

CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

BULLETIN 2



CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Road plan Q/SR h1784 C/I reproduced by permission of Gloucestershire Record Office. The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements in papers.

In our first Bulletin, we concentrated on a few of the older houses of Charlton Kings. In this second Bulletin, the emphasis is on Charlton people, our Charlton-born artist Thomas Robins (1716-1770) and his family, the militia men of 1780-1814, and lastly, characters still remembered, Tom Smith, and 'the Tailor of Gloucester'.

But people mean work and recreation. The study of Southfield farm is our first attempt to discover our agricultural past. The token from the Royal Hotel suggests how some men spent their wages.

The Society is grateful to all who have allowed us to use their title deeds, their recollections, and their local knowledge. More information and more records, to fill the gaps and answer the questions, will be greatly appreciated.

The Editor.

THOMAS ROBINS, "THE LIMNER OF BATH" AND HIS CHARLTON KINGS BACKGROUND

Recent exhibitions of drawings and paintings by Thomas Robins (1716-1770) held in London, Bath, and Cheltenham, and John Harris's discovery of the artist and book Gardens of Delight on his work, have focussed attention on a man born and brought up in this parish. In this paper are collected all the facts so far known about his background and family, with an assessment of his painting and drawing of Mr. Prinn's house (Charlton Park) on topographical rather than artistic merit.

a. His family and family home

Charlton Kings had several houses which were copyhold of the manor of Ashley and were distinguished from other copyhold messuages by the term "beedle messuages". We don't yet understand the origin or meaning of that term. By the 18th century, no special obligation was attached to possession of a beedle messuage, though admissions and surrenders generally use the term.

One such beedle messuage was in Moorend, the section of Charlton parish between Up End and Bafford on the south, and Sandy Lane (the turnpike road to Cirencester and London) on the west. Moorend Road did not exist, and Sandy Lane continued straight across Prinn's land. Part of what the OS calls Moorend Lane and many Charltonians know as Laundry Lane or New Court Road was Moor or More End Street, which continued on the east side of New Court (Mr. Whithorne's house) over Mr. Prinn's land and west of his house, crossed the Lilleybrook by a bridge, and joined the turnpike road somewhere near the Thirlestaine road turning.

In 1709, by surrender of Annabella Walker and her trustees, (1) the Moorend beedle messuage came into the tenure of William Robins and his wife Sarah. The surrender, paid for by Edward Mitchell, lord of the manor, was made to use of William Robins for life, Sarah for life, and her heirs by William or trustees of her will. This indicates that the property was actually bought by her, probably with her marriage portion. The copyhold consisted of "that messuage called Beedles meese in the tything of Ashley", bounded with a close then or late of Samuella Whittorne on the north, land then or late of Thomas Pates on the west, and the way on the south and east. The reference to "the tything of Ashley" was inserted to distinguish this tenement from others nearby which were in the tithing of Bafford (part of Cheltenham manor).

Thomas Pates had two of the Bafford tenements (2). One was the easternmost tenement on the south side of the street (probably what we know as Spring Cottage), with 5 acres of land across the road. That house was out of repair, and Pates lived in his other tenement, which stood back from the north side of Bafford Street, approached by "An Old Floundrous and Ruinous Bridle Road not passable but in Summer Times called Grindels Ford". A farm house corresponding to Pates' and the bridle road are marked on a plan of 1784 (3); it is the road said in 1709 to lie on the south side of the beedle messuage. The road on the east was Moor End Street, represented today by Moor End Lane or Laundry Lane, though both ends of the road have been diverted slightly, the south end in 1784 and the north end a few years later. (See plan).

A close called Grindles Breach, with land of Mrs. Hester Brereton on the south and west, went with the house in 1709. (4)

All this information places William Robins' beedle message in Moor End Lane, on the site of the Diamond Laundry. The use of the word "meese" when Robins got possession suggests that it was an old house, in need of extensive alteration and repair. (5)

We know from a Constables' account of 1792 (6) that Robins' beedle message was charged with payment of 9½d lord's rent, 2d tithing silver, and 4d bedreap money yearly, payments which indicate a mediaeval origin for the tenement.

Sarah Robins died without children by William. Under her will dated 8 August 1712, she authorised her trustees to surrender to use of her kinswoman Margaret, daughter of her brother Francis Holder, and Margaret's heirs. But William Robin the husband was to be executor, and the will could not take effect during his life. The original will was lodged in the manor court by Sarah's brother John Holder and the trustees (7), and William continued to live in the house. But when he remarried and had children to succeed him, he wanted to be more than a life tenant, and in 1718 paid Margaret Holder £42 for a surrender to himself and his wife. He did not buy back Grindles Breach, and the heriot payable to the lord of the manor on the transfer was reduced from 17s 4d to 8s 8d in consequence.

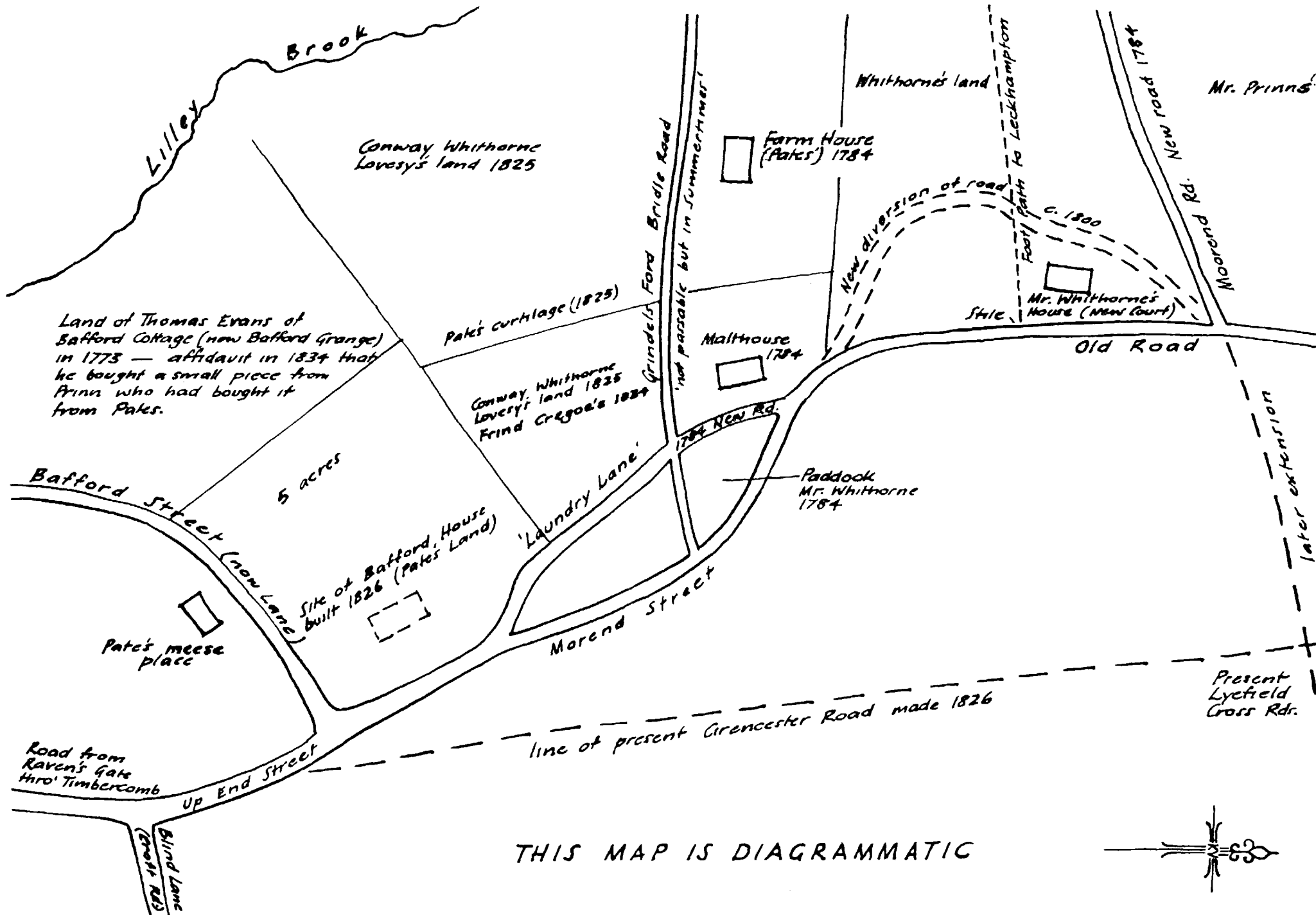
William had remarried in 1713. He and his second wife Anne had 7 children, Richard baptised 1 March 1714, Thomas 3 February 1716, William 23 July 1718, John 7 January 1721, Henry 12 June 1724, Anne 9 June 1727, and Priscilla 26 May 1731. So Thomas, the second child, was one of a large family, all growing up except the youngest girl, who died at the age of 5. (8)

Anne, wife of William Robins, was buried on 1 July 1747.

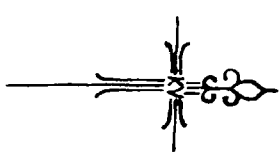
In 1755, William Robins with his sons Richard and William the younger mortgaged his house in Moorend with the outhouse, garden, and orchard "late in possession of William Robins and then of Richard Robins". Why William had moved away and where, is not explained. Richard and his wife Elizabeth had had 4 children baptised in Charlton Kings, Ann 26 July 1743, Elizabeth 8 June 1746, William 8 September 1752, and Thomas 23 June 1755; but in the entry for 1746, Richard is described as "of Deerhurst". It is conceivable that Richard and his father lived alternately at Charlton Kings and Deerhurst, attending to some business or property interests there. William Robins senior is not buried at St. Mary's nor are Richard and his wife.

By 1768, William Robins the third son had inherited the beedle message. He and his wife Jane surrendered it in that year to use of his brother Henry Robins of Charlton Kings wheeler the 5th son. The property consisted of a house, malthouse backside, garden and orchard. That malthouse is marked on the 1784 road diversion plan, and suggests that by the 1760s, if not earlier, the beedle message was a brewery or pub. (9)

When Annabella Walker held the house, it was divided into two dwellings. William Robins senior used it as one. Now it was divided into two again. The 1777 tenants were Richard Haines (perhaps Richard Haines baker) and Mark George (buried on 25 July 1781 as Mark George blacksmith, which indicates a smithy). The mortgage was paid off in 1787, and Henry Robins came back to live in one half of the house, with Sarah Bradshaw in the other. The message, garden, and orchard were settled to use of Henry and his wife Elizabeth for their lives, and their heirs, William Robins of Cheltenham carpenter as elder brother joining in the surrender.



THIS MAP IS DIAGRAMMATIC



William had probably moved into Cheltenham to take advantage of increased house building there. He and his wife Jane had had 4 children baptised at Charlton Kings, Sarah 17 April 1746, William 4 May 1748, Elizabeth 4 June 1750, Thomas 6 January 1752. Another child, Mary, was not baptised here but was brought back to the family parish for burial on 27 April 1777; if she were the 5th child, born around 1754, her birth and her parent's removal to Cheltenham may have happened about the same time.

Henry Robins acquired the beedle messuage from his brother William in 1768 and in that year he and his wife Elizabeth had a daughter Sarah baptised on 26 July 1768 at St. Mary's. We don't know where they were living in the 1770s or where their son Henry was born. Henry the father returned to Charlton Kings in 1787 and died here, being buried on 22 June 1802. In 1803 Henry Robins the younger claimed the property as eldest son and heir of Henry Robins late of Charlton Kings deceased and paid his 8s 8d heriot on admission. But he did not intend to settle, for he was by profession an auctioneer, living in the parish of St. Paul, Covent Garden. Two years later, on 1 November 1805, he and his wife Ann surrendered to use of John Whithorne of Charlton Kings esq his messuage, malthouse, garden, and orchard "being a beedle messuage -- formerly in possession of Henry Robins deceased and now of Joseph Bradshaw". It sounds as though Joseph Bradshaw had succeeded Sarah Bradshaw in her half of the house, and the other half was vacant.

John Whithorne owned the adjoining freehold property, New Court, and some of the land that subsequently became Moorend Park. He left his property to Elizabeth Lovesy and her son Conway Whithorne Lovesy; and in 1833 they agreed to sell a stretch of land between Sandy Lane on the west and Moor End Lane on the east (part of it land which had been Pates') to a retired Birmingham business man, Frind Cregoe, who had come to settle in Charlton Kings and had been living at Charlton House as Higgs' tenant. The transaction was completed on 20 December 1833, when they surrendered to his use 10-12 acres of copyhold land, including "a parcel of ground being part of the garden called Moorend Orchard which is separated from the residue of the garden by metes and bounds and is now in occupation of Frind Cregoe, and also a small triangular piece of ground formerly the site of a lime kiln, which two last pieces of ground were formerly part of the garden and orchard belonging to a messuage and premises of Henry Robins, who sold and surrendered them to John Whithorne deceased." The triangle of land which had been the site of a lime kiln is TM 271 (1.0.15) at the bottom of Needles Butt. The rest was merged in the Moorend Park lawn.

It looks as though Henry Robins had been getting lime-stone from Leckhampton hill, bringing it down to this kiln via Sandy Lane, and burning it, either to use on the land or to sell for building. Like his brother William, he may have had a hand in Cheltenham's development.

This information about Thomas Robins' background places him as coming from a family of craftsmen, with a special interest in houses. At Bath, Thomas was witnessing the city's development, with a keen eye for its architecture, and when he came to paint his country-house pictures, he enjoyed recording minute details of their style and surroundings. He may even have designed some of the rococo fantasies he has preserved for us in his paintings.

- (1) Ashley manor court records consist of original surrenders and admissions, fastened together, and a court book for 1742-1812 (Gloucestershire Record Office D 109)
- (2) Bafford House title deeds, kindly made available by Mr. C.R. Costley-White
- (3) GRO Q/SR h 1784 C/1
- (4) The Brereton family lived in a freehold messuage on or near the site of the Victorian house called Brierton House (now Barrington Lodge). Mrs. Hester Brereton was buried on 17 March 1708
- (5) Elizabethan legislation restricting cottage building was still on the statute book, hence the importance of registering any "meese place" where a new house could be erected. The word may only mean that the house was so out of repair as to be uninhabitable for the time.
- (6) GRO P 76 M I 1/1
- (7) Between original surrenders C 26 and C 27
- (8) I am very much obliged to the Vicar for allowing me to use the parish registers.
- (9) Local tradition says the laundry was previously a brewery

b. Thomas Robins and his children; and his investment in Charlton property

Thomas must have married when he was only 19. He and his wife Margaret had 6 children all baptised in Charlton Kings, Mary 14 March 1736 (married Bartley Wilson on 25 March 1754), William 16 August 1738 (buried 2 October 1740), Luke John 28 February 1740, Ann 4 April 1743, Pricilla 10 May 1745 and Thomas 19 April 1748. Though he was working in Bath from c.1740, his family remained in Charlton Kings, presumably living with his parents. This would fit in with the elder brother Richard being away at Deerhurst in the 1740s. It explains why Thomas was often at home during this period, sketching Mr. Prinn's house c.1740 and painting it with its improvements c.1748, and doing a number of Cheltenham and Painswick pictures in that year.

In 1750, calling himself "Thomas Robins of Charlton Kings painter" he invested money in a copyhold house here. Perhaps he felt the need of a separate home for his growing family. Perhaps it was just an investment. The house had been held and occupied by the Ballinger family till 1721 when it was surrendered to use of Thomas Symons and his wife (1). It was described as being in Cudnall Street and having Ryeworth field on the north and east, land late of William Harrison, subsequently of Mr. Portrat, on the west. We have to remember that Cudnall used to continue past Grove House and down the slope on a diagonal line to the ford in Spring Bottom (no London Road and no School Road from Spring Bottom up to the London Road, as we know them). If Mr. Portrat's land were the site of the later Porturet House, as seems likely, then Robin's copyhold was very near Spring Bottom, perhaps the present No. 60 (much older than it appears from the outside).

Thomas Symons and his wife had to mortgage the place to raise the purchase price, and eventually that mortgage was foreclosed. So the holding came into the possession of Samuel Sloper (of Charlton House), and by 1750 of his daughter and heiress Mary Sloper. She kept back the selion of land in Ryeworth field which had gone with the house, and surrendered to use of Thomas Robins on 30 May 1750 a house, garden and orchard and a close adjoining the tenement. She then sold the land (1/8th acre) to Edward Gale.

The fact that Mary Robins was married in Charlton Kings in 1754 shows that Thomas and his family had not left the parish for good by that year. He was still doing local views (2) in 1757 and 8 (Painswick and Sandywell park) and made an extensive tour of Shropshire and Staffordshire in 1759. His drawing of Haymes, Bishop's Cleeve, was done in September 1760. Perhaps it was only after that, when he was getting more commissions in Bath, that a move to the city was indicated. He died in 1770 in his house in Merchant's Court, Bath.

Between 1770 and 1792, this house seems to have been sold to the lord of the manor, Dodington Hunt. The Constable's notebook shows that Dodington Hunt was personally charged with some small customary payments including 6d and 9½d for "late Robins". Hunt was only a life tenant of the manor and estate, so any property he bought remained charged in case he sold again before his son could inherit.

- (1) Ashley manor original surrenders C 49 and C 72; court book 1742-1812 (GRO D 109)
- (2) Chronology of his life in the exhibition catalogue, Royal Institute of British Architects, 1975-6.

c. Thomas Robins and his views of Mr. Prinn's house at Charlton Park

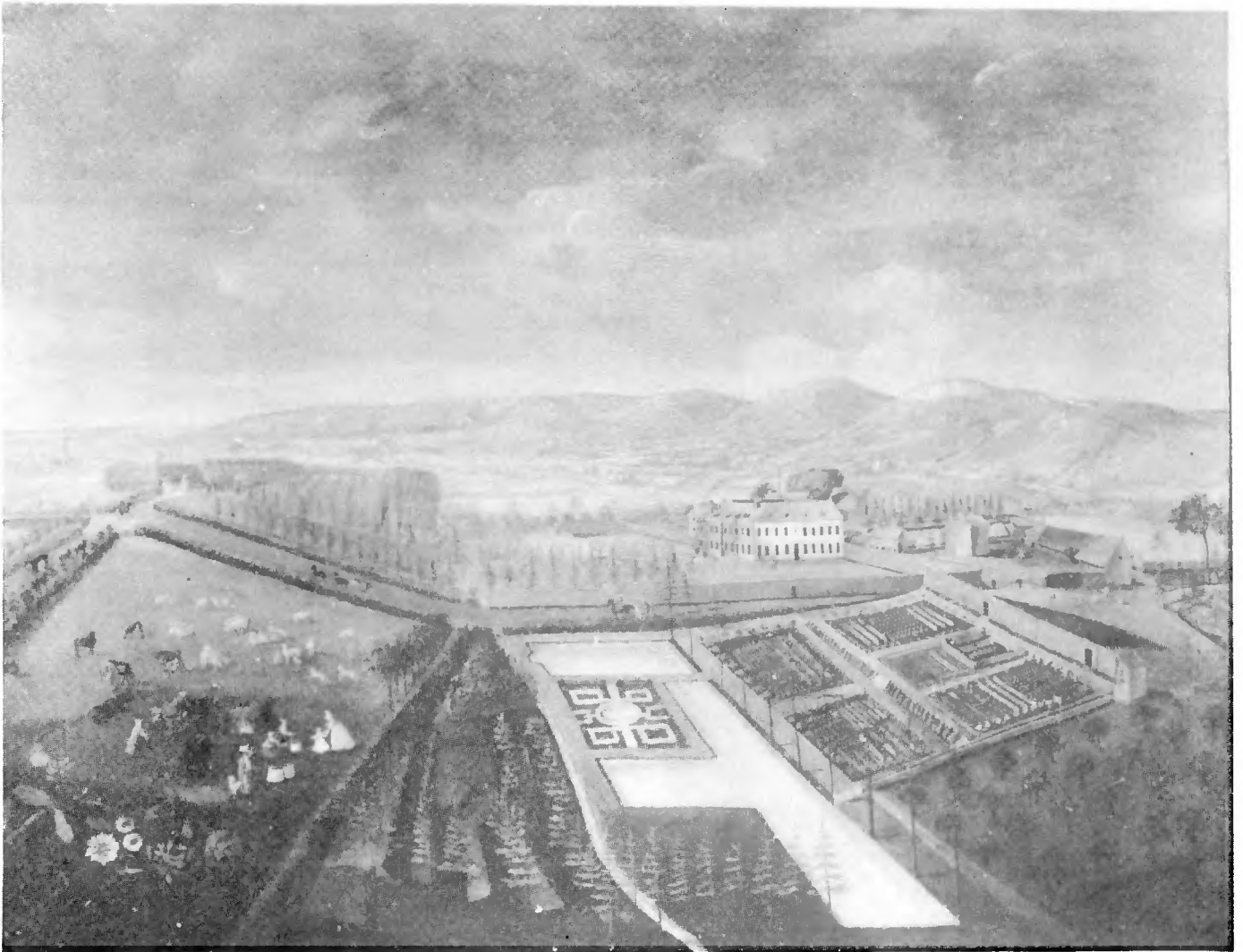
As we have seen, until 1755 (or later), Thomas Robins was domiciled in Charlton Kings. He knew the area well.

About 1740, he did a pen and ink sketch of the west and south sides of John Prinn's house with its adjoining farmyard, the long stone barn and detached grannary or dovecote in front of the barn, the rickyard to the east. About 1748 he did another study of the house, this time showing the west and north fronts, and again bringing in the farmyard. William Prinn had inherited the house in 1743 and had had time to make various improvements to its environs.

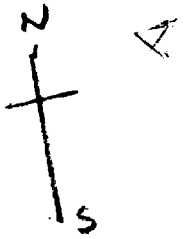
In the sketch, Robins shows a walled garden on the west of the house, separating it from a public road. By 1748, William Prinn had removed the north wall of this garden, so that it now lay open to a lawn along the whole north front of the house, and to a plantation of young conifers against the road. A newly planted avenue, parallel to the road, ran down to a pair of eagle-headed gates standing near, but not at, the cross-roads where two roads and a lane met.

In the angle between the roads, Robins showed a meadow with cows, sheep, and people, the stream in the centre foreground terraced and planted with conifers. Water was diverted from that stream to feed a formal pond and canals, divided from each other by a causeway and a peninsula knot garden. On the far side of the water was a drive with a white gate, a kitchen garden, a garden wall with a gazebo on the near corner by the road, and an orchard.

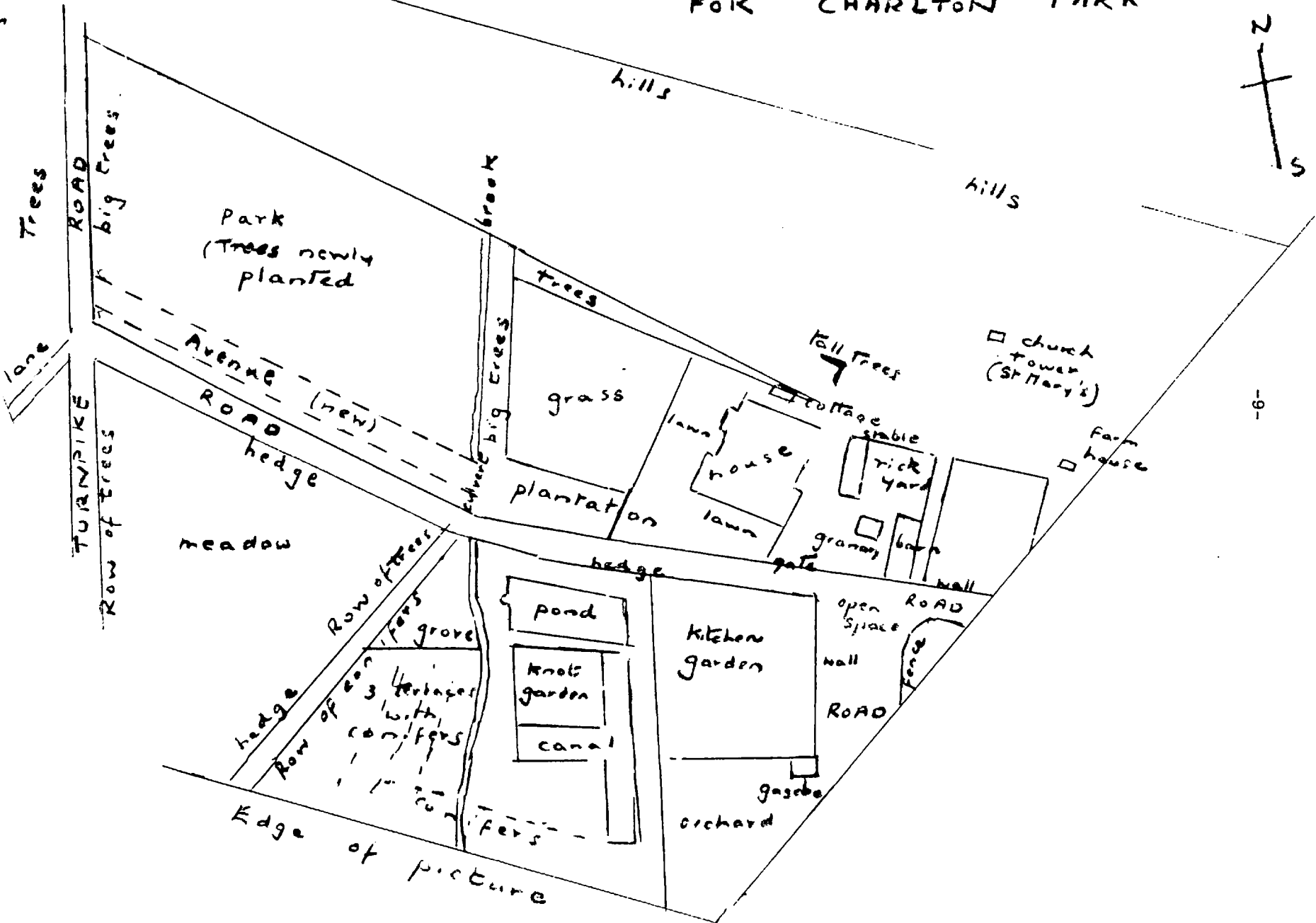
Photograph of Thomas Robins' picture of Charlton Park, reproduced by permission of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum.

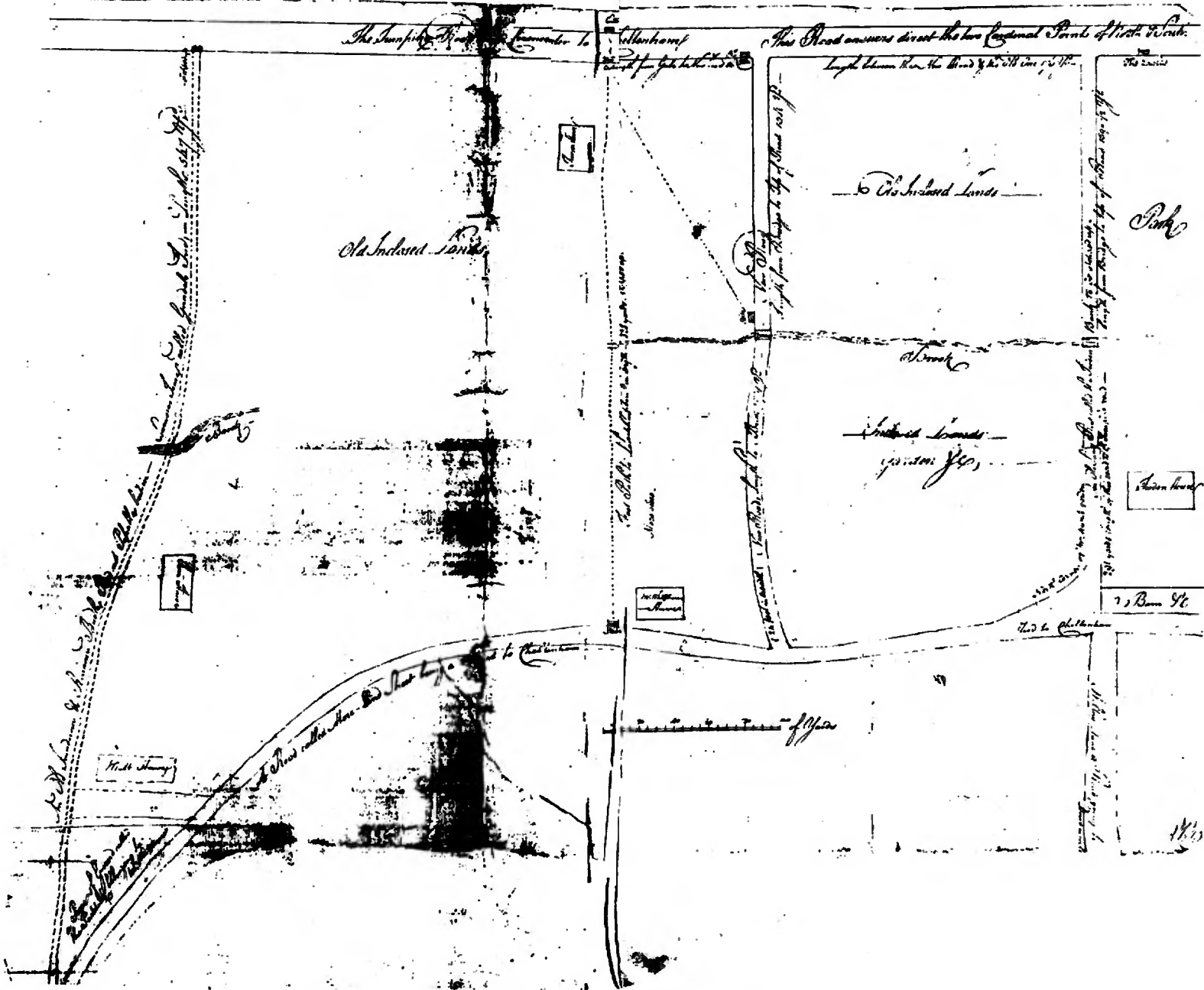


THOMAS ROBINS' LAY. OUT
FOR CHARLTON PARK



Cheltenham
Parish
Church





Plan Q/SRH 1784 C/1

How accurate was Thomas Robins in his depiction of the environs of this house? Do his delightful gardens represent anything like the actual scene?

His general topographical trustworthiness is vindicated by comparison of his lay-out for the Charlton Park estate with that given in a plan submitted to Quarter Sessions in 1784, when the public road by the house (then the property of Dodington Hunt) was to be closed; and that again with Mitchell's map of 1806, after the substitute roads were in use. The Quarter Sessions plan is diagrammatical, and we can best compare it with Robins' picture by reducing that to a diagram also.

Robins, painting in 1748, was not hampered by the modern convention that everything included in a picture must actually fall within the area he could have viewed through a square frame. His view, laid out flat, is trapezoid, for this allowed him to include the spire of Cheltenham parish church and a panorama of hills. To do it comfortably, he made one significant alteration to his landscape. He drew his middle distance road with a slight bend to the right after it crossed the brook, where the 1784 plan draws it straight, and in fact (as Mr. Rawes' plan of Charlton Park fields in Bulletin 1 clearly demonstrated) it bent slightly left. Otherwise, Robins' detail cannot be faulted. Just where he puts them, the eagle gates are marked on the 1784 plan, and the embryo park, young trees filling an oblong area, with a wind-break of mature trees on two sides. The "inclosed lands, gardens etc" and "north corner of Mr. Hunt's garden", as shown in 1784, correspond to Robins' orchard and kitchen garden opposite the house. The painting indicates that by the farm-yard and great barn there was an open space where two roads met. That space and cross-road are marked on the plan as the junction of "More-End Street being a road to Cheltenham" and "Hollow Lane a road going to Dowdeswell". To us, these are Moorend Lane continued down the back drive of Charlton Park, and Horsefair Street continued down Brookway Lane and then turning west to come into the line of the front drive. Charlton Park back drive, from the house to Cudnall bridge, is the substitute road to Cheltenham proposed in 1784, to take the place of the road Robins knew called Forden Bank on the west side of the house.

If Robins is so exact in his detail of the grounds, we have no reason to question his accuracy when it comes to the architecture of the house. In his sketch, he shows the south front without dormer windows and with the door in a different position. Both appear like that in a photograph taken by Miss D. Vassar-Smith c.1920. In sketch and painting, he shows the west front as having a ground and first floor, with attics and dormer windows above, and no cornice or pediment. His west front was not symmetrical but had 4 windows on one side and 5 on the other of the door into the walled garden. This "defect" was remedied by Dodington Hunt when he raised the west front to create a second chamber floor, and extended the block so that he could have 5 windows on each side of the door downstairs. There had been no window over the door in Robins' day, but Hunt created one, giving that storey 11 windows in all. This work was carried out between 1784, when Hunt inherited (as widower husband and heir of Elizabeth, William Prinn's only child) and 1789. A print of the new front dated 1789 was published by Bigland in 1791.

On the north face of the house, Robins seems to show a minor face-lift in progress - a cornice partially conceals the long roof with its dormer windows on all but the far section beyond the easternmost bay. The two bays on this side of the house may have been William Prinn's addition, to break what seemed to him a rather uninteresting facade. A low stone wall along the north front also stops before that final section.

About the same time that Dodington Hunt removed Forden Bank road and built his new west front, he removed the farmyard, pulled down the barn and stable, and built the present barn or stable east of the house. He made a new kitchen garden, fully walled, on the NE. The lake west of the house did not exist when the 1789 print was made, but was landscaped c.1800 (see Mr. Rawes' plan in Bulletin 1). The eagle gateposts were brought to the entrance on the east side of the house (but not to the Cirencester road entry till c.1939).

M. Paget

d. The distant scene in Thomas Robins' view of Charlton Park

Behind the house in Robins' painting is a panorama of the Cotswold escarpment. The hills are accurately drawn: from the right are shown Cleeve Common and Cleeve Cloud; then (directly behind the house) Nottingham Hill; then Oxenton Hill, with Crane Hill to the left again, and a little towards the viewer. In the background is Bredon Hill, in my native county!

Between the house and Cleeve Cloud is Prestbury church, and, almost in the centre of the picture, the church at Bishop's Cleeve.

Cheltenham Church and the Great House (opposite where the Art Gallery now is) are correctly placed.

P. Love

2. TOKEN FROM THE ROYAL HOTEL, CHARLTON KINGS

This beautiful example of a Charlton Kings trade token was recently received in change instead of a 2p piece, by Mr. J. Barnfield, who has generously given it to the Local History Society.

Trade tokens were only issued at times when change was scarce, so this example must go back to the early days of the Royal. If a man received this 2d token as change when he bought a drink, he had to come back another day to spend it, for it was not legal tender elsewhere!

The Royal, as its facade tells us, was built in 1830 on copyhold land. Mitchell shows the site without any house in 1806.

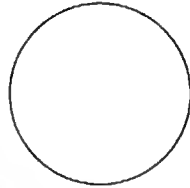
By 1848, the tithe apportionment shows it, with James Agg Gardner as owner of the pub and of Chestnut terrace (TM 335). So there has probably been a link from the start with Cheltenham brewery. Gardner claimed a vote in respect of his property by the church in 1842, and in 1852 named that property as the Royal Hotel.

The Token

drawn by K. Venus



obverse x 2



actual size



reverse x 2

3. PAYMENTS RELATING TO MILITIA SERVICES 1780-1814

Introduction and background

Eighteenth century England distrusted and neglected its peace-time army, with the result that recruitment to both the regular forces and the militia was made difficult when the need for soldiers arose between 1780 and 1814.

The militia was a force of infantry intended for the defence of the British Isles. It was controlled by the Home Secretary, like the Yeomanry and the Volunteers (1). Its officers were appointed by the Lords Lieutenant, and its other ranks were chosen by lot, and compelled to serve, though only in the British Isles.

Charlton Kings parish documents (2) of this period, held in Gloucestershire Record Office, contain some interesting but incomplete information for a period covering the American, Revolutionary, and Napoleonic Wars.

- a. concerning recruitment for the Gloucestershire militia between 1780 and 1814, and about the method of avoiding service through the use of substitutes
- b. relating to payments by Overseers of the Poor to dependants of militia substitutes who were unable to support themselves.

Recruitment and substitutes

An illustration of (a) is provided by a document of 1783:-

"Gloucestershire To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the
To wit Parish of Charlton Kings in the said County or
 either of them

Whereas by virtue of two Acts of Parliament the one passed in the 2d, the other in the 19th year of his present Majesty's reign (3) it is enacted, that in case any person shall be chosen by lot to serve in the Militia and shall be sworn and inrolled, or shall provide a fit person to serve as his substitute who shall be sworn and inrolled, the Churchwarden or Overseer, or Churchwardens and Overseers of the place for which he is so chosen shall pay him (if the regiment or battalion in which he or his substitute shall serve be then embodied) any sum of money not exceeding Five Pounds as shall be one half of the current price then paid for a volunteer in the county where such person was so chosen.

And whereas William Hamlet of your said Parish hath been chosen by lot to serve in the militia before us his Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace of and for the said County, and has provided a fit person to serve as his substitute who hath been sworn and inrolled on this 20th day of January 1783.

We therefore and judging Five Pounds to be as near as may be one half of the current price now paid for a volunteer in this county, the Militia whereof being embodied, do hereby order you to pay to the said William Hamlet the said sum of Five pounds within one month after the said 20th day of January, which said sum you are to be reimbursed by a rate upon the inhabitants of your said Parish to be made by the rate now in use for the relief of the poor, and to be approved, in the like manner, by two Justices of the Peace. In failure whereof, ten pounds will be levied upon your goods and chattles.

Given under our hands and seals this 20th day of January 1783

S. Blackwell
T. Tyndale"

The amount of the payment to those involved obviously varied sometimes, since, when in March 1797 Henry Russell was drawn to serve in the Supplementary Militia (4) of the County but provided a substitute, he was only repaid two guineas, half of the four guineas he had paid "to provide a substitute". In 1803, William Robinson was to be repaid £4.4.0. (see Appendix B)

According to an act of 1802, all men between 18 and 40 (with a few exceptions) were liable for militia service. Appointment of a substitute meant immunity for life, though payment for a 5 year exemption could also be made. Since a substitute might seek the best market for his services, the market price could exceed the Volunteers' bounty - the incentive to join the regular army. The price was forced up and often only those who were rich or well organised (like some large employer) could arrange for substitutes for those they wished to protect.

Service in the Militia was preferred to that in the regular service, since only home service could be demanded and parish relief was legally payable to dependants, unlike the families of regular troops. A list of men known to have appointed substitutes is given at Appendix B.

Support for Militia dependants

It appears that the parish which failed to provide a man for service in the militia, and for whom a substitute was provided, became liable for the support of the wife and/or children of the substitute if they could not maintain themselves. In 1780, for example, an order sent "to the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Stonehouse" stated

"You are hereby in his Majesty's name required to pay to Martha, wife of John Eagles a substitute serving in the Militia for William Pride of the Parish of Charlton Kings --- Four Shillings weekly during such service or personally to appear before me --- one of his Majesty's Justices --- at my House at King's Stanley on sight hereof to show cause why such relief should not be given to her --- She has four children residing with her in your Parish under nine years old which she is unable to maintain. And the Overseers of the Poor --- of Charlton Kings are --- order'd --- to reimburse the money you shall advance --- Hereof fail not --"

Details of the sums paid to dependants by the Poor Law authorities for which documents survive are tabulated in Appendix A.

There is also information to show that in 1810, Mary Sommers wife of a private in the 1st Herefordshire Regiment of Local Militia, then living in Charlton Kings, was to be paid 2s 6d weekly for her support. Herefordshire would reimburse the Charlton Kings authorities.

The documents also show that the Poor Law administrators in Charlton Kings were concerned that families of militiamen should not be a charge on the rates if they could prevent it. There is evidence that in 1788 or 1786 John Barton of the Oxford Regiment of Militia was apparently repaying to the Charlton authorities maintenance money they had advanced to his family. His wife received 3s subsistence, and 6d rent per week. Barton requested that his wife should "have 6d more per week in case of necessity". In January 1787, the Charlton Kings authorities were notified by the Regimental Adjutant that he held no money from Barton for his family's support. He said the Colonel would be informed and money stopped from Barton's pay. Evidently Barton was still with the Regiment in November 1794, when Colonel Lord Charles Spencer certified Charlton Kings that Barton was serving as a Sergeant in the Regiment.

There are not enough records available to enable a complete study of the duration of militia service to be made.

From the data tabulated in the appendices it appears that

- a. John Carpenter may have substituted for two different men from Charlton Kings, though the similarity of the names, King and Kirby, is suspicious, and argues against this view, as does the closeness of the dates.
- b. John Eagles also substituted for two men from Charlton, William Pride 1781-2, and John Neal 1814, but he had a break in service of unknown length after 1782.
- c. Edward Hancock served for Henry Ashmead in 1810, though Ashmead was drawn to serve in 1797.

APPENDIX A

NAME	DEPENDANTS	LIVING AT	WEEKLY RATE OF SUPPORT	DATES PAID	TOTAL PAID	DATE	SUBSTITUTE FOR	NOTES
John Eagles	Wife Martha 4 children under 10	Stonehouse	4s	2/3/1780-27/6/1781	69 weeks £13.16.0		William Pride	Order for reimburse ment by Charlton Kings 28/6/81; paid 2/7/81
				28/6/1781-4/4/1782	40 weeks £8.0.0			26/3/1782; paid 30/3/1782
				3/4/1782-23/10/1782	24 weeks £5.16.0			26/10/1782; paid
				23/10/1782-11/12/1782	7 weeks £1.8.0			- ; paid 30/12/ 1782
								Eagles discharged
John Eagles	Wife	Parish of SS Philip & James, Bristol.	1s 6d	23/10/1813-9/4/1814	24 weeks £1.16.0	bill dated 14/4/1814	John Neal	paid 4/8/1814
				9/4/1814-10/7/1814	13 weeks 19s 6d	11/7/1814		" "
				9/7/1814-24/9/1814	11 weeks 16s 6d	bill sworn 29/9/1814		payment was asked for direct by 1/10/ 1814, or to Mr. Hatch at the New Inn, Gloucester, where Mr. Christopher would be on 18/10/ 14

NAME	DEPENDANTS	LIVING AT	WEEKLY RATE OF SUPPORT	DATES PAID	TOTAL PAID	DATE	SUBSTITUTE FOR	NOTES
Edward Philip	Family	possibly Cheltenham		7/12/1782	£10.8.0 due Easter 1781		William Thatcher	
Daniel Chandler	Wife Catherine one child	Stroud	2s	5/3/1798-18/3/1799	54 weeks £5.8.0		George Walford	In September 1700, Chandler wanted more money. The Rodborough overseer said there was every necessity for it as the "woman is industr- ious" and "a hard working person". He wrote to Charlton Kings, evidently without result.
			2s	18/3/1799-7/4/1800	55 weeks £5.10.0			
			2s	- -/30/3/1801	51 weeks £5.2.0			
Edward Restall	Wife Ann and 4 children	Bisley	5s	9/3/1798-9/3/1799	52 weeks £12.0.0.			Bill 13/3/1799
			5s	9/3/1799-2/1/1800	42 weeks £10.0.0.		Richard Rogers(4)	Bill 28/3/1800 Paid 2/4/1800
John Carpenter	Wife	Parish of S.Catherine City of Gloucester		14/2/1794-23/4/1794	14s			court fees 2s 6d
				23/5/1794-5/12/1794	£1.8.0	order 14/2/1795		
				5/12/1794-24/4/1795	£1.0.0.	order 27/6/1798		

NAME	DEPEDANTS	LIVING AT	WEEKLY RATE OF SUPPORT	DATES PAID	TOTAL PAID	DATE	SUBSTITUTE FOR	NOTES
John Carpenter (Cont'd)	family				£2.14.6	order 13/9/1796	Thomas King(5)	court fee 2s 6d
					£4.0.6	order 15/8/1799	Thomas Kirby(6)	court fee 2s 6d
	family		20/4/1798-16/5/1800	£5.9.0	31/12/1799	" "	These details were taken from Quarter Sessions orders for repayment by churchwardens and/or overseers of Charlton Kings for relief given by the S.Catherine's overseer.	
				£5.11.6	28/8/1800	" "		
Edward Hancock serving in North Battn of Gloucestershire Militia	Wife Hannah and 3 children under 10	Dursley	2s 6d	6/4/1810-4/5/1810	4 weeks 10s		Henry Ashmead)Bill dated 12/10/1810 Paid 16/12/1810)
			3s	4/5/1810-5/10/1810	22 weeks £3.6.0			
			3s	5/10/1810-9/11/1810	5 weeks 15s)bill 5/11/1811)	
			4s 6d	9/11/1810-5/4/1811	21 weeks £4.14.6))	
			8s	1/4/1814-16/9/1814	24 weeks £9.12.0		order for support 21/3/1814 bill 30/9/1814, paid 12/10/1814	

APPENDIX B

Charlton Kings men drawn to serve in Militia but appointing substitutes

<u>Date of draft or approximate date of half fee refund</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount refunded, half amount to purchase substitute</u>
Before March 1780	William Pride	
Before Easter 1781	William Thatcher	
On or before 20 January 1783	John Turner	Possibly £5.0.0.
" " (substitute sworn 20 January 1783)	William Hamlet	£5.0.0. within one month
1796	Thomas King	
January 1797	Richard Rogers	Presumed £2.2.0
" "	William Francis	" "
" "	George Walcroft	" "
" "	Henry Ashmead	" "
" "	James Hart	" "
1 March 1797 Substitute 8 January 1797, Supplementary Militia(7)	Henry Russell	£2.0.0
1798-1800 period for which substitute served	Thomas Kirby (sic)	
1799-1801	George Walford (sic)	
28 February 1803 substitute sworn	William Robinson (8) "to serve as a private man"	£4.4.0 To be repaid on 28 March 1803 if the substitute is approved.
Before October 1813	John Neal	

References and Notes:-

- (1) As well as fencibles (regulars enrolled for home defence)
- (2) GRO P 76 OV 6/1
- (3) George III
- (4) Probably "Mr Rogers" living at Charlton Lodge, Cudnall Street, in 1806 (Mitchell's map)
- (5) Thomas King, probably the eldest son of Richard King of Charlton Kings, and nephew of Thomas King of Shireborne (d.1782). (Ashley manor court book 1742-1812, GRO D 109)
- (6) There were Kirbys farming in Charlton Kings in the 19th century but no evidence for anyone of the name here as early as 1799.
- (7) It is not known how the supplementary militia differed from the ordinary militia.
- (8) W.H. Bridgman, Old Charlton Kings Records, Vol II p.8 (typescript in Local History Centre, Cheltenham)

4. A CHARLTON KINGS CHARACTER - TOM SMITH



Tom Smith! If you tried hard to invent a more prosaic appellation for a fictional character, I doubt whether you'd be successful. But there was little that was prosaic about our Tom Smith and the name was not invented. Tom was an individualist and some proof of this to me is the fact that when I think of the characters that inhabited the village at the beginning of the century, the first image that comes to my mind is that of Tom Smith.

When I first knew him, I was a small boy of about ten. He was a middle-aged man with a family. He called on my mother once a week pushing a two-wheeled hand barrow loaded with fresh fish. When I have said that I think I have said all that I know that is prosaic about Tom.

Take his appearance. Of course he wore the dark felt hat universally adopted by that part of the proletariat which did not take to the cloth cap. He also wore the dark-blue, white horizontal striped, apron which was the sign of his profession. But you only saw his face. The general effect was that of a kindly apostle, a face that emanated peace and good-will.

Tom was a man of peace. With that dark, square, soft, curly beard and the smiling healthy cheeks, Raphael could have used him with advantage in his tapestry cartoons. But it didn't end there for me. The attributes of the saint were overwhelmed for me by the intoxication of the pirate - Tom had a black patch over his left eye! To a small boy, if that wasn't romance on your doorstep, what was?

Of course I had never seen a pirate except perhaps in the respectable company of Mr. Ballantyne or perhaps the more select presence of R.L.S. - but to have one in the village! to talk to! marked Tom out as someone very special to me.

In his early days he had been a shepherd and walked his flocks along the tops of the Cotswolds. But as the wool trade moved inexorably to the Colonies and sheep diminished on the hills, Tom was forced to move into the village for a living and with his family he settled in Thorntons Row behind the Baptist Chapel.

Tom was a nonconformist but he seldom attended the Chapel. He was a Plymouth Brother. I never knew of another Brother in the village. There were others in town and they had a Meeting House where Tom and his family attended for their weekly devotions. He was a puritan of puritans. His moral code was of the strictest. How often in my imagination was the dark felt hat replaced by the steeple - top ones of the puritans I met in my Roundhead and Cavalier romances.

He was a great hymnologist. He was passionately fond of music though I never heard him sing or play anything but sacred works. His only accompaniment was his concertina and his wealth of hymn tunes was seemingly endless. Christmas was special - the carol season. Some weeks before, he would gather a number of us youngsters around him in his cottage. We filled the small room and I can still see the warm light of the table lamp on our youthful faces and almost feel the warmth of the wood fire that he always had blazing for us in the grate. Tom sat at the table in his wheel-back Windsor armchair, hymn book in front, concertina in hand, and his spectacles perched on the end of his nose. Then for a number of evenings, with infinite patience, he taught us the hymns he would like us to sing in our eventual pilgrimage round the moonlit village on the few nights prior to the Christmas festival. He taught us many carols, but I shall never forget the clear and simple beauty of "It came upon the midnight clear" when he introduced us to it for the first time.

Long before the soothsayers of the Box gave us their daily scientific guess at the behaviour of the elements, Tom was in frequent demand as a weather prophet and his short-range forecasts left little to be desired. I never understood his method. It would not be tolerated at Brackley, but there, unlike Tom, they had not the planets in their confidence. I have heard him order his eldest son not to stray far from the house that evening "because Jupiter is gettin' round Mars". This, I gather, foreboded thunder and bad weather - and thunder it did. I suspect that most of his weather forecasting was the instinct of the shepherd. Literacy is a strange thing. Tom could read the sky like you or I would read a newspaper.

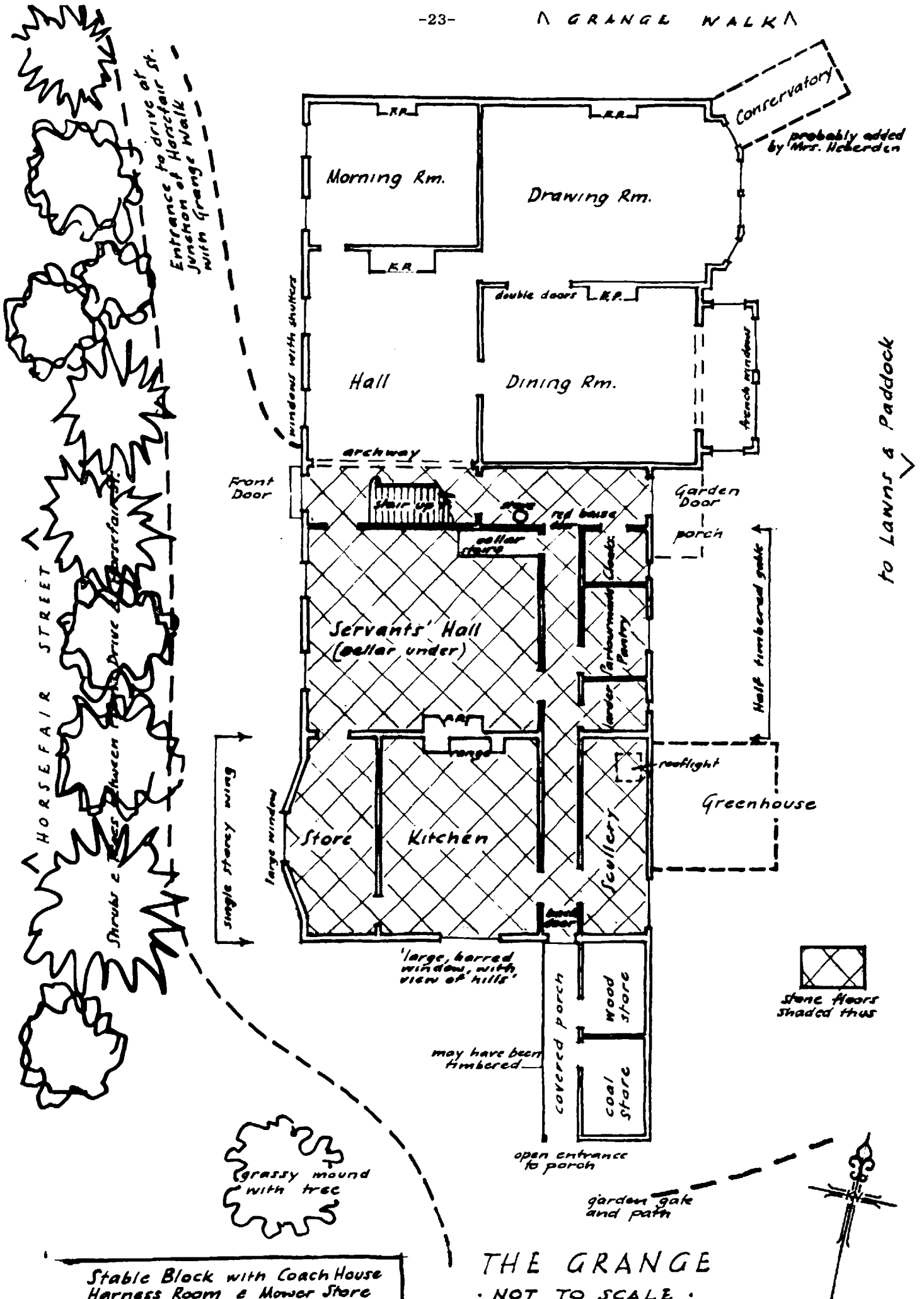
G. Ryland

5. THE GRANGE, HORSEFAIR STREET (DEMOLISHED 1933): FURTHER INFORMATION AND PLAN

This plan, worked out from the outline given by OS 25" 1882-3, 1921 revision, shows that the Grange was an older house than appeared at first. We seem to have a mediaeval hall house with screens passage and offices (the servants' hall, passage and pantry). The original front door faced the church. This part was timber-framed. The front hall was added on the north as a parlour after 1806, for Mitchell shows the house as small and square, whereas the tithe map of 1848 indicates an L shaped structure.

We may guess that Colonel Meale and his wife bought a cottage c.1820, and by giving themselves a large parlour, made it into a snug little house.

About 1850, the dining-room was added east of the hall, and perhaps at the same time or a little later, a kitchen built at the south end of the house. This had no bedroom over it, and in the early 20th century photograph of The Grange, it is possible to detect an addition to the original chimney stack, made to accommodate the flue of the kitchen range. At first, this kitchen had a big window in the bow looking west onto the drive.



The drawing-room and morning-room were added at the north end of the house before 1882. The position of the fireplaces in both rooms, as well as the appearance of the house outside, show these to be later than the dining-room. Dining and drawing-rooms were linked by double doors, and there was a door from the recess by the hall fireplace into the hall. There was an arch between hall and the way from the front door to the garden door (suggesting a pierced wall); and a stove in the passage helped to warm the whole house.

The servant's quarters were shut off by a red baize door (where the original front door had been) and just inside the baize door, stone steps down to the cellar under the servants' hall, another indication that this part of the house was much older than the rest.

After 1882, and probably after Mrs. Heberden became tenant, the conservatory was tacked on to the drawing-room - it does not appear in the photograph of the Grange c. 1900. The back porch and outbuildings were altered to allow a south window in the kitchen; then the old window was partitioned off to make the store-room.

All the ground-floor windows in the old part of the house and in the kitchen were barred. The long porch at the back door in Mrs. Heberden's day allowed the servants to fetch coal or wood in the dry. There was no laundry room, for all the washing was sent to Mrs. Clevely in London Road.

D. Hawkins and K. Venus

6. THE VALUATION OF LAND ON SOUTHFIELD FARM MADE IN JULY 1810 - A STUDY IN LAND VALUES AND USAGE

In 1810 a firm of Tewkesbury estate agents made a valuation of 54 acres 2 roods 18 perches of land, held by Mr. Joy on the premises of Southfield farm (1). The form of the valuation shows it was made with a view to sale. Almost certainly it does not cover the whole farm, and no mention is made of any buildings, stock, or machinery. Therefore it appears that only part of the land was being considered perhaps an outlying, or even a detached portion. Unfortunately by 1810 the land was no longer paying tithe, and the exact location of the fields is difficult. Southfield farm was included in a map of the Charlton Park estate in 1868 (2) but by that date, field boundaries had obviously been altered.

The survey is contained in a small, stoutly bound, notebook. It is preceded by very rough notes in pencil, although the main part is neatly written in ink. This format suggests that the notes were made on the spot and then the valuation written up fully in the office. One interesting feature is that all the money valuations are in code. I am most grateful to those who helped me decipher this, in particular, Mr. Harry Middleton, to whom its final solution is due. It is based on the text "Lord be my guardian" L = 1, o = 2, r = 3, d = 4, b = 5, e = 6, m = 7, y = 8, g = 9, u = 10, a = 11. x and z both stand for 0.

One example of the code will be given. In all other cases, the money values will be substituted.

Transcription

Monday the 14th July on the Premises Southfield Farm, Charlton Kings,
Mr Joy
(in pencil)

Rd Bull Berrow 1.11.6

Road to Park Meadow from Marsh Lane

Pear Trees in piece of land down with seeds

4 Acres (3) laid down with seed

6 Acres top of Hill, good situation adjoining Road *Strawfields Piece ?*

7 Acres Pear Trees, wh now adjoin road

Picks opp: 6 acres planted wheat

(in ink)

Lot 1 4^A 1^R 30^P

Red Hill

A Capital piece of Arable Land nearly adjoining a good road and worth

d: d: z per acre will be ly. lo: o per Ann:

at oy year boz: le: z

om bxo: d: -

oe dyr: lo: x

(ie, £4.4.0 per acre £18.12 2 per ann.

at 28 years £520.16.0

27 £502.4.0

26 £483.12.0

It appears that in writing the annual value, the surveyor forgot his code
and inadvertently wrote O for nought instead of x or z)

Lot 2 The Six Acres 5 A 1 R 2 P

Another Capital piece of arable land and worth £4.0.0. per acre which will
be £21 per ann.

28 years £588

27 years £567

26 years £546

at £16 per ann. £448

£432

£416

Lot 3 The Seven Acres 5A 2R 20P

A Good Piece of arable Land now planted with wheat and a very good crop; some pear trees in this ground now in their Prime and cheap at £3.10.0 per acre, which will be £18.10.0 per acre

at 28 yrs	£518: 0: 0
27 yrs	£500: -: -
26 yrs	£481: -: -

say £16 per ann:

at 28 yrs	£448
27 yrs	£432
26 yrs	£416

Lot 4 The Four Acres 3A 2R OP

A very Good Piece of Land and lately laid down with seeds, worth £4: 0: 0 per acre which will be £14 per ann. at

28 yrs	£392
27 yrs	£378
26 yrs	£364

Lot 5 The six acres below the Hill 4A 1R 10P

A Good Piece of arable Land and cheap at £2: 10: 0 which would be £10: 10: 0 per ann:

at 28 yrs	£294
27 yrs	£283 10
26 yrs	£273

Lot 6 The Park Meadow 8A 3R 10P

A Piece of very improvable Land and may at a trifling Expense be drained, which would make it worth £4.10.0 per acre, however call it £3.10.0 per acre, would be £31.0.0. per ann.

at 28 yrs	£861	(he seems to have made a slip here, £868 is correct)
27 yrs	£837	
26 yrs	£806	

Lot 7 The Eight Acres 5A 2R OP

A very good Piece of Land well laid down with seeds, a quantity of excellent Pear Trees in the Hedge Rows. This piece is very cheap at £4:0:8 per acre, would be £22 per ann:

at 28 yrs	£616
27 yrs	£594
26 yrs	£572

(The valuation is followed by a list of names and sums of money. There is nothing to show what they relate to. The sums are too small for the men to be purchasers.)

	£	s	d
Mr Sandland	7		
Mr Rayne (?)	1	13	10
Mr Dawes	37	11	11
Mr Charter	24	3	7
	<hr/>		
	71	13	10

The inventory raises certain questions, the answers to which must be hypothetical without further evidence. In the first place, why is a code used, as if its maker were taking part in a spy thriller instead of a common-place legal transaction? It is certainly not a normal practice, nor does he use it consistent for all the valuations he makes. One can only suppose he feared that someone might use the information he recorded to damage the interest of his client(s) by undercutting or outbidding or in some other way.

Next, while the valuation of the income from a parcel of land over a period of years is a normal method of fixing its selling price, the periods commonly used for leases in this period are 7, 14, or 21 years; while the price might be estimated as 20 or 30 year's purchase. The periods 28, 27, and 26 years are unexpected. The most likely explanation is that Mr Joy held the land on a long lease and was disposing of the remaining 28 years of it. If it were sold immediately, the holder might expect to receive revenue from it for 28 years, but if it hung fire, then for 27 or only 26; and its value to him and therefore the possible selling price would fall.

It will be seen at once that none of the fields named from their size eg "The Six Acre" are as large as their names suggest. In most cases, the differences are small, and in all likelihood arise from the fact that areas of fields were estimated by guess work. One plough team was supposed to plough an acre a day. If it took roughly six days to plough a piece, then that was near enough six acres. In other cases, notable no 7, the "Eight Acres" which is in fact only 5½ acres, the difference is too great to be accounted for in this way, and must be the result of an earlier sub-division although by custom the old name continued to be used. Since the next lot mentioned, No. 8, "The Beans", is 2 acres 30 perches, which would nearly make up 8 acres, it seems most probable that it had once been part of the larger field. Beans, of course, are a common crop, used either for animal feed, or, in earlier ages, ground and added to flour for human use in hard times. It is a crop which can be grown on the same piece of land for a number of years, because beans in common with all leguminosae complete the nitrogen cycle.

To turn now to the land usage which this document shows. It must be remembered that the valuation was made in 1810 when the Napoleonic Wars were at their height. Since c.1800, the population of Britain had grown too big to be fed solely from her own resources, and we had normally imported corn from Europe, particularly from Russia. Now this supply was cut off, and the price of corn, as of all home-grown food, was rising rapidly. Corn reached a record 126 shillings a quarter (8 bushels) in 1812. A series of bad winters during the same period

re-inforced this price rise. For these reasons, agriculture prospered and land was a good investment. Also the demand for more food speeded up the adoption of new agricultural methods, first popularised in East Anglia, which gave a higher yield per acre.

The valuation shows traces of these facts. First there was enclosure of land. Lot 10 is a piece of arable land in the field called the Marsh, showing that it had been enclosed during the 18th century, since the name is taken from the old name of a large open field. Then there is the question of land drainage. Since this is now arable land, and the old name is "The Marsh", it had presumably been drained. Also, the Park meadow is described as being capable of improvement by drainage, which would increase its value.

Nearly 39 acres of land under review are arable. Of this area two parcels of land, amounting to roughly ten acres, are mentioned as being under wheat. Nine acres exactly are down to seed, almost certainly clovers and/or grasses. And the crops produced on the remaining 20 acres are not mentioned. It will be seen at once that the arable land may be divided into four roughly equal areas, of between nine and ten acres each. This fact suggests that a four-course rotation of wheat, roots, barley/oats, clover, was in use. It was a rotation much advocated by agricultural experts, and made an economical use of the available arable land. Roots cleaned the soil and gave winter feed for the beasts. Barley normally was malted (and we were brewing locally) or used for bread. Oats fed horses or men. (Dr. Johnson defined oats as "a grain which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people"; but Boswell got his own back on the Doctor when they were together in Lichfield in 1776, for, as he discovered, oat cakes and oat ale were common Midland fare. "It was pleasant to me to find that Oats, the food of horses, were so much used as the food of the people in Dr. Johnson's own town". Oats, crushed, were also considered best for fattening beef.

The clovers improved the fertility of soil by restoring the nitrogen content, and by providing grazing for beasts, which were normally penned on a small area at a time so that they grazed it thoroughly and also dunged it.

Always supposing that the Park meadow was still a meadow, there are just over fourteen acres of meadow-land in the area valued. Meadow-land was permanent grassland, put down to hay each year and, after mowing, used to pasture the beasts. It was normally divided into small fields, so that the beasts grazed the aftermath thoroughly and dunged the land. It will be seen that at Southfield, this was indeed the case; with the exception of Park Meadow, all the pieces of meadow-land were small. Of course, it hardly needs to be pointed out that small fields did not make hay-making difficult at a date when all grass was cut with a scythe.

The hay from these fields was used for winter feed for beasts, not only horses and milking cows, but very probably draught oxen. It appears from other inventories in the same volume that oxen were still in use in the neighbourhood, for pulling carts and ploughs.

At Southfield, only one small area is mentioned as pasture, that is, permanent grazing land not put down to hay. It is most likely that this would feed cattle while the meadows were closed for hay, and also feed sheep, which do not need the longer grass to be found in a meadow. Since the area is so small, either very few sheep were kept or, as is more likely, there were grazing rights on the hills.

In two cases, the presence of pear trees in the fields or hedgerows is mentioned as a valuable asset. These were almost certainly perry pears, such as can be seen in several fields in the parish today; and perry pears were a profitable crop, particularly when grown on clay.

There were trees near the farm in 1868, perhaps these very pear trees.

To look for a minute at the values set for the various types of land, it might be expected that the fields down to wheat would command the highest price. They do not. The reason is that the present tenant, Mr. Joy, would reap the crops before handing over the land to its new owner at Michaelmas. It will be seen that meadow land can be as valuable as arable, which shows the great importance of hay as winter feed for cattle. In the middle ages, meadow often commanded a higher price than arable, for without draught beasts in good condition, you could not plough in the spring. Another factor which appears to increase the value of a piece of land is good road access, but that is to be expected.

The wheat crop on one field, lot 9, The Picks (4), is late. I suspect that this is the spring sown wheat, while the other field, probably the winter wheat, is normally developed. We know from other sources that the winter of 1809-10 had been a bad one, and therefore the spring ploughing and planting had been delayed. It is interesting that the document reflects this fact.

Thus one simple document poses a number of questions, and illustrates the land usage of a period when farming methods were changing rapidly. It has been an absorbing study. But one small problem still remains. Who was Rd (Richard) Bull Berrow, and why did he pay or receive £1.11.6? Did he perhaps help the surveyor, and receive this sum in payment for his services? Is "Bull" a given name or a nickname? (Of course, since his name is roughly scribbled in pencil, he may have had nothing to do with Southfield at all).

- (1) Deposited in Gloucestershire Record Office, D 2080
- (2) G.R.O. D 674 b p 47
- (3) Forty perches make a rood and four roods an acre
- (4) Picks from OE pic, a point, and piced, pointed, presumably a field with sharp corners. (A.H. Smith The Place-Name Elements (1970) II 63)

J. Paget

7. THE TAILOR OF GLOUCESTER - A FEW MORE STITCHES

Beatrix Potter described "The Tailor of Gloucester" as her "favourite among the little books" (1), and many people would agree with her opinion. The story is very well-known - the old tailor has to make a splendid outfit for the Mayor of Gloucester, and is secretly helped by mice, who finish the waistcoat, except for one buttonhole for which there is "no more twist". "The Tailor of Gloucester" might be assumed to have a special appeal for people living in Gloucestershire, but there is a closer link with Charlton Kings, which may not be widely realised, especially among newer residents. The tailor on whom the story was based was, in fact, John Samuel Prichard, who died in February 1934, and was buried in Charlton Kings cemetery. The words "The Tailor of Gloucester" are on the kerbstone of the grave.

From about 1895, Beatrix Potter went at intervals to stay with her cousin Caroline Hutton, at Harescombe Grange, near Stroud, and it was there that she heard the story of John Prichard, a young tailor in Gloucester (2), who had found a waistcoat that he was making for the Mayor mysteriously completed during the night. After this, he had advertised "Have your suits made by the Tailor of Gloucester, where the work is done by the fairies". Beatrix Potter was intrigued by the tale and wrote and illustrated her version in an exercise book, and sent it as a Christmas present for 1901 to Freda Moore, a child of her former governess. The story was printed, with only minor alterations, in 1907. The essential facts of the story, the tailor and the mysterious completion of the waistcoat, except for one buttonhole, are as Beatrix Potter had heard them, but the mice, Simpkin the cat, and the setting "in the time of swords and periwigs and full-skirted coats with flower'd lappets - when gentlemen wore ruffles, and gold-laced waistcoats of paduasoy and taffeta" (3) are her own additions. She called to see John Prichard at his shop, which was at 23, Westgate Street, (4) to say that she hoped he did not mind the portrayal of the tailor as an old man.

In her book "The Magic Years of Beatrix Potter", (5) Margaret Lane gives an account of what was thought to have really happened. The tailor had been working hard to finish a waistcoat, part of a suit that the Mayor of Gloucester was to wear for the procession from the Guildhall to the Annual Agricultural Show, but in spite of his efforts he had not completed it before he went home. His assistants, to do their master a good turn, returned to the shop stealthily at night and finished the work, except for one buttonhole, for which there was not enough thread.

This was not the whole truth, though. Following the publication of her book, Margaret Lane received a letter from the son of John Prichard, then about to retire from working in Bahrein (6). Mr. Douglas Prichard threw further light on what actually happened. Apparently, one of the assistants told the full story a few years afterwards. It seems that he and his fellows went out drinking on Saturday night, and being rather worse for wear, instead of going home they went to the shop, to which, unknown to their master, they had a key. Waking from their slumber the next morning, they decided to wait until evening rather than risk drawing attention to themselves in daylight in their unshaven and dishevelled state. To pass the time they finished off the work (except for the last buttonhole). They were ashamed to admit that they had been drunk, and had a key, and so did not explain what they had done.

Mr. Douglas Prichard told the story again in a B.B.C. interview recently (7), and went on to say something of his father's subsequent life. He married, and lived happily for several years. Then his wife was discovered to be unfaithful, the "other man" being a later Mayor of Gloucester - a strange touch of irony. Divorce at that time, about 1914, was an expensive business, needing a private Act of Parliament, and the result was that, instead of steadily increasing in prosperity like the fictional tailor, John Prichard was obliged to sell up his shop to pay the legal bills.

I have not found the exact date at which John Prichard began to live in Charlton Kings, but by 1929, he was living at 2, Ashley Cottages, Croft Road (8) (now demolished to make way for Gilbert Ward Court). He married a second wife, Mrs. Ida Eugenie Prichard, and was, according to his son, a lively, intelligent man, with left-wing views. He continued to work as a tailor, but fell a victim to tuberculosis, and died at the relatively early age of fifty-seven. His wife survived him by about thirty years. Apart from Douglas Prichard, another son, Leslie, and a daughter, Chrissie, are remembered by many residents in the village.

Margaret Lane's statement (9) that John Prichard is buried in Charlton Kings Churchyard is incorrect. He is, as already mentioned, buried in the cemetery. It is an unobtrusive grave, with a kerbstone surround, in which is the inscription. The lettering is not very clear, and one could easily fail to notice it in passing. Also in the cemetery is a seat in memory of John and Ida Prichard, date 1965.

Finding out a bit more about the original on whom a children's story was based may not add anything of substance to serious historical research, but it has led to interesting conversations with several older residents of Charlton Kings. I thank those who have given me their time and their memories so willingly, among them Mrs. Reeves, Croft Road, (who also showed me a photograph of Mrs. Prichard), Miss Mason, Church Street, Mr. Mitchell, Little Herberts Road, and Miss Prior, Church Street.

- (1) "The Magic Years of Beatrix Potter" by Margaret Lane (Frederick Warne Ltd., 1978) page 105.
- (2) Ibid. page 81.
- (3) "The Tailor of Gloucester" by Beatrix Potter (Standard edition) Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd) page 9.
- (4) Smart's Gloucester Directory, 1906-7.
- (5) Margaret Lane op. cit. page 82. See also "The Tailor of Gloucester" from the original manuscript, Introduction by Leslie Linder. (Frederick Warne & Co Ltd., 1968) pages 5-6. Margaret Lane suggests that Beatrix Potter heard the story in about 1895, and spent some years working on illustrations, but Mr. Douglas Prichard spoke of the episode taking place at the turn of the century. This does seem more likely, as in 1895 John Prichard would only have been eighteen years old - very young, surely, to have been in the position of a craftsman employing apprentices?
- (6) Margaret Lane in The Daily Telegraph, 19th March 1979.
- (7) "Woman's Hour" from B.B.C. Bristol, 8th June, 1979.
- (8) Kelly's Directory for Cheltenham, 1929. The 1933 Register of Electors, however, gives the address as 1, Ashley Cottages.
- (9) "The Magic Years of Beatrix Potter" page 108.

Susanne Fletcher.

8. FRIND CREGOE AND MOOREND PARK

Moorend Park, demolished 1978-9, was the extraordinary house built by Frind Cregoe (1786-1839), previously of Birmingham, on copyhold land (part bought from the Lovesy in 1833, and part from Charlton Park estate). Davies' Handbook to the Environs of Cheltenham (1843) describes the place with modified rapture - "Moorend, --- a costly Swiss villa, also attracts much attention for its elaborate architectural arrangements, and viewed from some points presents a rather picturesque appearance".

Who was Cregoe and why did he assume the name of Colmore? The answer is provided by Vivian Bird's Portrait of Birmingham (1970) pp 57-70, from which this extract is taken. "The Colmores originated at Tournai in France and acquired some of their New Hall Estate and other property in Birmingham as a land speculation on the dissolution of the Priory or Hospital of St. Thomas of Canterbury in 1536 -- Colmore Row, one of Birmingham's major thoroughfares, takes its name from the family --- The man who gave his name to Great Charles Street died in 1794, and lies buried at Hendon, Middlesex. He and his wife, Mary Gulston, had four children, all of whom died unmarried, ---- His eldest son, Charles, having died in 1785, and Mary Ann dying in April 1794, Charles Colmore added a codicil to his will, stipulating that should Lionel and Caroline die without issue, his estates were to go to his "dear friend" Francis, Lord Hertford, of Ragley Hall, Alcester, or to his son Lord Yarmouth. With Lionel's death in March 1807, Caroline inherited the entire estate, and in 1825 applied for aid from the Court of Chancery to realise large sums of money. In 1829, the remainder of the estate was divided between her and Francis Charles, third Marquess of Hertford, the grandson of her father's "dear friend". Caroline Colmore lived at Cheltenham, where she died in 1837, aged 70, to be buried at Charlton Kings --. She had settled her estate on her friend Frind Cregoe. Cregoe came of an old Cornish family and lent his name to Cregoe Street --- Frind Cregoe-Colmore lived only two years longer than his benefactress, and like her he is buried at Charlton Kings with his wife Elizabeth and their son and heir Colmore Frind Cregoe-Colmore---"

C.F. Cregoe-Colmore was born in 1827, while his father was living at Charlton House as tenant of Charles Cook Higgs. At the time of Frind's death, in 1839, his son was a minor, which explains why Davies in 1843 gave the occupier of Moorend Park as Miss Cregoe-Colmore; and according to the tithe apportionment, trustees of Frind Cregoe-Colmore's will were still administering the estate in 1848, though the heir came of age in March that year. The outline of the house as shown on the tithe map is evidence that (except for one small extension on the north front) the place was already as we have known it, including the large conservatory at the west end.

Colmore Frind Cregoe-Colmore married twice. His first wife was Mary daughter of the Revd Edward Pryce Owen (noted for his Shropshire etchings) and granddaughter of the Revd. Hugh Owen (co-author of the standard history of Shrewsbury) There were 4 children of this marriage, and Mary died in 1865 at the age of 36. Colmore's second wife, Frances Margaret Eden, died without children in 1868 aged 28. Both are commemorated by windows in St. Mary's church. The initials C.F.C.C and F.M.C.C on the dining room ceiling at Moorend Park, with the moor's head crest (Colmore) and arms on the drawing-room ceiling, must have been added by Colmore at the time of his second marriage, and seem to have been his sole architectural contribution to the house.

S.Fletcher and M. Paget

- (1) Information from tomb in churchyard, and Owen papers in Salop Record Office.

9. COVER PICTURE; CHURCHYARD AND OLD CHURCH HOUSE, redrawn by K. Venus

The cover picture is taken from an early 19th century water-colour and is reproduced by courtesy of Gloucestershire Record Office. It shows our churchyard cross (then with sundial top), the SW corner of the nave, and close by that, a fine timber-framed house of the late 16th century. This was Old Church House. The church was 14 ft shorter than now, and between Horsefair Street, the church, and a private road south and east of the church (on the line of the present path) there was room for a house. At its back stood the stocks!

Church houses were sometimes parish property and mediaeval churchwardens raised money for church upkeep by brewing and selling ale there. We have no idea if this happened here. Church houses often became pubs. Again we have no evidence. This house was freehold and by 1800 belonged to a charity, but is not mentioned in the Charity Commissioners' reports, for by the time the Commissioners considered Charlton Kings, the house had gone. It was demolished in 1826 and a bill for pulling down Old Church House, stacking bricks and hauling away rubbish, £20.12.10, was submitted on 7 July 1827.

The trustees had intended to add this site to the graveyard, for there was little room left in the old part and Mr. Lovesy as Impropiator claimed the right to sell vaults and to restrict "common burials" to one corner. But they discovered that legally, Lovesy could control additional land too.

So the site lay vacant till a new act, 8 and 9 Vic c.70, ensured that extra burial ground would be free of restrictions. On 31 August 1854, in consideration of 19 gns, six charity trustees conveyed to the Church Building Commissioners a piece of land "Lying on the South side of and adjoining the yard of the Parish Church of Charlton Kings aforesaid whereupon or on part whereof the House called the Church House formerly stood --" This was the first step in the extension of the churchyard to its present limits. Never again would the parish experience the horrors of 1851, when, as the Vicar reported, "in opening the ground for fresh burials, it frequently happens that the remains of persons previously buried are disinterred" (1)

(1) Papers in St. Mary's vestry.