Faith, Families, and Rebellion in Sixteenth-Century South-West England

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ABSTRACT The questioning of “the English Reformation” as both a definable entity and a usable term by revisionist scholars, provides a timely platform from which to engage in a re-examination of one event which occurred daring that period of profound religious change in sixteenth-century England. The 1549 rebellion in the south-west of England has been studied using “traditional” analytical categories of religion, politics, economics, and militarism. However, a new perspective on the rebellion is possible when the kinship ties of a group of leading gentry families in the south-west are examined. Although some historians recognize the close relationships which existed within the group, the focus is on the men of the families as local government officials without placing them in the wider context of their families. A close examination of the connections between the Arundell, Edgecombe, and Grenville families reveals a confused genealogical picture; one that suggests, however, that close kinship ties may have played an important part in the participation or lack of involvement of the family members in the rebellion.

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Pamela Stanton completed her undergraduate and Master’s degrees at the University of Calgary in 1991 and 1993. Her MA thesis explored the topic of double monasticism. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Alberta, working in the areas of English early modern history and women’s history with emphases on religion.
South-west England - what to see and what to do, the most interesting monuments natural heritage traditional towns and villages and tourist attractions in the Westcountry. It's no great surprise that the south west of England, from Gloucestershire and Dorset to Cornwall, should be the most popular tourist region of England. There is just so much to see and do. Mediaeval castle that has belonged to the Berkeley family since the 12th century, and 24 generations of the same family have lived here. The buildings date essentially from the 14th century, with later modifications.
King Edward II was murdered in the castle in 1327. The England of King Alfred the Great received a new Code of laws which raised the standards of English society. New churches were built, foreign scholars were brought, schools were founded, King Alfred himself translated a number of books from Latin, including Bede's Historia Ecclesiastica and began the Anglo-Saxon chronicle, a year-by-year history of England. And the Witan elected Harold, a Saxon nobleman from the family of the Godwine, the king of England. In the 16th century the economic growth was getting faster, though still limited by feudal relations. Trade and Industry were growing. The Royal Exchange was founded in 1571, East India Company— in 1600. Education was further developing. Many Grammar schools were founded in the 16th century.