



THE STORY OF COMBE MANOR

EARLIEST RECORD IN AD 1164 IT WAS THEN IN THE POSSESSION OF SIR HENRY D'ARANCOURT

Who was lord of the manor at that time.

In 1166 he married Astrida de Montemar a lady of beauty and wealth who brought with her vast lands to the north of the manor.

The manor is referred to in the Rolls compiled in 1215 "Held by Sir Guy D'Arancourt, assessed at 4 hides. The arable is 11 plough lands 8 acres of meadow and wood of 16 hogs." In 1549 the first Lord Russel visited the manor when he came to the relief of Exeter then besieged by Cornish Rebels.

In 1617 the manor came into the possession of the Colaton family

through Beatrice D'Arancourt, the dimidiated hatchment is found over the fireplace in the Hall.

In 1644 Prince Maurice fixed his

headquarters here when he was sent to hold the district during the Civil War.

In 1645 one wing of the house was wrecked due to an explosion in the powder magazine placed there by Royalists. This wing has never been rebuilt.

In the reign of Queen Anne a new wing was added to the house, use being made of stone from the fallen wing. At the same time a handsome yew avenue was planted in the long approach to the house.

The house contains a secret room which was not discovered until the year 1830 when repairs to the house were being made.

This room is supposed to be haunted by the ghost of a Spanish woman, who being wrecked off Morneys Cove was captured by smugglers, brought to the manor by secret passage, robbed and left to die of starvation.

The last member of the Colaton family was killed at Neuve Chapelle in 1915.

The house came up for sale, great efforts were made by an American to buy it and remove it to the United States, this was happily frustrated however by Sir Andrew Smithson the well known archaeologist who bought it and now resides here.

THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS ARE OPEN TO VISITORS EVERY WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY FROM 10 AM TILL DUSK