

**B. Richard<sup>2</sup> (John)** was probably born in the parish of East Budleigh, about the year 1548. In 1588 he was assessed for lands in East Budleigh of the yearly value of £4.4 Richard

Conant and Henry Cowde were church-wardens of the parish in 1606, and in 1616 Richard Conant again filled the office. In the year 1600 he paid a "malt rate" of 4s. In 1630 he is rated at 2s. 6d., his rating being next to the highest in the parish, which was paid by a member of the Arscot family, and the only other who paid over one shilling.

The parish of East Budleigh gives its name to the Hundred. It is situated on the west side of the river Otter, about two miles from its mouth, and about fourteen miles south-east of Exeter. The manor belonged to Otterton priory, and in the year 1260 was valued at £13 13sh. 6d.; its mill alone then rented for £1 14sh. 4d. In 1337 the lordship was granted to Hugh de Courtenay, Earl of Devon. In 1536 the manor and advowson of Budleigh belonged to the Benedictine Convent of St. Catherine of Polsoe, and in this year Margaret Trewe, Prioress of Polsoe, leased the rectory with the tithes to John Drake for fifty years at a rental of £26 17sh. 3d. In 1540 the manor and advowson came into possession of Richard Duke, Esq., who purchased from Henry VIII. The church of East Budleigh, dedicated to All Saints, and consecrated by Bishop Lacy about A. D. 1430, is situated on a hill behind the village. It consists of a nave and chancels, and north and south aisles. It is 80 feet long and 48½ feet broad, and the tower, containing five bells, is 72 feet high. In the east window are to be seen the arms of Courtenay, Bishop Lacy, St. George, Holland and Bonville. The pew ends are curiously carved with arabesques, figures, heads and the armorial bearings of local families, among them Raleigh, St. Clere, Grenville, Arscot, Ford, Courtenay and others. The first vicar was Stephen de Budleigh, admitted 11 July, 1261, on presentation of the Prioress and Convent of Polsoe (see Oliver's *Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Devon*).

Sir Walter Raleigh was born at Hays House, in East Budleigh, and his father was one of the church-wardens in 1561. The tales of adventure of Raleigh and Sir Francis Drake—for the Drakes were also connected with this parish—must have had an important influence in leading Roger and Christopher Conant to embark for America.

The Marriage Registers of East Budleigh lack the names of females from the beginning to 1605; but the date of Richard Conant's marriage is given: "4 Feb., 1578." Luckily this omission is supplied by the Registers of Colyton where the marriage took place. There it is recorded that "Rychard Counnett, the some of John Counnett, of Easte Budleye, was wedded unto Agnes Clarke, the daught<sup>r</sup> of John Clarke, senior, of Collyton, the iiij. daye of ffebruary, 1578." Colyton is a market town of Devonshire, twenty-two miles east of Exeter and about eight miles east of East Budleigh.

The Manor of Colyton was part of the possessions of Henry Courtenay, Earl of Devon, and Marquis of Exeter, who was beheaded in 1538. His estates, of course, reverted to the Crown, and a number of the wealthy inhabitants of Colyton purchased from King Henry a portion of the manor. These citizens were enfeoffed by the King, who also granted them the management of fairs and markets. The name of John Clarke stands first on the patent from the King, and also appears on the patent of the second incorporation of enfeoffment, which was granted by Queen Mary. He d. 6th and was buried 9th Apr., 1585.\* He m. 9th June, 1544,† Anne, daughter of William Macey, of Colyton, and their daughter Annes, or Agnes, was born 16th May, 1548.‡

Richard and Agnes Conant were buried on the same day, 22 Sep., 1630.§ Both are spoken of in the *Life of John Conant* as persons of "exemplary piety," and judging from what is known of the character of their children this was undoubtedly the case. His will, which is printed in full, is preserved in the Archdeaconry Court of Exeter, and was proved 13 Oct., 1631.

## WILL OF RICHARD CONANT.

“In the name of God, Amen. on the twentieth day of November, in the year of our Lord God 1629. I, Richard Conant, of East Budleigh, in the countie of Devon, yeoman,

knowing the certenty of death, but of the time and hour most uncertain, and therefore preparing myselfe ready whensoever it shall please the Lord to call mee out of this transitorie life into his celestiaall kingdome, whereunto p’swaded by faith I shall aspire in and by the death, meritts and previous blood shedding of Christ Jesus, my onlie Lord and Saviour and Redeemer, doe by this my Testament containing therein my last will in manner and forme as followeth: ffirst I bequeath my soule into ye hands of Almighty God and my body for Christian buriaall, and as touching my worldlie goods: ffirst I give and bequath unto my grandchild, Richard Conant, sonne of Richard Conant, of East Budleigh, my silver Bowle, only reserveing the use thereof to my wife dureinge her life tyme: Item, I give and bequeath unto my sonne, John Conant, my silke grogren dublet and turkie grogren hose: Item, unto my sonne, Robert Conant, I give and bequeath my second best clokes and myne other apparell (except the worst) and the other before mencioned. Item, I give the poor of the parish of Eastbudleigh the sume of twentie shillings to bee disposed according to the discretion of myne executrix: Item, I give and bequeath further unto my sonne, John Conant, my gold ringe with a Turkie in it: Item, I give and bequeath unto Sarah Conant, daughter unto my sonne, Roger Conant, the sume of five pounds: Item, I give and bequeath unto Jane Knowles and Susan Knowles, children unto my daughter, Jane Knowles [Knowles erased and Wotton written over it], namely to each of them five pounds to bee paid unto them at their day of marriage if soe they marrie with the consent and likeing of their friends, particularlie of the fatherinlawe, Phillippe Wotton, of their mother, and onkle, John Conant. If they marry not: to be paid untoe them they being of the age of thirty yeares. And if in the meantyme, before their said age or marriage, it happen that any of them dye, then that her portion of ffive pounds bee likewise paid to the sister surviveing: Item, I give and bequeath unto all my childrens children (vizt. to every of them in p’ticular except such as have a larger portion given them) five shillings: All the residue of my goods, as well moveable as immoveable, or chattels whatsoever is myne or in me for to give in Budleigh or elsewhere, my debts being paid funeralls discharged and respect had to my promise made to Phillippe Wotton, my sonneinlawe, and my daughter Jane, his wife, I give and bequeath unto my said daughter Jane Wotton (onelic reserveing the use thereof unto my wife, Agnes Conant, during her life tyme), and doe make my said daughter whole and sole executrix: And I doe also ordaine my sonne, John Conant, of Lymington, in Somersetshire, to be this my overseer to see this my will and testament to be fulfilled. In wit-

The inventory, which is too long to print in full, is also preserved. As of interest for comparison with values of the present day, many of the items are here given. The inventory was taken 30 Sept., 1631, by John Richards (probably a son-in-law), Robert Conant and John Leye; the total amount was £129 14s. 4d.

	lbs. s. d.
“Imprimis: his owne and his wifes wearing apparel,	xx.-00-0
Item: 13 old sheepe and 4 lambs, - - - -	v.-iii.-iiij.
In the Hall:	
Item: one long tableborde, 1 square tableborde, 2 formes, 3 chairs and 6 joynt stools, - - -	0-xxxiiij.-0
Item: 1 muskett with all its furniture belonging to the same, - - - - -	0-xxvi.-iiij.
Item: 1 Iron Barr and 1 Clarke bill, - - -	0-iiij.-iiij.
In the new parlour:	
Item: 1 feather bed, 2 feather bouldsters, 2 feather pillows, 1 yard of blankett and one coverlett, -	vi.-0-0
Item: a Laundry Cobbert and 2 Coupetts [?] -	0-xxv.-0
Item: an Eargon [?] Salte and Cups, the moity of 1 mapp, sand glasses with some other small things,	0-vi.-0
Item: one Chair and Cushon, - - - - -	0-xvi.-0
In the old parlour:	
Item: 1 standing bedsted and 1 trundle bedsted, xx. s., one tablebord, vi. s., - - - - -	0-xxvi.-0
In the Buttery:	
Item: 2 dozen and fouer of pewter dishes, 4 porringers, 3 saussers, 1 plate, 1 bason, all of pewter,	0-xxxvi.-0
Item: 4 pewter Cupes, 2 Saltes, one paint pott, 3 Chamber potts, all of them of pewter, - - -	0-x.-0
Item: 3 dozzen of Tranchers, - - - - -	0-iiij.-0
Item: 6 brasse Candlesticks, - - - - -	0-x.-0
Item: 1 pessel and mortar, - - - - -	0-v.-0
Item: 6 Stonnige Fuggs [jugs?] and cups, - - -	0-i.-0
Item: 1 pipe, 3 hogshheads, 5 beare barrells, -	0-xxii.-0

## In the Shoppe next to the Hall:

Item: 2 beames and skales with some brass and leadden waight,	- - - - -	0-v.-0
Item: one Counter, a chest, the shelves with some other odd implements,	- - - - -	0-x.-viiij.

## In the longe Entery and in the Kitchen:

Item: 2 Cubbords,	- - - - -	0-x.-0
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## In the brewinge House:

Item: 1 pare of Iron Racks, 1 pare of And Irons, 2 hearth irons and 6 spetts,	- - - - -	0-xxviiij.-vi.
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Item: 2 hand Irons, 2 fire picks, 1 fire pan, 3 little iron dogs, a flesh pike, a frying pan, a gridiron,	-	0-v.-iiij.
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Item: 1 dozen wooden dishes and one dozen of spoones,	- - - - -	0-ij.-0
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Item: 1 Breweinge fornace,	- - - - -	0-L.-0
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Item: 3 brasse pots and 2 brass posnetts, [?]	-	0-xliij.-0
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Item: 3 brasse Caldrons, skillets and a brasse ladle,		0-xx.-0
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Item: 5 breweing fates [vats] and 1 boate trundle,		0-xv.-0
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Item: 3 dowe [?] and a bowle,	- - - - -	0-v.-iiij.
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Item: a Clever, a shreeding knife, 2 lettles berrells with some earthen potts,	- - - - -	0-iiij.-0
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## In the Milk house:

Item: 10 brass milk pannes with some other old brasse there,	- - - - -	iiij-iiij.-0
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Item: one still to distill water w'thall,	- -	0-vj.-0
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Item: 4 cheese fates [vats],	- - - - -	0-ij.-0
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## In the Weaving Shopp:

Item: 2 old bedsteads, 2 doust [?] beds, 2 doust bouldsters with sheets, blanketts, and coverletts,		0-xx.-00
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Item: 2 old Coffers with some bords and other small triffells,	- - - - -	0-ij.-0
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## In the new parlour:

Item: one silver bowle,	- - - - -	0-L.-0
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Item: 5 silver spoones,	- - - - -	0-xxviiij.-0
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Item: 5 glass bottles,	- - - - -	0-v.-0
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Item: 1 little Table with a liberry table and 2 little formes,	- - - - -	0-xxij.-0
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Item: 2 Chests and one Coffe,	- - - - -	0-xiiij.-0
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Item: 2 great deskes and one lesser one with small things in them,	- - - - -	0-xxvij.-viii.
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Item: one greate byble and a deske,	- - - - -	0-xxx.-0
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Item: all other bookes,	- - - - -	iiij.-0-0
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## In the Chamber over the Shopp:

Item: one bedsted and vallens, a feather bed and a flocke bed, 1 feather bouldster, 2 feather pillows, 1 blankett and 1 couerlett,	- - - - -	0-xl.-0
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Item: Eleven pare of shitts and 4 pare of pilotyes,		iiij.-xxi.-0
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Item: 3 large table Clothes & 4 lesser table clothes,		
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	lbs. s. d.
2 dozen of Table napkins, - - - - -	iiij.-viiij.-0
Item: 1 warminge pan, vi. s., a sherhook and other small things, ij. s., - - - - -	0-viiij.-0
In the Chamber over the Hall:	
Item: 1 hamper with old iron and other things in the same, - - - - -	0-vi.-viiij.
Item: 2 Swords, with an Alment [helmet?], Revett, an old edd [head] peece and some small things,	0-vi.-viiij.
In the Chamber over the entry:	
Item: 2 pare verginalls, - - - - -	0-viiij.-0
In the small Chamber:	
Item: 2 Sidsaddles and one Couring [covering], -	0-xiiij.-iiiij.
Item: a Skaymer, a cheese Racke, etc., - - -	0-iiiij.iiiij.
Item: a crosbowe and bender, - - - - -	0-v.-0
* * * * *	*
Item: all the small tooles in the toole house, - -	0-x.-0
Item: some tooles fitt for the use of Husbandry,	0-vi.-viiij.
Item: some plane stuffs, a manger, some Racks, 2 ladders, draught fatts, troughs, some peeces of Timber and all other things about the Court, -	0-0-ix.
Item: Certaine Implements belonging to a Mill,	0-xxvj.-viiij.
Item: three Cellings [?] with bynches to them, a new millston and Certain other things, - - -	ix.-0-0
Item: Certain debts dew unto Richard Conant, now deceased, - - - - -	viii.-0-0 "