

The South-West

The South-West was very nearly a vital area of England in Jacobite history. In 1715, it was earmarked for a major part of the rising planned for that year. The rising in the South-West was to be led by the Duke of Ormonde, although his flight into exile in France hindered proceedings. Soon afterwards the plan was reactivated and many local dignitaries, including Sir Richard Vyvyan, were involved. The plot was betrayed to the Government and most of the leaders arrested.

Ormonde did sail to the South-West, hoping to proceed with the rising, but he found that he was too late, and he returned to France. A Jacobite gentleman, James Paynter, attempted to kick-start the rising by proclaiming James III in the marketplace at St Columb Major in Cornwall, in October 1715, but prompt use of the militia by local Whigs scuppered the attempt.

The South-West remained the focus for Jacobite plans for a rising in 1719, but although another part of the rising went ahead in north-western Scotland, the English part of the plan was ended by the wrecking of the invasion fleet in a storm.

Despite the fact that the South-West never came to fruition in Jacobite plans, the region still has a good Jacobite legacy. Vyvyan's house at Trelowarren survives, as do the houses of Henry Jones, president of a Jacobite club (at Chastleton), and of leading Cornish Jacobites from the build-up to the Forty-Five, Sir John St Aubyn (St Michael's Mount) and Sir William Carew (Antony). Chastleton also has an excellent collection of Jacobite glasses, which have the added attraction of being *in situ* – they are still at the house they were bought for.

Several other places in the region have good collections of Jacobite artefacts, including the impressive one at Mompesson House in Salisbury.

Antony House, Cornwall

Antony was the principal home of Sir William Carew, fifth baronet, who was one of the leading Cornish Jacobites. Carew was involved in Jacobite plotting, notably in 1743-44 when he was one of the English Tory leaders who requested a French invasion to boost Jacobite risings in England and Scotland. He furthered such plotting with fellow Jacobite Sir Watkin Williams Wynn under the guise of meetings of the Independent Electors of Westminster. Carew's death in 1744, along with the death in the same year of fellow English Jacobite Sir John St Aubyn, weakened the English Jacobite plotting.

Antony was built by Carew between 1711 and 1721, and it survives largely unchanged. There is also a portrait of Carew there, by Michael Dahl.

[*Antony is in north-east Cornwall, 6 miles west of Plymouth*]

Bowood House, Wiltshire

Bowood has a portrait of George Granville, Lord Lansdowne.

Lansdowne was a committed Jacobite for many years. As a young man he wanted to fight for James II in 1688 (but was refused permission by his father) and he visited the Jacobite court at St Germain in 1690. In 1714 Lansdowne was described as being ‘totally devoted’ to James III [Oxford DNB, ‘Granville, George’] and he was earmarked as one of the leaders of the South-West rising in the Fifteen. He undertook some preliminary plotting to this end, before being arrested by the Government for high treason.

From 1720 to 1722 Lansdowne played a leading role in promoting the Atterbury Plot, becoming ‘one of the triumvirate directing James's affairs in France’ [DNB] at this time. This role included writing some of the most effective Jacobite propaganda of the early 1720s. He was created Duke of Albemarle in the Jacobite Peerage.

[Bowood is around 2 miles west of Calne in Wiltshire]

Chastleton House, Gloucestershire/Oxfordshire border

This impressive 17th century house has an excellent collection of Jacobite wine glasses and decanters, engraved with Jacobite images such as oak leaves and acorns, rosebuds, and the motto ‘Fiat’.

The house also has two portraits of its Jacobite owner in the early 18th century, Henry Jones.

Henry Jones was a leading Jacobite of the area. He was President of what seems to have been a largely Gloucestershire based branch of one of the most prominent Jacobite clubs, the Cycle of the White Rose. The Jacobite drinking glasses referred to above were used by Jones and are still *in situ* at the house and on display. They form one of the best collections of Jacobite glasses in a private house in England [they are located in a display cabinet on the First Floor].

The house is still very much as it was in Jones’s time. Among the items there when he owned the house, and used by him, are a superb 17th century heraldic fireplace and other 17th century fireplaces and overmantels, 17th century cabinets and other furniture, decorated plaster ceilings, the excellent 17th century barrel vaulted Long Gallery, and a ‘secret chamber’ in one room. The exterior of the house is also virtually unchanged since that time.

The compiler of this gazetteer was invited to give two lectures on Jacobitism to all the room stewards and other staff and volunteers, in November 2009. He also, on request, provided the house with an information sheet on ‘Jacobites and Jacobitism’ to give to interested visitors. Visitors to the house should therefore be well informed on matters Jacobite!

Chastleton is on the border between Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, and is actually technically a few yards inside the latter. However, it has been included here in the South-West section, rather than London and the South-East, as Jones' Jacobite club was mainly Gloucestershire based. The area also seems culturally and geographically closer to the West Country than to the south-east of England.

[Chastleton House is 6 miles east of Stow-on-the-Wold]

Cotehele House, Cornwall

The impressive late medieval house has a mid-18th century Scottish Highland targe and a mid-18th century Scottish backsword. As these are not Government issue, there is a good chance that they belonged to Jacobite clans, and they may well have been used in the Jacobite risings.

[Both are in the Great Hall]

[Cotehele House is 2 miles east of St Dominick in East Cornwall]

Godolphin House, Cornwall

Sidney Godolphin was not a committed Jacobite. Nonetheless, he flirted with Jacobitism during a least two periods in his life. During the Revolution of 1688-89 he remained loyal to James: 'Godolphin clung desperately to the king [James II]' [Oxford DNB]. This included voting for a regency and against William becoming king in the key Convention Parliament vote of February 1689.

There is also some evidence to suggest that Godolphin was in touch with the exiled court of James II in the 1690s, and that he may even have helped pass on secret plans for a landing by William of Orange's forces near Brest in 1694.

Godolphin House would still be easily recognised by Godolphin today, as the house has been little added to since his time. The 15th, 16th and 17th century exteriors are virtually intact. Amongst the most prominent survivals is the 17th century south colonnade – a very early example of Palladian architecture. Inside, there are impressive 15th, 16th and 17th century friezes in several rooms, as well as 15th century cellars with the original stone flagstones and vaulted roof. All of this Godolphin would have seen and used. Other survivals from the 16th-18th centuries include a 16th century overmantel and various family portraits (although not of Godolphin himself).

[Godolphin House is just north-west of the village of Godolphin Cross, around 6 miles north-west of Helston in south-west Cornwall]

Launceston, Cornwall

Launceston has two interesting links with the abortive rising in the South-West in 1715. The Jacobite gentleman James Paynter was tried in Launceston for high treason for having proclaimed James III in the market square in St Columb Major in October 1715.

In addition, one of the MPs for Launceston was John Anstis, who was one of the leaders of the planned Jacobite rising. He was arrested for high treason by the Government but he was never tried, and he later became reconciled to the Hanoverian regime.

There are still some features of the town that Paynter and Anstis would recognise, including the medieval castle and the medieval church.

[Launceston is in east Cornwall, just north of the A30]

Longleat House, Wiltshire

Longleat has a portrait by Kneller of George Granville, Lord Lansdowne. [For Lansdowne's Jacobitism, see under Bowood House, above]. The house also has portraits of James II and Mary of Modena.

[Longleat is in west Wiltshire, about 7 miles south-east of Frome]

Lydiard House, Wiltshire

Lydiard has a number of items relating to Henry St John, Viscount Bolingbroke, who was Jacobite Secretary of State to James III (1715-16). These include several painted portraits of Bolingbroke, several engraved portraits as prints, and a marble bust.

[Lydiard is west of Swindon and 2 miles north of jn 16 on the M4]

Mompesson House, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Mompesson House has an excellent group of nine or ten [nine definite, one possible] Jacobite glasses as part of its Turnbull Collection.

These Jacobite glasses include four with portraits of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, and one with 'J[acobus] R[ex] 8', 'Amen' and two verses of the Jacobite National Anthem engraved on it. Others have the Jacobite legend Fiat, and roses, rosebuds and a heraldic thistle.

All the glasses are on permanent display.

[Mompesson House is on Cathedral Close in central Salisbury]

Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, Devon

The museum has a collection of five 18th century Jacobite glasses with Jacobite symbols.

One has a portrait of Prince Charles Edward Stuart within an oval panel surrounded by rose and thistle sprays. Another has a Jacobite rose in flower, with rosebuds, an oak leaf, and the Jacobite legend *Fiat*.

[The museum is on Queen Street in central Exeter]

Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro, Cornwall

The museum has on display an exquisite Jacobite teapot. It shows Prince Charles Edward Stuart, wearing a Scottish bonnet and hiding by some scallop shells, presumably in the aftermath of the 45. There are other Jacobite symbols round the teapot, including oak leaves.

(At present – summer 2011 – the display panel wrongly says that the figure is Charles II. The curator has promised to change this).

The teapot is on display in one of the cases [Palladian & Rococo (no. 19)], on the balcony above the main gallery. The museum also has a couple of James II coins in storage.

[The museum is on River Street in central Truro]

St Columb Major, Cornwall

The town holds an interesting place in the largely abortive rising in the South-West in 1715. The rising was planned to be a key part of the Fifteen, but it was almost entirely nipped in the bud by the Government with arrests of leaders such as Sir Richard Vyvyan [see under Treloarwarren House].

However, a gentleman, James Paynter, from a minor gentry branch of an illustrious family, proclaimed James Francis Edward Stuart as James III in the market square of St Columb Major on 7 October 1715. He was supported by a number of other people. It was virtually the only tangible manifestation of the rising in Cornwall. Paynter was later arrested and tried for high treason in Launceston, but he was acquitted. The widespread rejoicings at his acquittal show the depth of Jacobite feeling in Cornwall, and seem to confirm the wisdom of the original plan to launch the rising in the South-West.

Paynter was created Marquess of Treliassick in the Jacobite peerage by a grateful James III. Even a generation later, Paynter's family were considered so Jacobite that they were suspected (albeit incorrectly) of harbouring Prince Charles Edward Stuart after the 45.

There is little left of the town that Paynter knew in 1715. However, there are a handful of buildings remaining from that time, including the church (part medieval) and the glebe house. The market square where he made his proclamation survives, albeit much altered.

[St Columb is in mid-Cornwall, about 7 miles south-west of Wadebridge]

St Michael's Mount, Cornwall

St Michael's Mount was one of the homes belonging to Sir John St Aubyn, third baronet, who was MP for Cornwall (1722-1744) and one of the leading Cornish Jacobites. St Aubyn claimed that he could raise 10,000 Cornish tinnerns for the Jacobite cause. He also helped the Jacobite cause in more down-to-earth ways, such as by forwarding parliamentary debates to James III in exile via the Jacobite historian Thomas Carte. In 1743, James III, recognising St Aubyn's value, appointed him to the 'council of regency' to serve under Prince Charles Edward Stuart after his planned invasion of Britain.

Most of St Michael's Mount is as St Aubyn would have known it, as much of the medieval, 16th and 17th century parts of the castle and surrounding fortifications survive (although there are some 19th century additions). St Aubyn's main contribution to the architecture of the area was to rebuild the harbour, and much of that work survives too.

[St Michael's Mount is situated on an island opposite the village of Marazion, in south-west Cornwall]

Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, Salisbury, Wiltshire

The museum has on display a Jacobite glass, complete with roses and rosebuds [Ceramics gallery, case 8].

It also has in storage a number of other Jacobite artefacts, including a portrait of Thomas Bruce, second Earl of Ailesbury, who remained loyal to James II in 1688-89 and then became a Jacobite plotter in the 1690s; a 'gun money' coin from James II's campaign in Ireland in 1690; and two other Jacobite glasses.

[The museum is on Cathedral Close in central Salisbury]

Snowhill Manor, Gloucestershire

The manor has a good collection of Jacobite glasses with the usual Jacobite symbols, including roses and rosebuds.

Snowhill is on the Gloucestershire/Worcestershire border, but it has been counted as being in the South-West section rather than the Midlands as it is technically in Gloucestershire (and it is also in the Wessex region of the National Trust rather than the Midlands region).

[Snowhill Manor is in north Gloucestershire, around 10 miles north-east of Cheltenham]

Trelowarren House, Cornwall

Trelowarren House was the family home of Sir Richard Vyvyan. He was MP for Cornwall and one of the leading Jacobites in the county; indeed, one source calls him the 'most influential Jacobite in the West' at that time. Vyvyan was one of the leaders of the planned rising in the South-West, to be led by the Duke of Ormonde, in 1715. However, Vyvyan was one of many Jacobites arrested for high treason by the Government as part of the crackdown against the plot.

The house is to a large extent as Vyvyan would remember it, despite some alterations in the later 18th and 19th centuries. The 16th and 17th century exterior is little changed. Inside there have been some changes, but nevertheless, survivals from Vyvyan's time include a 16th century fireplace in the kitchen, 18th century wall hangings on a landing off the main staircase, and panels of medieval stained glass in the chapel.

One wing of Trelowarren House is private. The rest of the house belongs to the Trelowarren Christian Centre, and is open to the public in the sense that it is open for conferences and retreats

[Trelowarren House is about 7 miles south-east of Helston in south-west Cornwall]

Trevice, Cornwall

Trevice has an attractive Jacobite glass urn on display in a cabinet. It has an engraved portrait of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, with the inscription 'God Bless Prince Charles 1745', and Jacobite symbols including white roses.

The house also has a James II chest of drawers and a portrait of James II when he was Duke of York.

[Trevice is 3 miles south-east of Newquay in Cornwall]