*Background**

Revelation 18:1-4 (1) And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.
(2) And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.
(3) For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.
(4) And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.
From; Essays, Letters, Reports, and Notes BY BARTON W. STONE,
{Q. 1. Is there a gospel Church now existing in the world? If there be where is she?

A. Yes; there is a gospel church now existing, has existed, and will exist to the end of time. For said Jesus "On this rock will I build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." Daniel prophesied respecting this kingdom or church, that "In the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed--it shall stand forever." Dan. 2:44. The scriptures being true, a gospel church does exist. "Where is she?"

A. "In the wilderness." Rev. 12:6.

Q. 2. Are the present divisions and subdivisions of all the professed christians in the world, the wilderness into which the woman fled?

A. We think so; for the woman or church of Christ, when she shall come up out of the wilderness, is represented as being in Babylon; for saith the voice from Heaven "come out of

her (Babylon) my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not her plagues." Rev. 18:4.--Now Babylon signifies confusion, and O what a wilderness of confusion are the many divisions and subdivisions of the christian professors in the world! how confused the language! they cannot understand each other! they cannot build together! Yet in this wilderness--in this Babel confusion, is the true church of Christ, concealed and protected from the furious rage of the Dragon. The Christian Messenger}

The restoration leader Alexander Campbell was not the founder of the Church of Christ as accused and there are many proofs, however this one should suffice. Minutes were found testifying of a Church of Christ congregation that was established in Tottlebank, England in the year 1669, (June 19 1972 **Christian Chronicle** *page 7), that's 119 years before the birth of Alexander Campbell in the year 1788. False witnesses fail to mention that or distort the fact. Another proof is Alexander Campbell was not alone in the restoration movement. In America, one of the earliest advocates of the return to New Testament Christianity, as a means of achieving unity of all believers in Christ, was James O'Kelly of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1793 he withdrew from the Baltimore conference and called upon others to join him in taking the Bible as the only creed. His influence was largely felt in Virginia and North Carolina where history records that some seven thousand communicants followed his leadership toward a return to primitive New Testament Christianity. In 1802 a similar movement among the Baptists in New England was led by Abner Jones and Elias Smith. They were concerned about "denominational names and creeds" and decided to wear only the name Christian, taking the Bible as their only guide. In 1804, in the western frontier state of Kentucky, Barton W. Stone and several other Presbyterian preachers took similar action declaring that they would take the Bible as the "only sure guide to heaven." Thomas Campbell, and his illustrious*

son, Alexander Campbell, took similar steps in the year 1809 in what is now the state of West Virginia. They contended that nothing should be bound upon Christians as a matter of doctrine which is not as old as the New Testament. Although these four movements were completely independent in their beginnings, eventually they became one strong restoration movement because of their common purpose and plea. These men did not advocate the starting of a new church or reforming existing ones, but rather a return to the Church verified in Acts chapter 2 and her doctrines as described throughout the new testament. America is not the only place to look for evidence of Churches of Christ. There were Churches of Christ established in countries prior to colonization of America. As scripture and history contends, an amazing gospel was first embedded in Jerusalem. It's salvation healing powers spread from country to country making it's journey into Europe and eventually the United States. But for centuries She remained below the horizon so that Her light was not completely in full view. Consider;
{Anglican clergyman, Dr Daniel Featly, (who was one of the translators of the King James Bible) wrote in 1645 of the Churches of Christ meeting in London and elsewhere in his work the 'Dippers Dipt', took those congregations back to 1525 when he quotes from them "That baptism ought to be received by none, but such as can give a good account of their faith; and in case any have been baptized in their infancy, that they ought to be re-baptized after they come to years of discretion, before they are to be admitted to the Church of Christ." Featley, an enemy of the Lord's church, states there were members of the Church of Christ, in London, that they had existed in England during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, James I! These congregations existed separately from the Church of England and dismissed infant baptism, baptizing those who could give an account. Featly confirmed these congregations immersed for the remission of sins.

Archie Watters in his History of the British Churches of Christ wrote "The story of the Churches of Christ in Great Britain is of particular value in correcting an error which has persisted for some time that the movement is peculiarly American. Alexander Campbell was at considerable pains to point out the fact that the movement was as much native to Britain as America." *(page 618)*

For many centuries the bible was banned, owning one was a serious offence, which resulted in being burnt alive. Simply, the church did not use the bible for it's doctrine but turned to the pagan institutions for doctrine and ceremony. The Arch-Drurid became in time the Arch-Bishop, of a hopelessly corrupt church! The now apostate church had more in common with the pagan Sun worshipers than the Christianity of the Bible. When the bible did start to become more common, due at first by people copying by hand, and later through the printing press, the establishment across Europe was horrified, both church and state fought together to remove the bible from the common people and even the educated elite.

Heresbach, a friend of Erasmus, reported these words from Thomas Linacer, the respected Oxford professor, and the personal physician to both King Henry the 7th and 8th of England. On reading the New Testament for the first time (1524), Linacer said “Either this is not the gospel, or we are not Christians” having thrown the scriptures to one side.

During the first few centuries of the church no central organization was found. Each congregation was autonomous, but fellowshipped with other churches. Converts were made by preaching (evangelizing). When a new convert made the decision to become a ‘Christian’, he or she was baptized by immersion in water for the forgiveness of their sins without delay. The main worship service was held on the first day of the week (Sunday) when the Lord’s Supper was taken by all the believers as a memorial of Christ.

The earliest date for Christianity arriving in Britain has been set

at the year 37 although other historians date it later at around the year 58/63. Eusebius the fourth century historian says "The Apostles passed beyond the ocean to the isles called the Brittanic Isles". Tertullian Says "The regions of Britain which have never been penetrated by Roman Arms have received the religion of Christ".

The Historian Crosby says that Claudia Ruffina was a British convert to Christianity. She was wife to Pudens, a Roman Senator. Crosby says this is the Claudia mentioned by Paul in **2Timothy 4:21** Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.

By 1080 much of France, Italy and England had been affected by the above teachings and it would seem that New Testament Christianity was being spread throughout England just 14 years after the Norman Conquest of England in 1066.

When the Mayflower arrived in America in 1620, from England, members of the Bell Alley and Southwark churches of Christ (London) were on board. The church in Southwark from which some of the Pilgrim Fathers, whilst in England had attended, was a church of Christ. The captain of the Mayflower, Christopher Jones was from Southwark. Whilst the majority of the Pilgrim Fathers were not converted, they did know the truth of believers baptism and within a few years of arriving a church of Christ separate from other churches had been established in New England. (Skeat page 52, Wilson 4.122, Crosby 3.39ff). Regrettably these churches fell first into Calvinism, and later turned Baptist. But in origin they were churches of Christ.

The Mayflower left from Plymouth, England which in 1620 had a small church of Christ. The congregation was associated with some of the Pilgrim Fathers during their stay at Plymouth. It must be understood that the majority of the passengers were Calvinistic and were opposed to the church of Christ.

From Traces of the Kingdom by Keith Sisman**}**

The purpose of the Restoration Movement was to restore in contemporary times the church as originally established on earth at Pentecost by the Apostles through the power of the Holy Spirit. The strength of the appeal lies in the restoration of Christ's original church, not reforming an apostate church. And this should be no surprise. Revelation had predicted the demise of the Church into apostasy thru the leadership of unscrupulous people. An apostasy brought about by abandoning the religious faith that is based upon the word of God in favor of false teachings. It is from this apostasy that Revelation 18:4 gives the calling to ***"come out of her."*** *There is evidence of Churches of Christ in existence before the apostasy had made it's final grab for power and took the Bible from the people.* **Tertullian (204 A.D.)** wrote: "The church of Christ composed of baptized believers, does meet each Lord's day to partake of the Lord's Supper." *Also Justin Martyr wrote about 150 A.D.* how Christians would gather together 'on the day called Sunday' to worship and break bread in remembrance of the Lord's death.

The first day of the week is the new testament established day of worship, Acts 20:7 and 1Corinthians 16:1-2.

The Church had not been established on earth very long until persecution began. There is historical background about the persecution and when it began. Persecution began exactly as John had written, "the time is at hand", and "it must shortly come to pass." Persecution of the Church of Christ forced her into the wilderness as prophesied in Rev 12:6. As a result, full history of the Church of Christ is hazy, however there are traces.

The First Persecution, Under Nero, A.D. 67 from chapter 2, Fox's Book of Martyrs

{The first persecution of the Church took place in the year 67, under Nero, the sixth emperor of Rome. This monarch reigned for the space of five years, with tolerable credit to himself, but then gave way to the greatest extravagancy of temper, and to

the most atrocious barbarities. Among other diabolical whims, he ordered that the city of Rome should be set on fire, which order was executed by his officers, guards, and servants. This dreadful conflagration continued nine days; when Nero, finding that his conduct was greatly blamed, and a severe odium cast upon him, determined to lay the whole upon the Christians, at once to excuse himself, and have an opportunity of glutting his sight with new cruelties. This was the occasion of the first persecution; and the barbarities exercised on the Christians were such as even excited the commiseration of the Romans themselves. This persecution was general throughout the whole Roman Empire; but it rather increased than diminished the spirit of Christianity. In the course of it, St. Paul and St. Peter were martyred.}

Papal Persecutions from chapter 4, Fox's Book of Martyrs

{Thus far our history of persecution has been confined principally to the pagan world. We come now to a period when persecution, under the guise of Christianity, committed more enormities than ever disgraced the annals of paganism. Disregarding the maxims and the spirit of the Gospel, the papal Church, arming herself with the power of the sword, vexed the Church of God and wasted it for several centuries, a period most appropriately termed in history, the "dark ages." The kings of the earth, gave their power to the "Beast," and submitted to be trodden on by the miserable vermin that often filled the papal chair, as in the case of Henry, emperor of Germany. The storm of papal persecution first burst upon the Waldenses in France.}

The name Waldenses is a derogatory term applied to the Churches of Christ in history. One is forced to wonder, how has the Church of Christ survived through all of these persecutions? In spite of all this, Churches of Christ prior to the Restoration were wide spread across Europe. Eventually it was Calvinism and denominationalism that almost destroyed the Lord's Church prior to the Restoration Movement of the

early nineteenth century, with few congregations surviving to that time. There is not a register for the church, as does the Roman church for example; the Church of Christ would soon have been discovered; for many were seeking to destroy her. Many years the Church existed as the moon below the horizon, little light visible, but there. Today the Church is about 2000 years old, Her name is recorded in; (Romans 16:16, dated late 55--early 58 AD). *That there was to be a Church on earth is certain, for it is written in;*

Matthew 16:15-18 (15) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

(16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

(17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

(18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will **build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

That Christ said, I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*, does not mean there were to be no attempts against Her. Turn with me to;*

Matthew 24:29-30 (29) Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

(30) And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

{ *From Bible Commentary by E.M. Zerr;* The sun refers to Christ, the moon to the church, and the stars to teachers and other leading men in the church. Soon after the destruction of Jerusalem the influence of evil in the Roman government and the schemes of ambitious men in the kingdom of heaven

combined and brought on the period known in religious literature as The Dark Ages, which lasted until the Reformation. During all that time there were faithful disciples in the world, but since the Bible was taken from the common people, it greatly interfered with the light of divine truth that comes from Christ through the church, and taught by faithful men in the church. All this is what is meant by the statements about the sun, moon and stars ceasing to shine. The same thing is meant by the words, the powers of heaven shall be shaken, for all of these sources of light were powers that originated in heaven, but they were shaken (agitated) by the revolution of the Dark Ages.

The Dark Ages lasted until the work of Luther and the other Reformers. That was another revolution in the religious and political world that broke up the union of church and state.**}** *The attempts to prevail against Her have been many, even at times masquerading as ministers of righteousness deceiving whomever they can. We are not to expect that Satan will appear to man to be as evil as he is. He never shows himself openly to be a spirit of pure wickedness; or abominable in his character; or full of evil and hatefulness. He would thus defeat himself. It is for this reason that wicked people continually under his influence and led captive by him at his will, yet they neither see him nor the chains which bind them for what they are. For Satan himself is transformed ... That is, he who is an apostate angel; who is malignant and wicked; who is the prince of evil, though assumes the appearance of a holy angel. Paul assumes this as an indisputable and admitted truth, without attempting to prove it, and without referring to any particular instances.* ***And every spirit that confesseth not*** *the deity and son-ship of Christ, His Messiah-ship, His offices, doctrines, and ordinances; or His pardon, justification, life, and salvation; this is that spirit of antichrist:* For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

This is a deceiver and an antichrist. (2John 1:7). *The Muhammadans are antichrist--Will America's hospitality aid him in teaching infidelity? Will America be in any danger? The answer is yes and yes. The devil is a relentless adversary and will use any means available to distort truth. It's not rocket science that will get you from sinner to saint. However it was a painstaking process endured by Christ to make it so and deserves a ranking as a prized possession that is only available in Him. Jesus said;* He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:14-16).
Believing God's word contained in the gospel of Christ will result in faith, in repentance, in confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and in baptism in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost for remission of sins. Why lower an empty bucket into an empty well and draw nothing out, "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; " (Ephesians 2:8-9). *This is the gospel. Living forever is not an option that can wait until judgment, it is an eternal decision you make today, will you do so today? If anyone needs prayer for other reasons, in either case come while we persuade with song.*

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a minister for Christ

THE CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS AND THE GREAT CALIPHATE
(Explanation of the Third Great Jihad)
by Larry Abaraham

THE CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS AND THE GREAT CALIPHATE

The war against terror did not begin on September 11, 2001, nor will it end with the peaceful transition to civilian authority in Iraq, whenever that may be. In fact, Iraq is but a footnote in the bigger context of this encounter, but an important one none the less.

This war is what the Jihadists themselves are calling the "Third Great Jihad." They are operating within the framework of a time line which reaches back to the very creation of Islam in the seventh century and are presently attempting to recreate the dynamics which gave rise to the religion in the first two hundred years of its existence.

No religion in history grew as fast, in its infancy, and the reasons for the initial growth of Islam are not hard to explain when you understand what the world was like at the time of Muhammad's death in 632 AD. Remember that the Western Roman Empire was in ruins and the Eastern Empire, based in Constantinople, was trying desperately to keep the power of its early grandeur while transitioning to Christianity as a de facto state religion.

The costs to the average person were large as he was being required to meet the constantly rising taxes levied by the state along with the tithes coerced by the Church.

What Islam offered was the "carrot or the sword". If you became a convert, your taxes were immediately eliminated, as was your tithe. If you didn't, you faced death. The choice was not hard for most to make, unless you were a very devoted martyr in the making. At the beginning, even the theology was not too hard for most to swallow, considering that both Jewry and Christianity were given their due by the Prophet. There is but one God-Allah, and Muhammad is His Prophet, as was Jesus, and the pre-Christian Jewish prophets of the Torah (Old Testament). Both were called "children of the book"-the book being the Koran, which replaced both the Old and New Testaments for former Christians and Jews. With this practical approach to spreading the "word" Islam grew like wild-fire, reaching out from the Saudi Arabian Peninsula in all directions.

This early growth is what the Muslims call the "First" great Jihad and it met with little resistance until Charles Martel of France, the father of Charlemagne, stopped them in the battle of Tours in France, after they had firmly established Islam on the Iberian Peninsula. This first onslaught against the West continued in various forms and at various times until Islam was finally driven out of Spain in 1492 at the battle of Granada.

The "Second great jihad" came with the Ottoman Turks. This empire succeeded in bringing about the downfall of Constantinople as a Christian stronghold and an end to Roman hegemony in all of its forms. The Ottoman Empire was Islam's most successful expansion of territory even though the religion itself had fractured into warring sects and bitter rivalries with each claiming the ultimate truths in "the ways of the Prophet". By 1683 the Ottomans had suffered a series of defeats on both land and sea and the final, unsuccessful attempt to capture Vienna set the stage for the collapse of any further territorial ambitions and Islam shrunk into various sheikhdoms, emir dominated principalities, and roving tribes of

nomads.
However, by this time a growing anti-western sentiment, blaming its internal failures on anyone but themselves, was taking hold and setting the stage for a new revival known as Wahhabism, a sect which came into full bloom under the House of Saud on the Arabian Peninsula shortly before the onset of WWI.
It is this Wahhabi version of Islam which has infected the religion itself, now finding adherents in almost all branches and sects, especially the Shiites. Wahhabiism calls for the complete and total rejection or destruction of anything and everything which is not based in the original teachings of The Prophet and finds its most glaring practice in the policies of the Afghani Taliban or the Shiite practices of the late Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran. Its Ali Pasha (Field Marshall) is now known as Osama bin Laden, the leader of the "Third Jihad", who is Wahhabi as were his 9/11 attack teams, 18 of which were also Saudi.
The strategy for this "holy war" did not begin with the planning of the destruction of the World Trade Center. It began with the toppling of the Shah of Iran back in the late 1970[1]s. With his plans and programs to "westernize" his country, along with his close ties to the U.S. and subdued acceptance of the State of Israel, the Shah was the soft target. Remember "America Held Hostage"? Thanks, in large part to the hypocritical and disastrous policies of the Jimmy Carter's State Department, the revolution was set into motion, the Shah was deposed, his armed forces scattered or murdered and stage one was complete. The Third Jihad now had a base of operations and the oil wealth to support its grand design or what they call the "Great Caliphate".
What this design calls for is the replacement of all secular leadership in any country with Muslim majorities. This would include, Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan, Indonesia, all the Emirates, Sudan, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Malaysia, Indonesia and finally what they call the "occupied territory" Israel.
As a part of this strategy, forces of the jihad will infiltrate governments and the military as a prelude to taking control, once the secular leadership is ousted or assassinated. Such was the case in Lebanon leading to the Syrian occupation and in Egypt with the murder of Anwar Sadat, along with the multiple attempts on the lives of Hussein in Jordan, Mubarak of Egypt and Musharraf in Pakistan. Pakistan is a particular prize because of its nuclear weapons.
The long-range strategy of the Third Jihad counts on three strategic goals. First, the U.S. withdrawing from the region just as it did in Southeast Asia, following Vietnam. Second, taking control of the oil wealth in the Muslim countries, which would be upwards to 75% of known reserves; third, using nuclear weapons or other WMDs to annihilate Israel. A further outcome of successfully achieving these objectives would be to place the United Nations as the sole arbiter in East/West negotiations and paralyze western resistance, leading to total withdrawal from all Islamic dominated countries.
Evidence of the Bush Administration awareness of this plan is found in the events immediately following the 9/11 attack. The administration's first move was to shore up Pakistan and Egypt, believing that these two would be the next targets for al Qaeda, while Americans focused on the disaster in New York. The administration also knew that the most important objective was to send a loud and clear message that the U.S.

was in the region to stay, not only to shore up our allies but to send a message to the Jihadists. The attack on Afghanistan was necessary to break-up a secure al Qaeda base of operations and put their leadership on the run or in prison.

The war in Iraq also met a very strategic necessity in that no one knew how much collaboration existed between Saddam Hussein and the master planners of the Third Jihad or Hussein's willingness to hand off WMDs to terrorist groups including the PLO in Israel. What was known were serious indications of on-going collaboration as Saddam funneled money to families of suicide bombers attacking the Israelis and others in Kuwait. What the U.S. needed to establish was a significant base of operations smack dab in the middle of the Islamic world, in a location which effectively cut it in half. Iraq was the ideal target for this and a host of other strategic reasons.

Leadership of various anti-American groups both here and abroad understood the vital nature of the Bush initiative and thus launched their demonstrations, world-wide, to "Stop The War". Failing this, they also laid plans to build a political campaign inside the country, with the War in Iraq as a plebiscite, using a little known politician as the thrust point-Howard Dean. This helps to explain how quickly the Radical Left moved into the Dean campaign with both people and money, creating what the clueless media called the "Dean Phenomenon".

What surprised the Jihadists following the 9/11 attack was how American sentiment mobilized around the president and a profound sense of patriotism spread across the country. They were not expecting this reaction, based on what had happened in the past, nor were they expecting the determined resolve of the President himself. I also believe this is one of the reasons we have not had any further attacks within our borders. They are content to wait, just as one of their tactical mentors; V.I. Lenin admonished..."two steps forward, one step back".

Lastly, we should not expect to see any meaningful cooperation from Western Europe, especially the French. Since failing to protect their own interests in Algeria (by turning the country over to the first of the Arab terrorists, Ammad Ben Bella), the country itself is now occupied by Islamic immigrants totaling twenty percent of the population.

We are in the battle of our lives, a battle which will go on for many years possibly even generations. If we fail to understand what we are facing or falter in the challenge of "knowing our enemy" the results will be catastrophic. Imagine a world where al Qaeda regimes control 75% of the world's oil, have at their disposal nuclear weapons, legions of willing suicide soldiers, and our national survival is dependent on the good graces of Kofi Annan and the United Nations.

(Publisher's Note: This is an edited excerpt from the original essay.)

In honor of Mr. Stone, on a marble obelisk there is inscribed:
"The church of Christ at Cane Ridge and other generous friends in Kentucky have caused this monument to be erected as a tribute of affection and gratitude to Barton W. Stone, minister of the gospel of Christ and the distinguished reformer of the nineteenth century. Born December 24, 1772: died November 9, 1844. His remains lie here. This monument erected in 1847."

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Traces of the Kingdom by Keith Sisman
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17th Century Church Stands

TOTTLEBANK, England — A book of minutes from the meeting of the church of Christ in this little town near Ulverston in the Lake District of England, testifies that the church met regularly in an upper room of a building still standing, according to Ken Chumbley.

One page of the book says "The 18th day of ye sixth month, called, August 1669. A Church of Christ was formed in order and sate down together in the ffellowship and order of ye Gospel of Jesus Christ. Att the house of William Rawlinson off Tottlebank, in Coulton in furness. There were present and Assisted Mr. George Larkham, Pastor off a Church of Christ in Cumberland, and Mr. Roger Sawrey of Broughton tower. A member of Christ and of that particular Church in London of wich Mr. George Coackine is teaching Elder. The persons Joyninge themselves at this time, Gabriel Camelford, Hugh Towers, William Towers, James Towers, Joseph Towers, James Fisher, Henry Jackson."

Chumbley notes an interesting fact that at this time all religious meetings, except those of the Church of England (Episcopal), were illegal. He believes the reason they met in the particular room in which they did, was because it gave a vantage point from which could be seen the approach of the King's soldiers on the highway from a great distance.

The property is now owned by a Baptist church, but the minutes and a set of communion ware which includes a table, still belong to the church of Christ.

Chumbley, who is minister at Riverside in Corpus Christi, Tex., has been in the British Isles doing some work.



THIS BUILDING served as a place of worship for the church of Christ in Tottlebank, England in 1669. Texas minister Ken Chumbley points to window from which sentrys watched for approach of soldiers because their worship was against the law of England then.



COMMUNION WARE used by the 17th Century church in England is held by Ken Chumbley. Also found in the ancient building was the table from which the communion was served.