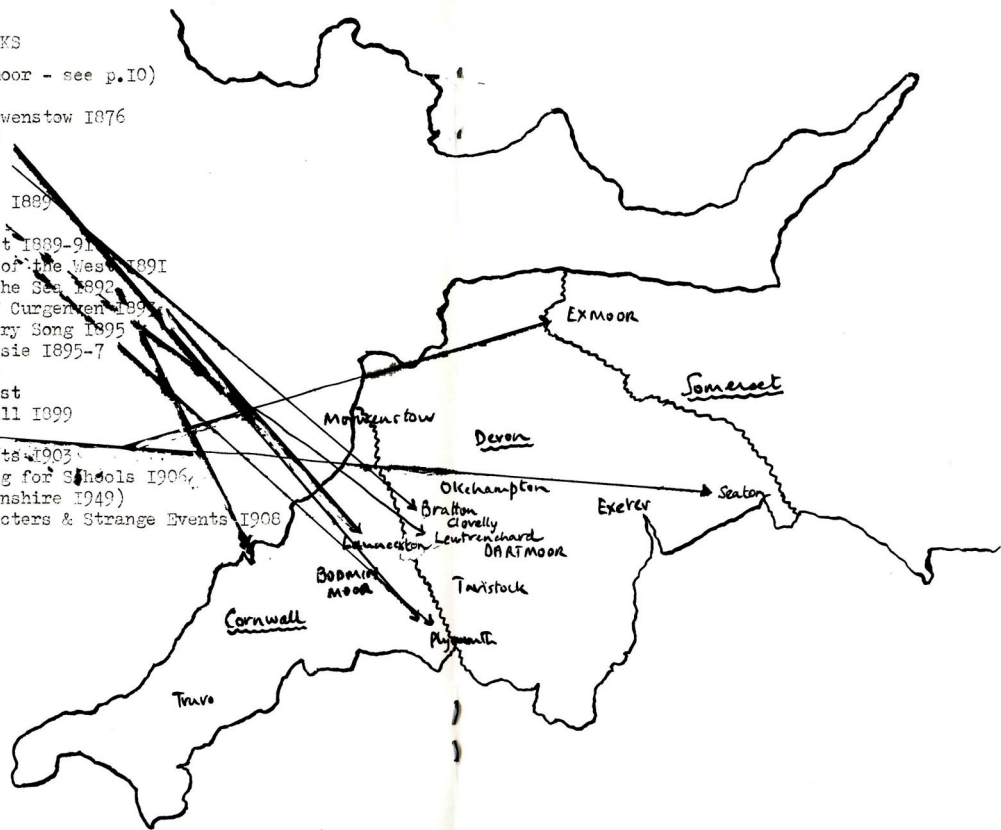
Whatever his critics may say, the range of his activities and the energy with which he pursued them were prodigious - exploration, excavation, research, conservation, observation, publication - anything of interest to him he made interesting to others. Nor was his work that of an academic recluse. Magistrates, musicians and university dons were among his many accomplices and fellow antiquarian adventurers. From the first taste for westcountry antiquities taken through the gift of Rowe's *Perambulations of Dartmoor* by an uncle when Sabine was 14, to the last articles he wrote for *Devon and Cornwall Notes & Queries* there is a span of over 70 years - what a fruitful span that was. This centre-spread can only give the barest outline, and indicate a few of the connecting links.

*SBGAS Newsletter 1993/94, No. 13, p. 7*

WEST COUNTRY BOOKS

(excluding Dartmoor - see p.10)

- The Vicar of Morwenstow 1876
- Court Royal 1886
- Red Spider 1887
- Eve 1888
- Old Country Life 1889
- Arminell 1890
- Songs of the West 1889-91
- Songs & Ballads of the West 1891
- In the Roar of the Sea 1892
- Mrs. Gurgenven of Gurgenven 1894
- Garland of Country Song 1895
- English Minstrelsie 1895-7
- Furze Bloom 1899
- A Book of the West
- Devon, Cornwall 1899
- Winefred 1900
- Chris of All Sorts 1903
- English Folk Song for Schools 1906
- Devon 1907 (Devonshire 1949)
- Devonshire Characters & Strange Events 1908
- Cornwall 1910



DARTMOOR

