EARLY VICTORIAN DEVON 1830-1860
An Age of Optimism and Opulence

David Parker

Early Victorian Devon examines the tumultuous early decades of young Victoria's reign when the country was on the threshold of the modern world and besieged with radical new ideas and emerging technologies. It uses numerous contemporary prints to illustrate its stories.

It describes Devon's great estates and their glittering receptions, liveried servants, and deferential tenants, and also the unrest across the county bred of poverty and hunger, and social and political inequality. Reverberating across Devon were the national controversies over the problems of the poor, mass education, and the franchise, and the equally contentious Acts of Parliament that sought solutions.

And technology was changing the world. Horse power was being overtaken by steam power, and the steel rails gouging their way across Devon were transforming countless lives. And the steam boats, telegraph and newspapers were bringing back horrifying stories of the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny in which so many Devon men served.

This remarkable book is a riveting history and visual feast, offering fresh insights into the story of Devon and its people.
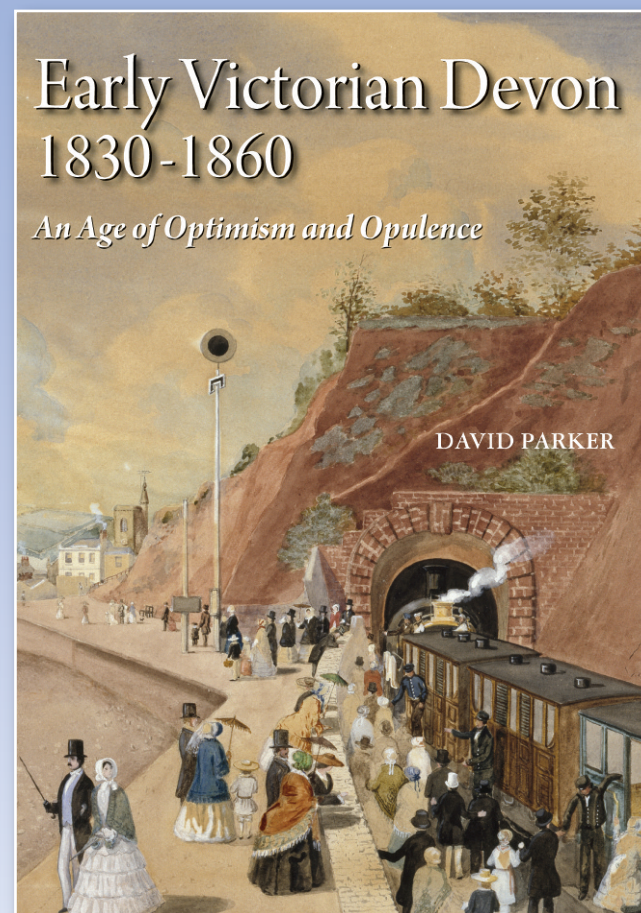
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr David Parker was a headteacher and then UK and European Masters Programme Director in the University of Plymouth's Faculty of Arts & Education. He has written several books and many articles on educational and local history. His *The People of Devon in the First World War* was awarded Devon History Society's W. G. Hoskins Prize for 2013. He has contributed to BBC TV and Radio Devon programmes on World War One themes, and given many talks to local societies. David Parker and his wife live in Exeter and have two grown up children.

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The *Illustrated London News* representation of the moment the Light Brigade reached the Russian guns during its famous charge at the battle of Balaclava. (*ILN* 23 December 1854)

Example of a double page spread

Right: Orlando Hutchinson's painting of a Blackdown Hill whetstone miner by the mine entrance shaping a stone for sharpening scythes, 1854.   Hutchinson said the mine stretched for 300 yards into the hill. (DHC)

Pedestrians and travellers by wagon on the rough-surfaced Launceston Road in Tavistock. c1830 (DEI)

Left: The new purpose-built Devon & Exeter Central Boys' and Girls' Schools under construction: a drawing sold at a Fancy Fair in aid of funds. c1850 (DHC)

Below: Brixham and its harbour.   c1837 (DEI)