

**DEVON HOUSEHOLD ACCOUNTS 1627-59**  
**Part 1 Sir Richard and Lady Lucy Reynell of Forde**  
**House, 1627-43.**

**John Willoughby of Leyhill 1644-6 and Sir Edward**  
**Wise of Sydenham, 1656-9. Edited by Dr Todd Gray**



The Devon & Cornwall Record Society's volume for 1995 comprises three gentry household accounts from east, west and south Devon. These records are remarkable for their richness and diversity. This material has not been previously published. These exceptionally detailed accounts provide a unique insight into the life of the Devon gentry in the seventeenth century. The records illustrate every aspect of the running of the household including the duties of the servants, payments to visiting musicians, purchases of clothing, building accounts and consumption of provisions. In particular the volume includes the kitchen account for Sydenham detailing the gentry diet, including the importing of French, Spanish and German wines, the making of venison, woodcock, salmon, quince, lumber and turkey pies, and the purchase of all provisions such as meat, vegetables, herbs, spices, beer and ale. The seasons of the year are clearly seen in the accounts including lists of guests for meals at Christmas, New Year and Twelfth Night. The accounts for John Willoughby include his marriage proposal to his wife, lists of food brought by friends, neighbours and tenants to celebrate the birth of his children and the accounts of the funerals of his father and himself. Also included are the personal accounts of John Willoughby as he travelled through Devon during the Civil War and which demonstrate the practical difficulties of personal allegiance of all local gentlemen when living alternately with the Royalists and Parliamentary armies.

Copies of Part I, published in 1995, are available from the Assistant Secretary, Devon and Cornwall Record Society, c/o Devon and Exeter Institutions, 7 Cathedral Close, Exeter EX1 1EZ. Price £15. Details of Part II, published in 1996, are enclosed with this Newsletter.