

CHARLTON KINGS  
LOCAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY

BULLETIN 1



CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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The cover picture, from a print of c.1830-40 by H.Lamb, is reproduced by permission of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, and has been redrawn for the Society by K.Venus.

It shows Charlton Street (now Church Street) with the forge cottage (Skinner's shop) on the left, Laburnam Cottage and the Workhouse (both demolished) on the right.

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Copies of this issue are obtainable from the Chairman price £1 per copy to non-members (plus postage).

#### CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

This is the first issue of the Bulletin of the Charlton Kings Local History Society, which was formed in February 1978 to study and publish the results of research into the history of Charlton Kings. We hope to publish a Bulletin in the Spring and Autumn each year, to keep members informed of work done and developments in the local history field. We believe it will also interest a wider public.

This issue contains contributions based on members' work at the University of Bristol Extramural evening class at Gloucestershire Record Office 1978-9, an opportunity for study which we greatly appreciate. It includes contributions from Charlton Kings residents, and we should like more of these for future issues. Please contact the Chairman or Editor. Records already in print but not easily accessible to members, can also be made available for study through the Bulletin; and by this means our understanding and appreciation of Charlton's history increased.

### CHARLTON PARK FIELDS

This is a preliminary statement of the results of fieldwork in advance of the building developments taking place in Charlton Park. Evidence of active cultivation prior to the area being landscaped as a park with the planting of trees showed up as five different ridge-and-furrow systems. The position of field boundaries can be deduced from this layout.

On the north and east side two fields were discernible: one of narrow rig (width, 7 metres) sloping towards the Chelt; the other of very broad rig (at least 12 metres from ridge to ridge) running down to the Lilley Brook. At the top of this slope, where the land surface levels out, a wide trackway crossed the Park in line with Sandy Lane to the south. This was part of the Cheltenham to London route during the eighteenth century, and perhaps earlier. It would have altered direction slightly to cross the Chelt at Sandford, where an ancient route goes north to Prestbury, following the Cheltenham parish boundary.

The building operations have now covered this northern area of the park. They revealed in their deep trenches that the Cheltenham Sands, the superficial geological deposit above the Lias clay, are here at least 3 metres deep. On the surface many flints, some of them worked, were collected. These have yet to be properly studied, but it is probable that we have a prehistoric 'chipping floor'; that is an area where man was making tools by flaking pieces off flint cores. The small sherds of pottery also picked up were so scattered and abraded that nothing significant can as yet be deduced from them.

The other area already covered by houses lies to the west of the track-way and was part of the same field as the College playing field to the west. This had ridge-and-furrow of medium width in an approximate north-south alignment. The southern part of the Park shows a different ploughing alignment, in an approximate east-west direction. Between these two systems there must have been a boundary probably delineated by a track. A map of 1776 (A Plan of the Roads leading from Arle Cross to Pillford Lane) shows a road branching off Old Bath Road somewhere opposite where Thirstane Road now abuts on to it. This would presumably have been the route in the eighteenth century of those travelling from the developing Spa to Cirencester and London.

The southern half of the Park was landscaped to give a vista of elegance and natural beauty from the house. Much soil was moved to create a pond by the brook with a semi-circular 'theatre' beyond, thus extending the view from the terrace and upper windows. This large excavation is visible on the ground and must be previous to the planting of the fully-grown trees there. It would have destroyed any ridge-and-furrow in this part. Beyond the 'lip' of this depression runs the previously mentioned track and further west the ridge-and-furrow of the 'southern' field. This ploughing goes over, and at right angles to, a bank which appears to have continued beyond the boundary fence of the gardens of the houses in Charlton Park Road. This is the most interesting archaeological feature in the Park, in that it must be prior to the ridge-and-furrow ploughing, and may be some ancient boundary.

Observations will continue as the development proceeds.

Bernard Rawes.

# CHARLTON PARK FIELDS -



PLAYING  
FIELDS

LEVELLED  
GROUND

WIDE HIGH  
R.I.D.G.E.

BANK

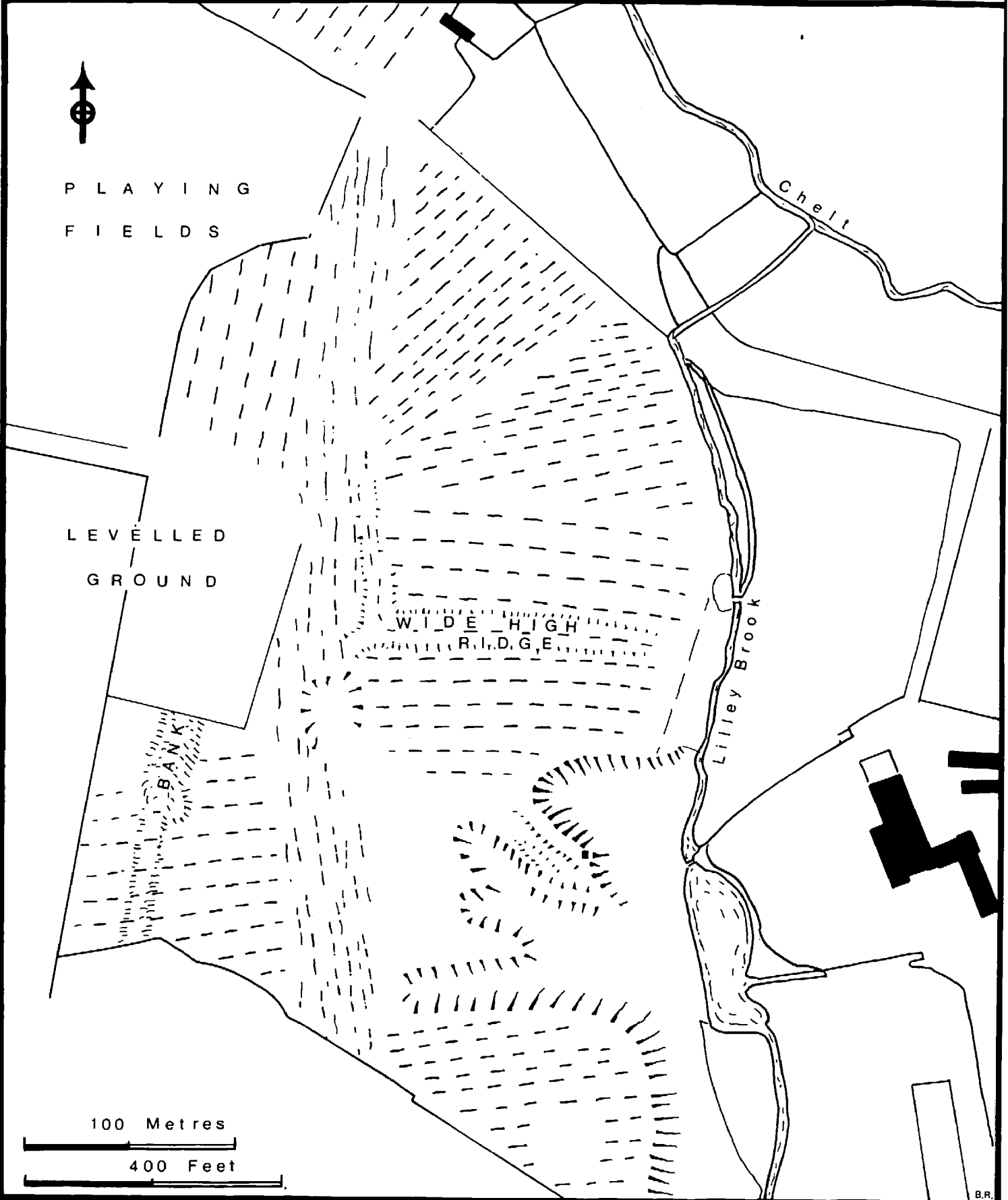
Lilley Brook

Chelt

100 Metres

400 Feet

B.R.



2. A Pension linked to a house in Cudnall, 1421

The following is a translation of a corrody agreement, to be found in Gloucestershire Record Office (reference D 1252. TRS 102). It is given in full in view of its date and the interesting detail it contains.

"This indenture made at Charlton Kings on the Tuesday next after the feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin in the 9th year of the reign of King Henry V since the Conquest (9 December 1421) between John Hore junior of Charlton Kings on the one part and Thomas Dowdeswelle of Codynhulle and Isabel his wife on the other part, witnesses that the said Thomas and Isabel or the one of them living the longer shall find for the said John Hore for the duration of his life, food and drink as good and nourishing as usual for their own bodies; and shall also pay for the said John at the solemn feasts his oblations which he, the said John, is bound to offer to Holy Church.

Item, the said Thomas and Isabel shall pay to the said John 4½ marks of legal English money (£3).

Item, the said Thomas and Isabel shall mend or cause to be mended the boots and shoes of the said John, when it shall be needful, at the expense of the said John;

and the said Thomas shall make for the said John a pair of wheels, but the said John shall find all the tyres for making the wheels;

Item, the said Thomas and Isabel shall keep for the said John in the winter time two pigs;

and the said Thomas and Isabel or the one of them living the longer shall arrange for washing the clothes of the said John, both for his back and for his bed, during the said John's life;

Item, the said John shall have the chief room in the house called Walters at his pleasure, and shall also have his freedom in the hall of the said house for his own body as often as he shall please;

And if the said John survive the said Thomas and Isabel, the said John shall occupy the aforesaid house and lands with all its appurtenances during his life, that is to say, the lands and house of which the said Thomas and Isabel were given possession by the said John;

And if it shall happen to the said John to occupy the said lands and house as aforesaid, then after the decease of the said John they shall revert entirely to the heirs and assigns of the said Thomas Dowdeswell for ever.

In witness whereof the parties aforesaid have severally placed their seals to these indentures. Given the day and place and year aforesaid.

M.J.Greet

Can we identify this house called Walter's? There are some clues given in the deed which suggest an answer.

First, this was freehold property. It has been given to the young couple by John Hore, subject to this pension, and will come back to him if they predecease him. Had this been a copyhold or customary tenement, these

arrangements would have been made in the lord's manor court, by means of a surrender into the lord's hands and a regrant to use of the Dowdeswells, and could not have been achieved by an indenture between the parties.

Second, this is a house of some size, with a hall, principal chamber reserved for John Hore, and other chambers for Thomas and Isabel. It is not a cottage.

Third, the young couple are expected to be able to provide John with a £3 pension in money, as well as his food, clothing, laundry, church collections, pigs, and the wooden part of a pair of cartwheels. So a fair amount of land went with the house. This probably explains the name, Walter's Acre Length, still used for part of Charlton Lower Field in 1712(1)

There were only three freehold houses in Cudnall Street in the 18th century, two of them no more than cottages. The third was a considerable house which, with its stables and other outbuildings, stood on the sites of Langton Lodge and No 6 Cudnall Street (originally called Charlotteville). Thomas Billing's map of the turnpike road in 1798 shows this house and its buildings, standing round a courtyard.(2) Robert Sollis had been living there for some years before 1798.

By 1797, Billings, who was a builder and developer, had bought up the copyhold house on the east of Sollis's. By 1808 we know that he owned the freehold garden next door.(3) Mitchell's map made in 1806(4) shows that between 1798 and 1806 the old freehold mansion had been pulled down and replaced by the two houses we know today. So it seems more than likely that Billings bought the whole freehold, not just the garden, and after demolishing the old property built the two new houses there. No 6 looks very similar in style to Ivy Cottage further east in Cudnall Street, which was certainly built by Billings.

So, tentatively (since we know nothing of its history between 1421 and 1750) we may identify the house called Walters with this freehold tenement. There were two Dowdeswells of an age to serve in Charlton at the time of Smythe's Men and Armour, Edward Dowdeswell yeoman aged between 50 and 60, of a low stature, and Nicholas Dowdeswell yeoman, for whom no details are given. One may still have been living in Cudnall Street. There was also a William Walter aged about 20, of low stature, status undisclosed.

- (1) Ashley Manor, original surrenders 101 (G.R.O. D 109/61G091)
- (2) "A Plan of the Turnpike Road from the Gallows Oak in the Parish of Cheltenham in the County of Gloucester to the 5th mile stone in the Parish of Withington -- Taken by Thos Billings June 1798". Copied by kind permission of Messrs G.H. Bayley and Sons.
- (3) Ashley manor court book 1742-1811 (GRO D 109/ )
- (4) "Town of Cheltenham, Laid down, chiefly, from his own observations and engraved by Edward Mitchell -- with part of Charlton Kings parish by Thomas Billings--"

3. A MUSTER IN CHARLTON KINGS, 1608

Calling the Muster

The following is a transcript of a letter sent to the Constable of Charlton Kings in 1608. It relates to the method of holding a muster, and is taken from a document TRS 189 in the Gloucestershire Record Office. The original is in Berkley Castle muniments (102/1st drawer).

"To the Constable of Charleton Kinges"

By Vertue of a Warrante to us directed From the righte honourable the lorde Berkly, Lorde lieuetenante of the Countie of Gloucester, These are therefore willinge and requyringe you with all dilygence that you geive warning unto all able persons dwellings within your office of the age of xviiij yeares & upwardes that they doe personally appere at Cheltenham upon Saterdaie in the Fore noone of the same day being Fytt to sarve his majestie on hiis warres yf hereafter anie of them shall be therunto requyred, there to be viewed & inrouled according to the tenor of the letters of his majesties most honourable pryvie Councell,

And also that you bringe with you wrytten in paper a roull contaynyng the names and surnames of everie such inhabitant within your sayde parishe or Constablership with such additions as are most usually geve unto them,

And of what quallitie trade or occupacion everie of them are of, setting downe the names of able servantes next after their maisters and of able sonnes next after their Fathers

And what Armor or other martiall weapons every person within your sayde parish or Constablership hath in his house or custody

And what armor any of the sayde Inhabitantes stand chargeable with towardes the Furnishinge of anie trayned bandes, expressing alsoe whoe are trayned soldiers within your parishe and who are lordes of anie Mannor within your parishe, and wheyther such lordes be most usually resydent in this Countie or not

And that your selfe be then allsoe there with a Roull in paper of all such particulars as are Formerly recyted

And hereof Faile ye not at your uttermost perill

Cheltenham this xjth of September 1608

Your loveinge Freindes

Thomas Paget Bayliffe

Walter Mason  
William Stroude }

Constables"



The results

Details of the action taken in Charlton Kings as a follow up to this letter can be ascertained from John Smith or Smythe's Men and Armour in Gloucestershire in 1608 (1). Smith was a barrister who worked for Lord Berkeley, Lord Lieutenant in 1608, and his book contains "the names and surnames of all the able and sufficient men in body fitt for his majesties service in the wars within the City of Gloucester and Inshire of the same -- with their ages, parsonable statures, and Armours, viewed by the Right honourable Henry Lord Barkley Lord Lieutenant --"

A list of men judged fit for service is given below, usually with details of their social status or occupation, approximate age, and stature (relevant for deciding the type of weapon each was to use). The figures and letters marked against the names have the following meanings:-

- "1 sheweth the age of that man to be about twenty
- 2 sheweth the age of that man to be about Forty
- 3 sheweth the age of that man to be between Fyfty and threescore
- p sheweth the man to be of the tallest stature fitt to make a pykeman
- m sheweth the man to bee of a middle stature fitt to make a musketyer
- ca sheweth the man to bee of a lower stature fitt to serve with a Calyver(2)
- py sheweth the man to bee of the meanest stature either fitt for a pyoner or of little use.
- tr sheweth that at the taking of this viewe hee was then a trayned soldyer
- sub sheweth the said man was then a subsidy man"

Charlton Kings

"Whereof Giles Grevill and Arthur Packer gent (3) are lords.

Roger Houlder	yeoman	1	p	sub
John Whithorne	yeoman			
William Whithorne	yeoman	2	p	
Robert Hauthorne	yeoman			
Robert Galle	yeoman	1	p	sub
Robert Gotheridge	taylor	1	ca	
Edward Hewes	taylor	2	p	
Marke Jacksons	taylor	1	ca	
Edward Dowdeswelle	yeoman	3	ca	
Richard Hille	yeoman	1	p	
Frauncis Smith	yeoman	2	ca	

Richard Cartright	yeoman	2	ca	
Thomas Cartright	yeoman	2	p	
Frauncis Whitehead	yeoman	2	ca	
Edmond Gotheridge	yeoman	1	p	
Edmond Horwood	yeoman	2	p	hath one musket fur'
Richard Allixander	yeoman	1	m	
Edward Wells	yeoman	1	ca	
Thomas Stubes	yeoman	2	p	
John Jones	his servant	1	p	
Thomas Heyord	labourer	2	p	
Stephen Croseley		1	ca	
Henry Roberts		1	ca	
Thomas Brevill		1	p	
John Churches		1	ca	
Edward Mylton		1	ca	
John Galle	carpenter	1	p	
Gabraell Pamfery	carpenter	1	ca	
Edward Whittorne	labourer	3	ca	
John Cleevly	husbandman	2	p	
Thomas Greene	glover	1	ca	sub
John Greene	glover	1	ca	
Lewis Cottes		1	ca	
Richard Ashley		1	ca	
William Addams	labourer	2	p	
William Atwell'	husbandman	2	py	
John Holder	Smith	1	p	
William Tychet	weaver	2	ca	
William Diglerson	weaver	2	ca	
John Gryffin	labourer	1	ca	
Henry Bayles	labourer	1	p	
John Gotheridge	labourer	1	ca	
Thomas Ballame		1	ca	
James Randell	husbandman	1	m	
William Haukes	labourer	1	p	
George Gotheridge	yeoman	1	m	
Thomas Crumpe		1	p	
John Flucket		1	ca	
John Barnord		1	p	

William Pyper	labourer	2	ca
Richard Whithead		1	ca
John Norton		1	ca
William Walter		1	ca
Edward Abington	gent	1	m
James Hickes	labourer	2	m
Thomas Gotheridge	labourer	2	py
Edward Kemet	labourer	2	p
Thomas Lewis	slatter		
John Cleevly	weaver	2	ca
George Rickets	labourer	1	ca
Thomas Free		1	ca
William Holder	labourer	2	ca
Phillipp Crosley	labourer	1	ca
Richard Stranford		1	ca
Edward Maunsell		2	p
John Nyedman		1	ca
Richard Gootheridge	yeoman		
Nicholas Dowdeswell	yeoman		
Thomas Whittorne	yeoman		
Gracian Galle	joyner		
Robert Grindell	husbandman		
Frauncis Whittorne	yeoman		
William Crompe	smith		
William Cleevly	weaver		
Richard Halle	taylor		

The said tythinge standeth charged with the findinge of two corslets with the fur' (nishing)"

A table of the above information, comparing occupations with age and suitability for weapons:- (Next sheet)

Footnotes:-

- (1) Published London 1902
- (2) A firearm lighter than a musket
- (3) An inquisition of 12 June 1610 shows that Arthur Packer was lord of the manor of Ham "situate in Hame, Charlton Kings and Cheltenham, and held of the king" (William Bridgman "Old Records of Charlton Kings" vol VII p.26)

'MEN AND ARMOUR' 1608. TABLE OF OCCUPATION AGE AND STATURE/WEAPONS HELD.

SOCIAL RANK OR OCCUPATION	MEN AGED ABOUT 20.				MEN AGED ABOUT 40.				MEN AGED 50-60.				NAMES WITH NO ANNOTATION STATED	TOTAL WHERE OCCUPATION IS GIVEN	EQUIPMENT HELD.
	PIKEMAN TALLEST	MUSKETEER MIDDLE	CALIVER MAN LOWER	PIONEER NEAREST	PIKEMAN TALLEST	MUSKETEER MIDDLE	CALIVER MAN LOWER	PIONEER NEAREST	PIKEMAN TALLEST	MUSKETEER MIDDLE	CALIVER MAN LOWER	PIONEER NEAREST			
GENTLEMAN	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1 (YEOMAN) PIKEMAN ABOUT 40 YEARS OF AGE HAD A MUSKET FOR ' [FURNISHED]. THE TYTHING HAD (COLLECTIVELY) TO PROVIDE 2 CORSELETS.
YEOMAN	4*	2	1	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	6	21	
TAILOR	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	
SERVANT	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
LABOURER	2	-	4	-	3	1	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	15	
CARPENTER	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
HUSBANDMAN	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	
GLOVER	-	-	2†	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
SMITH	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	
WEAVER	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	
SLATER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
JOINER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
UNKNOWN	3	-	13	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	
TOTALS IN CATEGORY	12	4	23	-	10	1	8	3	-	-	2	-	12	75	
TOTALS BY AGE		39			22						2		12	75	

SUMMARY

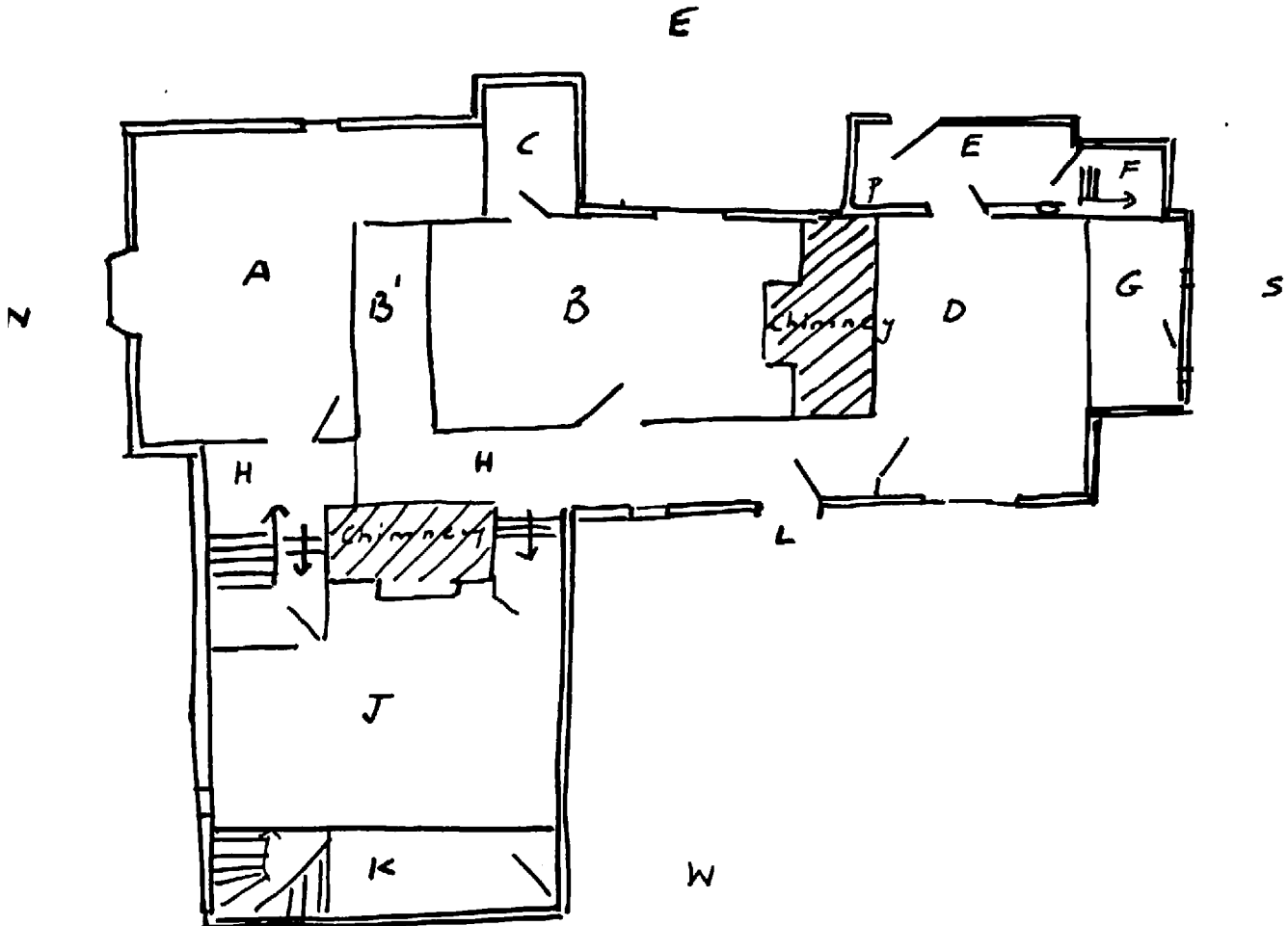
22 PIKEMEN.  
 5 MUSKETEERS.  
 33 CALIVERMEN  
 3 PIONEERS  
 12 WEAPON NOT SPECIFIED.  
 75

\* INCLUDES 2 (THERE WERE NO TRAINED SOLDIERS)  
 SUBSIDYMEN.

† INCLUDES 1  
 SUBSIDYMAN

4. WAGER COURT

Plan of the house c.1901 (before the rebuilding of the south wing in 1913-4)



- A. Stone-flagged room with no chimney, possibly dairy
- B. Sitting room board floor
- B<sup>i</sup>. Broom cupboard, no door
- C. Small cupboard room, possible original entry when a single gable (A-B) was built.
- D. Kitchen with range recessed into large chimney
- E. Lean-to scullery, ceiled, with pump and sink (P) and copper (O)
- F. Larder, down 3 steps.
- G. Lean-to workshop, unceiled, probably board floor.
- H. Passage way from kitchen to stairs, with inner door under existing stairs to cellar stair.

- J. Sitting-room raised above cellar, board floor
- K. Storage shed with very wide stair to cellar, perhaps for casks
- L. Front door, with "rustic" porch

This was evidently a half timbered house, about the same period as Hawthorne's or The King's House, though not visibly on a stone platform. The timbering shows now on the N.W. side of the L shape, which was not externally altered in 1913/14, except for the removal of ivy.

We had not the exposure of all timbering inside. Except for the main rafters in each room, the joists were all ceiled in.

The E-gable had no attic. Under the W.gable were 2 attics; a very large unilluminated one stretching from wall to wall, and a small one partitioned in, in the W end of the gable, my parents thought for housing the female servants, the men in the first one.

I imagine that there was probably a newel stair where we found a straight flight, as there would be plenty of room at the foot of our stairs where the door enters from J. A second or third newel stair led to the attics, starting about on the N. side of that chimney, with a wide set of steps at the right angle, like the cellar stairs.

The cellars were built in small thin bricks, less than standard size.

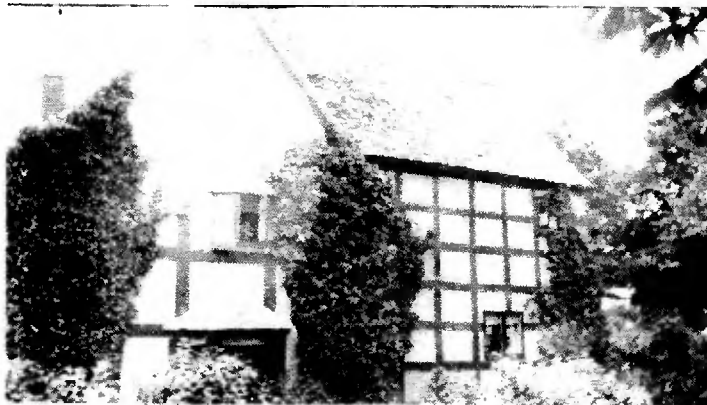
H. Bennett

Wager Court

Sketch showing the demolished south wing, taken from an old photograph of c.1901, belonging to Mrs. Bennett, redrawn by Mr. G. Ryland.



Photograph of the north side of the house, taken c. 1901.



The history of the house

At the beginning of the 18th century, Samuel Cooper held two customary tenements at East End (one sublet to Edward Gale), Robert Gale a third, Alice Robinson a 4th, and Toby Sturmy a 5th. The evidence, so far as we have it in Ashley manor court records, suggests that Robert Gale's tenement was the house now known as Wager Court, which may earlier have been held by the Wager family. They faded out of Charlton Kings in the late 17th century.

These houses may represent the medieval settlement of East End. So though the earliest surviving building at Wager Court appears to be 16th-17th century, this is a site where traces of earlier habitation should be looked for.

M.P.

The plan suggests a 15th century hall at B and H, with screens passage at B<sup>1</sup> and original through doorways on opposite walls (shown as windows on plan, at some stage replaced by doorways at C and L), with domestic quarters behind the chimney breast at D. When cooking was removed from the hall, a service wing with cellars underneath (J) and adjoining dairy (A) were added. The difference in roof height, as shown in old photographs, between the surviving E-W wing and the demolished south block, suggests that these developments were made at roughly the same period. The timbering of the W wing (J.K.), a box pattern with smaller squares than the timbering of A, may only reflect a difference in use. It is now considered that box framing of this kind may be earlier in date than the close stud pattern seen at Hawthorne's.

Windows in the north walls, which cut through timbers, are plainly modern.

J.P.



5. ROBERT HAWTHORNE'S HOUSE (NOW CALLED THE KING'S HOUSE)

This house was known by the name of its tenant in 1608, Robert Hawthorne yeoman, until 1933, when it was given its present name by Mr. and Mrs. McCanlis.

In 1564, after a dispute, Commissioners appointed by the Council in the Marches of Wales ruled that every Charlton tenant who held 20 acres of arable in the open fields might inclose 3 acres and keep them fenced for his lifetime and 12 years afterwards. This in effect meant permanent inclosure of those parcels, and by c.1600 many tenants were building new houses on their hays. Hawthorne's was one of these.

Verey dates the house as 16-17th century. It is a timber-framed house, most of the timbers close studs, but the corner sections on the east front square, with ornamental diamond infilling. The first floor projects on east and west fronts, but not on the north; on the south side, a late 17th century addition, partly stone, partly timber, has been added. This may be connected with the date 1698 found on a fireplace. The house walls rest on deep stone foundations, but the stone chimney breast has almost no foundation and may be an afterthought - this was plain when the tile floor in the western room was taken up in 1978, exposing the original clay floor(1).

This was one of the larger Charlton tenements, and Robert Hawthorne's close on which he built this new house was originally  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acres, the amount he could fence if he held 36 acres of land. He had a triangular parcel above Spring Bottom, between Church Walk and Mill Lane, called Hawthorne's Nose, estimated at 5 acres in 1706, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre called the Paddock. The rest of his land was scattered, part in Ryeworth, part in breaches on the hills.

In the late 17th century, this house was held by Charles Hawthorne and Elizabeth his wife. She married again and as Elizabeth Badsey widow was still living here in 1706, and holding her widow's share, a third of some of the land.

Her son Robert mortgaged his  $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of one inclosure on the hill in 1705 and in 1707 sold it to William Ashmeade. In 1706 he mortgaged the house and the rest of the land to Thomas Mason for £100, increasing this to £300 in 1711, presumably after his mother's death. He was living in the house in 1715, when he could not prevent his mortgagees selling out to use of Lyonell Rich of Dowdeswell esq, a trustee for Francis lord Conway and his heirs. Rich was instructed to surrender to use of Thomas Tracey of Sandywell esq in 1751.

Tracey's customary heir was his sister, who in 1784 surrendered to use of the widow Mary Tracey. She sold the house on 13 September 1797 to William Fletcher of Charlton Kings yeoman, a dubious character who was perpetually mortgaging one piece of property in order to acquire another. The house had lately been in possession of William Billings, but at the time of the sale was in that of William Fletcher and his undertenants; so the process of subdivision had already begun. For the next 120 years, Hawthornes was split into three cottages. It was continually mortgaged till in 1869 Samuel Higgs Gael bought it, with the remaining 3 acres of land. He sold one acre 31 perches of it, with a new house (Hawthorne Villa) to Albert Cleevely builder, in 1890.

Hawthorne's was bought c.1920 by an architect named Healing, who restored the house and made it into a single dwelling again. To his timely action we owe the only unspoilt example of a Charlton yeoman's house to survive.

M.P.

A photograph of Hawthorne's taken c.1902, before adjoining houses were built. East and north sides.

From a photograph belonging to Mrs. H. Bennett.



#### Footnote

- (1) Foundations seen by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Chesters. Other information taken from Ashley manor court records (original surrenders 70, 66, and C 7; court books 1742-1811, 1812-1842) title deeds.

## 6. ROADS THROUGH CHARLTON KINGS SINCE 1700

It is impossible to make sense of Charlton's development without taking into account the drastic changes in our roads since 1700.

1. In 1700, the road to London was our Sandy Lane. Coming from Cheltenham this road crossed the Chelt near Sandford mill and proceeded through an area of open field arable to the present line of Sandy Lane at Moorend. This route is shown on Isaac Taylor's map of 1777. Its track can still be followed up the hill to Charlton Common, on to the cross roads above Seven Springs, thence to Elkstone and to the Roman road at Beech pike. Mitchell's Cheltenham map of 1806 still called Sandy Lane "Old London Road".

It was also, of course, the road to Cirencester.

2. By Sandford Mill, this London Road and the Old Bath Road crossed. They were joined by a third road, which passed close by the west side of Mr. Prinn's house (now Charlton Park), on the east side of New Court, through Up End, and so by Timbercombe or Ravensgate Lane (a paved road for traffic and a sunken lane for cattle or pack horses) to Ravensgate common and Pegglesworth, where it led into the Gloucester-Stow road.

These roads meeting near Sandford mill are shown by Thomas Robins in his picture of Charlton Park painted c.1748 (1).

From Mr. Rawes' examination of Charlton Park, it seems that the Timbercombe road made use of a pre-existing embankment between the Old London road and the Lilleybrook (which Robins shows to have been culverted at this point - the lake in front of the house had not yet been made). And out of the Timbercombe road just south of New Court, an avenue of spanish chestnut trees led across to the west end of the church; by this way, the Prinns came from their house to St. Mary's to worship.

3. An alternative way to the Gloucester-Stow road left Cheltenham by Gallows Oak pike (at Hales road) and proceeded through Cudnall, crossing the Chelt at Spring Bridge just above Charlton mill. Here it bent south to pass close to the Knapp House (demolished) and by farm buildings on the site of The Hearne. When John Whithorne of The Knapp in 1790 was preparing to cut off the entail on his estate, one of the fields mentioned was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of pasture "in length 242 yards and in breadth 43 feet upon a medium, as now marked or set out from a mound or fence erected and made across the late old public highway at or near a place called The Knap in Charlton Kings." (2)

From The Knapp, the road proceeded up Balcarras Lane and to the south of Coxhorne. Its track is clearly visible on the tithe map of 1848, and part can be observed on the ground. It came down to the Chelt by Salts farm and Dowdeswell mill, and continued beside the stream (through the bed of the reservoir) to the foot of Dowdeswell hill, up the hill past Dowdeswell church, and so to an inn called Caddicks on the main road.

That old road was altered in stages to become the London turnpike. First the stretch to the south of Coxhorne was cut out and a new road made to link with East End Street, which by 1774 had become "the road to Dowdeswell". The next stretch, from East End to Spring Bridge, was done between 1780 and 1790, dissecting Castle Field and dividing John Whithorne's land there into two closes. In his will of 1796, he called this "the turnpike road leading to London". The last two alterations were made in 1825, under Telford's

direction. A new road was cut from the foot of Dowdeswell hill to Andoversford and a new road from Six Ways to bypass Cudnall Street.

4. A road from Cudnall Street across Ryeworth Field to Ham was developed through the arable c.1770. It is first mentioned as a road in 1774, and the tithe map still shows ridges in the common field split by the highway. It was a parish road, not a turnpike. Charlton parish paid for rebuilding Ham bridge in 1821, probably to make it fit for heavier traffic; but it was only built of oak then. (3) It is believed that coaches came this way to avoid Dowdeswell hill, for Ham hill, though as steep, was less abrupt. But this traffic stopped after 1825, when Telford's improved line came into use.

5. Between 1790 and 1800, Charlton Park house was given a new west front. The Old London road across the park was diverted between 1777 and 1806, and the road on the west of the house abolished. Instead, Sandy Lane was turned down Moorend Road to meet a road on the east of the house, coming from Cudnall Street, past Park Cottages, on the line of the present back drive. Thomas Billings in 1798 called this the way to Birdlip. But there was no connection between Moorend road and Horsefair Street near the pound in 1806, according to Mitchell. Instead, a new drive from the east door of the house led direct to Brookway Lane, then called Stews Lane, and so to St. Mary's - when the road east of New Court was stopped, the chestnut avenue from the church ended in a field, and a pair of carriage gates were left standing in the middle of nowhere, marking where the road used to go.

6. The new turnpike road to Cirencester was cut in 1825-6. From Cudnall bridge, it was taken through Prinn's land and through land belonging to a farm on the site of Chosen House, coming out where Up End Street, Bafford Street, and Blind Lane (Croft Road) met. It then incorporated a stretch of Up End Street as far as Lilleybrook, where it crossed the stream and continued up the valley to the cross roads near Seven Springs, picked up a little more of the old road, and at Cowley took an entirely new route to avoid Elkstone. This is the present Cirencester road. The stone wall round the park grounds dates from 1826, and the toll-house (demolished) between the new road and the drive.

7. Finally, some minor roads were made; New Street or Vestry Hall Street in 1854, after the churchyard had been extended and St. Mary's Hall built; Copt Elm road between 1860 and 1870, on the line of an old field path, not far from an ancient farm called Cops Elm (4) which has belonged to the Gale family and was then demolished; Lyefield Road c.1885-1895, again where a track had crossed the open field; and Gladstone road in 1888, where part of the chestnut avenue had stood.

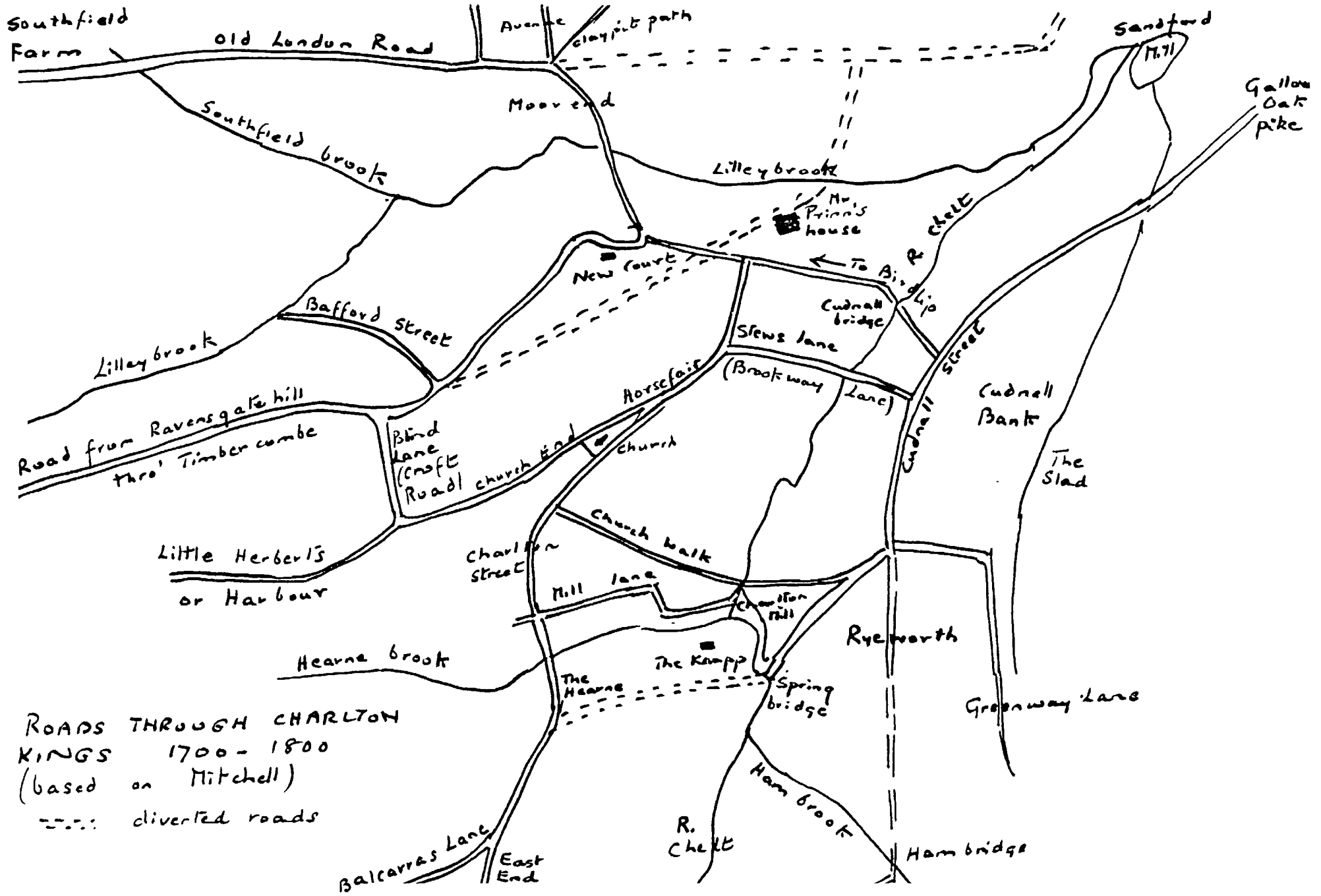
#### Footnotes

(1) In Cheltenham Art Gallery

(2) G.R.O. D 181 III T 15, deed 5

(3) Papers at St. Mary's

(4) GRO, Ashley Manor court book 1742-1811, D 109/ , 28 May 1751 and 11 June 1771.



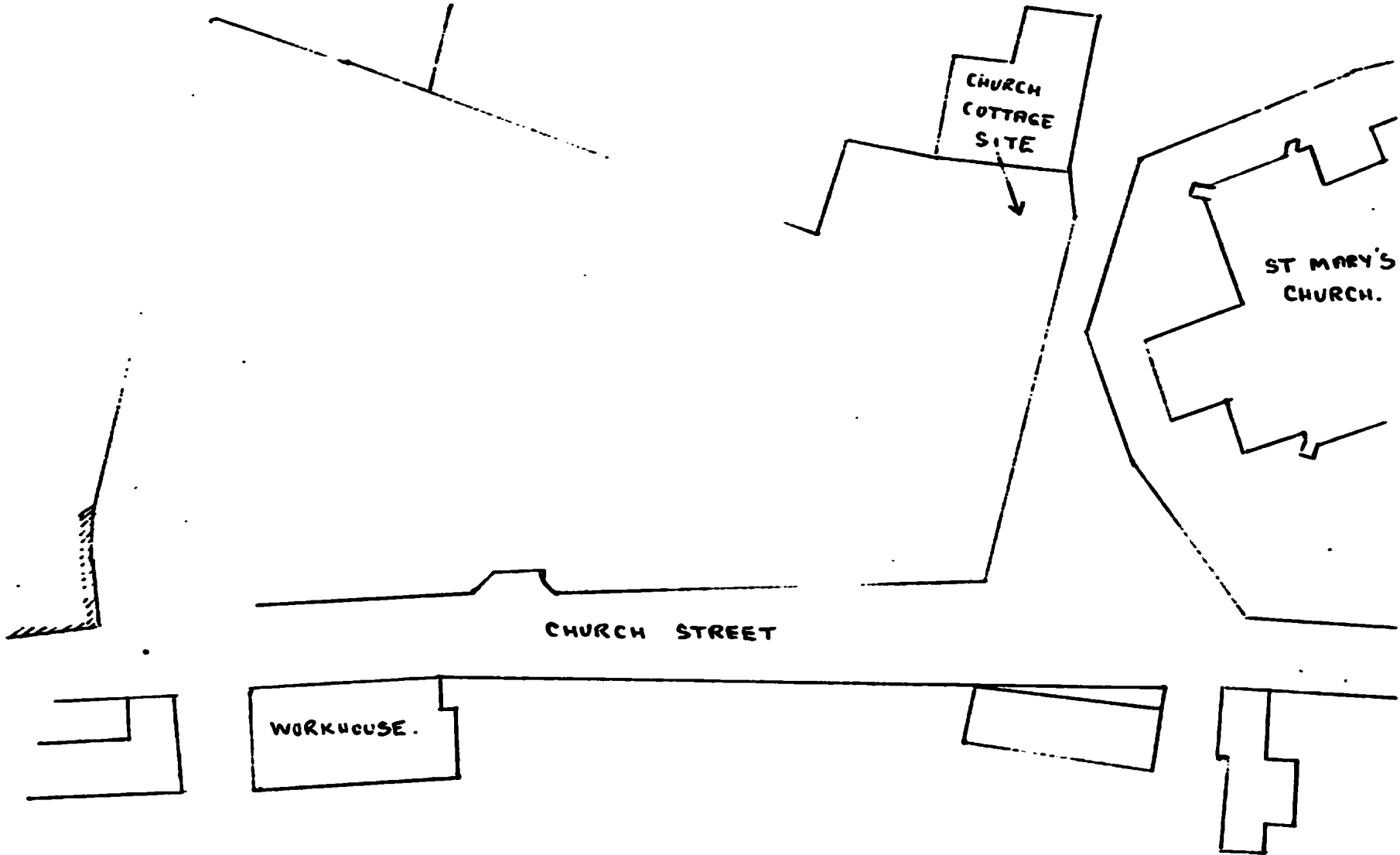
ROADS THROUGH CHARLTON  
KINGS 1700-1800  
(based on Mitchell)

---: diverted roads

SCALE OF FEET



SKETCH PLAN OF  
WORKHOUSE SITE



7. "---- A MANIAC'S CHAIN' - The Parish Workhouse in Charlton Kings, 1826-1842.

I. Introduction: Poor Relief

By Acts of 1597 and 1601 (39 Eliz. I c.3 and 43 Eliz I c.2), two churchwardens and up to four overseers of the poor in each parish had to care for the poor under the direction of local magistrates. They had to maintain them, set them to work, and arrange for poor children to be apprenticed. A poor rate for their support could be levied on all householders.

An Act of 1723 (9 Geo. I c.7) enabled single parishes to erect workhouses in which the able-bodied might be employed, and children, sick, aged, and lunatics maintained. However, no evidence has been found to indicate that Charlton Kings possessed a workhouse before 1827, and one must assume that the Charlton poor received occasional outrelief. Some accounts for outdoor relief for 1773-4 survive. The practice was common and was permitted by an Act of 1793 (36 Geo III c.23).

Finally in 1834 (4 and 5 William IV c.76), the parochial system of relief was abolished and parishes were compulsorily amalgamated in Unions. The workhouse in Charlton Kings, built in 1827, joined with Cheltenham Union and the building, until given up by Cheltenham Guardians in 1842, was used to accommodate poor children.

II. Erection of the Workhouse (1)

By 1826, a contract for the erection of a workhouse in Charlton Kings had been placed with a local "bricklayer", William Turner. The estimated cost was £170, but this was expected to rise with extra costs. The site chosen was central, in Charlton Street (now Church Street), some 225 feet from St. Mary's church, on the site of the present Nursery School (2); and the bill for erection includes the cost of demolition of an "old Church House", presumably on the site. At least part of the land seems to have belonged to the Trustees of Charlton Kings Charity Estate, but no trustees were appointed and available to defend its interests between 1824 and 1834.

Work was apparently in progress by July 1826, and from then until July 1827, Captain Stevenson (3), Visitor of the workhouse, under indemnity from the builder, made 10 staged payments on account, of sums varying between £10 and £60 to Turner, on behalf of the parish officers. £170 had been advanced by 3 February 1827, and £360 by 7 July 1827. (4).

By then Turner had submitted his bill for the extra work arising (£276.0.11½) and on 7 July authorised Capt. Stevenson to pay the balance of his account to Pitt, Gardner, and Co. (5) The bill provides interesting detail concerning the construction of the property.

	£	s	d
"To all materials, to laying Floors, 4'7" )			
Forest Stone steps to Doors, 8 hearth )			
stones, 14 Stone Chimney Fronts & Coves )	109	2	0
Stone Fronts to Grates & paving laid at )			
the outer doors with water grate & stones )			
over the drains. )			
Digging Foundations to Walls, and Vaults )			
to Privys, Building Yard Walls, Privies, )			
Bake house & Oven including all Brickwork )	108	8	0
to Workhouse. )			
To Day bill for pulling down old Church )			
house, Cleaning and stacking bricks and )	20	12	10
hauling away rubbish )			
To day bill for hauling sand to fill up )			
floors in New house, wheeling in, setting )			
grates, hanging furnace, finding bricks )	19	13	1
and mortar )			
To bill for putting in Culvert & drains )			
finding bricks )	18	5	0½
Lime and Paving )			
	£276                      0                      11½		

The total bill thus amounted to £446.0.11½ for what seems to have been quite a substantial building some 50 ft x 25 feet. Unfortunately, the bill seems to have been disputed, as a second undated bill exists, and payment was evidently delayed for a long time. A further payment on account was made by Capt. Stevenson to Turner of £30 on 30 November 1829.

The second bill for the extra work was for a reduced sum of £257.15.0, £253 of it being made up as follows:-

	£	s	d
Stonework	98	10	0
Brick(work)	118	15	0
Setting grates	10	10	0
Pulling down Poor house	25	5	0
	£253                      0                      0		

The different figures are not apparently reconcilable, and the difference between £253 and £257 is not explained. It does appear from an annotation on an accompanying document that Turner's account also puzzled those who had to pay it at the time, since he did not charge for putting in culverts, and drains in his second account, and it is still not known if these were in fact constructed.

A letter to Capt, Stevenson in March 1830, however, makes it fairly clear that the parish officers were concerned about the state of the building. A survey of the building had revealed "many cracks in the internal walls which are in consequence of the Foundation not being of a sufficient depth to get a sound bottom, or else from the footing courses not being of a proper width to carry the weight of the building as the Walls appear to have



gone down a little out of their places". The Surveyor did "not think the building would get worse" as "the weight of the walls (had) by this time taken a proper bearing".

Turner received his final payment of £37.15.0 on 10 December 1830 for work done "at the Work and Poor Houses". The reference to both "Work" and "Poor" houses is puzzling since this amount of money was exactly that required for the final payment for the workhouse. Possibly Turner had also been doing work on the three cottages which belonged to the parish (these were let and the rents applied to the reduction of the poor rate, hence the name Poor Houses) and was guilty of some confused thinking in presenting his account.

As well as possible worries about the quality of the work, a more congenial reason for the delay in payment may well have been shortage of funds. An undated letter (probably of early 1830) from G.S. (George Stevenson) to a person called Straford says "There is no end to our troubles. I enclose you William Wheeler's account 4 - 3 - 2 - he is a bankrupt and the village of Charlton will soon be the same if our bills are not more regularly discharged.  
(6)

Another request for parish payment "forthwith" as it was "of very great consequences" was sent on 21 June 1830 "having waited so long", by J. Packwood.

### III. Operation of the Workhouse

The workhouse started to operate in May 1827. Accounts are available from then until 1 January 1836, and enable a number of deductions to be made concerning the way the workhouse was run.

At the beginning, its officials were

Visitor Capt George Stevenson

Deputy Visitor Greenwood, who acted sometimes for Stevenson

Guardian of the Poor William Robinson, replaced by Samuel Herbert in May 1829.

Governor (resident, with his wife, at the workhouse) John Wilton. Wilton was paid 12s a week board wages, but only after he had apparently worked for 6 months. Wilton was replaced by McGregor from March 1828.

Records show the name, age, sex, marital status, and occupations of the workhouse residents, and dates of admission and "dismissal". (A detailed analysis of these records and workhouse accounts is in progress and conclusions will be published in a future issue). Thus the first two male residents were

Henry Russell, aged 67 "taylor", admitted 9 May 1827

John Varnish, aged 78, "carpenter", admitted 9 May 1827.

The monthly accounts of the workhouse which follow are fairly typical of its first year of operation.

Extract of monthly 28 day accounts 1827

Period starting:

<u>Bill for</u>	8 May 1827			5 June 1827			3 July 1827			31 July 1827			28 August 1827		
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
butcher	1	3	9		18	6		18	0		18	0		18	0
baker		18	8		16	0		13	4		13	4		13	4
flour			6			8			8			-			8
butter		2	8		-			-			-			-	
milk		3	0		3	0		3	6		3	6		3	6
beer		11	8		11	8		5	10		5	10		5	10
coals			-		2	9	0		-		1	6	6		-
sundries		15	10		19	4		17	6		19	6		18	11
fagots			-			-			-		15	0			-
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1½</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>

Extras

bacon			-			-									
cheese		6	1			-		7	4					9	11
clothing		9	4		2	15	6		-		1	11	6		-
utensils			-			-		16	3		2	10	8		2
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6½</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>

Price of bread				d			d			d			d		d
per quarter															
loaf				8			8			8			8		8
meat per lb				7½			6			6			6		6

In this period, the workhouse contained the Governor and two male residents.

The workhouse seems to have been thought a success, to judge from a note in the Cheltenham Journal of 19 October 1829.

"The Workhouse has been productive of immense advantage not only to the Parish in point of a reduction in expenses but even to the morality of the poor and of course to their well-being. Cases are there properly investigated and --- the guardians have a legal right to insist upon applicants becoming inmates of the Workhouse or to forgo all charitable assistance. Rather than be subjected to the discipline of a Workhouse, the poor will sometimes waive all claims to relief, and will necessarily trust more to their own exertions, become more industrious ---, nay even ashamed to become a burthen to their parishes".

IV. The End of the Workhouse

In December 1835 the churchwardens and overseers in Charlton Kings were told that a survey made jointly by the parish and the Cheltenham Board of Guardians had valued the Poorhouse and its fixtures and fittings at £850 and the annual rental at £42.10.0 (7). The cost of the survey was £5.

The survey was undertaken prior to the transfer of responsibility for the Workhouse to the Cheltenham Union. On 1 January 1836 the four existing residents, including "one idiot", were transferred to Cheltenham.

On 6 February 1836 an inventory of the "Furniture Fixtures Utensils and other effects in the Poor House" put the value at £81.1.0. Details of this property make interesting reading and are given in the Appendix.

For some years after this, "the --- old Charlton Kings Workhouse (was used) for the children". (8) It was apparently usual for older children in workhouses to spend half their time in school and half learning a trade. In June 1837, for example, it was decided "a Basketmaker would attend at the Charlton Workhouse at the rate of 3s per day to teach the boys there to make baskets". (9)

Finally in 1842 The Guardians of the Cheltenham Union gave notice of giving up the possession of the Workhouse premises. The building was sold in 1851. (10).

- (1) Sources, Charlton Kings Workhouse accounts and correspondence 1826-1842 in Gloucestershire Record Office (G.R.O. P 76 OV8/1, P 76a OV 8/1); W.H. Bridgman "Old Charlton Kings Records", typescript in Local History Centre, Old Bakery, Cheltenham.  
G. Hart A History of Cheltenham Leic. Univ. Press 1964; The Poor Law in Gloucestershire, G.R.O. 1974 (P.L.)  
Gloucestershire Historical Studies IX ed. B. Smith, p.50 "Rodborough Workhouse" M. Wulstan, Univ. of Bristol 1978
- (2) Information from the late Mr. Keen. The corrugated iron hut, now used as a nursery school, was erected to serve as a parish room c.1920, before St. Mary's Hall became available.
- (3) The spelling is given variously as Stevenson or Stephenson. Capt. Stevenson lived at Bafford House (Bridgman III 25) and had founded a school for the instruction of children of the working classes (Cheltenham Journal 12 October 1829, quoted by Bridgman). He was Visitor of the workhouse. Under Gilbert's Act 1782, a salaried Governor of the Workhouse and a salaried Guardian of the Poor were appointed by the JPs, and were subject to an unsalaried Visitor of the Poor.
- (4) New workhouses were also built at Cheltenham in 1809 and at Rodborough where the old one was pulled down in 1818 and the new one was opened in 1820. There is a reference to a Church House subsequently turned into a workhouse at Rodborough.
- (5) A firm of Cheltenham bankers.
- (6) A solicitor's letter of 14 January 1830 refers to the account of Wm Wheeler, a bankrupt, and requests early payment from the parish.
- (7) For comparison, the new Cheltenham Workhouse from 1809 was to be rented at £246 for 7 years, and was then bought for £2578 (Hart p.276)
- (8) Hart op.cit. p.287
- (9) P.L. xii and p.27 (from original reference GRO G/CH 8a/1)
- (10) Bridgman, V 53 explains about the acquisition of the workhouse site. A meeting of the Trustees of the Charity Estates of Charlton Kings was held on 22 December 1851 to determine the course to be taken to recover the lands of the Charity on which the building lately used as a workhouse still stood. It appeared that after the death of Samuel Higgs (who had survived

all his co-trustees) in 1824, no trustees were appointed until 1834. During this interval, under the authority of the Vestry, the ground of the Charity was taken over and used as a site for part of the work-house.

Appendix; Inventory of Workhouse Contents, February 1836

<u>Room</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Governor's room  (a salaried governor of the Workhouse was appointed, under an Act of 1782, by local JPs)	4 Rush seated chairs 1 Iron Fender Fire Irons 2 Deal cupboards in recess Hat rail and 3 Iron pins 26 in (ch) stove grate Turn screw hammers Sundry tools, small
Committee Room	1 Square Deal table 1 Tin fender, poker and shovel 1 Tailor's Bench 1 Shoe Makers Stall 4 Stools 2 Elbow Chairs 12 Ash Ditto 2 Deal cupboards in recesses, with shelves and 6 drawers in each 1 Stove grate 2 ditto in <u>Schoolroom</u>
Kitchen	12 Tin Breakfast Cans 12 Pint Cans 6 Half Pint Cans 12 Tin Candlesticks 13 Iron Spoons 7 Small Ditto 1 Long Sq (uare) Deal framed Table 4 Deal Forms Deal Dresser & shelves Small Kitchen Grate Iron Sway and Links
Pantry	4 large elm shelves and (bearers?) 4 angular ditto a stout meat Block 1 pair of (7 inch) copper Scales 1 set of Iron weights from 2lb to ½ oz 1 pair of steel 210 lb 1 cleaver & 1 cheese knife 1 iron water can 1 bread pan and cover 11 plates, 8 basins 4 cups and saucers Pepper and Salt box 2 tumblers 1 grater

<u>Room</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Brewhouse	2 washing Benches A 2 in. elm shelf 2 Washing tubs 1-40 gallon Iron Furnace with stack and cover 1-25 gallon ditto ditto a 4-fold deal clothes horse 1 iron boiler 2 iron saucepans 1 tin boiler 2 buckets 1 bowl Towell roller Broom & Mop Coal box 1 stone jug Frying pan & Ladle Brass skimmer a stout cooking grate a crane
Bedroom on Ground Floor	an iron bedstead a straw bed & flock bolster an elm box a maniac's chain
Yard & Garden	6 line posts 3 tons of coal 47 hurdles 8 sacks of potatoes wheel barrow 1 shovel 2 spades 2 spring forks 2 hoes 1 rake
Bakehouse	an oven Baking trough scraper & peel a poker and shovel a beam and scales 3 shelves and knifeboard coal riddle a hatchet & coal hammer
Passage	Dinner bell Cloak rail & 9 pegs

<u>Room</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Storeroom	Windowframe, partly glazed 3 door bars 2 stout elm shelves Straight waistcoat Whitewash brush 9 Towels 2 Table cloths 2 square hand baskets Ironing blanket 2 Flat irons 2 battered marking irons 1 bush(el) of onions 1 brass (cask)
Bedrooms	4 col <sup>d</sup> (coloured) sacking bottom stump bedsteads 2 plain lath bottom ditto 2 half tester ditto 2 sacking bottom Iron Bedsteads 1 sml (small) Turn-up ditto 9 flock beds and 8 Bolsters 3 straw pallets 31 blankets 8 coverlets 1 White Counterpane 3 pairs of stout sheets 8 pairs of very old ditto 2 Night Commodes 6 Elm Cloth(e)s boxes 2 Deal Dressing Tables An Oak Chest of Drawers a Basin Stand with blue Ewer basin and Chamber 3 White Chambers 7 Various Grates

The amounts of furniture and utensils listed above suggest that the Workhouse was intended to accommodate about a dozen people at a time. In fact, the numbers resident between 1827 and 1836 varied from 2 to 27.

M.J. Greet.

8. ONE OF OUR LOST HOUSES - The Grange, Horsefair Street

Sketch of The Grange

by Mr. George Ryland, drawn with the aid of a photograph taken c.1900. The photograph shows the back of the house with the timber-framing covered with plaster. That plaster had been removed by c.1914.



The history of the house

The Grange was one of several L shaped timber-framed houses with stone tiled roofs built in Charlton Kings c.1600.

The Council in the Marches of Wales in 1564 gave permission for Charlton Kings tenants to fence 3 acres out of every 20 acres of arable they held, and on these hays or inclosures houses were built around 1600. The Grange was freehold and had 5 acres of land attached to it, a stretch from Horsefair Street to the Hearne brook. This must represent a total holding of about 33 acres.

As the Grange was not copyhold, we cannot trace it through the manor court books. Colonel Meale lived there 1831 and his widow Sarah in 1848, when the tithe map shows the house still L shaped, without its Victorian additions. Those were the work of the Revd James Daubeny, the occupier in 1870. He sold part of the land to Edwin Attwood in 1875.



When the house was bought as a Vicarage in 1888, it cost £2500. It was sold for demolition in 1933 for a mere £1600.

M.P.

### The Grange as I remember it

The Grange was really the Vicarage. The last Vicar to live in it was the Revd. Thomas Hodson, with his wife, several sons, and one daughter. It was a loving and well loved home.

On leaving Charlton Kings at about 1906 to take the living at Oddington near Stow-on-the-Wold, his successor the Revd. Edgar Neale being a bachelor did not want to live in the large Vicarage, so a modest house in the Cirencester Road near the four crossings became the Vicarage. Mrs. Mary Heberden, widow of the late Rector of Oddington, naturally was expected to vacate the Rectory for the Revd. Hodson, and not having anywhere to live was very grateful to accept the tenancy of The Grange until she found another suitable home. Ironically, she did not find anywhere she liked so well, and remained with her family at The Grange until her death in 1932. My father had been groom and coachman for the Revd. and Mrs. Heberden at Oddington, and with my mother and five year old brother came with Mrs. Heberden to Charlton Kings, and I still live in the house across the road which was bought for us to live in. I was born two years later, and so am a Charltonian!

The Grange to us was a really wonderful house, and how we loved to run on the lawns, play in the summer house, and walk in the well-looked-after gardens, both kitchen and flower gardens. Beyond the lawns and gardens was a paddock and a path wound all the way round. We loved the walk, and at the bottom end it looked over to the house and grounds of Glynrosa, all so lovely.

The Grange was a very large house and had definitely been added on to at some period. The front door faced west and opened into a very large hall with pale green distempered walls. It even had a fireplace and was warmly carpeted and furnished beautifully with oak furniture, a lovely carved-legged table in the middle and oak chests around, a grandfather clock showing all one wanted to know, a source of wonder at any age. From the hall, doors opened into three very spacious rooms, namely the drawing room and dining-room looking out on to the lawns, a morning room looking on to the front drive; and a servants' hall the other side of the front door, also looking on to the drive. All the windows downstairs had shutters, some I would say oak, certainly those in the hall.

Then again, from the hall in front of the heavy oak front door was the staircase extending right to the top of the house, with two landings leading to bedrooms looking out on to the lawns and flowerbeds - four bedrooms, and a dressing room leading from one very large bedroom which had a double posted bed with quite elaborate tapestry - on the main landing, a very nice bedroom facing south and west, and it had its own sun lounge, we called it in those days a boudoir. It was Mrs. Heberden's room and she loved it, so bright, and with a good view of the hills. Opposite on that landing also, a bedroom looking on to the drive facing west. Another landing, near the one for the first bedrooms I have described, led to a large room used by the Children's old nurse as her own bed-sittingroom. At the end of that

landing, one looked out towards St. Mary's church tower. Two bedrooms, already described, opened from this passage landing and looked on to the lawns.

The final part of the staircase ascended to the top of the house, where there were three good attics on the landings; in between two of the attics, very spacious housemaids' cupboards. The attics were for the servants, one large enough for two persons, and each had a hip bath for use.

The bathroom was on one of the other landings between two bedrooms, incredibly small in comparison to the size of the other rooms.

I must, on going back to the lovely drawingroom, remember the very nice tile-floored conservatory which led from the drawing room through a door; always warm and sweet-scented, many of the flowers grown for giving to St. Mary's. The lilies were always beautiful, I could never forget them.

The kitchen, scullery, larder, parlourmaid's pantry, storeroom, and cloakroom were all on the ground floor, all together, on the south side of the house. Coming in from the back drive double doors, one passed the coach-house, harness room, stables for horse and pony, a large shed for some tools, knife cleaning machine, and shoe and boot cleaning facilities; then, round the corner, passing a lawn and beech tree, towards the back entrance of the house, coal and fuel houses under cover before reaching the back door.

The carriage was eventually replaced with a car, and my father became the chauffeur instead of groom and coachman. The old horse became too old to work, his name was Go Bang, and the pony was Black Bess.

Going into the house again, there was a large bright kitchen with a lovely view of the hills, a large kitchen-range duly shining with blacklead, two ovens, steel fenders, high mantel shelf, all hard work to keep clean! a dresser taking up one wall and the everyday dining-room china resting upon it, also many cupboards and drawers. From the kitchen, a storeroom, and at a certain time each morning, after orders, one asked for anything wanted in either food or materials for cleaning; the scullery on the other side of the main passage, again spacious, and many pots and pans in copper to be cleaned, beside vegetables to be prepared and the washing up. Glass and silver were looked after in the parlourmaid's pantry, with a sink and all facilities there. Opposite the pantry was the door leading to a very large cellar. I could well believe that at one time there was a passage from there to the church! A larder between the scullery and pantry held the two very large food safes, and a long cold slab along the longest wall. Part of the cellar too was useful, and everywhere kept in good order. All stone floors in this part of the house which had to be scrubbed!

Inside the doors of the back drive was a bank upon which stood a very large mulberry tree. The fruit in its season was a great attraction to the children on their way home from school. So one or two would stand guard at the doors, while the rest would scramble on to the bank and pick up as many mulberries as possible before the warning "A-up, 'ere's somebody coming!"

A cherry tree was another attraction, it was trained the length and breadth of the stable wall, but was a rather more difficult tree from the distance to trespass. Both mulberries and cherries were beautiful to look at, but oh! so sour, not for desert, delicious cooked of course; however, the children enjoyed the adventure, trying to obtain stolen fruits! One often wondered what mothers said about their mulberry stains on limbs and clothing, the fruit was so juicy.

It certainly was a lovely old house with much character. It called for hard work but rewarding work, each member of the staff (five indoors) doing her own job with pride, and the three outside workers the same. Besides my father, there was a gardener and a young man to help him. Inside and out were kept in near perfection. It was very sad when The Grange had to be sold and eventually taken down. The one consolation is, that it has made room for fourteen families to have homes, and, I like to feel, very happy homes.

D. Hawkins

9. J.F. Fry, Headmaster, Charlton Kings Boys' Council School

An appreciation by George Ryland

When "Boss" Fry came to this village as headmaster of the Boys' Council School, few could have imagined what a pearl without price this little community had acquired; and by the time it had dawned on them, they had started to evaluate in much the same terms his wife Carrie.

He was a native of the village. His family and roots were here, but he had been away some time, partly doing his teacher-training at Winchester.

It was not an auspicious moment to arrive. The school had been for a long time under the satisfactory but unimaginative rule of a Mr. Foley, but he retired and was replaced for a short while by a Mr. Peglar, who must have had some kind of breakdown - the boys gave it much less accurate and complimentary names - and his control of the 200 odd high-spirited and over-charged pupils was little to start with and soon entirely disappeared. A sort of chaotic mob-rule reached a stage where teaching was completely impossible.

But when J.F.Fry took over, circumstances altered dramatically. Any good teacher knows that the basic of most learning is order, and order the new headmaster rapidly restored. It was here, I suspect, that his ever-lasting nickname was born. From then on, there was no doubt as to who was "boss" Mind, there were no dictator tactics. There certainly was an iron hand but it was hidden in a very thick velvet glove. His weapons were numerous and varied and I would not dare to attempt to enumerate them, but they were all based on a profound interest in the pupil and an attempted canalizing of his energies. Organised games became organised games and not a free-for-all of the rabble. And it was surprising to find their pleasure enhanced. In fact, law and order became for a while a benevolent dictatorship but the subjects soon found that they could have as much liberty as they could earn.

He was a man who believed in what he was doing and he enjoyed doing it. In years since, I have often thought that the Boss was happy because he knew where he was going - he had got what he wanted. He had a school on the fringe of an urban area between the country and the town. He knew and respected the magnetic draw of the town for the country boy and saw before many of his contemporaries the economic havoc this could cause if left entirely unchallenged. He therefore set himself to impress his pupils with the beauties of the countryside and get them to look for their joys and interests rather in the fields than in the streets. And what a backcloth the Cotswolds gave him! On certain fine days, the school would close and everybody with pocket-lunches would set out for long rambles over the wolds. Armed with John's Flowers of the Field, the invasion of the hill-side flora commenced, and secrets and wonders were discovered of which we had never dreamed. He demonstrated to us the pollination of the bee orchis. It was a little fairy story in itself.

He was himself a great reader and he took great pains to introduce us to this branch of our great heritage. This was not unique. Many competent and conscientious teachers up and down the country were doing the same. But he provided us with a "Library". That for a Council school in those early days was unique. It was no Bodleian. In fact it was just three closely packed rows in the top of an old cupboard; but we found it full of pure magic.

He had his own method of introducing us to this magic. He would draw a class round him, perch upon his high stool, and producing some fascinating story, commence to read. Part way through, when there was no doubt that the story had gripped, the book was quietly closed. "Well, there it is" said he, "If you liked it, it is in the library. You can finish it for yourselves!" And finish many of them we did - and not always the immediately attractive fiction. When I passed on to higher education, I had already read among many others, Black Arrow, White's Natural History of Selborne, Little Flowers of St. Francis, Cobbett's Rural Rides, Froude's English Seaman, much of Froissart, and Jessop's Coming of the Friars.

His enthusiasm and methods appealed to another great educationist of his time, Mr. Geoffrey Household, then busy floating his P.N.E.U. scheme. He was Secretary for Education for Gloucestershire, and lived in the village. If he could spare a Friday afternoon, he loved to come in and visit the school, draw up the stool, and read to us. There, among others, we met Kipling and the joy of Puck of Pook's Hill.

F.J.F. was certain that it was important that his pupils knew what was happening in the world about them. If education was adapting one's self to one's environment, one should know something of the changing environment. These were the days before the "media", and it was generally held that newspapers were not for children. The ordinary paper certainly made no attempt to be attractive to younger children. But this was not to deter the Boss. He convinced his Managers that this was an educational necessity and the money was found to have the Sphere and the Illustrated London News delivered weekly at the School. These we devoured with enthusiasm and often glee, little realising that this was his method of teaching us contemporary history and giving us material with which to form our opinions of current events and current culture. I had never seen a ballet. As a member of a strict nonconformist family, I was not allowed inside a theatre. But I knew all about the Russian Invasion of Western Europe by Stravinski, Diaghilev, and Leon Bakst - particularly Bakst, whose barbaric colour opened up a new world to me.

The educational influence of the Boss was far-reaching, well beyond the walls wherein he held undisputed sway. If one definition of education be "learning to live a civilized life in a civilized community", his was an example for all of us to see. He lived in the village, he was part of the village, and what interested pupil or parent was of interest to him. He was a good churchman and a churchwarden, but always had time to be present at the village cricket or football match which was the feature of Saturday afternoons, or the horticultural meetings in the week that prepared throughout the year for the great village jamboree (though the word was not ours in those days), and Annual Flower Show.

He led a full life, going unostentatiously about his lawful occasions, always doing whatever concerned him a little better than the man next to him. To many of us, he was our model of the good citizen, and his spirit, I am certain, still moves benevolently in the minds of many who were privileged to sit at the feet of our local Gamaliel.