

In a photograph from another source, he looked proud in his smart uniform of a lieutenant in the Volunteer Artillery. He was obsessed with the need to perfect his History; in one place he mentions beginning the fifth copy thereof. Maybe he hoped to be remembered, and it was a plea for immortality.

The following extract shows how a little of Peter Hutchinson's personality and interests may be discovered in the History:

Hutchinson, Peter Orlando (continued)

Interests (continued)

- painting and drawing 'an essential part of schooling' 5/27
- Harlwyn monument in church repainted (1860) 2/68X
- travel: visits to France seeking St MM documents (1852, 1856) 1/146
- saw Bayeux Tapestry 'with much interest' 1/146
- visit to Scotland including Iona and Culloden 4/51X
- jest in text by
 - 'compotus' 'not a drinking party' 3/2
 - furnaces in church 'the dead were warmed more than the living' 4/143C
 - 'if there are proper names they are not proper enough for me to decipher' 3/13X
 - 'no doubt everything is very plain when you know it' 3/12

(Note: St MM is the abbreviation for St Michael's Mount Abbey in Normandy.)

Complicated sections of the index I sent to my sister in Cambridge to be vetted and improved; they came back sorted out, with a reminder not to include so much information that there would be no need to read the book. At this end, I was encouraged by Dr Gibbens to make the index as full as possible; several times he asked whether I was a 'finisher'. By March 1980, plodding on, I began to wonder if I ever would finish my task; however, after a concentrated effort it was completed in May, though still, I fear, with many alphabetical and spelling errors (about which I get teased).

It was decided to leave the index in manuscript form to match the History. Photocopies have been made to supply Exeter and Sidmouth Museums and a few others. It has turned out a most unorthodox affair, described by the museum curator as more a digest than an index; it consists of 157 pages, between 3,000 and 4,000 entries. Looking back I am shocked at my audacity in attempting such a complicated piece of work. However, it seems to meet a need, so I am thankful that in this case 'fortuna favet fatuis'.

CONFERENCES COMING

A two-day seminar on the economics of secondary information will be conducted at the Atlanta Hilton, Georgia, by the International Council of Scientific Unions Abstracting Board, 28-29 May 1981. For registration information contact the National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing Services, 112 South Street, 11th Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102, U.S.A.

A seminar on 'Indexing in perspective; traditional to computerized retrieval systems' will be held by the National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing Services at the Atlanta Hilton, Georgia, 10-12 June 1981. It will cover vocabularies used in indexing; indexing systems and formats; and the effects of indexing on retrieval process; with emphasis on relating indexing developments of the past 20 years to the fields of information and library science, to provide a historical perspective on the field of indexing. Further information from NFAIS (address above).

The 72nd Annual Conference and Exhibits of the Special Libraries Association (New York) will be held at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel, Georgia, 14-17 June 1981. For further information contact Dorothy E. Smith, SLA, 235 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003, U.S.A.

The eighth Cranfield Conference on Mechanized Information Transfer, organized by INSPEC, will be held on 21-24 July 1981, at the Cranfield Institute of Technology, near Bedford, England. Conference Secretariat, c/o Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL.

'Library management in times of economic restraint' is the theme of a seminar to be held at Liverpool Polytechnic on 12 May 1981. Speakers will be E. H. C. Driver (Investigator of the effect of current expenditure cuts on the provision of library services for the Library Association and the British Library Research and Development Department, and formerly Librarian of the University of Aston in Birmingham), Patrick Gee (Cheshire Libraries), Graham Mackenzie (University of St Andrews), Don Revill (Liverpool Polytechnic), A. R. Hall (B.L.C.M.P.) and Frances Hendrix (Preston Polytechnic). Details may be obtained from K. G. B. Bakewell, Principal Lecturer, School of Librarianship and Information Studies, Liverpool Polytechnic, Tithebarn Street, Liverpool L2 2ER (051-227 1781/3).

A startling entry from the *Index to Law of Property Act, 1925: Part VIII: Married women and lunatics*