

The Butleigh Revel 1906

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INTRODUCTION

This volume has developed from an original idea to build up a file of all the people who lived in the Somerset village of Butleigh during the Victorian period, using the censuses 1841 - 1901, the Birth Marriage and Death records and the Parish Registers. The 'Butleigh People' project then expanded in order to give more information on the origins of the people who came to, or were born in, the village and some information on what happened to them subsequently. This information I have printed and had bound in two volumes.

To bring the people who inhabited Butleigh to life, I have sought images of as many of them as possible and the richest source was the most notable event ever to take place in Butleigh - the "Butleigh Revel" of 1906. This was a pageant organized by a trio of the squire, Robert Neville-Grenville, Mary Albinia Berkeley who was the daughter of the vicar, and John J. Bradden the schoolteacher. Around half the villagers took parts in the Revel and a great many photographs survive which were taken of the event by various professionals and amateurs. Most of these exist in the form of postcards which are of sufficient quality to allow enlargement of the image to enable identification of the actors/villagers.

Herein is an account of the Revel, which attracted national attention, and which was seen over a period of four days by something in excess of 8,000 people. Many of the images show people who are as yet unidentified but I am sure that in the possession of descendants today will be copies, and possibly unrecorded pictures too, on which the participator is recorded by name.

Many of the postcards in from my own collection but other material and photographs have been kindly loaned for copying, or copies supplied, by the Somerset Record Office (Taunton) [who retain their copyright - D/P/Butl 23/4 - see list of images p.193], Ruth Bevan (a descendant of the Bradden family), Ann Heeley, Jenny Stock, Peter James, Dorothy Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Wyllie and Brian Forsey.

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R. SENIOR
Butleigh Court 2008

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