

CHARLTON KINGS  
LOCAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY



GROTESQUE  
*St. Mary's Church*

BULLETIN 4

**CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RESEARCH BULLETIN NO 4

AUTUMN 1980

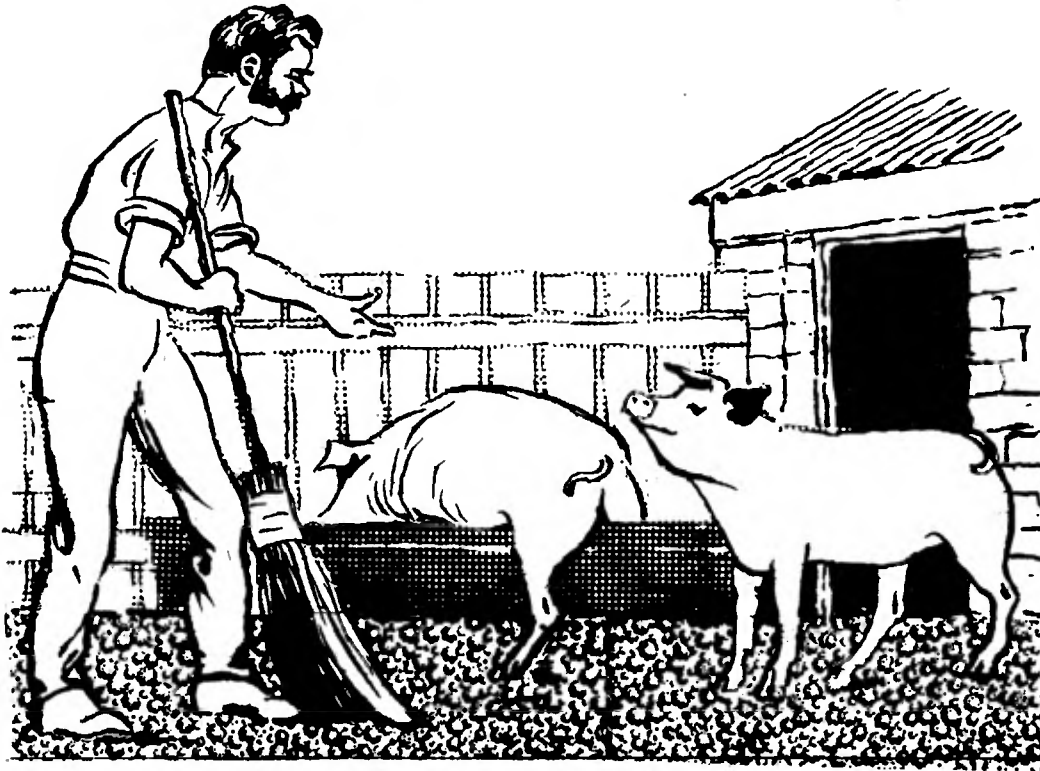
CONTENTS

Cover picture	Grotesque on west end of church, drawn by K.Venus	
1.	Keeping a pig	G. Ryland
2.	Early Charlton Kings wills	M.J. Greet
3.	Pump and Stocks, drawing by	K. Venus
4.	Churchwardens' accounts 1751-1801	H.M.C. Bennett
5.	The parish of Charlton Kings	
6.	One of our lost houses - Ham House	J.C. Main
7.	Frank Arthur Lacey, sadler (1890-1977)	M. Wilcox
8.	A famous historian at Charlton Kings	R. Beacham
9.	'Phillimore' - Charlton Kings parishioners married in other parishes 1640-1837	T. Barnes
10.	Education in Charlton Kings II	
	(1) Some Notes on Coltham Fields Infants' School	S. Blake
	(2) Higgs' Night School before 1880	
	(3) Holy Apostles' School, the start	M. Paget
11.	Development of Charlton Kings - Church Place	M. Paget
12.	A Memory of The Endeavour	L. Hatherall
13.	"An Ancient Road" through Charlton Kings	
14.	Notes and Comments	
Back cover	Reflection on our roads	J. Paget

"The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements in papers,  
but invites additions and corrections, which will be printed in Notes  
and Comments".

## 1. KEEPING A PIG

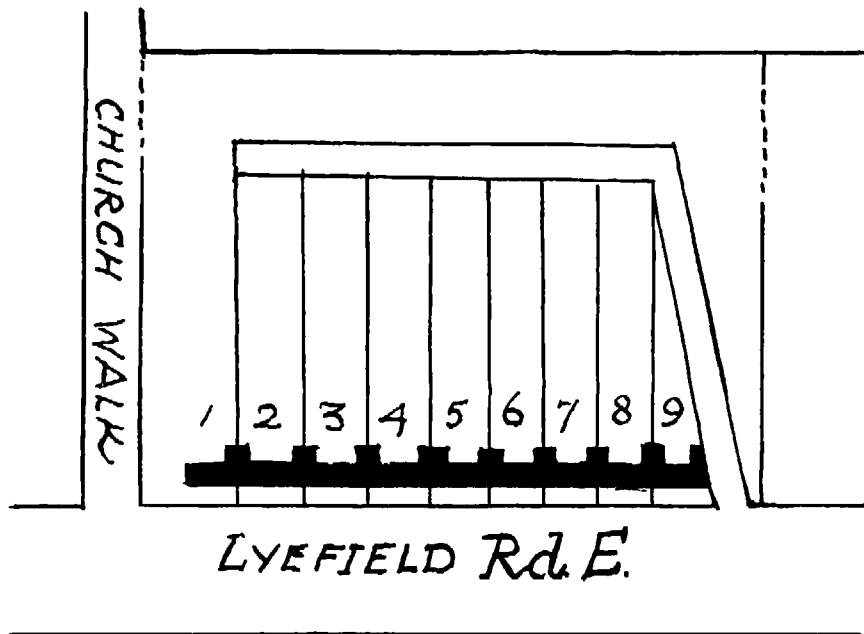
At the beginning of the century, when one was contemplating acquiring a new house - particularly in the £150-£250 bracket - one wasn't concerned as to whether there was a garage or room for a garage. I doubt if any of the buyers knew what one was - ever heard the word even! No, the important question generally was "Is there room to keep a pig?" It seems a fatuous question to us now, doesn't it? Who wants to keep a pig? Anyway a pigsty is not a massive piece of architecture. It takes up very little room. So why the concern?



Anyway, why keep a pig? Well, the economics of the period made it essential that the head of a large family must of necessity grow much of the family food. A bit of kitchen garden saw to the vegetables and a few fowls would help with the eggs, but when it came to meat, that was another question. Farm animals were out, the days of common pasturage were long over, the space they required was prohibitive. So the answer was a pig, and a very useful addition it could be, supplying pork, pig-meat, bacon - meat for all the meals of the day, while living and fattening to a great extent on waste matter from the house - swill. In many ways the pig was an ideal domestic animal, but it had one drawback - you knew of its presence from afar, its effluvium was unpleasant and what smelt badly must be unhealthy.

The Local Board was now a health authority and in 1892 adopted a bye-law that laid down that no swine could be kept nearer one's dwelling-house than 100 feet. This not only curtailed the activities of some existing pig-keepers, but affected the lay-out of houses yet to be built in the village for the next twenty-odd years. Sensible builders thought if people wished to keep pigs, it would be sensible to design the type of house that would legally permit it.

I should think that the first part of the village where the new bye-law was embodied in a building plan was in LYEFIELD TERRACE. The terrace was built in 1892. Then Lyefield Road East boasted only two houses, both at the east end of the road and one on either side. A view of the Terrace in plan looks as if it were "made to measure". Nine houses in terrace formation, set back about 12 ft from the footpath - then stretching behind each house, the width of the house frontage, a long narrow kitchen garden 100 ft long, terminating in a transverse lane which formed the back entrance to the gardens. The end of the garden would be the place for the pig-sty, the back entrance permitting access to the sty without contact with the house. The houses were built to sell at £120-£150, freehold.



Houses were later built in other parts of the village, the south side of Lyefield Road East, Copt Elm Road, Cirencester Road, Lyefield Road West, better houses in most cases, semi-detached and selling in the £250 bracket but they all had the long garden, 100 ft or more. Of course not everybody wanted to keep a pig, the majority of the owners of these later-built houses did not, but the houses were planned and built to this specification - just in case.

For years we kept a pig or rather we kept pigs. My father thought it unnatural for an animal to live alone. They were kept very clean and were very well fed. Built on the end of the sty was a copper boiler with a small chimney. There were times when warm food was necessary for the animals and this is where it was produced. Not only the swill from our house but from quite a number of others went into that boiler and helped to produce the pork or bacon we all delighted to share when it was mature.

The keeping of pigs was no sinecure. It was hard and repetitive work. The continuous collection and preparation of food, the regular feeding, the cleaning of the sty, and the disposal of waste were essential demanding chores. Nevertheless, it was satisfactory to see a healthy stock maturing and in the process one frequently got quite fond of one's charges. This of course could be a disadvantage, because the eventual result of ones loving care and attention was slaughter.

One bred pigs either for pork or bacon. They were weighed by the score, that is, 20 lbs. A porker weighed up to 5 score, a bacon pig much more than that. When a porker was fit for killing, all ones immediate neighbours were informed. A pig was more than even a large family could deal with on its own and no refrigeration was available. Friends soon came dropping in with orders for a leg, a loin, or whatever. A careful list of these orders was kept by my mother.

Then came the awful mid-day meal when it was announced by my father that "Mr Bethel would be here on Wednesday at 12 o'clock". From that time a gloom settled over the family, but it was partly relieved by the fact that there was much to be done in preparation before Mr Bethel arrived. Certainly the low bench must be got up out of the cellar and carried down to the sty. The big tin bath must be there and, on the day, almost unlimited hot water had to be heated in the boiler. Mr Bethel was a master of his craft, but there were certain things that he expected to find done for him when he arrived - and done they must be.

Jimmy Bethel was known as the village pig sticker. One never thought of him as a butcher, though I have little doubt he was quite a skilful one. I never knew him deal with any animal except a pig, but then, many pork butchers never do. He lived in the dip in Ryeworth, a house that always interested me because in an outhouse facing the road he had a cider press which I loved to watch when it was in operation. It was the last mill that I remember seeing in action in the village. Jimmy was a bit lame, rheumatics I expect, and he was a recognizable character about the village with his slight limp, tweedhat, blue and white striped apron, and when working always the long flat leather case under his arm containing his instruments of destruction and dissection. He was also a sort of Pied Piper. When Jimmy was moving in to the kill, at a very respectable distance (because Jimmy objected to their unsolicited company) could always be seen the nucleus of a blood-thirsty gang of young voyeurs. These however always closed in for the denouement and seldom missed a moment of the drama.

I was never of this sanguinary gang. All I could tell you of a killing was hearsay. Ah, I had heard of it often enough. It was vivid enough in my imagination! The squealing struggle of getting the animal up onto the bench, the holding of it there, the act of death, and the catching of the blood! Then, if it were a porker, the plunging of the carcass into the bath of scalding water and the scraping to remove all hair until the skin looked and felt like nothing so much as that of a young healthy baby. If it were a bacon pig, the carcass went straight into a blazing bonfire of straw prepared beforehand and the harsher offending hairs removed by the burning and scraping.

Oh yes, I knew all this, but I never saw it. On the arrival of Mr Bethel, my dog and I took to our heels and we never stopped running until we were well into the Beeches. You couldn't hear the screams of a dying pig that distance away. There we spent a miserable hour or so and returned generally late for dinner. But I was never scolded. I had a feeling that most of my family would have liked to have disappeared too, as I had.

When the carcass had been thoroughly scrubbed, it was brought up to the house and hung, as butchers do, upside down from a rafter in the back kitchen. Then it was de-entrained and all but the intestines washed carefully under the tap. The cleaning of the intestines was unpleasant, it was a man's job, but when thoroughly clean they were boiled in salted water and became chitterlings, a coveted and respected rural delicacy.



The rest of the intestines were dealt with entirely by the distaff side of the household. I don't wish to deal with it in detail, but the leaf had to be rendered down to produce lard, the liver and lights were either used as pig's fry or minced to make faggots. There were innumerable things that could be done and had to be done with what we learned during the last war to refer to as "offal". I often wonder what my mother would have thought of the word. We always regarded offal as something contaminated, to be discarded. It only shows how our language can alter during our own lifetime.

Mr Bethel called again on Thursday - Thursday evening when the rest of his day's work was done. This time he came to "cut up" the pig. There was no reason or desire on my part to avoid him on this occasion. On the contrary, I could not get close enough to watch and admire the skill with which he applied his art, or was it science? As an art, he plied his three tools, the chopper, the saw, and the knife, to make the result look like nothing so much as a piece of sculpture in pink flesh; as a science, his judgement of weight of a desired joint was masterly and I never saw him make a false cut. I watched in wonder, but I was helpful as well, because all the joints had to be placed in order on the kitchen table.

When the jointing was completed, Mr Bethel was usually offered a glass of beer, was paid his dues, packed his flat leather case, and went limping on his way.

Then my mother took over. Every dish, white cloth, and safety-pin, in the house, and many that were not, I suspect, were assembled. Each order was wrapped in a spotless cloth, pinned with a safety pin, and a small bill attached. "Mrs Smith, 4 lbs loin 4/6". It was the job of us boys to see that all orders were properly delivered, the money collected, and handed over to my father. That evening we had our work cut out, but it was fun, with the hope that they had had time to deal with the pig's head because that would mean brawn for supper, and if you have known brawn as they made it then, you will know what I mean.

Had we been killing a bacon pig, the procedure would have been much the same except that we should have delivered "pig-meat", some joints might have been heavier, and two sides and two hams would have been retained by the house. These were for curing. The hams would be hung and the sides stretched on the low benches specially provided and the daily chore of salting and turning commenced. I can't remember how long this continued, but eventually the sides were "white cured" (as opposed to "smoked") and hung against the cellar wall ready for daily consumption.

There came a time when my father wondered if it were economical to buy a young porker every time he wanted to fatten. Why not breed our own pigs? It would, of course, bring its own particular problems but the economics seemed sound. So he got a good sturdy sow and commenced to breed. The first pleasurable result was that one morning I was invited down to the sty to see the latest arrivals. My father had been up most of the night seeing to the sow's comfort and the litter's safety, but it was a delight to be introduced to a family of eight beautiful healthy energetic piglets which I found a joy to handle. Later it was fun watching them grow up. Their individuality was unbelievable and their powers to entertain inexhaustible. However, it was obvious that as they grew we should not have room to house them, it was never intended that we should. My father sold six and retained two to fatten.

This became the pattern of our pig-keeping for quite a while. A litter seemed to be always on the way, just arrived, or developing apace. We used more ground, had slightly longer sties, and generally developed the project well beyond the usual two pigs we kept at the beginning.

And then Nemesis struck. One dark night she stole balefully up the valley of the Chelt and dealt destruction right and left as she came. She brought with her what by association were ever to be anathema to me - swine fever and chloride of lime. Her messenger Mercury, in the form of Sergeant White, called in the morning and informed my father that the dreaded disease known as swine fever was abroad in the valley and that "appropriate steps must be taken". The shock was stunning and all became a sort of despondent hustle. Strange men came to the house - Inspectors. The police were there, my mother was in tears and my father dumb with dejection. The word endemic was banded about as if it explained all, excused all. I never knew what the word meant, I ran from it, to me it was evil. I never knew whether we had swine fever or were just the victims of the disease in neighbouring piggeries. But the result was devastating. A big hole was dug in the sandy soil near the sty - and then total destruction, a fine sow and a litter of ten piglets. Mr Bethel was not called in for this. I never knew who performed the actual assassination but I heard tell of axes! It was dreadful. Then the corpses were all thrown into the common sandy grave and smothered with chloride of lime before interment. Chloride of lime! It was the accepted disinfectant for all agricultural purposes at that time. Its stench was penetrating and objectionable. It hung in the air for days and days, and for ever its association for me was with disaster. Because for us disaster it was. Not only was it an emotional blow to the whole family, but it was an economic one. Today insurance might have covered the financial loss, but then no small man thought of insuring, and there was no benevolent government to claim on, even in the interests of endemicity.

So that was the end of pig-keeping for us. The mouldering sty was in time dismantled and the smell of chloride of lime eventually ceased to hover like some evil spirit over the filled-in grave. I never experienced swine fever again, but the haunting of that disinfectant lives on in my imagination, so that now, even after nearly 80 years, I can't swim in a public bath, and my wife knows better than to introduce into the house anything that has the remotest connection with chloride of lime.

G. Ryland

## 2. EARLY WILLS FROM CHARLTON KINGS

I. One of the best sources of local and social history in the early modern period is wills of local people.

Charlton Kings was in the Diocese of Worcester until the Diocese of Gloucester was formed in 1541, and so 5 wills all proved in 1537 are held in the County of Hereford and Worcester Record Office (WRO). In Gloucestershire Record Office (GRO) are 147 surviving complete or partial wills for the period 1542-1629 and a further 34 wills for 1629-1660. People who held property in more than one diocese had to have their wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, and for the period 1383-1629 11 Charlton Kings wills have so far been traced among them.



While study and transcription of all these wills is in progress, this article is a study of the first 13 wills proved between 1537 and 1547, within the reign of Henry VIII (died 1547). For purposes of illustration the first five wills are transcribed in full (Appendix A) and details of the next 8 follow (Appendix B).

The wills consist of a preamble, giving (a) the date of the will (b) the name of the testator<sup>1</sup>, (c) a statement of bodily ill-health but mental competence (d) the dedication to God, and sometimes the Virgin Mary and the saints (e) disposal of the body. This is followed by particular bequests, usually with details of the residuary legatee, the executor/executrix, overseers or supervisors appointed to see the will was carried out, and witnesses, often including a priest. Spelling is eccentric by modern standards and internally inconsistent, a term or name being spelt phonetically and variably.

## II. The Preamble

In recent years it has been pointed out<sup>2</sup> that the religious portion of the preamble changes as the 16th century goes on. It is said that these changes reflect the religious views of the testator, and, collected in sufficient numbers, may indicate changing religious attitudes. Work so far has isolated 3 main types of preamble in use between the 1540s and 1560s.

- (i) the "traditional" or catholic, where the testator asks for the intercession on his behalf of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) and the Holy Company of Heaven, the saints
- (ii) The "non-traditional" omits reference to the Virgin and saints, and usually refers to God alone
- (iii) the "protestant" stresses the sinfulness of the testator and his reliance on Jesus Christ alone for salvation

An example of type (i) follows for illustration.<sup>3</sup>

<u>Element</u>	<u>Text</u>
1.	"In the name of god Amen"
2a	"the xxviii day of decemberr the yerr of our lorde god"
2b	"M V°xlii"
3	"I Rychard Wytthorn"
4	"beyng sycke in body and hole in mynd"
5.	"make my tetament & last wyll in form folowyng"
6.	"fyste I bequeathe my sowle to Almyghty God and to hys blessed mother Virgen Mary & to All the holy Company of Hevyn"
7	"and my body to be buryd in the Chyrcheyard of Cherleton Kyngs"

In general there is a move from type (i) to type (iii) as time goes by.<sup>4</sup>

The preambles of the five wills dated 1537 split 3/2 between traditional/non-traditional forms, and the eight dated 1542-7 are divided 4/4. These are interesting figures but the number of wills is probably too small a sample to be fully representative of Charlton's religious opinions at this time.

It also seems possible to distinguish different categories of wills based on the wording of the preamble elements 1, 5 and 7, which may reflect the different draftsmen involved in writing the wills.

### III. Content of the wills

The wills reflect the importance of agriculture in Charlton Kings in this period. Bequests include sheep, cows, barley and wheat, as well as household goods, money, and clothes. Barley in 1542 was 8d a bushel, wheat 12d a bushel. Details are given of debts, and grain was owed as well as money. Oxen (13s for an ox in 1542) are referred to, as are cows and heifers. The debts show the wide trade and social contacts - as far away as Tewkesbury, Northleach, and Berkeley. It may seem surprising that there are few bequests of land in what are both "wills" and "testaments"<sup>5</sup>, but this is because most testators held copyhold which had to pass to the customary heir, the youngest son, and could not be disposed of by will. But a widow had the right to all her former husband's land for her life and 12 years after her death, and so Margaret Goslinge could leave to her daughter Margaret "two more crops of land she had before". The property in Gloucester and Cheltenham left by John Alexander to his sons must have been freehold.

Also notable is the large size of families. Another feature is the reference to god-children (in one instance 7 being listed), each of whom received sums of 2d to 4d apiece.

Especially interesting is the information concerning religious observances and concern for public welfare in the bequests.

The wills make reference to bequests to lights<sup>6</sup> in the church at Charlton Kings. At this time churches were lighted artificially by lamp and by candle. A perpetual light burned day and night before the high altar in all the larger churches as early as the 13th century. The continual light of the sanctuary lamp in honour of the reserved sacrament is referred to from then to the 16th century. The next most important light burned before the rood. In 1537 there were evidently 4 lights in Charlton church including (temporary) hearse lights, the 3 others being the Lady light and presumably the sacrament and rood lights. In 1538 Royal Injunctions drawn up by Cromwell and approved by Cranmer did away with lights before images or pictures, but specifically allowed "the light that commonly goeth across the church by the rood loft, the light before the Sacrament of the altar, and the light about the sepulchre" (the Easter Sepulchre), while Cranmer in his Visitation Articles of 1547 by implication permitted<sup>7</sup> the use of two altar lights (absolutely necessary for reading the service)

In the 1540s there were bequests by Charlton people to "the sacrament light and the rood light 2s 4d" or to the "rood light" a "bushel of wheat", "6d", or "12d"; while to the hearse lights at the funeral would be allotted a "bushel of barley" or 6d.

A hearse then was a framework holding candles, placed over or supporting a bier or coffin. Coffins, of course, were only for the wealthy; most people were buried in shrouds. The lights were a symbol of prayer, a

safeguard against the powers of evil, and part of the watch kept till burial.

The Church taught the importance of the last moments of life. There were services at regular intervals in memory of the dead. People not wealthy enough to pay for perpetual daily services were sometimes able to provide for a service a month or a year after the death. Special care was taken to ensure repetition of Vespers, Mattins, and the Mass for the Dead on the 30th day after the decease or burial, "the month mind" or "the thirty day"<sup>8</sup>. Thus in one Charlton will we find "dyrges" were to be sung monthly for one year; and in another, provision was made for the priest to say and sing in the said church for one year "for my soll, my father and mother and for all crysten solles".

Money was also left to the Mother Church of the diocese at Worcester (1537); and to the high altar here in place of tithes forgotten. John Alysaunder left for the repair of church fabric "where it shall be most nede by the honesty" of the parishioners, 13s 4d. Again in 1537, a bushel of wheat was left for repair of the bells.<sup>9</sup>

The poor also received money (eg 40s equally divided) or money could be left for "reparacyon of the highways within the precynct of the sayd parish 20s".

Wills were often witnessed by the curate (as the priest who had the cure of souls within a parish was called); and we now know the names of several priests officiating here previously unknown to historians (see Appendix C).

#### APPENDIX A

##### TRANSCRIPT OF CHARLTON KINGS WILLS IN THE COUNTY OF HEREFORD AND WORCESTER RECORD OFFICE

These are not original wills but copies made at the time of probate for public reference

See Glossary for meaning of some words used.

1. In the name of god Amen xvj day of december the yerr off lord god M°cccc°xxx<sup>t</sup>ivij I Thomas Farantun beyng sycke in body & hole in mynd make my testament and last wyll in thys maner foloyng furst I bequethe my sowle to Almyghty God and my body to be buryd in the Churchyard of Charleton Kynges Item I bequethe to the hersselyght xijd The resewdo of my goodes nott bequethed I yeve to my wyfe whom I orden and make myn executryx. Wyttnes herto Sir Roger Mottelowe curat Mr Rychard Gotherug Jhon Abbottes wytt other moo the day and the yerr a bove namyd

WRO 1537/26

2. In the name of god amen. the seconday off the monette off December in the verr of owrre lorde god M°cccc°xxxvij<sup>th</sup> I Robard rogers beyng sycke in body & hole in mynd make my Testament & last wyll in the forme folowyng. fyrst I bequethe my sowll to allmygthy god & to hys mother Virgen Mary & to all the Holy compeny off heven & my body to be buryd in the Churche yord off Charrylton Kyngys. Item I bequeathe to the mother Churche off Worcester vjd

Item to the hyght auter off Charrylton above namyd xijd Item to the hersselyght xijd Item to the other iij<sup>th</sup> lyght iij<sup>th</sup> bowselles off borly Item I gyeve to Rychard my sonn a hayferr calve on yerr off age. Item to Thomas my sonn a hayferr calfe yerr off age The resedwe off my goodes nott bequethyd I gyeve to my wyffe whom I orden and make myn executrix & Thomas Wytthorn with Jhon Ellysaunder to be overseerrrs wyttnes herto Sir Roger beyng curatt Jhon Ellysaunder Jhon Hyckes Thomas Wagarr with other moo the day & the yerr above datyd

WRO 1537/88

3. In the name off god amen xviiij day off July the yerr off your lord god M<sup>°</sup>cccc<sup>°</sup>xxx<sup>ti</sup>vij Jone bravell wyddo beyng sycke in body And hole in mynd make my testament & last wyll in thys maner foloyng furst I bequethe my sowle to almyghty god & my body to be buryd in the Churche yard off Charleton Kynges. Item I bequeth to the mother churche of Worcester vjd. Item to the hyght auter in the churche above namyd iijjd. Item to the fowerr lyghts iij busells of barly. The resewdo of my goodes nott bequethed I yeve to Jhon my son whom I orden and make myn executor and Jhon Hyckes to be oversearr; wyttnes herrto Sir Roger Mottelowe. Jhon bravell. Rychard Hewys wyttne other moo the day and yerr above namyd.

WRO 1537/239

4. In the name off god amen x day off may the yere your lorde god M<sup>°</sup>cccc<sup>°</sup>xxx<sup>ti</sup>vij I Jhon Horsseman beyng sycke in body and hole in mynd make my testament & last wyll in thys maner foloyng furst I bequethe my sowle to almyghty god, to hys mother Virgen Mary and to all the holy compeny of heven and my body to be buryd in the Churche yeard of Charleton Kynges. Item I bequethe to the hyght Auter in the Churche above namyd vjd. Item to the hersse lyght a bossell of barly. Item to the thre other lyght to every off them a bossell off barly. Item to the reparation off the belles a bosell of whete Item I yeve to Jhon my son a bolocke on yowe & a lamme. Item to Thomas a hayfer thre yerr old on yowe and a lamme. Item to Elyzabet my dogther a hayfer thre yerr old on yowe & a lamme. Item to Augnes my dogther a bolocke too yerr of age on yowe & a lamme. provydyd allways that thys catell yeven to these Chylldern yf hytt so be that god do hys wyll by on of them then thes catell to be devydyd Amoght them to the lengett lever. The resudew off my goodes I yeve to Marget my wyfe whom I orden & make myn executryx. Thes beryng wyttnesse: Sir Roger Mottelowe curatt. Jhon Daffey. Jhon Lane wythe other moo And Thomas Whytthorn to be overseer that thys my last wyll be fullfyllid. the day and the yerr A bove namyd.

WRO 1537/254

5. In the name of god amen the xviiij<sup>ti</sup> of May in the yerr of your lorde god M<sup>°</sup>cccc<sup>°</sup>xxx<sup>ti</sup>vij I Wyllyam Colles beyng sycke in body and hole in mynd make my testament and last wyll in thys forme folowng furst I bequethe my sowll to Almyghty god to hys mother Virgen Mary and to al the holy compeny of hevyn and my body to be buryd in the Churche yeard of Charleton Kynges Item I bequethe to the mother Churche of Worc(ester) iijjd. Item to the hersselyght xijd. Item to the hyght auter in the Churche above namyd ijd Item to your lades lyght ijd. Item to Wyllyam Colles my godes shon my best cote and brasse pott. The resewde of my goodes nott bequethed I yeve to Elyzabeth my wyfe whom I orden and make myn executryx. These beryng wyttnes. Sir Roger Mottelowe curatt. Harry Wyndyll. Thomas Stobbe. Rychard Hewys with other moo the day and the yerr above namyd

WRO 1537/255

APPENDIX B Gist of 8 wills from GRO 1542-1547

1-2 Will ref.	GRO dispersed wills bundle III 1542/43	1545/79
Date of will	28 December 1542	3 April 1545
Proved	1542/3	(? 3 December) 1545
Testator buried	Rychard Wytthorn 29 December 1542	Jone Whelar widow 6 April 1545
Preamble type	Catholic	Non-traditional
Requests to children	Jhon, son, 3 qr barley Thomas ) sons, 1 qr barley Wylliam ) each  Rychard ) sons, 3 bushels Walter ) wheat each  Amy ) daus. 2 bushels Mawde ) wheat each Alys )	Thomas, son "to pay my debts and bring my body to earth" - and bestow rest of goods for welfare of her soul
Lights	"rode" 1 bushel wheat "hersse" 1 bushel barley	
debts owed by testator to	Jhon Whytthorn - wages 13s 4d Wylliam Whytthorn - wages 10s, bushel wheat, brown "bolocke" 3 yrs old	
debts owed to testator by	Nycolas Holder - 1½ bushels wheat Robert Taylerr 7s 6d, bushel barley price 8d Jhon Hewys the elder, 13s for ox for his son Richard. Robertt Hawtthorn, bushel wheat price 12d Sebyll Whytthorn, bushel wheat price 12d and for husband's debts 5s	
Executor/rix residue to	wife Margett	
Overseer	Thomas Wytthorn	
Witnesses	Sir Roger, curate Thomas Lennett Wylliam Welarr	Roger Mutlowe Wylliam Whelr Wylliam Whythorne

3-4 Will ref.	1545/3	1545/228
Date of will proved	22 December 1542 28 May 1545	1 May 1545 5 June 1545
Testator buried	Alice Elborough or Alys Elborow (widow) 26 December 1542	Margaret Goslinge or Goslyng widow
Preamble	non-traditional	catholic
Bequests to children and others	Sir Richard son, - 2 pots, a canvas, 3 pr best sheets, best "metclothe", 2 best towells "laten chefyng dyshe", "cheyar", crop of barley in barn  William, son - cestern, greatest pot (and after to Richard his son); to Thomas his son, best pan, to his 3 children, a cow  Jhon, son - 10s to help him out of debt Richard his son, a new pot, a canvas, pr of sheets  Letty's, dau-in-law - gown, "apurn", kerchew, capp, smock  Amy, dau-in-law, best girdle, best bedes  Thomas Pantt the yr, sheep	Thomas, son, 6 bushels wheat, little pan Jhon son, 4 bushels wheat, pr of sheets, canvas, cow Margaret, daughter, 2 more crops off land she had before, 2 kerchewes, store pig, coffer  Isabel, pig, coffer, all her household stuff  Annes Rogers, smock, kerchewe  Jhon Alysander, "bushel of barley for harmys my hens have done"  God-children 2d each Margeret Reynold Margaret Whytorne Margaret Whythorn (different) Alys Barney Jhon Elborow Amy Whelar Elizabethe Bolde
Lights		herse light and rood light, 6d each dirges to be kept in the church of Charlton Kings monthly for 1 yr
Executor/rix residue to	after funeral exp & probate William	after funeral expenses & probate Jhon & Isabell
Witnesses	2 sons above named, William Keck, Richard Myllord	John George curate Thomas Whythorne William Elborow



5-6 Will ref.	1545/326	1542/13
Date of will proved	10 June 1545	20 June 1542
Testator buried	Thomas Barne	John Bydfyld or Bidfild 25 June 1542
Preamble	Catholic	Catholic
Bequests to children & others	<p>Jhon, yr brother - a cow that is with Rychard Myllord, with the heyre (?heifer)</p> <p>to Jhon and Heyrye, a cow between them which is with John Kyng of Depmore with the heyre</p> <p>Elsabeth ) Annys ) 3 sisters Margery ) 15s 4d which Thomas Welar owes, to be divided equally</p> <p>Rychard, elder brother - best cote, best dublett</p> <p>Rychard and Robert to have between them 10s Wylliam Moris owes</p> <p>The cow with Rychard Mylord to pay "kalvyng" (calving) year 2s 4d, the barren year 16d</p>	<p>Robert, son, cow, brass pot, platter, pottinger, 2 sheep</p> <p>Thomas, son - brass pot, 2 sheep</p> <p>Alycys, dau - 2 yr old heifer, brass pot, platter, pottinger, 2 sheep, pr of sheets, the "aubery"</p> <p>Jone, dau - brass pot, pr sheets, 2 sheep, platter, pottinger</p> <p>John, son, "possenett", 2 sheep, platter, pottinger, Elizabeth Kyerr, pr sheets, coffer</p> <p>Henry Wyndyll, "hoseclothe"</p> <p>Thomas Whytt, tawney cotte</p>
Lights	Jhon Clarke "my best petycote"	
Debts owed by testator	<p>Elsabeth Ellysander, "cosen" residue of goods</p> <p>sacrament light &amp; rood light 2s 4d</p>	<p>Gyls Gyst of Toxebury 20s</p> <p>Ellysander Pyeci (?) of Toxebury 15d</p> <p>Waterr Patte of Cheltenham 21s</p> <p>Rychard Maylys of Cheltenham 4 bushels barley</p> <p>Borell of Cheltenham 18 bushels barley</p> <p>Wylliam Overke of Cheltenham 4d</p> <p>John Whytt of Cheltenham 3s 4d. for sowynge to Robert Coxe of Cheltenham 2d</p> <p>Gyls Crompe of Charleton Kynges 20d</p> <p>Wylliam Crompe of CK for workyng 6d</p> <p>Rychard Harlege of CK 2s 11d</p> <p>Elizabeth France widow of CK</p>

Debts owed  
by testator

("I am nott parfytte how  
moche hytt ys I pyt hyt  
to herre cownssins")  
John Bravell of CK 10s  
John Maunyssele of CK "a  
toode of wole"

Wyllyam Kycke of CK 2s 4d  
John Abbott of CK 12d  
Robert Symones of CK, bushel  
of rye  
("I am not perfett of the  
pryce, I putt hyt to hys  
cownssins), 12d in money  
Wyllyam Cawdelerr of  
Brockynton 12d  
Thomas Cawdeler of Shyppetton  
for 3 boowsells of malt  
23d

£3.18.5  
Rychard Churcheyes of Strowde  
6s 8d (this 6s 8d omitted  
from total)  
Sir John of Cambrydde 8s  
Mayles, Cheltenham, 2  
bushels malt  
Edmund Alyn of Gloucester  
6d  
Thomas Ceysam of Berekeley  
26s 8d  

---

£5.13.7

Debts owed to  
testator

Thomas Whelar 15s 4d  
Rychard Myllord 3s 8d  
John Kyng of Depmore 20d  
Wyllyam Moris 10s  
Thomas Clevelly 2s 3d

Henry Parkarr of barley  
11s 11d  
Geffrey Hart of Norlege,  
2 bushels barley  
Plokett of Norlege, bushel  
barley  
Robett Adams of Barkeley,  
for 6 bushels of malt 15d  
a bushel  
(received in part of payment)  
12d  
Penocke of Burford 3s 4d

Executors

His master Jhon Allysader  
& Nycoles Holder, to  
distribute for the health  
of his soul residue of goods  
at burial and to have for  
their pains 5s between  
them (Note apparent conflict  
between bequests of  
residue)

Elzabett, wife

Witnesses

Sir Jhon Georges  
Wyllyam Wytthorn, Edward  
Wager

7-8 Will ref.	1546/44	1546/25
Date of will proved	24 September 1546 1546	12 April 1546 1546
Testator buried	Jhon Alysaunder 28 September 1546(?)	Elsebeth Wagar widow 4 May 1546
(Right-hand side of will torn away)		(part of right-hand side torn)
Preamble	Non-traditional	Non-traditional
Bequests to children & others	Jhon ) Thomas ) "natural" Robert ) sons £30 equally divided between those surviving to age 21, reversion to daus if none surviving  Each god child 4d  Amy ) Alice ) daughters £10 at age 21 or marriage  Robert and lawful heirs, lands tenements, gardens etc in Gloucester  Jhon and lawful heirs, lands in Cheltenham (but not burgage and lands bought of Thomas Syerforde)	Marget, daughter £30 (paid in £6 instalments yearly) or half crop of corn. best kertyl, best smock, best kerchew, best apurn, 2 pr sheets  Edward, son, other half crop of corn with Margret first choice of a cow Annes, daughter, - gyrdle (she to pay Grace Jones 5s)  Jone Jones, heifer 12 months old, pr sheets Grace Jones, second choice of cow, bed, 2 pr sheets, bolster, "twylly canwas, a helyng & hangyng to the same", metclothe, towell, best capp, £3 towards her marriage to be paid by Edward out of a messuage in Cheltenham; bequests conditional that "she will take cowncell of her uncle Edward & hir frends to have (an) honest man to hir husband". Grace, grettyst pott and pan, 2 platters, sawsy, 2 candlestyckes, a salt. If she die before marriage, these to be divided among other (children) of Humfrey Jones not named
Charitable bequests & lights	High altar for tithes forgotten 12d Church of Gloucester 8d Charlton Kings parish church his remaining interest in it heretofore given to the church "by the honesty of the parishioners there where	High alter, 12d to make "an hangyng before the --" Herse light, a bushel of wheat

it shall be most nede" for  
"mayntenaunce of the fabric"  
13s 4d

Herse light 12d  
£5.6.8. "to syng and say"  
in "the said church for my  
soll, my father and mother  
and all crysten solles for  
the space of oon hole yere"

Poor people equally dividd  
40s  
"repariacyon of the hyghways  
within the precynct of the  
sayd parishe" 20s

Debts owed by  
testator

to Thomas Brocbanck for met  
to Thomas Packer -  
to Walter Pate for mer -  
to Elsebeth Percyvall 22d  
to Jone Edkyns -  
to William Keek for a busge  
of barley 12d

Executor/rix  
residue to

Agnes, wife  
to enjoy all property till  
all children are 21 and an  
annuity thereafter paid  
by the children

Edward, son

Overseers

Wylliam Rog(ers)  
John Rogers  
Nycolas Rogers

Nycolas Holdar

Witnesses

Sir Rychard Elborow curatt  
Jhon Hyckes  
Thomas H--sin  
Rychard Alend  
John Bul----  
Nycolas Holder  
Hugh Evans

Sir Richard Elbor(ow)  
----Whytorne  
Jhon Rogers

APPENDIX C Curates of Charlton Kings not previously known

10 and 18 May, 23 July 1537	Sir Roger Mottelowe
2 December 1537	Sir Roger
16 December 1537	Sir Roger Mottelowe
28 December 1542	Sir Roger
3 April 1545	Roger Mutlowe (probably Sir Roger)
1 May and 10 June 1545	Sir John George
14 September 1546, 4 June 1547	Sir Rychard Elborow

GLOSSARY

Aubery	Possibly a variant of aumbry, a small cupboard
bushel	4 pecks or 8 gallons
cestern	a vessel to hold liquor, sometimes an item of tableware
Dyrges	First word of antiphon at Mattins in Office of the dead ( <u>Dirige Domine Deus meus in conspectu tuo viam meam</u> Ps 5.8) used as name for that service. It later came to include the Vespers (the <u>Placebo</u> ) sung the evening before (from the antiphon <u>Placebo Domino in regione vivorum</u> )
laten	latten, a mixed yellow metal like, or the same as, brass
petycote	Small coat worn under doublet up to 1542
pottinger	vessel of metal, wood, or earthenware, for holding soup or broth
quarter	8 bushels
Sir	Courtesy title for medieval priest who was not a University graduate. In use till c.1635
stufte	household equipment or stores
tod	weight of wool, 28 lbs but varied locally

REFERENCES

1. The social status of the testator is rarely given, except for widows
2. "The Use of Religious Preambles as a measure of Religious Belief in the 16th Century" M.L.Zell Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research 50 (November 1977) pp 246-9
3. GRO Dispersed wills bundle III (1542-43)
4. M.L.Zell notes that bequests of a religious nature in a will may reveal personal beliefs better than a preamble, which may have been drafted by someone else. See for example John Alysaunder's will (1546/44)
5. A testament is normally a synonym for a will but technically is a document which excludes realty (property or interests in land).
6. See useful background references in J.C.Cox and A Harvey English Church Furniture (1907) - lights of a church pp 320-30  
The Lady light in Charlton Kings was probably in the chantry dedicated to "Our Lady Service"
7. H.Bettenson Documents of the Christian Church (1963 ed) p.327;  
F.L.Cross ed. Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church (1957) Altar lights p.40
8. See useful background in H.S.Bennett The Pastons and their England (1968) pp 193-211
9. The bequest shows that Charlton Kings had more than one bell, and had had bells long enough for repair to be needed. The tower may have been built c.1500 in order to hang them.  
At that date "bells were chimed single or in twos and threes by means of a rope and lever which enabled the sexton and his helpers down in the church below to swing the bells sufficiently for the clappers to strike them"  
W.G. Wilson Change Ringing (1965) p.2.

### 3. THE VILLAGE PUMP AND THE STOCKS

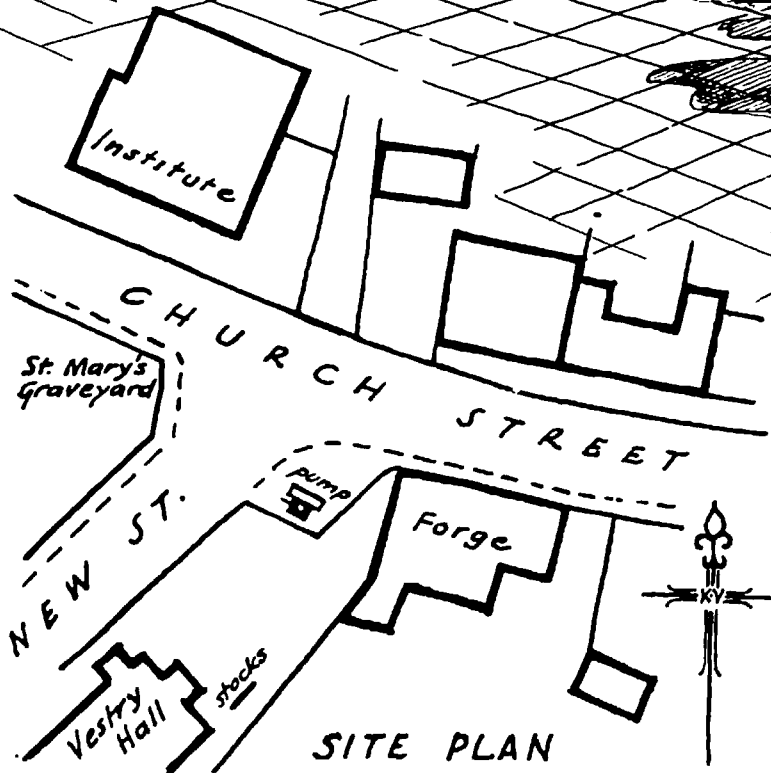
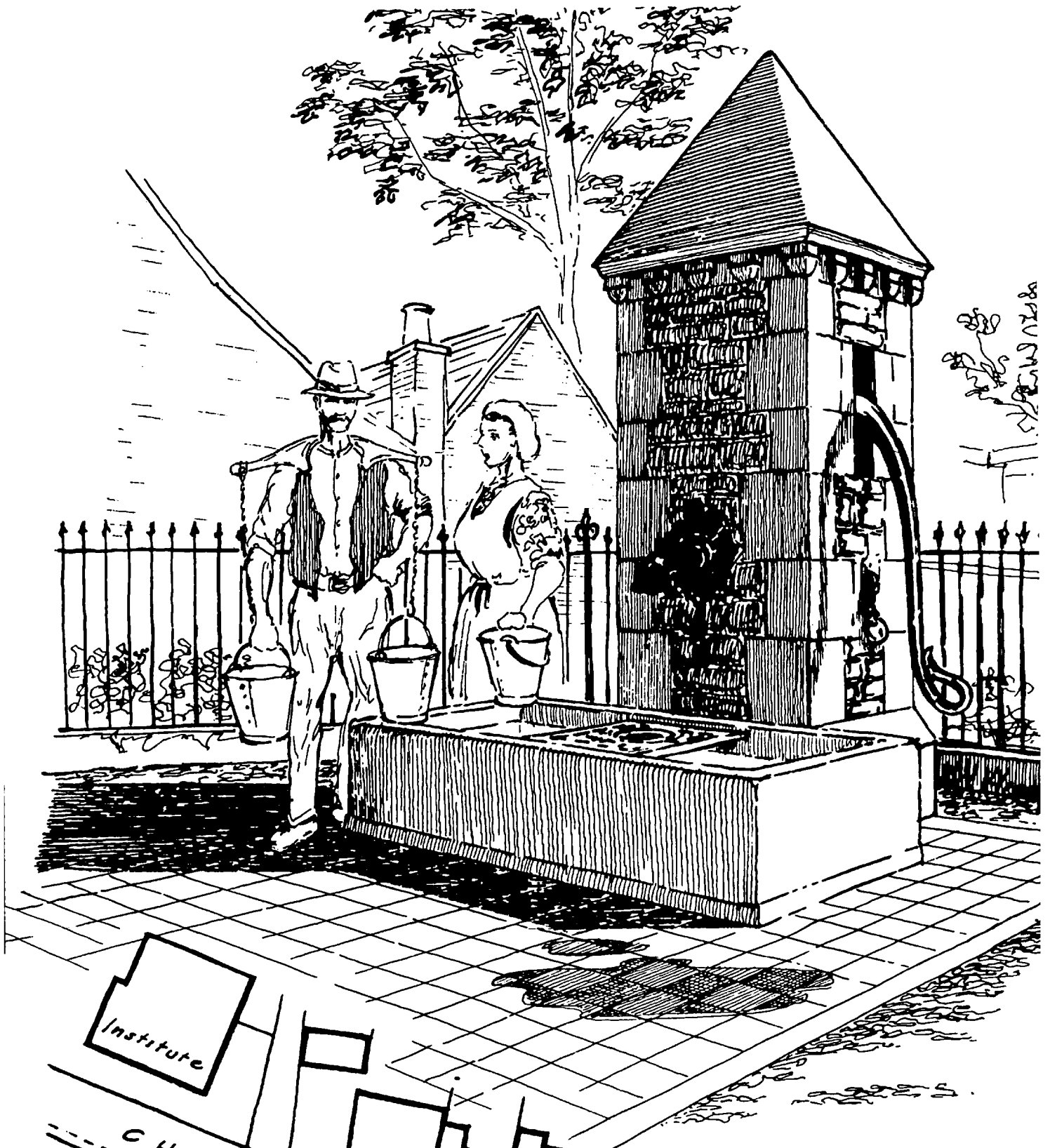
This drawing of the pump by K.Venus has been made from a photograph in the Chronicle and Graphic for 24 May 1902, after several of our older friends and members had made rough sketches of what they remembered. Only those of us who are approaching 70 can remember the pump, for it was removed about 1917-18.

In this form it must have been erected c.1854, when New Street was cut, the New Vestry hall (St Mary's hall) built and the extended churchyard surrounded with wall and railings. There may, of course, have been an earlier pump on the site, just by the pillar-box near the forge (Skinner's shop) in Church Street.

Provision of stocks became a parish liability in the 16th century. Our present stocks were made in March 1763 by Anthony Mustoe, and Mr Richard Ballinger the constable paid 17s on behalf of the parish for timber and work.<sup>1</sup> At first they stood by the south porch of the church<sup>2</sup>. They were probably moved when the church was extended in 1876; after that they stood for a time by the Vestry Hall porch, then just behind the pump<sup>3</sup>. When the pump was demolished, the Urban District Council removed the stocks too, and took them to the Council Yard in Horsefair Street. They might have been thrown away but for Mrs McLaren who asked where they were, insisted on having them put in front of the Vestry Hall in their present position, and provided a shelter for them.<sup>4</sup> Its roof was renewed with stone tiles from The Withyholt when that house was demolished.<sup>5</sup>

1. Transcript in Bridgeman
2. Papers in Vestry relating to the 1854 churchyard extension.
3. OS 25" 1884 shows them by the porch; many of us remember them in the street
4. Information from Mr F. Neather
5. Information from Mr Thornton who did the work.





## THE VILLAGE PUMP

This perspective sketch is adapted from a small elevational photograph discovered by Mary Paget in a copy of the Chronicle for May 1902. The figures were added to give an idea of size, — the use of the yoke is remembered shortly before the pump was demolished. The stocks shown on the site plan were at one time behind the pump, and have only recently been protected by a roof.

#### 4. CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS 1751-1801

We gain some information about Charlton Kings from the churchwardens' accounts of the second half of the eighteenth century. What is surprising is that these documents do not provide what one might expect - ie details of the money received and expended - but as an alternative reward they furnish various small details which give perhaps some insight into a parish's way of life some 200 years ago. Unluckily these papers are not complete, the accounts of several years completely missing and several other years missing in part, and we are thus not really sure of the identities of all the churchwardens - handwriting was not always consistent and the names of the writers not always recorded. As far as we can see, they are as follows:-

1751 John Gale and Richard Goodrich  
1759 John and Richard Bastin  
1766 William Goodrich and John Tanty  
1771, 1772, 1773 missing  
1775 Richard Bastin and John Lea  
1791 Buckle and Ashmeade, and Bradshaw

At the turn of the century, Messrs Buckle and Ashmead may have resigned and Bradshaw's possible tenure may be covered by an item of £4.11.2, money due to Mr Bradshaw on leaving office.

Tenures were lengthy and one may guess that there was not a great number of willing and able successors at any one time, and that the job was not much sought after.

Until the last three years of entries, these "accounts" are merely a record of payments with no mention of any credit side on which the wardens may draw. The statements handed in are seldom of one year's expenses, and the payments mostly on the small side - small odd jobs, bolts, locks, a hasp on the tower door, "hinging" the church gate, and the like; matters dealing with shillings rather than pounds, particulars reckoning half pence and farthings, give an impression of little available money most carefully spent, and of a scrupulous honesty in its "disbursement" (to use a favourite word) so that the sudden appearance in 1755 of "The Plumber's Bill £15.14.0" gives quite a shock and an unsatisfied desire to know what had occurred. As in our own day - though slowly - prices were rising, and in 1782 we read the dire entry "To the late Churchwarden being out of pocket £3.0.3½". The deficits continue until the end of the century when we read "Received by levy £20.19.6½" (though they were still out of pocket by £4.16.10 3/4. In 1801 they received 3 years' levels at once - £62.13.0½ - and evidently had some really shocking expenses to meet - "2 cistern heads, 36 feet of iron conductors for the Church, £4.15.0" - a new walk in the churchyard, gravel and haulage £9 - an account "of repairing the old roof to the church as agreed at the Vestry £120". This was the dawn of a new era however, when they receive credit for "a 1s Rate amounting to £240." It comes just outside the 50 years period but it is with a sense of relief that we read that Mr Lovesy subscribed £50 towards discharging the old account. A parishioner who had money and was willing to donate it was a distinctly new feature for the Churchwardens to meet!"

Meanwhile what were the general expenses for which the churchwardens disbursed their money? Each year there were two Visitations, in June and

October, for which there were generally recorded Fees and Expenses. Generally the Archdeacon came, once the Bishop, and on the final occasion the Archdeacon and the Chancellor of the Diocese. Up to this final occasion the fees and expenses varied between £2 and £3.10.0 roughly; on the last occasion with two "Notables" the amount was £5.5.0.

Bread and wine for the church is accounted for in various bills, seemingly only presented at irregular intervals. John Cherington and his wife (or widow) supplied the church from 1751 until 1760; the amount seems a little over £1 p.a.. They were succeeded by a Mrs Nickalls, and in 1774 Bates was the supplier (Some gaps in the accounts may be the cause of the apparent irregularity of supplies). A Mr Stone took over in 1782, and Stone's bill recurs up to 1800 showing various amounts, the final one being £5.19.4. This increase over previous years could be due both to price rise and population increase, and thereby of increase in communicants.

Quite a number of entries are for materials for repairs done more or less on a DIY style - "Stone for ye Church £4.2.6 and for fetching stone £2.8.0" - "Bariles of Lime and carriage 4s 6d". Lime is very often recorded as the church was frequently limewashed. "A load of Slets (slates) 5s". Naturally there are a good many entries for stone and its carriage from the quarry. In 1759 a day's work (unspecified) was put in by a man and boy and involved "A liblaster 6d", and in 1762 some cause required "a bushell of white haiare" - some kind of plastering? "Sand round the church" indicates foot paths perhaps. There is a regular charge called "Rent for the Churchyard" paid to various persons (Aston, Slater, and Bastin). The usual sum is 7s paid over a number of years, though in some years, "Churchyard 7s" paid several times and occasionally 14s. Perhaps a contract for tidying up?

One constant call on funds is the Belfry. The six voluntary Ringers in addition to their weekly peal had a special peal on Guy Fawkes' Day for which they received 6s. In one year, 1759, they received a special payment, 6s again, for a peal for "The Thanksgiving Day". Here comes, I fancy, perhaps Charlton Kings contact with the Seven Years War - on September 13th of that year Wolfe was killed at the Siege of Quebec, whereby Canada fell to us. Bells, however, are an expensive item! About every 2 years new bell ropes seem to have been needed at £1.5.0 for many years, rising to £1.18.0 at the end of the century - and there was the Clock to consider too - the only visible and audible time-keeper for most of the inhabitants. Bells needed metal repairs and wheels, and the clock required clock-line (7s in two consecutive years) and a "wirer" once, and repairs to its face twice, and cleaning (3s a time) nearly every year. Then in 1782 one of the bells gave real trouble. "Copper for mending bell" £1.6.6 plus 4s for the work, then £1.16.0 and £1.6.1½. Finally they gave up doing the job themselves and called in Rudhalls, the Gloucester Bell Founders, so there was -

"taking down the Bell 4s  
Bell to Glouc: and back 12s  
Rudhall for bell £22.2.2"

and finally Maintenance" for the man as brought back Bell" 3s

total £23.1.2

To our minds perhaps the oddest entries are column after column devoted to "Sparrows". Two acts of Queen Elizabeth I in 1566 and 1572 laid as a parochial duty the destruction of pests, and of these particularly the

sparrows. Sparrows were destroyed at the rate of 2d per dozen for fledglings and 3d for Old Sparrows, and the persons chiefly concerned were the children (Humphris Boy, the Brunsdon boy etc) who had happy mornings out breaking down the nests and collecting their victims. Some of the larger land holders collected too - by the 10 dozen! Men brought in fox pelts (or brushes?) at 1s a time, quite a good payment for laying a trap. Every dozen sparrows and their payment is scrupulously entered up and some of the churchwardens seem to think of little else. It is not until the end of the century that they begin to pool their entries and produce a sparrow total at the end of the year. Foxes too were a good windfall to their killers and during the foxhunting season 8 or 9 foxes are several times entered up - one was brought from "Lackhampton" and two in 3 days by a "man from Pressbury".

The bonus we get from these horrid actions is a number of village names. In the first 25 years of the period there appear to have been at least 50 families and by the end of the century the names have risen to 110 (though of course some of the 1751 families may have died out). It is interesting to trace names of families still or recently among Charlton's 6000 inhabitants. Some of the names less usually found still have members living in Charlton Kings or the near portions of Cheltenham. Omitting the "occupation" names, we may mention Absolon, Bastin, Brunsdon, Beames, Ballinger, Clemens, Mustoe, Portlock, Churcher and Timbrell, to name but a few of the 110. It would be interesting to know if any of these can recollect or discover a 200 year old connection with the village.

Various headings of "Passengers" remind us that the parishes were liable for helping the indigent poor back to their own place of origin. "Gave 3 passengers 1s", "Gave 2 women 8d" - demanded charity is hardly generous. A little later the passengers are replaced by "Seamen" and we are reminded of the plight of those whose ships were laid up at a distance from their homes. They generally receive about 6d each, sometimes 2s for 6. Once we have a payment for local charity "For cutting wood for the Poor 6d" in January 1794. Several times we read of a "Briff" - people went round with an official Brief soliciting subscriptions. The general rate of contribution seems to be 1s from Charlton Kings, including one for "The Queen's Prayers" in 1759-60.

The Church Bible and Prayer Book were renewed in 1756 at the cost of £3.18.0 paid to Mrs. Whithorn, and the Prayer Book was replaced in 1767 (12s) and 1785 (£1.3.0). In 1799 the Bible had to be repaired (12s) and finally ended its long life in 1807, at £6.14.0 for its replacement.

We find two references during the 50 years to the Beating of the Bounds of the parish or, as the wardens described it, "The Possessioning". This trudge of 8 miles or more uphill and down dale round our frontiers occurred on two July days in 1774 and 1792. Obviously, the "beaters" required refreshment. In 1774 (evidently a hot day), the charges were £2.3.6. In 1792 the entry had "Bread and cheese" 9s 6d, "cyder" 17s 6d.

There must have been some written communication with the outside world, but not until 1801 do we find "For a letter 6d", and later in the same year comes an apparent crisis "Postboy for the Dr, 3 pikes at 3s", and it was evidently repeated, as the cash entry was 6s!

Naturally little can be learned of any individual in this kind of record; but in the earlier years we hear much of one man. Thomas Sollis repeatedly sends in bills increasing in size from 1751 to 1760. We do not know what his occupation was, one guesses "factotum" (ie parish clerk?) His later bills (in the £3-4 category) are never detailed, but his first one is the sole

example of a particularized account. It is written evidently in his own hand - a very clear and vigorous one, and the signature, no mere "mark" but a well-formed "Thomas Sollis", shows him to be one quite accustomed to the use of a pen. It reads

"To the Churchwardens in the year 1752-3, Mr John Gale and Mr Richard Goodrich

	£	s	d
For winding the Church Clock & writing the Transcript for 2 years		14	0
For cleaning the Clock 6 Times		9	0
For washing the Surplice 6 Times in the 2 years		9	0
For washing the Tablecloth		1	6
For mending the Surplice in the 2 years		1	6
For cleansing the Churchyard		2	0
For cleansing the Gutter			6
			<hr/>
	£1	17	6

Due at Ester"

H.M.C. Bennett

## 5. THE PARISH OF CHARLTON KINGS

The Royal Historical Society has just issued the first volume of a Guide to the Local Administrative Units of England; Southern England (1979) edited by Frederica A. Youngs jr. The entry for Charlton Kings is on page 168. Members will find it useful because it gives the exact dates for 19th century administrative changes and parliamentary constituencies.

But the most interesting point to emerge is that Charlton Kings church which started as a chapelry of the ancient parish of Cheltenham, did not in law become a separate ecclesiastical parish till 1814, when the perpetual curacy was augmented by the Commissioners of Queen Anne's Bounty. This explains why St. Mary's had no vicarage until 1836.

## 6. ONE OF OUR LOST HOUSES - HAM HOUSE, HAM, CHARLTON KINGS

I was five years old when I went to live at Ham House with my parents, two brothers, and grandmother, a sweet Victorian lady. It was a large rambling house, approached by a sweeping drive from the side, with a separate drive to the stables, the latter disused before my time. We always thought that there used to be a circular drive in front of the house and possibly an approach there, as the marks were visible through the lawn and around an enormous weeping ash tree. The house stood in seven acres of grounds and had three doors, the front one surrounded by a glass porch, one into the back kitchen, and another into the back hall.

On entering the front door, there were two large rooms, one on either side, the stairs in front of you, and a hall leading into a large room which we called the back hall, where we often had our meals. There were six doors

leading out of this room, first the one leading from the front hall, then one down steps to the cellars where my father kept a row of incubators for hatching chicks (the cellars would of course have been used in the old days for wine, beer and cider). Next to this came a door leading to a cloak room with toilet and wash basin, and the back stairs; after this was the door to a very very, long, large room. It had bay windows on one side and two large windows which went down to ground level on the other side. I associate this room chiefly with Christmas and the happy times we spent there, sitting round the huge log fire in a dog grate. My brothers and friends often used to put on a little play, which took place in this room, for the benefit of visitors. As I was the youngest member of the family, I was lucky if I got a part at all, and then it would be a very minor one.

The next door from the back hall was the glass one (double) which went out on to a very large stone covering outside stone cellars. This would of course be where the wine etc was taken down. I was always a bit frightened walking over this stone; to me it was enormous, and at a guess I should say it was at least 12 x 12 feet.

The last doors went to the kitchens, the first, a room with one window and a range. Talking about the range brings to my mind a story that nearly ended in disaster. The previous owner of Ham House was a Reverend Lance and he left behind a pure white cat which we always called Rev. Lance. Well, my mother used to make her own delicious bread and when the fire was out in the range would put her dough in the oven to rise, leaving the door ajar. Then one evening when passing through the kitchen, thinking the oven might be getting too cold, she closed the door. Some time later we heard pathetic cries of a cat and were all put to search for the poor creature. Eventually the oven door was opened and out came a very hot cat, which soon recovered and was none the worse for its adventure.

Passing through the kitchen, you came to a very large oblong room, known as the back kitchen. This had an old bread over, a boiler for boiling the clothes, some sort of a boiler in a pit down some steps for heating radiators, a gas oven, and a stone sink with a pump. The floor was of large stone slabs which used to be scrubbed snow white. Talking of the pump brings to mind two stories connected with it. First, the stone at the back door was worn into a groove in the centre by years of constant use and every night a toad would squeeze under the door and be found in the morning by the cool pump. We could carry him (or her) a long way from the house and leave him in the garden, but he could be back by the pump in the morning. Second, for many many years we had a dear old gardener-cum-groom-cum-everything, called Stephens. His first duty in the morning was to pump the water to a very large tank at the top of the house. If my memory serves me right, this took about 20 minutes. When we heard the pumping start we children knew it was time to get up. My father, who was rather good at writing poetry, wrote

"Get up, get up, you lazy lout,  
The pumping is done and the water is still,  
If you're ill, take a Beecham pill,  
Get up, get up, you lazy lout"

I think he wrote it on a bit of paper and sent it up to a visiting friend with a cup of tea.

Father was a sweet gentle man but always full of jokes. He once told a friend that he had a water 'otter in the stream at the bottom of his orchard. The friend walked all the way from the town and my Father took him down to the



stream and then showed him an old rusty kettle.

A larder led from the back kitchen. This had a very large marble slab that nearly filled the room.

On ascending the front stairs from the front hall, you came to a small landing and large door. This door led to a long landing running from east to west of the house, it cut the house in half. At one end of this landing was the bathroom which faced east and which had another door in it coming out at the top of the back stairs and leading to another landing. This took you to three rooms known as the nurseries. These rooms faced west and led from one to the other.

Going back to the central landing, the first door after the bathroom also led to the nurseries. In my early days I slept in the first room and being the youngest member of the family always went to bed first. When the rest of the family were all congregated in one room round a blazing log fire and I heard the door shut, I felt very lonely and afraid, and was terrified that someone would come down from the attics. In those days we had some gas but mostly lamps and candles and I used to collect the discarded ends of the candles, hide them in my bedroom, and light them when I was up there all alone. I was never found out! Further along this landing was a little room which I occupied when I was older; and at the end was a very large room used by my parents, it had one window facing south and two facing west. It also had a dressing room which was never used as the door was blocked by a large double wardrobe.

Going back to the front staircase, you went up a few more steps to another landing and there were two more rooms here, both facing south. The one on the left also had a little window facing east which I loved when I slept there because the sun came "peeping in at dawn". From here was another long staircase leading to the first of the attics. This was a very large long room with our large water tank in one corner. You could easily have held a concert in this room, perhaps it was a dormitory in the days when Ham House was a school. A smaller room led off from this one. Following the stairs up another short flight, you came to the last landing. On the left was a small room and on the right a similar one; in both these rooms you had to mind your head, otherwise you would hit it on the beams. From the last mentioned rooms were several steps going down to a narrow passage way which looked as though it led to a staircase down to the kitchens for the servants. But we could never make out where this could have come out. From this little passage way was yet another large long room, the last of the attics.

According to an old print, there were two front doors to the house, but in my time where one door used to be was a large window in the back kitchen. Possibly the servants' staircase came down somewhere here.

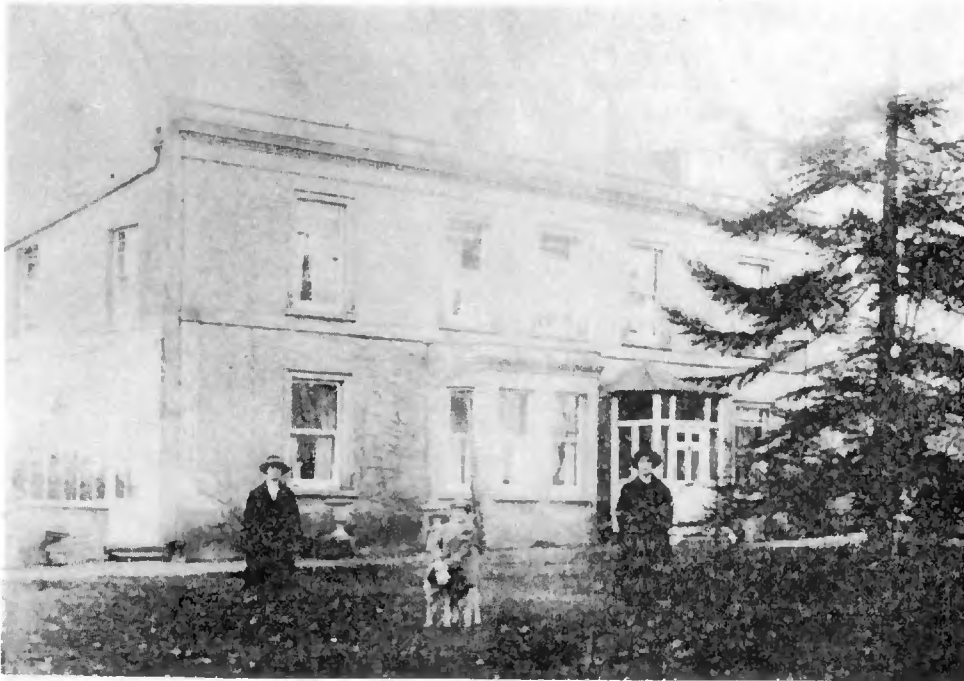
A little distance from the house was a coachhouse with stables, and two rooms over. Eventually my Father put a large engine here with rows of batteries for storing electric light, and with the help of my brothers, he wired up the whole house. What a red-letter day, and what excitement there was when we first had electric light! We were certainly the first house in Ham to have it.

There were two ponds in the grounds. Round one my parents planted trees and shrubs, flowers and bulbs, and set a row of stone steps leading down to the water, where they put goldfish (which grew to enormous size) and planted lilies.

There were three wells, kitchen grounds, conservatory with vine, orchards with all kinds of fruit. We made our own perry, kept a pony, Jersey cows, pigs, and all kinds of poultry, dogs and cats. When I left school I bred, showed, and eventually became Judge of Great Danes.

When the property was sold, they burnt the old house down to make room for a new estate, but fortunately most of the fir trees have been saved, including two Wellingtonias. When the snow came and the winter storms, I often used to wonder if these great trees would come crashing down on the house, but still they stand, and if allowed, will no doubt continue to do so for many a long day. If they could talk, what tales they could tell! I spent my very happy childhood under their wings.

J.C. Main



7. FRANK ARTHUR LACEY, SADLER (1880-1977)

Frank was born at Ham Square, Charlton Kings, on March 15th 1890; and by c.1895 lived at East End with his mother, father, and two older sisters, Edie and Mabel.

They had the help of their Grandma as their mother was quite a sick person, and was an invalid for her short life. At the age of six, Frank developed some nasty sores on his hip after being left out in very poor weather for several hours; when his Grandma found him, he was very ill.

The doctors diagnosed a diseased hip and so he was sent to a Childrens' Hospital for the handicapped, then situated in Winchcombe Street; and he remembered very well kicking his Grandma black and blue as he had heard "When you goes in them places, you never comes out!"

How very different conditions were then to what they are now in our Hospitals today, with all our latest equipment we are made very comfortable; as Frank remembered, they were different indeed.

It was there that he started sewing, having to make moccasin slippers and nightdresses for the nurses, a way of earning your keep. All the children were taught basket weaving also, as a lot of them were blind.

The beds were very sparcely furnished and often a way of passing the time was to amuse himself catching mice with the bolster as they scurried under the bed!

As Frank was a long term patient (he was there from the age of six until he was about eleven), all the education he had was what he received in the hospital, and that was usually from Ladies of the Gentry, as he called them, who volunteered their spare time and brought the necessary books and pencils. When he was about seven years old, he won a box of paints for physiology and was very proud of that - "that be all parts of the body" he used to say with pride.

Not a lot happened to thrill a little boy in hospital then, but Frank recalled the day when great preparations were going on in the street and Union Jacks were put in the windows as King Edward the VII, then the Prince of Wales, was to visit Cheltenham on May 13th 1897; and the sheer joy when he actually rode down Winchcombe Street from Prestbury Park, and Frank was able to see from his window the Prince of Wales on horseback with the Gloucestershire Hussars.

Equipment they may have been short of but discipline they weren't. One day Frank lost his needle through some very gappy floorboards, he couldn't search for it as he couldn't walk. Matron would not believe him and insisted it was an excuse for not sewing and threatened a ducking. When she returned later and found him still idle, he was promptly ducked in a bath of cold water as promised.

At the age of ten he had news that his mother had died and soon afterwards he was considered fairly able to cope and old enough to be responsible, and was sent to Southport to convalesce, by the Gentry Ladies. He was sent to the station with a bundle and a luggage label pinned on his jacket simply with the words "Frank Lacey, Southport". This was to be his first trip on a train.

On his return, he met a very nice lady who gave him a real treat, a bag of cherries. When deposited on the station, he was found by the same lady, crying and lost, on the platform. She offered to take him home and enquired "Where do you live boy?" "Winchcombe Street Ospital" he replied. He thought that to be his home as he had known no other for the last five years.

Fortunately things started to change for the better. One of the young ladies who brought comfort to Frank and others like him when she visited the hospital frequently, used to be distressed at conditions there, and told the children there would be something better for them one day. She kept her promise and donated money for a new Childrens' Hospital which later became Battledown Childrens Hospital (She was Mrs Hay of Ashfield, the new hospital was built in 1902).

As for Frank, he remained a cripple all his life, but he married and raised a family of seven.

He previously went to Gloucester as an apprentice saddler and became a fine craftsman. The last twenty years of his working life were spent working for R.G. Stephens, Saddler, (ironically at 83 Winchcombe Street but not the same site as the Hospital) until he retired at the age of 75 years. He still continued his leather work at home until he was 84 years old and died just before his 87th birthday. A colourful old man and a grand old man - I should know, he was my Father.

#### Reference from R.G. Stephens

To whom it may concern.

Mr Lacey has been employed by the above firm as a Saddler and Harnessmaker for a period of twenty years. The cessation of employment is now caused by the closing of the business owing to retirement of Mr Stephens. During the whole time of working with the business, he has proved himself to be a most able, willing, efficient, and cheerful Employee, turning his hand to anything that would help the betterment of the firm.

As a skilled Craftsman and as a pleasant member of a business house, we have no hesitation in recommending him to any future employer, his honesty being without question.

M. Wilcox (nee Lacey)

#### 8. A FAMOUS HISTORIAN AT CHARLTON KINGS

Leopold von Ranke arrived at Brixton House, Charlton Kings, from Berlin, with his wife on 4 September 1852 and departed from Brixton House for London on 16 October 1852.<sup>1</sup>

Roger Beacham

Brixton House was the mid 19th century name of Church End House, later The Grange (demolished 1933 - see Bulletin I pp 31-4 and Bulletin 2 22-4). Its owner in 1852 was Mrs. Sarah Meale, widow of Colonel Meale. It would be interesting to know how the Meales met von Ranke and the purpose of the visit - it cannot have been to see the Phillipps Collection of MSS at

Thirlestaine House, for Sir Thomas Phillipps did not move there till 1864, though von Ranke certainly did use Phillipps material.<sup>2</sup>

1. CLO 4 September and 16 October 1852 pp 595, 693
2. Gwen Hart History of Cheltenham (1965) p.230.

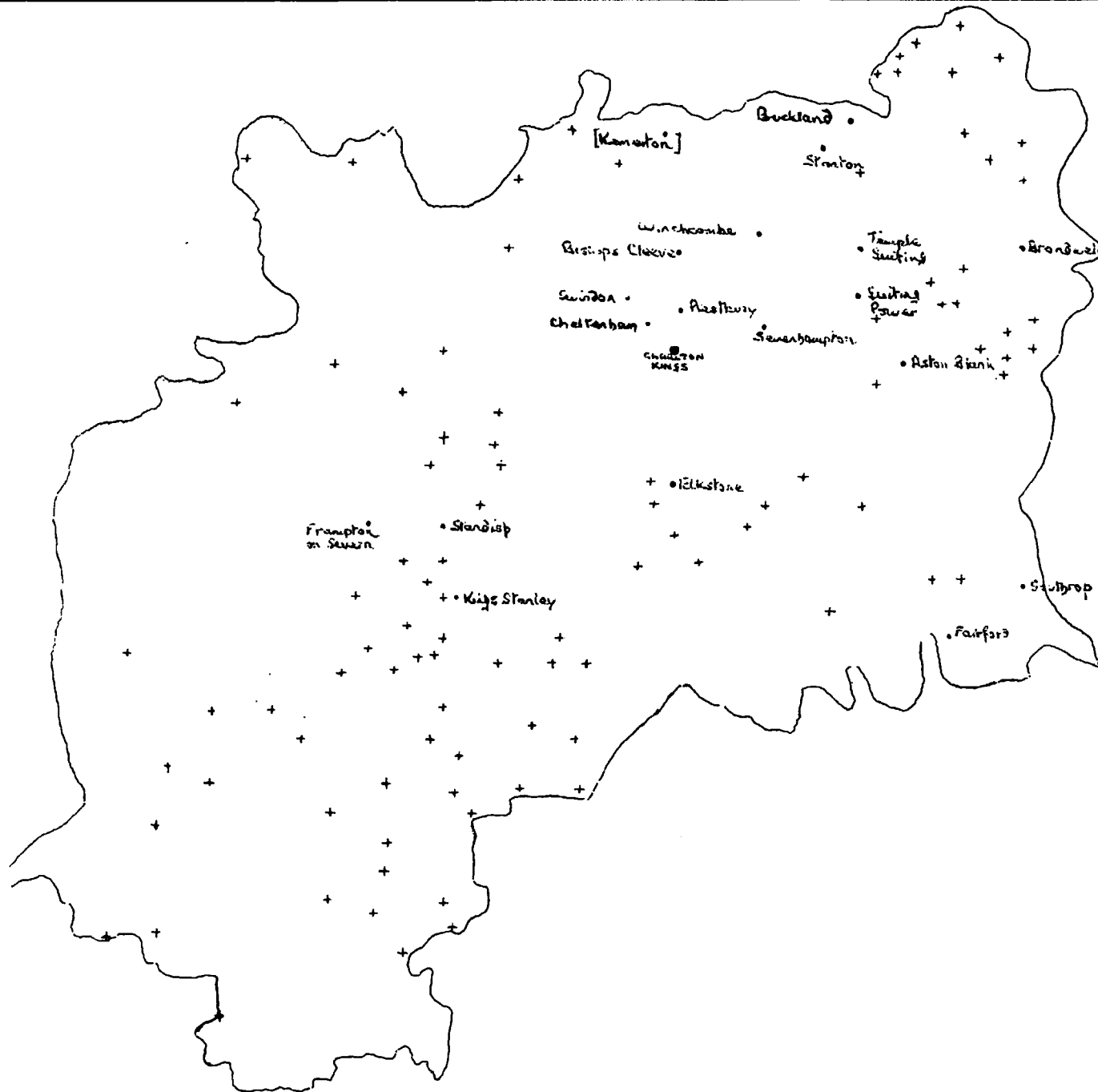
#### MRS SOMERS' COTTAGE

The visitors must have noticed this thatched cottage, which used to stand opposite the entrance to The Grange.

Photograph lent through Miss D. Hawkins.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE (excluding Bristol). PARISHES WITH MARRIAGE REGISTERS TRANSCRIBED IN 'PHILLIMORE' SERIES BOOKS.





"PHILLIMORE"

9. Approximately one quarter of Gloucestershire parishes' marriage registers have been transcribed. Transcripts cover the period from the beginning of each register to 1812 (occasionally 1840) and have been published in seventeen volumes of the 'Phillimore' series of genealogical publications.

Charlton Kings marriages are in Volume III.

All volumes have now been scanned and references to marriages of Charlton Kings people in other parishes extracted. These extracts are listed in date order on the right. The map shows the Gloucestershire parishes included in the Phillimore transcripts - full list below - those where Charlton Kings' strays have been found are marked in red and named.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PARISHES INCLUDED IN 'PHILLIMORE'

Acton Turville	Charlton Kings	Guiting Power	Ministerworth	Sevenhampton	Tetbury
Alderley	Chedworth	Temple Guiting	Mitcheldean	Shipton Moyne	Thornbury
Ampney Crucis	Cheltenham	Hardwicke	Moreton in Marsh	Lower Slaughter	Tirley
Ashchurch	Cherington	Harescombe	Naunton	Upper Slaughter	Todenham
Aston Blank	Coln Rogers	Hatherop	Newington Bagpath	Slimbridge	Tormarton
Aston Subedge	Didmarton	Hawkesbury	Nymphsfield	Snowhill	Tortworth
Avening	Duntisbourne Abbots	Henbury	Oldbury on the Hill	Chipping Sodbury	Turkdean
Great Badminton	Duntisbourne Rous	Hill	Oldbury on Severn	Old Sodbury	Twynning
Batsford	Dursley	Horsley	Olveston	Southrop	Uley
Beverstone	Eastington	Horton	Owlpen	Standish	Westcote
Bishops Cleeve	Ebrington	Huntley	Ozleworth	Kings Stanely	Westonbirt
Bourton on the Water	Edgeworth	Icomb	Preston	Leonard Stanley	Weston Subedge
Boxwell	Elkstone	Kingscote	Quedgeley	Stanton	Whaddon
Broadwell	Eyford	Kingswood	Quenington	Stinchcombe	Wickwar
Bromsberrow	Fairford	Lemington	Rendcomb	Stone	Winchcombe
Brookthorpe	Filton	Maisemore	Great Rissington	Stonehouse	Winstone
Buckland	Forthampton	Matson	Little Rissington	Lower Swell	Woolaston
Cam	Frampton on Severn	Mickleton	Wyck Rissington	Swindon	Wormington
North Cerney	Frocester	Minchinhampton	Saintbury	Syde	

CHARLTON KINGS PERSONS MARRIED IN OTHER GLOUCESTERSHIRE PARISHES - Extracts from 'Phillimore' Marriage Register transcripts.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>Groom</u>	<u>of</u>	<u>Bride</u>	<u>of</u>
12my1640	Prestbury	Lennel Pates gent.		Mary Tayler alias Ruggedale	CK
16jal661	Kemerton	William Hoskins	Charleton *	Susanna Hale	Aston upon Charran
19no1678	Bishops Cleeve	Richard Hobbs junior		Margaret Collet	CK
5j11679	Bishops Cleeve	Mr Leonard Pate	CK	Mrs Judith Norwood	Leckhampton
21jal683	Cheltenham	Richard Ballenger	CK	Joan Giles	
27jnl686	Bishops Cleeve	Robert Stiles	CK	Susanna Holder	Stoke (Orchard)
27my1690	Cheltenham	Roger Probert	CK	Elizabeth Powch	
29no1693	Swindon	John Grevil	CK	Mrs Judith Pates	CK
22se1695	Cheltenham	William Ludlow	CK	Ann Cole	
19oc1695	Cheltenham	Walter Balinger	CK	Jane Lawrence	CK
16fe1696	Swindon	Daniel Ellis	CK	Mary Gale	CK
6de1698	Cheltenham	Robert Filder		Elisebeth Webb	CK
4no1700	Cheltenham	Beniamine Ballinger	CK	Margaret Oakey	CK
16aul703	Prestbury	John Westmacot	Northleach	Elizabeth Danford	CK
5jnl705	Prestbury	William Tones	Sapperton	Sarah Gale	CK
30jal707	Stanton	Thomas Harrise		Ann Dowdeswell	Charleton *
30jnl711	Prestbury	John Brown		Isabella Holms	CK
7jnl712	Swindon	Jonathan Holder	CK	Mary Baylis	CK
4aul716	Prestbury	Edward Hall		Mary Holms	CK
30aul719	Elkstone	Thomas Symons		Sarah Avery	CK
26jnl721	Guiting Power	John Hall	Charlton *	Mary Wright	Winchcombe
9fe1723	Elkstone	William Belchier		Elizabeth Howman	Charleton *
15jn1725	Swindon	John Hall	CK	Anne Smith	Cheltenham
22no1725	Winchcombe	Samuel Whithorn	CK	Elizabeth Harvey	
6de1725	Temple Guiting	Stephen Crescer	CK	Naomi Creed	CK
13aul727	Fairford	Robert Gale	CK	Izard Tuckwell	Southropp
21j11729	Aston Blank	Roger Probert	CK	Judith Pates widow	CK
7ap1733	Southrop	Edmund Burrows	CK	Jane Bristow	
23de1737	Bishops Cleeve	Richard Harding	CK	Elizabeth Page	
2jal739	Bishops Cleeve	Philip Howman	CK	Sarah Nutting	
20mr1741	Broadwell	George Payne	Stow	Elizabeth Dittcott	CK
6fe1743	Swindon	John Arcoll	CK	Ann Ridall	
26ap1752	Cheltenham	Johnathan Painter		Elizabeth Crump	CK
3loc1753	Cheltenham	Thomas Brasington	CK	Elizabeth Pates	CK
11de1753	Cheltenham	Thomas Cleveley		Mary Wilson	CK
26fe1759	Prestbury	Richard Goodrich	CK	Sarah Dowman	

\* As given - Charlton Kings or Charlton Abbots could be intended.

3aul761	Cheltenham	Thomas Potter		Mary Cooke	CK
6nol764	Standish	William Wood	CK	Anne Taylor	
26aul765	Cheltenham	Thomas Collet		Betty Broad	CK
7sel765	Buckland	John Lawrance	CK	Sarah Arkell	
29mr1772	Sevenhampton	James Brookes	CK	Mary Bellinger	
7aul778	Cheltenham	Josiah Ballinger	CK	Mary Willis	
10sel778	Bishops Cleeve	Joseph Powell	CK	Mary Hawling	
16del778	Kings Stanley	Thomas Blake bach.	CK	Mary Perry	sp.
21sel780	Elkstone	Lawrence Dyer	CK	Sarah Tombs	sp.
se/ocl781	Sevenhampton	William Trinder		Hester Brandt	CK Banns called only
24nol782	Cheltenham	William Hamblett	CK	Betty Brown	
27mr1786	Sevenhampton	William Harris	CK	Rachel Bee	
29nol796	Prestbury	George Mowat	CK	Ann Dance	
14fel798	Cheltenham	William Wills	CK	Mary Leech	
12nol799	Cheltenham	George James wid.	CK	Sarah Higgs	
19ap1801	Cheltenham	Thomas Carradine	CK	Ann Wilks	
12mr1802	Cheltenham	John Broad	CK	Sarah Hooper	
29jn1803	Cheltenham	Richard Brown	CK	Ann Maye	
31jl1804	Prestbury	William Turner	CK	Mary Wilson	
18del804	Cheltenham	John Oakey		Sarah George	CK
3mr1805	Winchcombe	Joseph Guest	CK	Ann Lovesey	
1nol806	Cheltenham	William Moulder	CK	Ann Tarling	
2nol807	Cheltenham	William Bradshaw	CK	Mary Carpenter	
8my1808	Cheltenham	Richard Newman		Sarah Peeters	CK
11jn1808	Frampton on Sv.	John Lawrence	CK	Mary Jaynes	
30cl808	Cheltenham	John Freeman wid.	CK	Mary Wood	
13sel810	Cheltenham	William Togwell	CK	Hannah Piffe	
18nol810	Cheltenham	Edmond Cole	CK	Ann Dee	
21ja1812	Cheltenham	Richard Staite		Syndonia Merret	CK
1jl1812	Elkstone	Conway Whithorn Lovesey	CK	Margaret Bennett	sp.
12ocl812	Prestbury	John James	CK	Anne Dix	
29nol812	Cheltenham	John Ballinger	CK	Elizabeth Robbins	
4nol817	Sevenhampton	Thomas Newman	CK	Dinah Wood	
1jn1819	Sevenhampton	William Trowtar	CK	Elizabeth Dicks	
14aul826	Swindon	Richard Betridge		Ann Belcher	CK
7ap1834	Sevenhampton	John Blackwell wid.	CK	Hannah Taylor	
26nol835	Sevenhampton	Richard Hughes	CK	Hester Ellis	
8ja1837	Swindon	William Green		Charlotte Elsworth	CK
29nol832	Upper Slaughter	John Dix	CK	Sophia Humphris	

10. EDUCATION IN CHARLTON KINGS II

SOME NOTES ON COLTHAM FIELDS

INFANTS' SCHOOL

On the north side of Rosehill Street - now in Cheltenham, but until the boundary changes of 1893 a part of the parish of Charlton Kings - stands a boarded-up property which was once the Coltham Fields Infants' Schoolroom and Schoolmistresses' house. The purpose of these notes is to draw attention to the existence of the buildings, and to outline something of their history.

Rosehill Street was one of several new streets established on the southern part of Coltham Field during the 1830's. It was laid out by Thomas Dangerfield, on land purchased from the Reverend Thomas Hooper of Elkstone in March 1832. The earliest recorded conveyances of building land from Dangerfield date from May 1836, and among them was the conveyance of a plot with a 42 ft. frontage to the north side of the newly-established street, purchased for £70 by the Reverend James Frederic Secretan Gabb on May 19th 1837.<sup>1</sup> It was on this site that a schoolroom was built to serve the growing population of this western fringe of the parish.

The Subscribers' Book of the Charlton Kings Schools<sup>2</sup> records a number of donations towards the building of the new schoolroom from July 1837 onwards, and the completed building was opened on October 2nd of that year, with one Elizabeth Dyer as schoolmistress at an annual salary of £26. In the following year a small terraced house was built immediately to the west of the schoolroom, and this served as the schoolmistresses' residence throughout the nineteenth century. This provision of rent-free accommodation was accompanied by a reduction in the mistress' salary to £19.10.0.<sup>3</sup>

The new school was financed partly by subscriptions and partly by Cooper's Charity. Initially, the subscriptions were kept separate from those towards the Charlton Kings Infants' School in Mill Lane, but the two were combined in 1846, and divided "according to the wants of the schools respectively."<sup>4</sup> It was at this time that a Common Board of Trustees for the parish's two infant schools was established. Both the schoolroom and the cottage remained the property of the Reverend J.F.S. Gabb, to whom an annual rent of £21 was paid by the Managers of the Parochial Schools between 1838 and 1857. In September, 1857, he donated the building to the parish.<sup>5</sup>

The new school would appear to have been a success.<sup>6</sup> At the end of 1837, the Coltham Fields School had twenty-five children on its books and, by the end of 1839, this number had risen to forty-nine. Such was the high rate of attendance during the summer months of 1839 that an assistant mistress, one Georgiana Giles, was appointed for sixteen weeks at a salary of £3.18.0. By 1846, when the first of a series of Annual Statement of Accounts with Reports of Managers was published, day and Sunday schools were held, the average attendance during the years 1846-60 (the only consecutive period for which figures are available) being fifty-eight at the day school and seventy-nine on Sundays. In 1897, the average attendance is recorded as eighty children and the school's capacity as one hundred and twenty.

Details of successive schoolmistresses may be gleaned from the Annual Statements, contemporary directories and Census Returns. In November 1846 it was noted that "the numbers in attendance in Coltham School have materially diminished since the Spring, two mistresses having left since that time and the present."

Inadequate accommodation in both the schoolroom and the cottage may have contributed to the rapid loss of two mistresses, as the Statement for 1846 also records that the Trustees had recently "gone to some expense in improving the premises and making the house comfortable", including the purchase of £10 worth of furniture for the cottage. Certainly, their hope that "under the new mistress the school will improve" seems to have been fulfilled, for the Annual Statements are increasingly favourable from 1848 onwards, and the new mistress, Mrs. Frances Bennett, is recorded in her post in both the 1851 and 1861 Census Returns. In 1859 she received a Government Certificate of Merit, and her school passed an examination by Her Majesty's Inspectorate. In the 1871 Census Return, a Miss Anne Margaret Rigsby of Leckhampton is recorded as the schoolmistress, although, rather confusingly, Mrs. Catherine Franklin, listed in the census as her housekeeper, appears as the schoolmistress in Cheltenham Directories for 1870-1 and 1872-3. In the 1878 Directory, however, Miss Rigsby is listed, as she is in Kelly's 1897. Gloucestershire Directory.

Miss Rigsby may well have been the last schoolmistress at Coltham Fields, for, although neither the date nor the circumstances of its closure are certain the school is conspicuously absent from a list of schools in the first Annual Report of the Gloucestershire Education Committee (1903). Kelly's 1923 Directory records that Girls' and Infants' departments were added to Lyefield School in 1901, and this may represent the end of Coltham Fields; only further and more detailed research will provide the answer.

Dr. Steven Blake

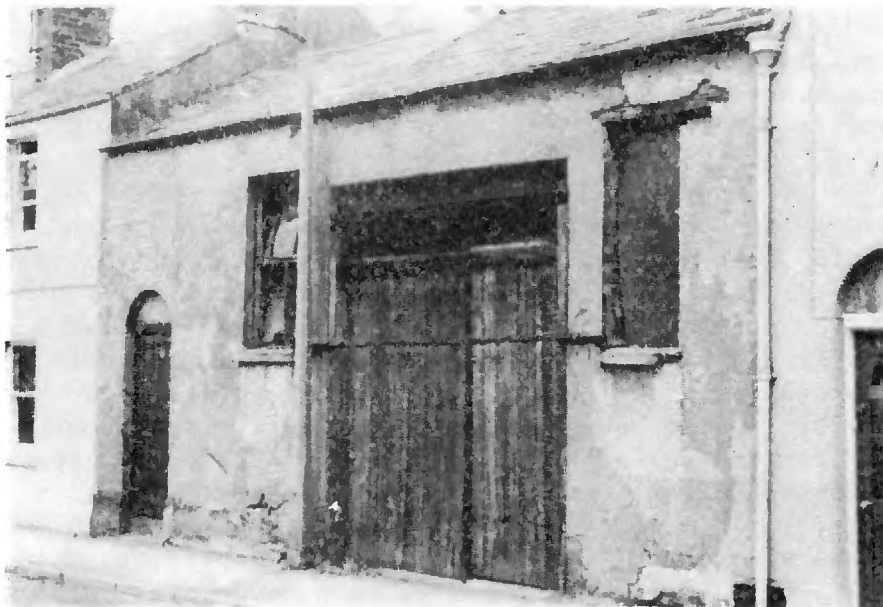
1. Details from surrenders and admissions in the Cheltenham Manor Court Books 1832 onwards (Glos. R.O. D.855).
2. Glos. R.O. P. 76 Sc.1/2.
3. Bridgeman Vol.6. P.57.
4. Minutes of the Charlton Kings Infant School November 19th, 1846 (Glos. R.O. P.76 Sc.1/1)
5. Bridgeman Vol.6 p.61.
6. The following account of the school is only partial; further research would undoubtedly reveal more details of its life and work. Major sources consulted are Bridgeman, parish school papers in Glos. R.O. p.76 Sc., Charlton Kings Census Enumerators' Returns 1841-71 (microfilms in Cheltenham Reference Library), Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Directories 1857 onwards.

**ROSEHILL STREET**

Showing the former schoolroom on the left-hand side



**The former COLTHAM FIELDS INFANTS' SCHOOL ROOM and SCHOOLMISTRESSES' HOUSE**



(2) Higgs Night School before 1800

In Bulletin 3 (p.21) it was suggested that Higgs' Night school might have been in operation before the trust deed of 1880, when the official record begins. This guess has now been proved right.<sup>1</sup>

The need for a Night School was discussed in 1855, without any immediate decision being taken. Later on, such a school was established in the National School (Boys) in Horsefair Street, and as it was connected with a grant aided school, it too qualified for a grant. The annual report of the Inspector on Charlton Kings Boys National School for the year ending 28 February 1871 included a report, endorsed "about Mr Higgs School", on the evening school.

"Evening School

Males over 6 27  
payment for 27 at 2/6

Qualified for examination	30
presented for examination	25
passes in reading	25
passes in writing	25
passes in arithmetic	23
Number for payment at 2/8	73

Gross total of claim £9.9.2"

That report indicates the scope of instruction - reading, writing, and arithmetic and nothing more - and the way the grant was calculated.

The new schools in Mill Lane (School Road) replacing the Horsefair Street School, were built in 1872, and in that year, or perhaps 1870-1 Charles Cooke Higgs built his new schoolroom on his land at East End. We have no idea why he thus divided his school physically from the Boys National School, for they continued to be associated for grants till 1874. On 19 March 1874 the Vicar the Revd. J.F.S. Gabb wrote to the Revd. G.R. Moncrieff "--- the inspection on Monday evening will be in East End Hall wherein the night school has been held for some years"; but "some years" may not mean more than 3 or 4.

The year 1874, however, saw the end of that arrangement. On 15 December 1874 Gabb wrote to Higgs "My Dear Mr Higgs, I am to communicate to you the following resolution come to last Saturday at the meeting of the managers of the National Schools, Mill Lane, and to request a line in reply. 'Resolved that the Treasurer's payment of the late Government grant to the East End Night School into Mr Higgs' hands be confirmed, it being understood that it is Mr Higgs' intention to effect a separation of the concerns of that school from those of the National Schools'." To that, Higgs replied on the 17th "I will see Mr. Foley and endeavour to make proper application for the Night School to be disconnected from the National Schools".

The reason for this separation is not clear, but it appears to have arisen from the difficulty of paying money received as a government grant to a private individual, however public spirited. The building at East End was not to be put into the hands of trustees for another 6 years.

1 Gloucestershire Record Office P 76 SC 3/2

(3) Holy Apostles' School

Holy Apostles' church was built in 1871 and a photograph of the new church, with very young trees planted round it, shows it without the school. That was added during 1872-3 and opened for boys in September 1873 - the girls following them in the early part of 1874. An undated paper in Gabbs handwriting, which was with other papers of 1874, mentions reports on the other Charlton Kings schools, those in Mill Lane having been open for a full year, "whilst the handsome new rooms erected by C.C.Higgs Esqre have been opened for a boys and a girls school" accommodating 200. This meant that with 167 boys, 112 girls and 156 infants at Mill Lane and 101 infants at Coltham Fields, there was provision in the parish for a total of 736 children, a hundred more than the Education Department had required. Gabb concluded hopefully "Unless the population increases very rapidly this will probably suffice for some years."

M. Paget

11. DEVELOPMENT IN CHARLTON KINGS - CHURCH PIECE

The Local Studies group, meeting in the Old Bakery last winter, was fortunate to be allowed to use Cheltenham Corporation's title deeds for several Charlton Kings properties, among them for the area now a car park at Church Piece. Deeds have also been made available by Miss Lancelotte and others. As a result, we can piece together the history of this piece of land and its development during the 19th century.

In 1800 Dodington Hunt of Charlton Park owned a parcel of freehold land (1 1/4 acres) on the east side of Horsefair Street. It was known as Cleevely's Piece or Bastin's Piece, from the names of former tenants, and was described as adjoining a house and land then or late of Israel Hamlet on the south-west. This was Churchend House, later Brixton House, and subsequently The Grange. A right of way ran along the edge of Hamlet's land. This was soon to be fenced off and become Grange Walk.

Hunt contracted to sell his 1 1/4 acres to Thomas Ballinger for £75 but though the purchaser took possession, no conveyance was actually made till 1810. After that, Ballinger built 4 cottages on the north side of the land, and at his death left them to his widow Sarah, while he left the remaining acre of land to Sarah and his son Thomas jointly. In 1825 they sold to a local developer, William Thornton, for £600. The price of building land had risen sharply since 1800! Thornton already owned property at the eastern end of this acre, and people began to call it Thornton's Piece or Church Piece. His new purchase was bounded on the south by a public footpath 4 ft wide across land "heretofore belonging to Thomas Wheeler", Hamlet's successor at Churchend House. By 1825 the owner was Colonel Meale.

Thornton made a private road 12 ft wide up Church Piece, just where the car park drive-in now is. He sold 3/4 acre, including the Horsefair Street frontage, to John Hamlet for £500 in 1825; and kept 1/4 acre to develop himself. Two building plots on the south side of the new road were sold, one to John Moulder for £80, the other to Richard Tibbles for £64.15.0; and the purchasers then built their own cottages on them. The cost of building was probably £25-30, so that the total expense was around £100-110. Tibbles' cottage was the one later known as Croft Cottage. On the north side of the new road, Thornton built two cottages, Hill View Cottages, which he sold to sisters, Charlotte and Mary Watts, for £80 and £100 respectively.



John Hamlet sold part of his section to William Pope, a Cheltenham stonemason, in 1827, and on it Pope built a dwellinghouse and wash-house. But he found that Hamlet had defaulted in his payment of the original purchase price for the site, and in the end Pope had to pay Thornton £80 to get a title. Hamlet and Thornton jointly sold the SW corner plot, 22 feet N-S by 74 feet E-W, to trustees for building a chapel (the chapel which later became the National School - see Bulletin 3 pp 19-28). Four cottages were afterwards built on that frontage.

After all this, Thornton still had a plot of land measuring 100 feet by 54 feet at the top of the Piece. He did not sell it until 1852. Within the next 5 years, John Packer of Leckhampton, a haulier, had built a cottage worth £10 a year rental, and this became a beer house called the Jolly Admiral. It was sold to George Hodge, a Cheltenham brewer, in 1862; and before the next reference in 1888 had changed its name to The Endeavour. The licencee was Frederick Boroughs. The Endeavour it remained till 1908, when it was closed as a public house and divided into three cottages called Endeavour Cottages. Francis James Dale of Church Street grocer bought the 3 for £167 in 1910. Later the three became two. When Church Piece was cleared to make the car park and the site for the shopping centre and library, the stone cellars of The Endeavour were laid open to view.

The Endeavour had the advantage of direct access from Church Street. A roadway 6 feet wide led down to Bobby's Alley; and at first there was another right of way 4 feet wide across land which became the site of the Baptist Church schoolroom. That 4 foot path was there when William Cleevely senior built Somerset Place (Brickfine Cottages) to the east of The Endeavour c. 1873, for it went across his land. When the chapel was built in 1875, Cleevely gave up that footpath, and his son William Cleevely junior sold Somerset Place in 1886, expressly denying that any such right of way still existed. Naughty boys used to enjoy dodging the police through these passages and it was very hard to catch them.

But the Endeavour was not the only public house in Church Place. At one time there was a pub called the Welsh Harp. The one old house still standing was The Carpenter's Arms, formerly kept by Strafford Mitchell, and that had its own brewhouse at the back and did its own brewing. <sup>1</sup>

According to the 1943 Directory, there were then 10 houses on each side of Church Piece, besides the two Endeavour Cottages. All but one house, whether in good or bad condition, have been swept away to provide the village with a car park.

M. Paget

1 Information from his grandson, Mr. George Mitchell

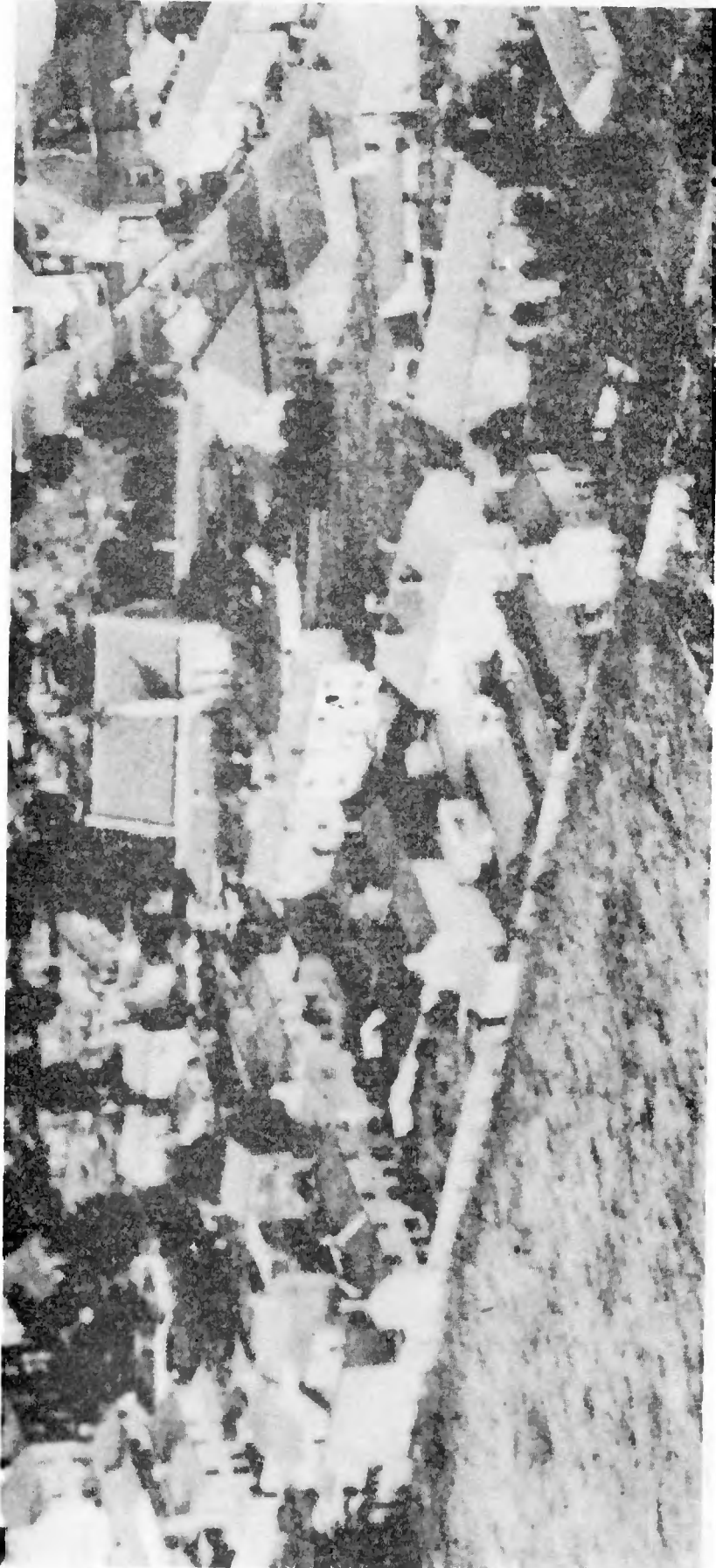
## 12. A MEMORY OF THE ENDEAVOUR

When I was about 10 or 11, my family went to live at The Endeavour Cottage, which was a public house called The Endeavour Inn before we moved there, then we called it Primrose Cottage.

There was a long skittle Alley, you had to go through our kitchen to get to it. My sister Daisy and me used to play ball in there and we had a swing in there too. At the back of the Alley was Mr. Dale's Coal yard.

Church Piece before demolition

Note Centre back, St. Mary's Hall (the old Vestry Hall built 1854)  
Front, the Grange field and Grange Walk  
Far right, Church Street with the Institute and almshouses  
Far left, Horsefair Street



Was on a Saturday night my Mam, Dad, Daisy, and me were sat in the kitchen, when suddenly our front door opened. My Dad went to see who it was and there was a middle-aged gent sitting on the settle just inside the door. He then asked my Dad how long he had to wait for a pint of Beer! and Dad had to tell him it wasn't a public house any more, it was a private dwelling house. The Gentleman said he hadn't been there for a long time, and said he was very sorry and left.

L. Hatherall (Lily Parry)

### 13. "AN ANCIENT ROAD" THROUGH CHARLTON KINGS

Members' attention is drawn to Nigel Cox's paper in Glevensis 14 pp 21-22 (GADARG 1980) which describes and maps an early road, perhaps one of a series of E-W routes from the Cotswolds to the Severn. It came down Aggs Hill and the Hewletts (thereby providing Charlton Kings with a boundary), crossed the Fairview area and so, by the Swindon Road and Mauds or Mauls Elm to the Tewkesbury Road, bypassing Cheltenham High Street. That fact might indicate a road predating the town. It is noteworthy that Cheltenham court rolls call this road "the Sandshards" or "the old Sandy Lane", the very name we attach to a N-S trackway, our Sandy Lane. This originally forded the Chelt at Sand-ford, and, passing the site of Gallows Oak, crossed "the ancient road" at the bottom of Hewletts Hill. So both these ways avoided Cheltenham.

It looks as though these roads pre-date the development of the town, which did not grow up along any existing line of communication but rather along the Chelt, to make use of water power.

### 14. NOTES AND COMMENTS

(a) In the Cheltenham New Shopper No 6 (June 1980), members may have read an article on "William Prynne, who never gave in". Anyone interested in him is referred to the Directory of National Biography. In fact the News Shopper has amalgamated the careers of three men. William Prynne the puritan pamphleteer was born in 1600 and died in 1669. It was another William who was steward of the manor of Cheltenham and was buried in the parish church; and yet another member of the family, John Prinn, who bought the manor of Ashley and Charlton Park. In 1697 Giles Grevill sold the manor to Edward Mitchell; and about or at the same time sold Forden House (later called Charlton Park) to John Prinn, whose "seat" it already was in 1712. But Prinn did not acquire the manorial rights from Mitchell till 1716, by which year William Prynne the pamphleteer would have been 116 years old!<sup>1</sup>

1. C.M. Dobell's Memoirs of Old Charlton Kings p.58; Sir Robert Atkyns The Ancient and Present State of Glostershire s.v. Charlton Kings

(b) Bulletin 3 p.28, for Lansdown Road, read Queens Road.

## REFLECTIONS ON OUR ROADS

The wandering roads of Charlton Kings  
Run blithely where they will,  
To drop you in a flooded brook,  
Or lead you up a hill.

The old main road to London town  
Is now a rutted lane,  
Or line of trees across a field.  
Yet this one thing is plain.

What ever track you seek to trace  
Of this you can be sure.  
Which ever way the road now runs  
It ran not heretofore.

J. Paget