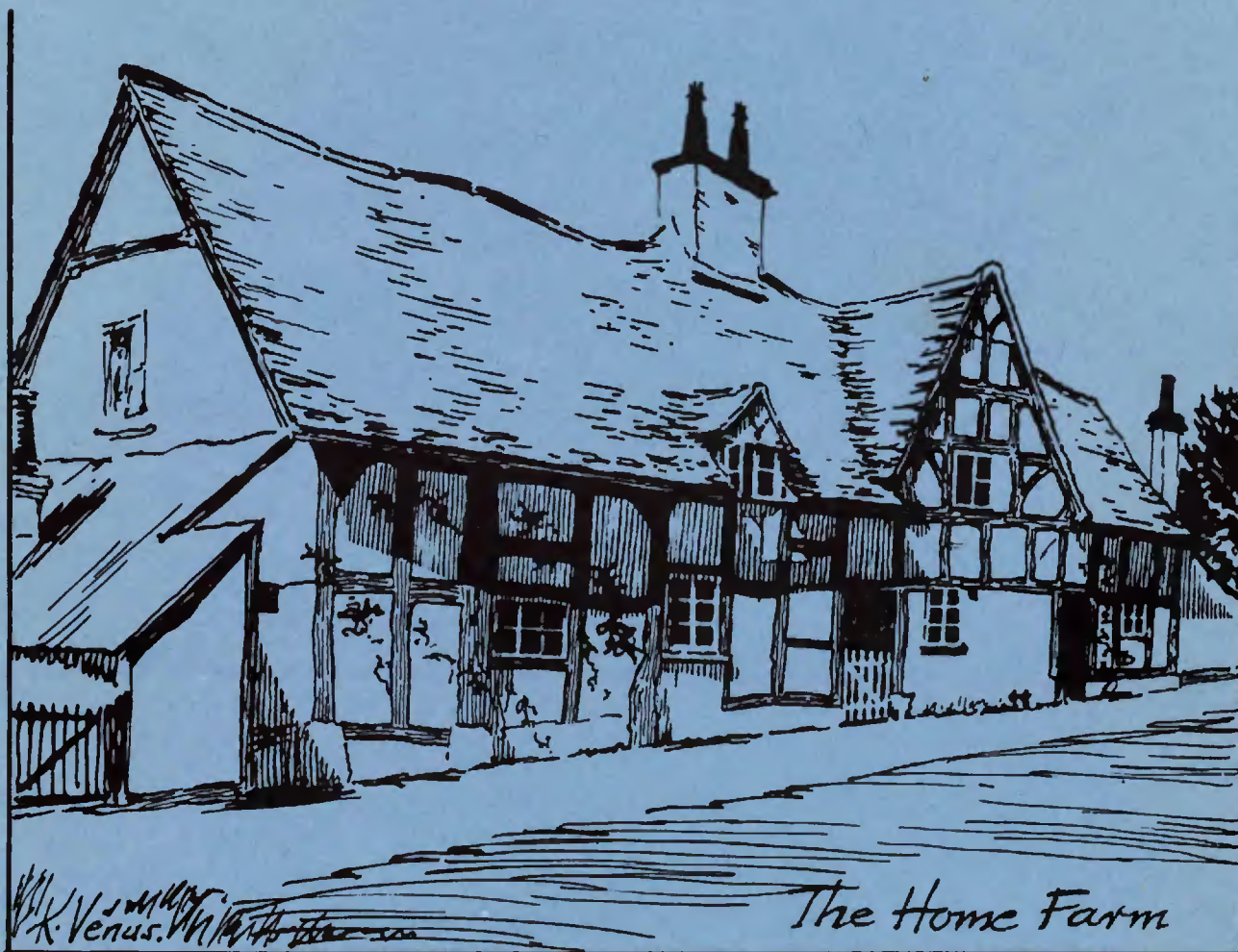


CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 6

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Chairman

M.J. Greet
102 Beeches Road
Charlton Kings
Tel. Cheltenham 25474

Editor

Mrs. M. Paget
Crab End
Brevel Terrace
Tel. Cheltenham 34762

Hon. Secretary

Mrs. A. Johnson
Greenbanks
Sandhurst Road
Tel. Cheltenham 24860

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs. S. Fletcher
31 Ravensgate Road
Charlton Kings
Tel. Cheltenham 22931

Copies of this Bulletin are available from the officers or from Charlton Kings Library, price £1.45 plus postage.

Previous publications - Bulletin 1 now reprinted, price £1.20

Bulletin 2, to be reprinted January 1982

Bulletin 3, out of print

Bulletin 4, available, price £1.20

Bulletin 5, available, price £1.40

Copyright and Responsibility

Unless otherwise specified, copyright of articles remains with the author; but copyright of original documents remains with Gloucestershire Record Office or other Record Office, or with owner.

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

Membership of this Society

Membership forms are available from officers. Annual subscription 50p.

Meetings are held monthly from September to May in the Stanton Room, Charlton Kings Library.

The Bulletin is published twice a year.

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RESEARCH BULLETIN NO 6

AUTUMN 1981

CONTENTS

Cover	Home Farm, Little Herberts, drawn by	K. Venus
Chairman's Introduction		M.J. Greet
1. Old Charlton		G. Ryland
a) The Royal Hotel		
b) The Rec		
c) The Bus		
2. Horsefair Street and The Royal in 1888, drawn from photograph		K. Venus
3. Two of our Lost Houses - Memories of Longleat, Horsefair Street, and Home Farm, Little Herberts		C.M. Herbert
Home Farm, Longleat, and the Chapman family		M. Paget
4. Charlton Wills 1547 - 1558		M.J. Greet
5. It isn't like the Old Days, the Recollections of		F. Neather
6. Detmore Continued		
a) Detmore in 1594-5, another early reference		M.J. Greet
b) Cooking at Detmore		W. Keen
c) Boyhood Memories of Detmore, part 2		J. Williams
A Victorian Romantic Walkway beside the Chelt		
Catching Crayfish in the Chelt		
Great Aunt Bella's Pressed Flowers		
7. Charlton Kings Vestry Books 1698 - 1793		B. Middleton
8. Tokens found in Water Lane by Mrs. Rose, report Illustration of the tokens by K. Venus		
9. More on Looking-Glass House		
a) A Carroll Riddle and <u>The Magic of Lewis Carroll</u>		D. Copson
b) THE Looking-Glass, with illustration by K. Venus		
c) Alice and Oxford, a review of Mrs. Mavis Batey's book <u>Alice's Adventures in Oxford (1981)</u>		
d) The later history of Hetton Lawn		M. Paget
10. "Cider" Mills in Charlton; a Charlton cider press drawing by Photograph of the mill at Ashgrove Farm		A. Mitchell K. Venus M. Wilcox
11. Two 18th century gentlewomen, Hester and Theophila Brereton		J. Paget
12. The House called Charlton Villa (now Ashley Firs)		M. Paget
13. A last look at the Endeavour	Mr. and Mrs. Worboys	
14. A Railway Centenary, 1 June 1881		M. Paget
15. Notes and Comments		M. Paget

INTRODUCTION

The Society has now been in existence for some three years, and its Research Bulletin has been very well received, both by Society members and also by interested members of the public. We now sell some 250 copies of each issue, which represents good progress in the period for a publication which is primarily of interest to Charlton residents (though we do sell copies more widely). Its success has been most gratifying to all those concerned with its production; but as Chairman I must state the achievement chiefly reflects the high professionalism and sheer hard work of our Editor, Mary Paget.

If the bulletin is to continue to progress, we would like to ask that anyone, yet unknown to us, who has information concerning Charlton's history shall contact one of our officers. Intending contributors to the Bulletin are asked to approach the Editor as early as possible before publication.

Anyone interested in assisting with the Society's research programme is asked to approach me.

M.J. Greet,
Chairman

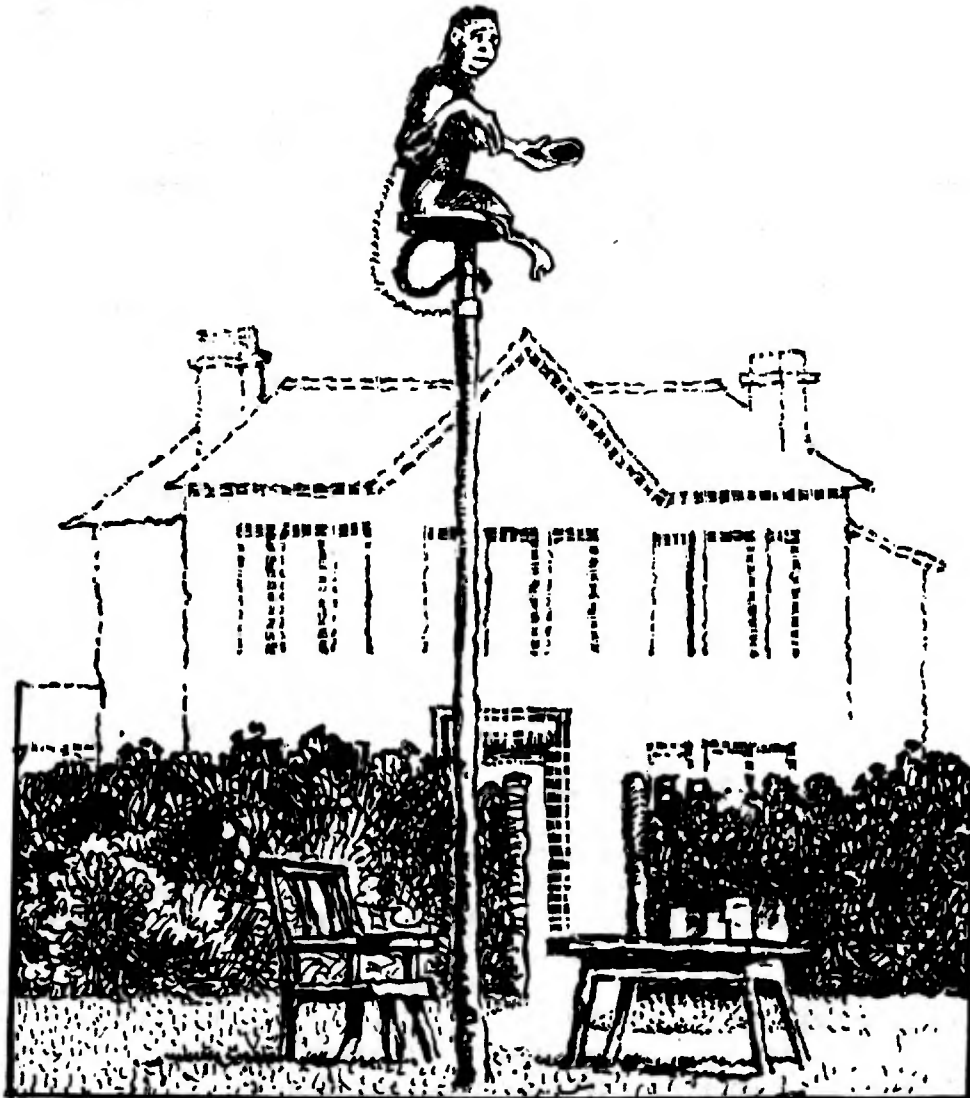
I OLD CHARLTON

(a) THE ROYAL HOTEL

At the time when the Royal Hotel was built, some bits of nice late Regency architecture were springing up in the Spa's suburbs. By its lay-out and architecture, the Royal looked as if it were meant to live up to this new environment. In front of the door, it had a handsome-sized forecourt, designed no doubt for the brakes of visiting sports teams and trippers. Beyond that was a garden where rustic tables and chairs induced the customers, when the weather was seasonable, to take their drinks out-of-doors as was customary on the continent. The Royal was certainly designed to be a cut above any hostelry at that time existing in the village. Yet for all its superior and up-stage appearance, we called it "The Monkey House", and by that name it was known far outside the confines of the village. Why? Because of an unique bit of advertising. I didn't think of it as that at the time, but in retrospect I see it for what it was.

In the garden, adjoining the forecourt, was planted a 30 foot scaffold pole on top of which was a small, flat, circular seat. To the upright pole by means of a sliding metal ring was attached a light chain about 6 feet long. The other end of the chain was

buckled to a belt round the waist of a handsome and quite intelligent small, energetic, but very friendly, monkey.



He spent most of his life scurrying up the pole, sliding down it, or just sitting idly on the round flat seat at the top. His owner, mine host, was a good-humoured Geordie who had come south and liked it well enough to stay.

Gosney, Tom Gosney, was his name, and he had much of his work cut out seeing his pet was not overfed. But the monkey was known wide and far, and many a wayfarer slaked an imaginary thirst at the vaults of the Royal when the real object of his visit was to see, play with, and talk to, Tom Gosney's monkey.

(b) THE REC

Did you know that once upon a time we had a playing-field right bang in the middle of the village? Not many of us could have used it because it was closed when I was quite a small boy. Of course it is in use today but it is so altered you would never recognise it.

It was a nice square of grass about 200 yards each way, and it provided entertainment for the mums, the dads, and the children. You think that there must have been a far-sighted Council there wasn't. It belonged to the Working Men's Club!

The whole field was situated and attached to the north side of the Club and approached by a small gate at the side of the building. The whole was enclosed by 6 foot larch fencing. Inside the fence was planted a ring of trees, birch, spruce, and a few Lombardy poplars. This gave not only a decorative touch but a pleasant sense of seclusion as well.

Along the north side, open to the southern sun, was a line of summer houses where the small children could be taken by the mums on a nice day; and even if the weather turned out less than attractive, some shelter was readily at hand.

An unique addition, at least for this part of the country, was the introduction of half a dozen quoit pits. One seldom sees the game played around here now, but it was then. I have seen it played with horse shoes, but generally it was played with the metal, bevelled, hollow, discs which gave the game its name. The pits consisted of about 18 inches deep good thick lias clay surrounded and held in place with four railway sleepers. These were there, of course, for the entertainment of the dads, and were mostly in use in the evenings and at week-ends. Various teams competed against each other, but the most successful that I remember was the Volunteer Company of R.E.s that was raised in the village and drilled in the Rec.

The South West corner, over by Hamlett's yard, was reserved for the children and a number of tall, robust, swings, a fine giant-stride, and a practically indestructable see-saw were grouped for the amusement of the children. I never remember seeing a better set of playground appointments anywhere, and I never saw any of them broken.

It must seem strange that the Club Committee should go to such expense and trouble for the benefit of all and sundry in the village. They didn't! The Recreation ground was only open free to members and families of members of the C.K.W.C. Anyone else wishing to use it, paid for it. It was generally open every evening to the children. If one's father was not a member, entrance cost one penny!

There wasn't much the Club had to offer my father. His spare time

was pretty full up anyway, but he paid his membership subscription so that, like most of the other children, I could have the run of the Rec.

I have spent many happy evenings in the Rec, and was sad to see it closed. But its closing only meant opening again to us in a richer form. When they built the Boys' School in School Road, the playground space was woefully inadequate for three schools. Here so conveniently placed was just what was needed; so the Local Authority took it over. Thus at certain times of the day it was used by nearly every child in the village.

At first it became just an extra playground and sports field for all three schools; but later a strip was taken off the north side to increase the area for teaching rural science. When the authorities decided to provide school dinners, the centre of the Rec provided space for kitchens and dining rooms; and so on. The area was continually reduced. This is not a criticism, it's just an explanation. We only too readily applaud the advance it has helped in our village education. But there are times, strong nostalgic flashes, when it would be so nice to see again the old Rec, peacefully guarded from the SW corner by the ever watchful eye of the parish church.

(c) THE BUS

As a method of public transport between the Village and Town, many of us will remember the trams, but I think far fewer will recollect "the Bus". Yes, it was always referred to in the singular. I really believe there only was one. You caught it at the top of the "Coppie", which to you was the "Copt Elm Road", and the spot referred to as the "top" is now known to all and sundry as "Six Ways". From here the Bus ran to the Town Clock and back, and continued to do this from early morning till late at night and only the very worst of weather was allowed to interfere.

You see, it is nearly two miles to the centre of the Town from the centre of the Village, and although that might be only a skip and a jump to many an unfettered adolescent, on a dark, cold, wet, winter night it could be an eternity of endeavour to some tired and overworked matron trying to drag home next week's provisions which in those days could not be bought in the Village. So it was economically sensible always to have some form of public transport connecting the two areas, and as I say, the first I remember was the Bus.

There was nothing de luxe about the Bus. It was just a four-wheeled, double-decker drawn by two sturdy but unpretentious horses. They were driven by a coachman who was also the conductor. He had a seat in the centre of the front, high up on a level with the outside accommodation. I suppose the Bus held about two dozen passengers, twelve inside and twelve out. Outside accommodation was open to the sky, but there were mackintosh aprons as some

protection against rain. Passengers entered the Bus at the back and the outside seats were reached by a curving staircase at the back. Inside, two parallel seats faced each other, between them a trough or well for the passengers' feet. It always amused me to see this half-full of clean straw. A real touch of the stable, I thought.

Only once a week, Fridays, did I have any real contact with the Bus. Just as Monday throughout the Village was dedicated to washing, so at our house, Friday was dedicated to shopping - Friday afternoon to be precise. As soon as the mid-day meal was finished and cleared away, and we were either back at work or at school, my mother prepared herself for Town and her weekly foraging trip in preparation for the coming week.

Maybe you wonder why she made this weekly pilgrimage? Why not get what she wanted in the Village? Of course some things could be and were bought in the Village. But the real reason was the economic one. Wages were low and what money was available for provisions had to be spent in markets where any elastic property it might possess could be stretched to the uttermost. This market was in general the larger stores of which, in those days, the Village had none.

Such a store, maybe, was the Co-Operative Wholesale Society. My family was very conscious of the help the C.W.S. was giving to the working-man of that day. Father and mother were both members of the Society and ardent supporters. My mother realised that the quality of some of the produce of the C.W.S. was not up to the standard of the smaller shops in the Village, but a little sensible selective buying soon overcame this shortcoming and for all she spent at the Stores, she got a discount of 12% which was banked and made a very acceptable nest-egg. Other things besides food had frequently to be bought that it would be impossible to purchase in the Village, and the moving from shop to shop became quite a little campaign that had to be planned, so that at the end of a tiring afternoon, most matrons could tell you that shopping was not the frivolous window-gazing social luxury many superior but ill-informed males made it out to be. The miles travelled in search of preferred quality or price were only part of the fatiguing process; the accumulated weight of acquired merchandize was only too obviously another!

And of course, this is where I came in. When my mother had eventually finished her shopping and managed to get herself and her purchases round to the Town Clock, she could get a Bus that would return her to Six Ways at about six o'clock. This of course was an awkward time. Her shopping had to be got home and it was really too heavy for her. It was an impossible time for either my father or my brothers to come and meet her. So it became the responsibility of me, the youngest, to meet, escort, and assist my mother, and I loved it. I don't think I ever missed meeting that Bus, and I believe the driver kept an eye

open for me on Fridays. "Young shaver" I think he called me, though I never could think why! When the Bus came to a standstill I helped my mother out with her parcels, shouted our various good-nights, which generally included the driver, and crossed the road for the long drop down the dark Copt Elm Road.

Now that's where a writer would stop, I suppose. I set out to write about the Bus and I have done it. I don't think I have any more to say about the Bus but I don't want to stop. You see, the next bit of Village history could never have happened but for the Bus. So why not argue that the effects of the Bus are as important as the Bus? One could put up a case that if it produced no effects.... there was no Bus! Anyway, let me finish and we'll leave it to the editor where she brings in the scissors.

We left ourselves at the top of Copt Elm Road, making our way home, loaded to the eyebrows. And that was a dark road in those days. There was a small gas lamp at the top - the Bus stop - and one more at the bottom where you crossed over the brook. The light from both of those lamps was considerably diminished by the shadows of the tall mature limes that lined the edges of the whole of Copt Elm Road. Apart from just being a help to my mother in sharing her load, I was glad to be with her just as company. Neither of us cared much for the dark. We were not cast in the heroic mould.

Generally, however, by the time we got home, someone had already arrived. The lamp was lighted, the fire replenished and the British panacea was produced. All was again well with the world, a cup of tea was on the table! As we were comfortably sipping it more than likely Mr. Bloodworth would arrive with the bread - yes, delivered! and be invited to sit down and have a cup of tea with us - ours being that sort of house, or do I mean that the Village was a bit like that in those days?

The tea-cups removed, the lamp was placed on the dresser, the table cleared, and the afternoon's shopping laid out for checking. This was, to me, the perpetual reminder that the age of miracles had never ceased. How, with so little money at her disposal for food, my mother could purchase to the extent she did, always left me in awe. Had you watched that checking, you would have observed that my interest in "operation Bus stop" was not entirely altruistic. There was a small packet for me - there always was. It was biscuits usually, oh no, not sugary or cream ones; they were animal biscuits. I loved them and eeked out with my imagination, notwithstanding their steadily diminishing roll-call, that small packet of biscuits would populate the farms or jungles of my play world until the following Friday would perhaps bring a period of replenishment.

But now my father was standing near the head of the table, enquiring what there was for him. He had divested himself of

his coat and was wearing his white apron which he usually wore when cooking. Friday night, as I have tried to stress, was different. Friday night was special. Mother had had a tiring afternoon, she had completed her mission, and from here on, at his own request, father took over. This first of all entailed cooking supper and he now reported to see what he had to cook. We were all mildly excited, wishing to know what was in store for us. Sometimes it was meat, but usually fish. We all liked fish, but were particularly fond of cod's roe, hard or soft. I can still see my father bending towards a bright coal fire, holding a large frying-pan bubbling with cooking roe which he kept moving with a fork so that he could avoid burning.

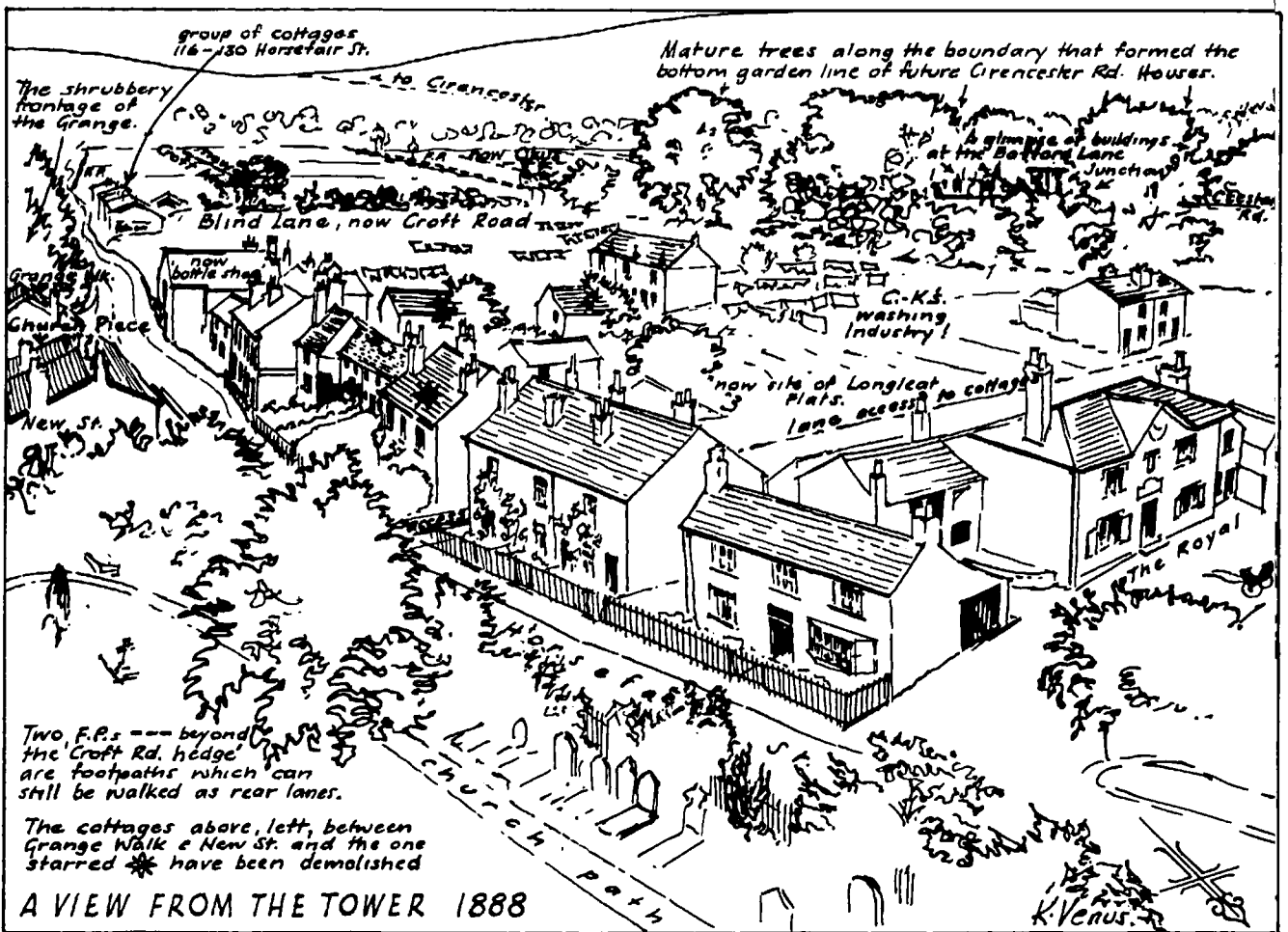
It was always a lovely supper, Fridays, and when it was over, we all readily buckled to and had things away in no time. The chenille cloth was back, with the lamp firmly planted in the middle of the table, and we arranged ourselves round the fire because father was going to read to us. Here we met for the first time Sir Walter Scott, Mark Twain, Joseph Hocking, and a host of other entertaining people. But one night my sister brought home a woman's periodical with a serial in it for father to read to us. We knew nothing of the author but, with us, his story became an instant success - the little fair-haired girl who could walk through a looking-glass and find what was behind! And the things she found! He read and read about Alice until, with food, fire, and fantasy, we couldn't keep our eyes open any longer. Father carried me to bed and the last thing I remember was a four-wheeled rumbling Bus being chased by a rather clanking white knight in full armour towards Cheltenham and the setting sun and two corpulent schoolboys seated on a wall by Holy Apostles' Schools, cheering the procession as it tore by!

G. Ryland

2. HORSEFAIR STREET AND THE ROYAL HOTEL, AS SEEN FROM THE CHURCH TOWER 1888

This view has been redrawn by K. Venus from a photograph, one of several taken from the Church tower in 1888 - we know the date to be in the middle of the summer (for the trees are in heavy leaf) and 1888 because another in the series shows the Club in Church Street partly built. The foundation stone was laid that May. This photograph has been provided for us by the Manager of the Royal Hotel.

Here we see the Royal (mentioned by Mr. Ryland and Mrs. Herbert in their contributions); the house between the Royal and Horsefair Street which till 1979 had its pretty gothic window frames (a dwelling in 1888, later Sims' baker's shop); Longleat (Mrs. Herbert's home); Hamlet's Yard; the trees in front of The Grange; and beyond that, the stretch of the street which in 1888 was still quite narrow, as this road had been in the days when it was called Hollow Lane. Sheets drying in the gardens behind the cottages remind us that in the later 19th century Charlton Kings depended to a large extent on being able to take in Cheltenham's washing!



3. TWO OF OUR LOST HOUSES - MEMORIES OF LONGLEAT
AND HOME FARM

Longleat belonged to the Chapman family from the mid 1800s. My father Henry Chapman was married from Longleat in 1902. Both my grandparents and my parents are buried in St. Mary's churchyard.

Longleat was a double-fronted house, in Regency style, with archway and porch supported by stone pillars, a front garden and iron railings. Over the porch grew a white rose.

Entering the front door, on either side of a square hall was the drawingroom and sitting-room, above four bedrooms. Through the hall, on the left was a large kitchen with well-burnished range, complete with trivets and hooks on which meat was roasted with pans underneath to catch the fat. Opposite on the right of the hall was a walk-in larder with stone floor and marble shelves all round. Several large urn-shaped crocks often full of salt pork and other pickled meat and bread were on the floor. Hanging from hooks in the ceiling were sides of bacon, hams, etc.

Passing through the rear door on the right was the bathroom and toilet. Adjoining this room were the wash-houses. My parents had a laundry business. At right-angles to the wash-houses were the ironing rooms, and at right-angles to this again, the coach-house and stables above which was the hay-loft where we often played. My brother who was 5 years older than I, with his friends, would force me up the ladder first, knowing I was frightened, and shut me in until I shouted for help; they would then let me out, knowing they would be in trouble if my father heard. Once in my panic I opened the loading door and fell out! but my cousin ran across the yard and caught me in his arms. After that experience I never could go into an attic or up a ladder, I've never been up a ladder since.

The entrance to the stables and coach-house was a wide drive on the left side of the house. This was closed to the road by double iron gates.

At the corner dividing the laundry from the coach-house were three steps leading to a woodshed on the left and a large walnut tree on the right. Beyond was a large area where we kept pigs, poultry and rabbits. Opposite this was our orchard and kitchen garden enclosed by a wall all round. On the south wall were peach trees and nearby a soft-fruit garden covered by netting.

My father was kept busy looking after his stock. He would drive his pigs to the market; and when one was slaughtered for the house, I would watch it being singed over a large bonfire. We always had our own bacon. My mother had 4 or 5 sisters and twin brothers who used to come to the house very often - when I heard they were coming, I knew we should have back bacon instead of streaky for Sunday breakfast!

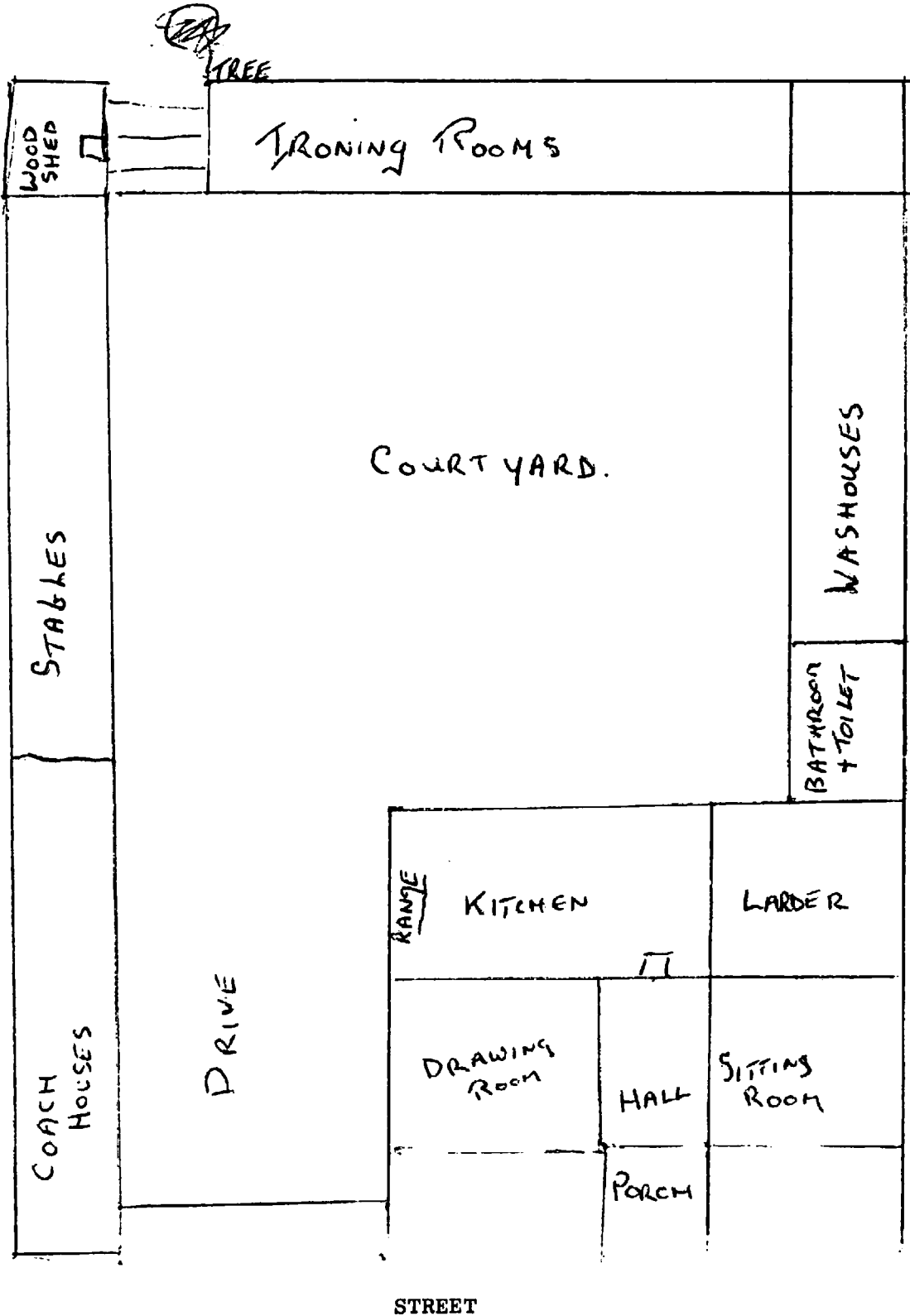


Henry Chapman married
Cecily Mary Stark in 1902

Their children,
Arthur John (Jack)
and Constance
M. (Connie)



GARDEN.



Mrs. Herbert's plan of Longleat, ground floor. Four bedrooms above.

I used to watch the women ironing in the laundry. In those days each lady specialised in one particular job, such as ironing gentlemen's collars with a semi-circular iron. I can only remember the names of three of the ladies, although there were several - they were Mrs. Halling, Mrs. Charridge and Miss Baldwin. While my mother supervised the laundry, I often went with my father delivering to gentlemen's houses. The finished laundry was in large wicker baskets. Those were happy days for me.

My brother Arthur John Chapman (who was known as Jack) and I both attended the local day school. Mr. Fry was my brother's headmaster. In the photograph the school boys in aprons and caps with baskets were setting out to pick blackberries. Needless to say, they didn't bring many home, they would eat them on the way!

My mother died in July 1917 when I was about 6. Someone told me she would come back reborn as a little baby and I used to look through the railings at her grave as I walked past on my way to school and wonder when it would happen. Often I wouldn't go to school but would run home and hope I'd be too late to go, but I was always taken. After my mother died, my father continued the laundry business with the loyal help of his staff.

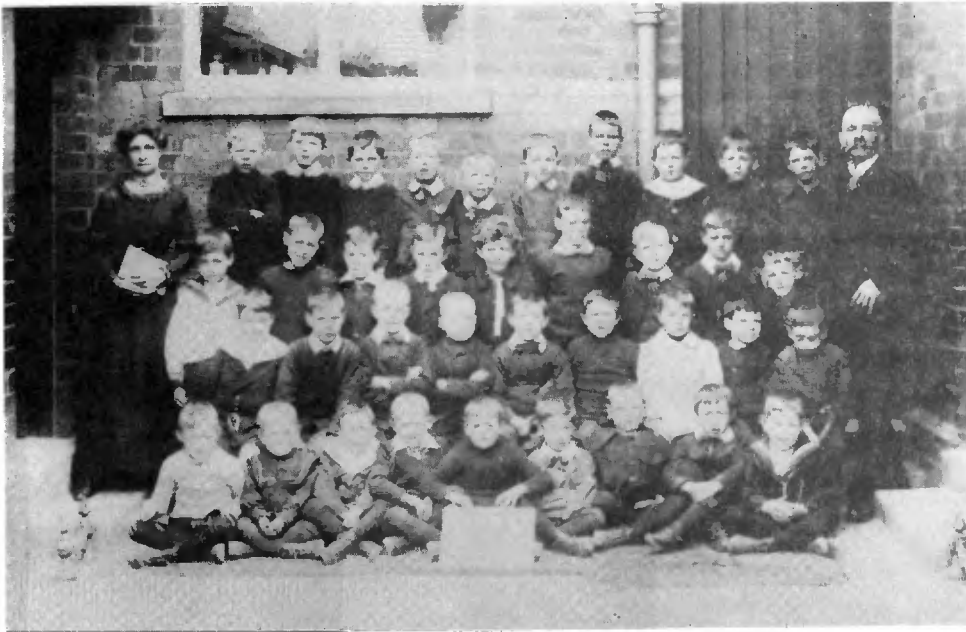
My uncle John and Aunt Rose lived at Home Farm, Little Herberts. We got our milk from them, it came in a can with a lid and handle. My brother and I had to go to see them every Sunday morning after church. We always entered the house by a door at the back, away from the road. Inside was a big kitchen, with flagged floor, range, and long wooden table scrubbed white. Off the kitchen was a little sitting-room, where I had to go to drink a cup of cocoa and eat a slice of my aunt's seed cake, almost the only thing I didn't like! So I used to take a clean handkerchief and while she was in the kitchen seeing to her pans, I'd slip the slice of cake into my pocket and when I got home I'd throw it to the birds. But one Sunday my aunt came back to find me drinking my cocoa. "You've eaten your cake very fast today" she said and at that the parrot came out with "She hasn't eaten it, Rose, she's put it in her pocket!" and I had to own up.

Our treat on Saturday afternoon was a trip out in the pony and buggy. We always had to walk up Leckhampton Hill to relieve the pony from strain. Just after my mother died, my father dressed me to go out in my black velour hat, black frock trimmed with white, white socks, and black patent shoes. But my brother and his friends were going for a walk first and I asked to go along with them. We went up Little Herberts, down Sappercombe Lane, and across the field. The path crossed the brook by a plank bridge (a slice out of the heart of an oak), and there the boys all used to swing on the overhanging trees.

The blackberrying party - Jack in the front row, at the end on the right



School group with "Boss" Fry - Jack is the boy in a white coat.



Children at Bishop's Cleeve playing with a jogging-cart



Somehow I fell into the brook and came out covered with mud! My brother took me back to Home Farm where my aunt undressed me and put me to bed in her nightgown while she went home for some clean clothes - she washed mine so that my father shouldn't know how muddy I had been.

My father was a bell-ringer and my brother was a choir boy. We both attended Sunday School. On Sunday we went to Sunday School at 10.30, Mattins at 11, Sunday School at 3 p.m. and Church again at 6.30. I remember our Sunday School outings held in a field near Cirencester Road, the small children riding there in a wagon and the older ones walking behind, with a band to lead. We had a sandwich, cake, lemonade, an orange, and racing for a few sweets, which we thought great fun.



Outside the Royal Hotel -
Mr. Bond in bowler hat,
Mr. Arthur Lancelot Attwood,
Connie and Gwen Booth,
Jack Chapman.

The Booths kept the Royal Hotel and Connie Booth was my god-mother. The Royal had a skittle alley, where we used to play in an afternoon

when the pub was closed. The alley was away at the back, the building is still there; they had sawdust on the floor in those days, and must have put boards down when they were playing. One Sunday evening after church my father let me go for a walk with a school friend Beryl and her parents, we went up Cirencester Road to the New Inn where they had swings in the garden and Beryl and I played on the swings while her parents went into the pub and they brought us out lemonade. When I told my father, he was angry that I had gone to a pub and swung on a Sunday, and wouldn't let me go out with Beryl again. In those days we girls always had to go out with our brothers and had to ask permission to go.

My father used to give us brimstone and treacle every Sunday and my brother would say he didn't like it; but during the week he made me help myself and so did he, so that we should both be in it if anyone found out. Of course by Sunday the jar was half empty! and my father had to notice it. We used to go out with Harry Evans and his sister Winnie, Freda Martin, Hubert Wall and Tom Mobley. In those days the police station was in Copt Elm Road and the Sergeant (Sergeant Day) used to wear a bowler hat when he was off duty - the boys would tie a piece of black cotton to Sergeant Day's doorknocker and on to a tree, just the height of his bowler hat, and when he came out, the cotton would knock it off! They were watching and laughing and used to tell us girls they'd run off to Spring Bottom and leave us to take the blame, so we'd cut through to Church Walk and up to Lyefield Road while the boys ran down to Spring Bottom to play in the stream. Sergeant Day wouldn't come after them for ten minutes and they were never caught.

The shop called Wakefields in my young days was a home-cooked meat shop and many times I was sent for $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of pork dripping for 2d. Most of the children did errands on Saturday mornings. I used to do Mrs. Rylands', she kept a laundry in Lyefield Road, and another girl used to do Mrs. Burrows'. The payment was 1d. and 1d. for tram fare. My friends and I would walk to Cheltenham for Maco margarine from the Maypole (this was half marg., half butter) and thereby we each had 2d. to spend instead of 1d! I would buy $\frac{1}{4}$ d. worth of liquorice and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. worth of locust beans and make the 2d. last all the week.

At school, Miss Candlin was my last headmistress. We used to say "Good morning Governess", but when she came, she told us to call her Madam instead of Governess, and we had to say "Good morning Madam" to her.

In the summer I used to take as many children as I could from school up to the Home Farm to help with hay-making. We each took a bottle of lemonade, the kind with marbles in the neck, and sandwiches, and help toss the hay. I never could press the marble in and at first my brother would always refuse to do it for me and said if I couldn't I'd have to go home without anything to

drink, but in the end he relented and did it for me. At that time I had a pony which I used to ride up to the paddock at the farm every evening. One day I rode it up, thinking it was just going into the paddock as usual, but my father was there and the vet with his humane killer and he killed it before my eyes. I think this was just before my father himself died. He was so for his animals, he didn't want anyone else to have that pony. About that time, too, my uncle and aunt left the farm and moved into one of the cottages.

When my father died in 1921, Longleat and the adjacent cottage and grounds were sold. My brother and I moved to 1 Lyefield Terrace and I, aged 11, kept house for him. My brother died at that address on 2nd March 1927 and was buried in the grave of our parents in St. Mary's Churchyard.

Connie M. Herbert (nee Chapman)

These memories of a much-loved home can be supplemented by reference to records.

HOME FARM, LONGLEAT, AND THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

Home Farm

This timber-framed house with stone tile roof may very well have been built in the 15th century, and its demolition in the 1960s (without any attempt to measure and record it) was a major loss to our architectural heritage.

The name "Home Farm" is modern - it was so called when it became the poultry-farm for Mr. Lord at Lilleybrook. However, it is convenient to refer to it by that name. It stood on the right-hand side of Little Herberts Road, just by the railway line.

We can take the story of this farm back to the mid sixteenth century at any rate. When the first inclosures on the hillsides were permitted in 1557, Thomas Cherrington was one of the Ashley manor tenants, holding in base tenure (i.e. by copyhold) a messuage and 28 acres of land, out of which he was allowed to inclose 3 acres "in the meadow called Noldhill". Thomas did not farm his tenement in 1557, but had two sub-tenants for it, John Hale and William Rynolds. Seven years later, when the next inclosures were agreed upon, Thomas Cherrington and his "land-make" or partner John Strawford were holding and cultivating the same 28 acres, from which they were to inclose 4½ acres this time, partly in Old Hill and partly in Sweattenhills, or Sweetnells. The same or another Thomas Cherrington is listed in 1610 as agreeing to the order restricting the stock tenants might put into the open fields in winter; he had only 3 acres uninclosed by then, so his allocation was limited to 6 sheep and no beasts of any kind.(1)

The parish registers show us that all through this period, Thomas Cherrington was living outside Charlton (probably in Cheltenham) and that John Strawford and his family were the actual occupiers of the farm at Little Herberts. The first Cherrington reference in the register is in 1622.



The Home Farm, shortly before demolition. Photograph lent by Mr Mitchell

A Thomas Cherrington was buried at St. Marys on 12 April 1702 aged 97. His age was clearly regarded as very remarkable - this is the only time a register of that period mentions anyone's age. His grandsons inherited, first the elder grandson William (baptised as William son of William Cherrington on 1 January 1682) and then John (baptised 5 November 1687). On 2 November 1708 (2) John, as heir of his brother William, claimed the messuage late of Thomas Cherrington their grandfather. With the messuage went garden and orchards, a close called Cherrington's Mead, 2 closes called Great and Little Sweetnell, and 2 closes of pasture called Upper and Lower Penny Breaches. The heriot to be paid was £1.4.0., a sum appropriate for a holding of this size. The fact that John's tenement included closes called Sweetnells and the meadow shows that this is the same Ashley Manor copyhold that his ancestor

Thomas had in 1557 and 1564, John being the fifth generation in possession.

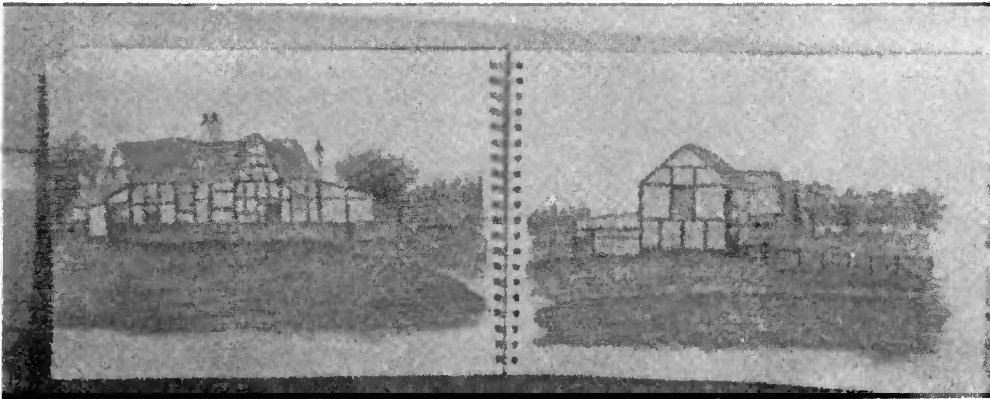
Cherrington's Mead (in Old Hill) was one of those meadows "alternatively or interchangeably year after year enjoyed" by two occupiers, in this case John Cherrington and Richard Whithorne (a successor, presumably to John Strawford the original "land-make"). On 21 March 1711 Richard Whithorne and Elizabeth his wife surrendered their interest to John Cherrington.(3) After Whithorne's death, his trustees in 1714 sold part of his Little Herberts holding to John Cherrington - this included a messuage and the ridges in Penny Breaches next to John's land, John had earlier given these him in an exchange.(4)

John Cherrington was a Cheltenham innholder and his Charlton interests were only secondary. His sons William and John set up as ironmongers in Cirencester, and William, who inherited in 1756, settled two-thirds of the Home Farm on his wife Ann and their heirs. But in November 1761 they had to surrender to use of Thomas Vaisey of Cirencester, maltster, to secure a loan. Because of the settlement, they could not alienate the settled parts of the property for any term longer than their two lives - after that it was bound to go to the heir. The other third (and Cherrington's second messuage), passed into Vaisey's ownership eventually, so Cherrington's Mead and Sweetnells were separated from the old house and Penny Breaches. The heriot paid in 1761 was 16s. for the settled and 8s. for the unsettled portions, together making up the £1.4.0 due (as in 1708) for the whole.(5)

William and Ann had no children; the next heir was William's brother John who inherited in 1799 and claimed his settled two-thirds together with the other tenement on which he still had the equity of redemption. For the Home Farm he paid 16s heriot, as before. Then he surrendered to uses of his will and when he died in 1811, the property was claimed by William Lawrence of Cirencester, surgeon, as the devisee and legatee.(6) Lawrence was admitted 1.c June 1811 and on 18 December 1811 sold the Home Farm for £1,110 to Benjamin Chapman of Cheltenham, innkeeper, who had the Rose and Crown just off the High Street. Chapman acquired the messuage, garden, orchard, a close of pasture adjoining the house (the paddock in front of the farm) and the two closes on the hillside called Upper and Lower Penny Breaches. The tithe map shows this land to measure about 12½ acres (TM 383-5).

On 28 May 1742, John Cherrington had surrendered to use of John Lawrence of Charlton, labourer, and Elizabeth his wife a parcel of land "in Little Harbord" with a barn, which lay to the south of a tenement of Thomas Ballinger's, from which it was divided by merestones "lately set up".(7) The barn had gone by 1786, when John Lawrence the son paid his parents 18 gns. to surrender the land to him. Because this was not the site of an ancient messuage, the heriot payable on the transaction was only 1d., as for a strip of land in a common field. John built a messuage on

the south side of the plot, but to do so had to borrow money from Thomas Tovey in 1789; in 1798, after getting possession of the messuage which had been Ballingers, he mortgaged again to John Williams. In both these surrenders, the area is called "Little Harbour", and this may very well be the original form of the name. From Tovey and Williams, the mortgages were assigned to George Ebsworth of Elkstone in 1807, and after his death, his daughter and customary heir Lucy Ann, wife of Bartley Wilson of Brimpsfield, claimed in 1816. But Robert Lawrence of Charlton Kings was still entitled to the equity of redemption under John Lawrence's Will. Two years later, on 2 October 1818, Richard Ebsworth of Charlton Kings, baker, paid the £100 due on the mortgage and a further £103.14.0 to Robert, for an outright purchase. Then on 17 March 1820, Richard Ebsworth and his wife Mary sold the property to Benjamin Chapman, victualler, for £200.(7)



Mr. Mitchell's sketch of the Home Farm and Cowhouse, with houses beyond

Longleat, Horsefair Street (8)

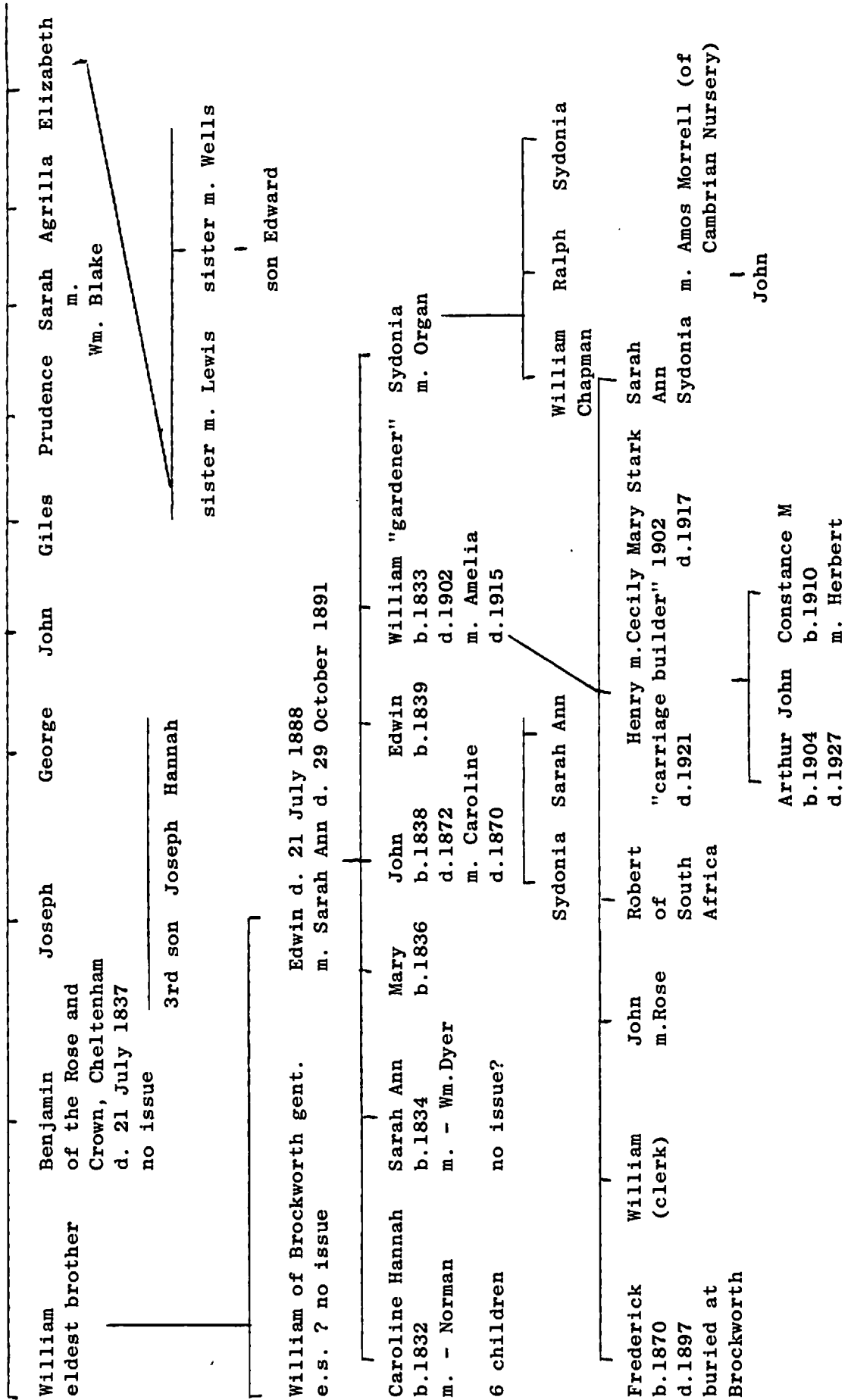
This property (and all that side of Horsefair Street) was copyhold of the manor of Cheltenham - originally there were two cottages here, occupied by William Brookes and William Ashmead. The land was part of three-quarters of an acre which belonged to the Hamlett family; John Hamlett and others surrendered it on 6 May 1825 to use of Samuel Hamlett, and it passed under his will (dated 19 April 1838 with codicil 16 May 1838, proved 1 July 1839).

Samuel divided his property among his children. His son Israel Thomas, a plumber and glazier, was given land measuring 51 ft. in front and 73½ ft. at the back, with a depth of 135 ft. on the north side (where it adjoined a footpath and premises devised to John Hamlett, Sarah Bryant nee Hamlett and Dorothea Hamlett, later wife of William Henry Haynes) and 143 ft. on the south side (against land still belonging to representatives of the late John Hamlett).

The house called Longleat was built on the site of one of the cottages between 1839 and 1849. On 4 December 1856, in consideration of £120, Hamlett's trustee surrendered land and house to use of Edwin Chapman, innkeeper.

The extra land at the back of the house, as described by Mrs. Herbert, was added by John Chapman in 1900. For £50 he acquired a plot 82 ft. by 106 ft. (reckoned as a quarter acre) which had been part of Hamlett's field and then belonged to William Fisher of Cheltenham. On the north it adjoined a private footway out of Horsefair Street, on the south land formerly Rachel Hamlett's, afterwards Mrs. Field's on the west Garden Cottages (belonging to representatives of Mark Williams deceased), on the east Longleat.

CHAPMAN FAMILY



The Chapman Family (9)

There were no Chapmans in Charlton Kings until Benjamin began to invest his money in Little Herberts property. His will dated 5 July 1824 disposed of this, and mentions a large number of relations - his brothers William, Joseph, George, John and Giles, his sisters Prudence, Sarah, Agrilla, Elizabeth and Mrs. Lewis, his nephews Joseph and Edward, and his niece Hannah. The family tree explains the relationships.

To his eldest brother William, Benjamin left the estate called Little Herbert and two cottages, with the meadows called Upper and Lower Penny Breaches. To his brother Giles he left the two cottages he bought from Mr. Ebsworth. However, Benjamin did not die till 1837 and by that time his brother William was dead. So the farm (divided into two dwellings) went to William's eldest son William Chapman of Brockworth, gentleman. He still owned it in 1858, with nearly 13 acres of land, but it was occupied by Edwin Chapman, possibly his brother. Giles Chapman was a "dealer" and also lived at Brockworth. He did not claim to be admitted to his cottages till July 1849 and then only in order to surrender them, for £67 to Edwin Chapman of Charlton Kings.

Edwin and his wife Sarah Ann had come to live in Charlton about 1832 - their daughter Caroline Hannah was baptised here on 21 October 1832. Their son William (born in 1833 according to the age given at his death) must have been baptised at Brockworth, but the other children were all christened at St. Marys - Sarah Ann (8 June 1834), Mary (21 August 1836), John (25 February 1838) Edwin (20 October 1839). At different times the father is described as "labourer", "coal merchant", "innkeeper", and "farmer", suggesting a varied career. By 1858, as the Rate book shows, he had quite considerable property interests.

In Little Herberts he occupied the Home Farm (No. 35 gross estimated rental £35) and owned the adjoining cottages (nos.425, 426, g.e.r. £2 and £2.10.0). In Horsefair Street he owned Longleat (no.362 g.e.r. £8.15.0), and Cavour Cottage (no.363, g.e.r. £3.3.0) occupied by Joseph Etheridge. In Church Street he had a house and garden (no. 326, g.e.r. £10) occupied by Daniel Etheridge; Vestry Hall papers at St. Marys show that this was the property east of St. Marys Hall (i.e. Skinner's shop and land, as still defined by a stone wall).

Hannah Chapman, Benjamin's niece, was still alive in 1858. She owned and occupied Rome Cottage in Thornton's or Church Piece (no. 403) and had another cottage there occupied by James Carter (no. 415).

William Chapman mortgaged Home Farm in 1843 and 1854, and in 1867(10) he and his mortgagee sold it for £1,100 to Sir William Russell of Charlton Park, who owned property on the west of the house. Edwin Chapman was still the occupier in 1867 but seems to have left by 1868 - on the 1868 map of Charlton Park estate (11), Home Farm

and Penny Breaches are marked as "Sir W. Russell bart late Mr. E. Chapman", lots 116-9. I have not found the date of the sale to the Lilleybrook Estate. Edwin Chapman still kept his 2 cottages at Little Herberts.

Edwin Chapman's will is dated 27 May 1887 - he died aged 88 on 21 July 1888, leaving all his real estate to his wife for life. She died on 29 October 1891, and then the other provisions of the will came into force.

The property was divided between Edwin's sons John and William and his daughter Sydonia, and their respective children. The testator had been living in a house in Church Piece - that was to go to his son William for life and after him to grandson Edwin, or failing Edwin, to Frederick (who died at Brockworth in 1897 aged 27). Son William was also to receive the rent of one of the Little Herbert's cottages until grandson John came of age; after that John, or should he die, Henry to have it. Grandsons Frederick and Henry were to have two houses in Hamlett's Yard (occupied by Joseph Mason and Henry Hogg); and grandson Robert was left Cavour Cottage (occupied by Frederick Bubb). Longleat (then occupied by William Dyer, husband of the testator's daughter Sarah Ann) went to grandson William charged with £50 for his sister Sarah Ann Sydonia.

The testator's son John had died in 1872, leaving two daughters Sarah Ann and Sydonia. Their aunt Sydonia Organ was to act as trustee for them during their minority, and they were eventually to receive the shop and land in Church Street (Daniel Etheridge) and the adjoining yard and buildings (James Ivin). That left the second house at Little Herberts, with land, garden and stable. This went to the testator's daughter Sarah Ann Dyer for life and after to grandson William Chapman Organ. Should he die before his grandmother, the property was to be sold and proceeds divided between his brother and sister, Ralph and Sydonia. There were money legacies for the six children of the testator's daughter Caroline Hannah Norman; and the residue of both real and personal estate was to be divided between his son William and his daughters Sarah Ann and Sydonia.

Under this will, John Chapman of Longleat House, gardener (the grandson) claimed on 15 September 1900 and was admitted to the cottage and garden at Little Herberts with frontage to a footway, which had been Giles Chapman's cottage. A year later he enfranchised it for £1.1.8d.

Longleat became the property of William Chapman, Clerk in Holy Orders (of Coventry, later of Holmside, Co. Durham) and from 1902 it was occupied by his brother Henry (described as gardener) and his wife Cecily Mary. But in October 1914, after a report that Longleat if offered on the open market would not realise more than £300 on account of the marked depreciation in the value of property (a result of the outbreak of war), the Revd. William Chapman sold out to Henry for £250. However, they agreed that if

the house were sold again, a further £100 should be handed over to William.

Henry Chapman died on 17 April 1921. His will dated 16 July 1920 made his brother William and John Booth his executors. On 28 November 1921 Longleat was sold by the Revd William Charles Chapman and John Chapman of Charlton Kings, gardener, for £380, with another £70 for the extra land. That £70 went to John (whose land it was) and the stipulated £100 to William; the rest of the money was invested for the children. The purchaser was Lucy Jane Teakle, who two months later, on 30 January 1922, acquired Cavour Cottage for £35 from Robert Chapman of 138 Henry Street, Bloemfontein, Orange Free State. It was to be demolished.

Longleat itself was eventually acquired and demolished by the Urban District Council, but the flats which replaced it still keep the old name.

- (1) G.R.O D 855 M68
- (2) GRO D 109, original surrenders 34
- (3) Ibid., original surrenders 69
- (4) Ibid., original surrenders 90, 94, 108, 109
- (5) D109/1. William settled two-thirds of this farm on his wife instead of the customary one-third, because he was not giving her any interest in his second messuage occupied by Thomas Turk.
- (6) D109/2
- (7) D109/1,2. I tentatively identify Ballinger's tenement with No. 49 Little Herberts, an ancient timber-framed cottage which (as the chimney shows) once had a thatched roof. It is now plastered and slated, and to the casual eye looks modern. But it still faces west to a footpath, not east to the road.



No. 49 from West - i.e. from the footpath.

- (8) Title deeds held by Cheltenham Corporation.
- (9) Wills extracted from Ashley Manor will books 1 (no.7) and 2 (no.99) by Eric Armitage. Other information from registers, Mrs. Herbert's papers, and gravestones. The 1858 Rate book was lent to the Society by Mr. Kilby.
- (10) GRO D 109/3
- (11) GRO D 6746 P 47
- (12) D 109/4. So while Mrs. Herbert's Uncle John and Aunt Rose lived at Home Farm, they were tenants of Mr. Lord; but when they moved to the cottage next door, they were living in their own house. After they left the farm it was divided into 3 cottages and traces of this can be observed in the photograph; but it was soon restored as a single house.

M. Paget

4. CHARLTON KINGS WILLS 1547 - 1558: SOME INTERIM CONCLUSIONS

There are 16 wills of local Charlton people from the period 1547-1558, held in the County Record Office. (1) Nine of the wills (7 of men, 2 of women) dating from the reign of Edward VI have preambles in the non-traditional form. (2) They normally include the local priest as witness. Seven wills (2 of men, 5 of women) date from the reign of Mary. All the preambles revert to the Catholic form and all include the local priest as witness. (3)

1547 - 1553

As under Henry VIII, the content of the wills reflects the very great importance of agriculture in Charlton at this time. The inheritance of a son or daughter (apart from any land) was essentially agricultural, e.g. a cow and a hog (a young unshorn sheep), a heifer, a weaning calf, a "cornwain (cart) and all that belongeth to him". Other legatees could receive, for example, a dung wain, or "a heifer to his marriage". God-children sometimes received a sheep each. Different types of farming were practised. Richard Wele, husbandman, left 20 or more sheep, Richard Lynet, gentleman, left at least 50. Other testators apparently raised cattle (e.g. Robert Regedale) or mixed livestock (e.g. Thomas Hewys).

Since the social status of the testators varied, the amount of property varied also. Most testators held copyhold land which had to pass to the customary heir, the youngest son (4), and thus generally only personal property, livestock, or agricultural implements are specified. Wills usually contain a clause leaving all other goods not bequeathed, to a residuary legatee, and thus complete details of all property held by the testator are not available. It is difficult to draw firm conclusions about individual wealth.

For illustration, details are given in Appendix A of property

left to a daughter by her father, and by the daughter in turn when she died a year later.(5)

As in the previous reign, bequests were made to

- (a) "the poor man's box" in church, of amounts from 2d. (Husbandman) to 12d. (Gentleman) or a bushel of barley. Sometimes 13s.4d. or 20s. were left by the more wealthy for distribution among the poor at discretion of the overseers of the will or of the family.
- (b) "The high altar", of a bushel of barley or 4d. for tithes forgotten.
- (c) In one instance, the repair of roads.

At this period, the more wealthy often expected burial inside the church (e.g. Robert Greville "before the blessed sacrament") while ordinary people had to be content with the churchyard.

Another difference was that the wealthy had servants, three or four were mentioned in Alice Lynet's will. One was left "4 sheep and a yearling calf to breed an ox". Elizabeth, wife of old John Hays, was to receive "a gown of mine own wearing". One shepherd received one sheep.

In this group of wills, almost no information is given about houses, except in the case of Thomas Lynet. His house had a hall, with a great table board; a solar (upper room) with a great chest and a feather bed; and a court, with a well and a "cestorne" or cistern.

Little information either can be deduced about the state of the less well off, though one husbandman owed 55s.4d. at his death.

1553 - 1558

Because of the lack of information concerning land holdings, and the use of a residuary legatee clause, the wills of this period provide only small glimpses of life in Charlton. Jane Holder's will, for example, is most uninformative - she refers only to her children having her portion, with the residue to her son Nicholas. According to a survey of holdings in 1557, he worked 100 acres and was the second largest landholder in Charlton. It would have been useful to have learned more of his inheritance - but unfortunately wills were not drafted for the benefit of historians!

Some other wills are useful in that they illustrate the operation of customary land tenure, though space does not permit present consideration of this.(6) Others reflect the importance of the production of malt in the locality (bequests of mashing pots and malt mills, barley). Household furniture and clothes ("wearing gear") are bequeathed. One woman left a silver wedding ring. Elenor Stubbe left to her "gostly father", Raynold Lane, her husband's gown so that he would pray for him and her.

There are odd references to details of houses. We learn that Elenor Stubbs had a bake-house, and she bequeathed the rent of "Polardes House" for 12 years. Henry Brevell had a barn, in which he kept his long ladder. His mother Margaret had a house with a solar, and a "nether house" (7). Odd details of domestic life come through to us, e.g. "the linen yarn to be set to weaving ... and two meat cloths of three ells (8) apiece to be cut out, and the rest equally divided". As an illustration, the gist of Margery Taylor's will, the most informative of this period, is set out in Appendix B.

APPENDIX A

Comparison of wills of Richard and Jone Aleruge

Richard (died 1552)

(son) John cow, horse, broch, pair andirons, (support for spit), best co(ver)let; 2 tableboards, pair of trestles, form, 2 flitches of bacon (one of the best, one of the second)

(son's wife) best colander

(daughter) Jone his own bed, bolster, coverlet, pair of sheets, best brass pot, best coffer, 3 pieces of pewter, store pig, ring(?) andiron, broch.

(daughter) Elizabeth cow, brass pot, 3 pieces of pewter, pair of sheets, canvas, coffer

(daughter) Agnes brass pot, 3 pieces of pewter, 2 sheets, canvas, kettle, coffer

(Various debts owed to and by testator)

Jone (died 1553)

Thomas Goslyng (younger son of John Goslyng) andiron, 3 pieces of pewter, salt cellar, red petticoat

Margaret Goslyng flock-bed, bolster, pair sheets, canvas, coverlet, "flannyn" petticoat

Elizabeth Ballinger (the elder) lockeram (linen) kerchief, "vyolet cape"

Elizabeth and Mary Ballinger 2 corner kerchiefs

Old Alice lockeram kerchief

John Goslyng (uncle) store pig

Jane Goslyng (aunt) residue of linen.

APPENDIX B

Will of Margery Tayler alias Ruggdale widow
dated 2 May 1557, proved 6 July 1557

(1557/234)

(sister) Margett	black frock, hat and cap
(daughter) Agnes Hyett	best "bedes", fine "kerchewe (kerchief), cow (9)
(son) John	half her "besshe, shepe and lambes", if other legacies have been paid one mead Nyftenege for 12 years rent free (witnessed by 2 lawful tenants according to custom)
(daughter) Alys Turner	fine kerchewe, another kerchewe, a pynn(er) (10)
(daughter) Elizab(eth)	new "peticote", fine kerchewe, "syde sadle so that she shall lende the same to Amye my dewghter when she shal have nede therof"
(daughter) Amye	kyrtle, new "frocke cloth" (which was in her brother's keeping against a loan of 10s.), fine kerchewe, use of the side-saddle when Elizabeth did not need it
Alys Frenche	(a) cow, pot, broche (at day of marriage if she so long live, if not, to remain between John and William) (b) immediately on testator's death, 2 sheets "hurden" (11), meat cloth, pottinger, dowlas (12) kerchew and pynner (10), white peticote with "knytt slyves" (13)
Richard Gale	(a) close called Styledole for 12 years rent free (b) "profit of one aple tree in Stanley" for 12 years called a "nonesuch or hard aple" (14)
Alys Clevely	"a blacke frocke which (testator) did customarily wear upon Sundays"
Allis (Grene)	my work day frock of Bristow sayce (15)
John Gale	broche, honiste (decent) flock bedde without aparell
High altar (of St. Marys)	12d. "to gods honor and praise"
Residue to William (son?) the executor	
Debts owed -	10s. to brother (for which he keepeth a frock cloth)

£4 to Robert Hyett (to be paid at £1 a year)
5 marks(16) to John Gale (to be paid at 10s.
a year)
23s. and 6s.8d. for a curnock (17) of barley
to William Turner
£4 to William Hyett (if he require the same)

Overseers:- Walter Coriar, Nicholas Holder, 20d. each
Witnesses:- Walter Coriar, Nicholas Holder, William Hyett, John
Gale, Sir Raynold Lane, curat.

- (1) Wills GRO references 1547/180 William Gale; 1548/76 Robert Grevyle gentleman; 1548/84 Richard Wele, husbandman; 1548/94 Thomas Lynet gentleman; 1549/187 Robert Regedale; 1549/198 Thomas Hewes; 1551/7 Alice Lynet, wife of Thomas; 1552/85 Richard Aleruge 1553/40 Jone Aleruge, single woman; 1556/64 Jane Holder, widow; 1556/83 Robert Godrych; 1557/72 Elenor Stubbe, widow; 1557/85 Henry Brevell; 1557/129 Joane Spyrwinkle, widow; 1557/230 Marget Brevell; 1557/234 Margerye Taylor, widow.
- (2) For details of the format of wills, see "Early Wills from Charlton Kings 1537-1547" Bulletin 4 pp. 5-16. For comparison preambles split 3/2 between traditional (catholic) and non-traditional forms in 1537, and 4/4 between 1542 and 1547.
- (3) Richard Elborow was described as Curate on 4 June 1547 and 7 February 1548. William Hall, former chantry priest at Charlton, was described as Curate in another will of 1 February 1548, and from then regularly to 1 March 1553. Raynold Lane was Curate between August 1556 and October 1557.

According to an article "Dispossessed Religious of Gloucestershire", G. Baskerville TBGAS LXIX pp 75,104, there were two Reginald or Raynald Lanes who may be identified with the Charlton Curate. One was a former monk of Hayles Abbey, who received a pension of £5 p.a., The other was Raynold Lane former chantry priest of Stone, who claimed he had no other living and so received a pension of £6. (This fact seems to disprove the author's theory that they were one and the same). One Reginald Lane was curate of Dursley in 1551 and 1553 (p.89), and he could well be the Charlton curate of 1556-7. Either of them seems a better candidate for the position than the Richard Lane, former canon of Cirencester, suggested by Mrs. Hart (History of Cheltenham (1965) p.51)

A Richard Elborow, possibly the curate of 1547-8, witnessed one will of 1556.

- (4) Though the widow had a right to her husband's land for her life and 12 years after.
- (5) See also the article on the Lynet wills, Bulletin 5 pp. 7-11
- (6) It is hoped to print an account of the operation of this custom in a future issue.

- (7) The Brevells have left their name in the surviving timber-framed and plastered house called Brevells Haye. The burial of Henry Brevell was probably recorded on the folio for 1557-8 which has been torn out of the register- he was succeeded by Richard Brevill who in respect of his 14 acre tenement held of Ashley Manor was allowed to inclose 1 acre "in the buttes and at the close-end" (GRO D855/M 68). This was the close normally attached to a messuage, often an orchard. The position of the house called Brevells Haye suggests that it may have been built about this period on the close behind the original tenement, in which case the medieval house would have been the timber-framed and thatched cottage, part of Pruen's Row, demolished in 1939, which stood just behind Jasmine Villa in Church Street. So Margaret Brevell's "nether-house" might refer to the old dwelling, distinguishing it from the new house higher up the slope in which she had her solar; but this is pure surmise.
- (8) An English ell was 45 inches.
- (9) Most likely a variant of beast, meaning cattle. (OED also gives it as a rare form of bisse, female deer or hind).
- (10) Either an apron with bib to be pinned to the chest, or a coif with two long flaps (though this does not seem to have been worn until c.1700) or (improbably) a penner or box for holding quill pens.
- (11) Hurden or Harden, a common linen made from the coarsest hemp or flax.
- (12) Dowlas, coarse linen fabric.
- (13) Knitted.
- (14) A very early reference to Nonsuch, a long-keeping apple. Until Henry's time, most dessert apples were imported, but he sent his fruiterer Robert Harris to fetch "out of France a great store of grafts especially pippins, before which there were no pippins in England". Some of these may have reached the Nonsuch palace gardens, where in later years apple trees abounded. The apple Nonpareil, said to have been introduced from France by a Jesuit in the time of Mary Tudor or Elizabeth, may not have had any connection with the nonpareil of palaces; however, to the apple-sellers in Covent Garden in Restoration times it was a "Nonsuch" (The Quest for Nonsuch Hutchinson (1962) p.114)
- (15) Say or sayes, a type of serge
- (16) A mark was worth 13s.4d.
- (17) A West Country measure varying with commodity and locality. For corn, usually 4 bushels.

5. "IT ISN'T LIKE THE OLD DAYS"

It isn't like it was in the old days. Attwood who kept the Merry Fellow, Doc Attwood they called him, used to open at 5 in the morning to catch the men who had to be at work at 6. There was a Charlton man who had to be at Prestbury by 6 every morning and the only way to get there was to walk. My father always left the house at 5. One morning he woke early and got us all up an hour too soon. As he was going along New Street he heard the church clock strike 4 and thought it was 5! He got to work and they asked what he'd come for? "To work, of course!" he said. So they didn't tell him the time, they gave him a job! I saw the clock said 4 and went back to the house. In those days children walked long distances to get to school. There were children who walked all the way from Northfield to Charlton schools, getting on for 3 miles there and 3 miles back.

When I was a boy, I used to collect medicine for an old woman who lived in Mill Lane (School Road). There wasn't any doctor or chemist in Charlton then, I had to walk to Leckhampton to the Doctor's, then to the Workhouse for the medicine, and then back to Charlton, and was paid $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for doing it. One day, watching men building the loop, I dropped the bottle and had to do the whole round again!

My brother once found a half sovereign in the road. He took it to his mother and said "Look what a bright farthing I've found!" She gave him $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for it and he was quite satisfied!

At King Edward's Coronation, a Coronation celebration was held in the field between Greenway Lane and Ryeworth Road, behind Ryeworth Farm. Mrs. Peart who lived next to us in School Road (in one of the thatched houses) took me up there. She had a little truck and took pancakes to sell. There were roundabouts and all the rest. In those days there were no houses on that side of Ryeworth Road between Firsden (now Ashley Firs) and the lane by Mills' Bakery.

One day we boys filled a sugar bag with sand, put a bit of sugar on the top, and left it in the road to see who'd take it. It was the man who walked to Prestbury every day. He carried that bag all the way to Prestbury and all the way home again and gave it to his wife saying "Here you are, missus, see what I've found!" But when we tried that trick again leaving it by the Co-Op, old Mrs. - picked it up and took it to the Police. Then Sergeant Day came to see father and warned us not to do such a thing another time or else....!

There was a sweet shop in Bobby's Alley kept by Mrs. Timbrell and we found that the wood of the window was rotten - we worked at it until we'd made a little hole and could poke a stick through and fish out sweets! But we were caught doing that

In those days there were no houses at the east end of Lyefield Road. We used to play hide-and-seeK on the rough ground among the unity-tumps - the road was still gated, with a kissing-gate at our end. (When our parents got married, it was only a rough cart track!) And we used to play in one of the old thatched cottages in Spring Bottom at the bottom of the pitch. One of the pair was still occupied but the other was empty, with a hole in the thatch you could put your head through

There was the Recreation ground then, between Lyefield Road and the Club. They played rugby on that ground - two Charlton men, Bernie Bloodworth and Tom Cooper, were picked for England from that team.

The Annis brothers, at two separate times, built houses in Lyefield Road, nos. 27 and 25, the eastern one first. Then that brother went to America and the other moved into No. 27. Later he thought of going to join the brother in America and was on his way walking into town to book a passage on the Titanic when Mr. Ranger offered him a job for 3 years if he would stay in Charlton ... which he did, and consequently wasn't drowned.

In those days, there were several brickworks between Charlton and Leckhampton. When I was about 14, I saw the chimney of the Pilley brickworks felled.

F. Neather

DETMORE CONTINUED

A) Detmore in 1594-5 - Another early reference

Following publication in Bulletin 5 (1) of the articles on Detmore, two more wills mentioning this property have been found in the County Record Office. The two wills, one made 2 November 1594, and the other, a nuncupative will, the very next day (3) were both made by Maud (or Matilda) Dowdswell, and both appear to have been proved in April 1595 - a rather unusual occurrence. Both have substantially the same details.

John Dowdswell, son of Maud, was to have "copie for sixe yeares after my decesce of the one... (4) of the howse and launde meadowe and pasture thereunto belonging called Depmore, all my right therein".

John Mason her son-in-law is to have "two kyne".

"Margerie Clerke daughter of John Clerke and Johan his wife" (Maud's daughter) is to have a heifer to breed a cow.

The residuary legatee was John, her son.

Witnesses:- To GRO 1595/104 Edward Jonnes, Edward Dowdswell,
Anne (Persifalle)
To GRO 1594/108 Edward Jones, Edward Dodeswell,
Agness Whithorne, Agnes Jones

- (1) Page 11
- (2) GRO 1595/104. The preamble was protestant, as would be expected at this date.
See Bulletin 4, p.6
- (3) GRO 1594/108. A nuncupative will is one dictated by the testator without mark or signature.
- (4) The word illegible here may be "moietie" i.e. half. In the nuncupative will her son was to have "halfe my living".

M.J. Greet

B) Cooking at Detmore

They were still using a bottle jack to roast their meat in front of an open fire in the scullery at Detmore in the early years of this century, when as a boy I used to take grocery orders up there for Mr. Attwood of Church Street (the shop which is now the Chinese take-away). I could see the jack plainly as I stood at the scullery door, handing in the groceries and taking the orders.

W. Keen

C) BOYHOOD MEMORIES OF DETMORE, PART II

A Victorian Romantic Walkway beside the Chelt

The drive to Detmore comes down from the Cheltenham - Oxford Road (A40) to the Chelt, crosses it with a bridge, and then goes up to the house. Somedistance further down the Chelt, there is another bridge, where a wide footpath comes down from the A40, crosses over the bridge, and then divides - one of the footpaths going off in a NE direction. This was known when I was young as "the Back Way to Detmore". So, in effect, there was a length of the Chelt below Detmore, bounded at each end by a bridge.

It was these banks, together with a strip of adjacent ground on each side, that John Dobell turned into a Victorian Romantic walkway, planting flowers under the trees, making rustic bridges over the stream, rustic seats, and arbours. Photographs of this type of thing can be seen in Victorian albums (the chine at Shanklin or Bournemouth, views in Switzerland or the Austrian Tyrol). I would hazard a guess that the idea of reproducing something similar beside the Chelt must have come to John after he and Julietta had visited such a place. They had liked what they saw and decided to create something similar on the banks of the Chelt.

When I first came to know it, the walk was heavily overgrown with brambles and weeds, the flowering shrubs were either dead or unkempt, and where there had been tulips and daffodils, I remember only one tulip struggling through the undergrowth; the daffodils were giving way to the advancing horde of bluebells, and they in turn to ransons (the wild garlic with white flowers) and ground-elder. The rustic seats were rotting. The seats inside the Arbours were rotting and the structures were tumble-down. An air of dereliction was everywhere.

But to me, this was fascinating. To see paths going off into the undergrowth made me want to explore. When I had bashed my way through the brambles, I first of all opened up one path and then another. The incentive to do this was an idea that was already forming in my mind. I had been reading in my father's railway books about the railways of Switzerland with the lines built beside raging torrents and bridges of marvellous construction spanning those steep-sided valleys. The one that was in my mind was the St. Gothard line that leads up to the famous St. Gothard tunnel, the first railway link between Switzerland and Italy. Then I read about another railway many thousands of miles away in America, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. This was built through incredible rocky country, largely in canyons with raging torrents at the bottom, through pine forest beside western rivers, crossing torrents on girder bridges.

So there I was, a small boy, shuffling along the paths imitating a steam locomotive with chuff-chuff-chuff and occasionally whistling and blowing off steam! I was imagining I was either a Swiss locomotive drawing a train of Wagon-Lits full of beautiful ladies dressed in white with leg-of-mutton sleeves and hair piled on top of the head a la chignon, and sophisticated gentlemen with goatee beards and monocles - I had once seen Continental Boat-Train passengers and the memory stuck! Or I imagined I was an American locomotive with a large diamond smoke-stack belching rolling clouds of black smoke, the engineer (driver) and fireman working in their huge cab and the passengers in the long teak carriages with verandas at each end ... The men (I am afraid I hadn't got around to thinking what the women looked like!) all had stetsons and a pair of six shooters at their belts, ready for any train robbers or raiding Indians! The ruined seats and arbours became stations which I used to approach with much whistling, and stopped at for a while, blowing off steam, before shuffling and chuffing off again. Soon I had so extended my railway system that all the paths were open, at least to a small boy.

And then I went even further by taking my imaginary railway system over the bridges across the Chelt. In their rotten state, they doubtless would have carried the weight of a small boy and I didn't worry overmuch when the whole of one side of a rustic bridge I was going over fell with an almighty

crash into the Chelt beneath! But my parents were horrified when I told them about it, and I was forbidden to use the rustic bridges because of their condition. But I still had plenty of paths on terra firma, I didn't worry.

Incidentally, John Dobell had extended his romantic walkway eastwards on each bank upstream of the drive bridge, but I never penetrated this - it seemed worse than where I was operating.

As time went on and I grew older, these fantasies did not have the same attraction.

Just before the Motts left Detmore in the 20s, I visited the site again. The bridges had all fallen into the Chelt and disappeared, there were no harbours or seats left, there was no sign of the track of the St. Gothard Railway or the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad - nothing. Nature had at long last reclaimed her own from John Dobell.

Catching Crayfish in the Chelt

I don't remember exactly who was responsible for catching crayfish, but I rather think it was Roland Mott.. Leonard wasn't very active, due to his lameness.



The Chelt was not the tidy well-regulated small river we usually see nowadays. In those days, when there was a cloud-burst and all the drains and streams emptied into it, or after a period of heavy rain, the Chelt turned into a miniature torrent carrying all sorts of debris down with it - sticks, branches, small trees, masses of vegetation and grass roots washed away from the banks. In this mixture were also the corpses of birds - sparrows, blackbirds, pigeons, rooks - and other animals. I even saw once the bloated corpse of a lamb that had got stuck, plus sticks, across the lower bridge (where the path to Detmore back entrance went). A man sent to move it downstream poked it with a long pole and in moving it broke the decaying corpse up. Phew! What a stink! Crayfish are known to feed on decaying matter in the water - in fact I believe they are known as scavengers or cleansers of waters - so they had plenty to feed on in the Chelt. After storms, the Chelt subsided into its normal flow. But where branches had been swept across the stream, and the extremities had caught in the banks, the debris,

tussocks of grass, etc., built up behind and became a rudimentary dam, with a pool upstream - the Chelt became a series of these pools. In the wall of the dam, would be corpses of birds and other decaying matter. You could see the crayfish burrowing after this material where they would be undisturbed; they also used to feed on bits on the bottom of the pool. So where there was a pool upstream of a dam, one was likely to find crayfish .. after the storm had subsided, of course!

The method of catching them was as follows. A small chunk of meat had a length of string tied to it, or alternatively, the corpse of a mouse taken from a trap (there were plenty of mice at Detmore!). There was a large earthenware jar in one of the sheds, where these corpses and pieces of meat were hung suspended, to decompose. The mouth of the jar was closed with a large heavy tile that nipped the strings so that the pieces on the end did not fall to the bottom. A small aperture was left to let in air and the bacteria that did the rotting, but kept out small animals attracted by the smell. Mice or rats sometimes managed to move the tile and ate the decaying meat but left the corpses. But both meat and corpses were equally attractive to the crayfish. My hat, how that jar smelt!

When the time came to catch crayfish, we used to go down to the Chelt and find the pools where the crayfish were. One had to wait patiently for some time to see them move.

Roland had brought with him bits of John Dobell's fishing rod, which his grandfather had used for fishing at Tewkesbury. This had been a beautiful rod but like so many things at Detmore had seen better days. It was made up of sections of cane or some other hollow wood, reddish-brown in colour, with brass ends that fitted like sockets over one another. But on a number of these sockets, the brass had cracked or was missing altogether. So in effect only the top end of the rod was used, particularly as it finished in a loop. There were two reels of line, which was gut. One large reel was all of brass which made an attractive clicking noise as it unwound - how I longed to play with it, but I was forbidden (there was another small plain brass reel which I was allowed to play with).

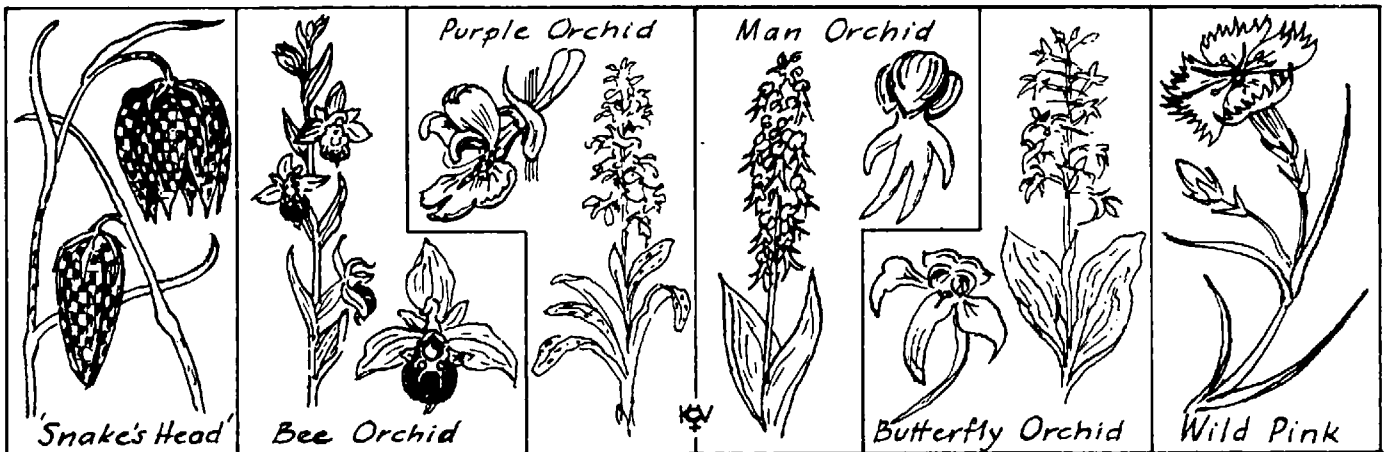
So the abbreviated fishing rod was taken, the large reel put on the bank and the line unwound, threaded through the vestigial rod and one of the bits of string tied to the end. This was lowered carefully into the pool so as not to splash or disturb anything. And then one had to wait, sometimes quite a long time. Sometimes you could see the crayfish move over and start feeding on the piece you had lowered, at other times there was a tug on the line. The art was to allow the crayfish to attach itself firmly and then to flick the line smartly out of the water so that string and bait with crayfish attached landed on the bank behind one.

The crayfish used to flip and click about on the bank when detached from the bait and my job was to catch it and pop it into a canvas bag. If there was anything left of the bait, it was lowered back into the water, once the commotion had subsided. If the crayfish were small, they were put back and could be seen swimming away and burrowing into the mud. As far as I can remember, crayfish were fished for mainly during the summer.

The catch was taken up to Detmore and dumped in a pot of boiling water, whereby the blue-grey crayfish turned pink like shrimps. Then there was crayfish salad for tea, which looked just like shrimp salad. But I was forbidden by my parents to partake. I think they were afraid that diseases associated with rotting meat would be transmitted via the crayfish - I seem to remember botulism mentioned. However, I got Roland to swear secrecy and he gave me a crayfish from his salad. It tasted good, just like the shrimps I used to have at the seaside.

During the periods of waiting between catches, I used to search, either upstream or downstream, some distance away from the fishing, so as not to make a noise, for ammonites and other large fossils that had been washed down the Chelt. The Motts used to like these to add to fossils already on the rockery in the garden. I think the ammonites must have come from a clay strata upstream from Detmore, which the Chelt cut through. I didn't think much of the fossils, better ones could be bought from the men at Webb's Brickworks for a shilling, or half-a-crown for an extra good one. The ones out of the Chelt were recognisable, but the spines and projections had been knocked off them.

Great Aunt Bella's Pressed Flowers



One of the things I remember about Great Aunt Bella (Dobell) was her large collection of pressed flowers - 3 volumes of specimens gathered mainly from Gloucestershire. But there were

some flowers from Switzerland, obviously obtained from a trip there. One volume had ferns and mosses in it and was of no interest whatsoever to a small boy. The other two, (like the third), had large pages, one type of flower to each page. Each had its Latin name, its common name, and the locality where it had been picked, all done in beautiful copper-plate handwriting. Some had been found in places in Gloucestershire I had never heard of. I thought this strange, as I had picked similar flowers, either in the fields around Charlton Kings, or in the fields around Chipping Campden, or at Alton in Hampshire where I used to visit relatives. What attracted me to the pages in the first place was that they had a double border of ruled lines, like railway lines, two crossing at top and bottom, and two going from top to bottom near the binding and two near the edge - I was much more interested in railways than pressed flowers!

I thought it strange that Great Aunt Bella should have taken so much trouble to arrange each flower and leaf, sometimes there were more than one to a page, so that its structure and shape could be readily seen. And the colour being faded, I thought it curious that anybody should want to keep something that had so little of its beautiful colour, when one could go out into the fields around Detmore and pick the living flower with its bright colour, looking really attractive. I may have said as much to Great Aunt Bella! I expect she thought I was rather an impertinent little boy, anyway I was always kept firmly in my place when she was alive.

Among the flowers in her collection, I can remember many examples of wild orchid. Some of these I was already familiar with, as I used to pick the two types of purple orchid and the bee orchid up on the Vineyards and also on that part of Leckhampton Hill they used to call Charlton Common. There was also the Butterfly Orchid which was rather rare, but I picked it once at Wistley beyond the Vineyards. She had even got one called the Man Orchid, supposed to be like a human figure - a queer straggly flower, I remember.

She also had specimens of the Snake's Head, a wild spotted fritillary which she had listed as picked in the fields near Detmore. My mother, when told of this by me, didn't believe it. She thought Great Aunt Bella had picked her specimen at one or other of the sites in Gloucestershire where they were known to bloom and then forgot and listed them as from Detmore. Whether they grew near Detmore in Victorian times, I don't know.

Another flower she had was the wild Pink (which is quite different from the garden variety). She had picked this somewhere in Gloucestershire, where I cannot remember, except, vaguely, in the Cirencester region. Nowadays the wild Pink is very rare and only exists in one or two carefully protected and inaccessible places in Britain. But I know it existed in Gloucestershire a bit later than the time I am writing about.

C.I. Gardiner, who was senior Science Master at Cheltenham College, was also a famous geologist - he had come across a colony in some remote quarry in the Cotswolds he had visited in his search for fossils. He refused to tell my mother and father (he used to visit us regularly as he was an old friend of my father's) because as my father was passionately keen on rock gardens, he was afraid my brother or I (probably I) would be sent to go and get the root for his rock garden! So I know the wild Pink used to exist in Gloucestershire in the 1920s; but its presence was kept secret.

Each volume in the collection was bound in leather with patterned and padded embossed covers secured by a large gilt clasp. But like so many things at Detmore, the collection was in a sad condition, the bindings had gone and a lot of the pages were loose. In one volume some of the pages had already disappeared because of the gap in the binding. The embossed leather had cracked open and the flock padding was protruding.

What became of the collection I don't know. In hindsight, the impression I am left with is that Great Aunt Bella had made a marvellous collection of great scientific value, but through lack of care later on, it was all dissipated. What a pity! However, I have described it in some detail here, in the hope that part may turn up somewhere.

J. Williams

7. CHARLTON KINGS VESTRY BOOKS 1698 - 1793

I have been looking at the two Vestry books from Charlton Kings which were deposited in the Gloucestershire Record Office. One starts in 1698 and finishes in 1765, the other has its first entry dated 1766 and the last 1793. So between them they cover nearly a century of village life.(1)

W.E. Tate in The Parish Chest (2) remarks that early vestry books go back to the 1500s and are among the most interesting parish records, being kept up over many centuries. The vestry meeting was probably established as early as the 14th century for the management of ecclesiastical affairs, principally repair of the nave and (as time went on) bells, for which a church rate could be levied. Other duties followed and the responsibility of levying rates for these purposes. (3) Eventually the vestry became "a sort of parochial parliament". Vestry powers included administration of common property (if any), making bye-laws, rate assessment and collection, and (by custom only) election of one of the two churchwardens. It took over from the manorial courts the election of a constable, and appointed overseers of the poor and waywardens.

The 1601 Act was the foundation of poor law administration for over two centuries. Two, three, or four, householders were to be appointed each year as overseers of the poor, to act with the churchwardens; funds were provided by taxation of "every inhabitant, person, vicar, and other and every occupier of lands, houses, tithes impropriate and proprietors of tithes, coalmines or saleable underwood". Vestry records may contain orders and accounts relating to almost every subject under the sun. Tate gives the following examples:- allocating pews; appointing officers; setting rates; controlling strangers coming into the parish (because these might become a charge upon it); boarding and lodging the poor (who were sometimes "farmed out" to the employer who would take them on for the lowest sum); providing medical treatment, including in some cases inoculation, for the poor; clothing pauper apprentices and girls or boys going into service; caring for bastard children (what has been called "the eternal bastardy problem"); giving out vestry contracts for supplies of relief in kind; contributing (towards the end of the 18th century) to infirmaries, so that sick poor might receive treatment; occasionally (but not in this area) control of common land and common fields, as manor courts lapsed.

Our vestry books start with an account of the Parish Lands belonging "to the poor of the parish of Charlton Kings" - where they are, ownership of lands which border them, the people renting the lands and paying taxes or rates on them. They included land held by Samuel Whithorne; and land in the "tything of Westall, Naunton, and Sandford" - in 1707 there is an undertaking by William Blake to pay a yearly rent of 50s. over 8 years for six acres of arable land "lying dispersed in the common fields" in that tithing, and it is clearly stated that these are "the Parish Lands of Charlton Kings". The produce of the parish lands might be sold to raise money, as in 1696 "Sold parcell of wood off parish land to John Moulder £4.0.0."

Also listed are bequests that go to benefit the poor of the parish. In 1720 it is carefully noted that "a sheet of stamped paper" was provided for a receipt for Sarah Denton's legacy to the parish. The "Last Will and Testament of Walter Mansell" gives 10s. a year payable out of his "free-lands"; and £10 was given by Grace Denton of Cirencester "to buy 2 poor women 2 shifts" - when a child, she was "kept by this parish". There follows then "An Account how the parish Stock is to be disposed according to the will of the Donors". This includes £10 to bind out yearly 2 apprentices", Christmas gifts given by Mr. Packer, and money "to pay the payments on said lands and to give to the poor sick and lame and towards the relief of the poor".

Finally, it is noted that "for divers reasons the parishioners and Feoffees have thought fitt to make choice of (name missing!)

to gather the said rents and dispose of them as affore-said and do hereby promise to excuse him and his Estate from serving any other offices in the said parish during the time he shall justly perform the same". But even so "excused", it was perhaps an onerous task and difficult to find someone to undertake it.

After these preliminaries, the vestry books are filled mostly with entries listing money given to the poor and sick. Often the plight of the person so aided is given, as "widowed", "aged", "injured", "long sick", with the illness sometimes mentioned, smallpox, palsey, or ague. Years of severe illness are reflected, due, perhaps, to a smallpox epidemic or to long hard winters - 1789-90 was one such year, and 1727 another when there are 10 entries of money paid out to the sick during one month. There is an entry for lgn. paid to Will. Price "to take his daughter to Wells to consult a doctor". Often, following the record of long illnesses, come entries for funerals, coffins and laying-out expenses. In 1735 "one whole coffin and making another for Will. Cleevly's wife and daughter (died of the smallpox)".

Clothing also was much in need, when everything was made by a local tailor or seamstress, and the cloth bought locally too. Mr. Nettleship's name (4) is often in evidence, as providing cloth and clothes in the 1770s - one wonders if he wasn't on to a good thing providing clothing for the poor of the parish at the expense of the vestry. In 1776 Mr. Nettleship was paid 7s. for "6 ells of linnin cloth", and again in the same year for "slop goods" one gn. The supplying of clothes was often for a boy or girl going into service or to be apprenticed. Every item of clothing was attended to, including shoes, stockings, shifts, shirts, gowns, a "frock" for a boy on one occasion (presumably a smock), waistcoats, hats. In one year, 1717, there was cloth and necessaries for P. Moulder's boys and the cost of making, which all came to £1.3.11; and £1.10.0 paid for "Horsman's daughter to cloth her when she went into service".

Sometimes food is provided, as in 1728 when there are two entries "Paid for bread again to the poor - a hard time", and "More money for bread and gifts". More usually money was given for no specific purpose, as in 1776 "Money paid out to 12 needy women". Fuel is frequently mentioned, wood is often provided, and coals too. In 1734 "A load of wood for the Widdow Kent and Halling"; and again in 1783 "Paid Israel Hamlet for half a Ton of Coals for old Thomas Portlock".

Payments to individuals are many and various - I have noted a few that illuminate various aspects of Charlton Kings life:-

1725	Jos. Humphries of Sutton a sufferer by fire	£0.2.6.
	(probably on a Brief)	

1727	Repairs to Anne Maysey's Spinning Wheel	£0.0.7
1735	To Margaret Blake and Betty Read etc. for assisting and laying out a stranger said to come from Badgeworth and died here	£0.3.0.
1772	Ruth Tombs to redeem her bed	£0.3.0.
1773	To Israel Hamlet towards buying him a horse	£0.10.6.
1774	To Ruth Tombs having a sore finger and not capable of work	£0.1.0.

It is obvious from the clothes provided that the vestry was concerned with children going into service or being apprenticed. Sometimes the entry states this:-

1697	To Anne Maisey when she went to service to buy her clothes	
1700	Paid Hen. Yeates for Ballinger girl's apprentice	£3.0.0.
1724	Clothing for Thomas Ballinger when he went apprenticed (a hat, shirt and waistcoat, pair of shoes, another coat)	£5.12.0.

Apprenticeship money is also paid, as :-

1770	"Paid to Farmer Pride for putting out 2 boys Apprentices	£11.0.0."
------	--	-----------

Sums are paid for drawing up indentures, as for Thomas Buckle in 1792 - Mr. Higgs 1 gn. At the end of the first vestry book there is a list of apprentices bound out of the parish between 1699 and 1742 - in all 20 children - and how much was paid on their behalf.

"Gifts to the Poor at Christmas" continue through the 18th century. Starting at around £2.15.0., the figure drops to £1.10.0., and only begins to rise during the second half of the century. At the last entry it has risen to £4.4.6d. Given the value of the pound at that time, this must have been a significant rise. One wonders if this is an indication of inflation, if there were more deserving poor, or just more money available.

There is a list of Constables and charges starting in 1703, the last entry in 1768. Only the names appear, Joseph Hall, Walter Ballinger, Thomas Mansell. Payment seems to run at the rate of £1 a year, but the entries are irregular, so that when a larger sum appears, it is possible that it covers several years. There are no entries about Constables in the second vestry book(5); and entries for church repairs, bell ropes, smithy work, and bell clappers are transferred, after

the early years of the 18th century, to the churchwardens' accounts(6).

There are plenty of records in the vestry books for repair and maintenance at the Church House (7) and the Poors Houses or the Parish Houses (8).

1697	Church House. Paid Nicholas Cleveley and brothers 3 days work each	
1704	Winding and daubing at the Church House	£0.8.0
1726	Hanging the churchyard gate	£0.2.4
1740	Glazing at Church House and for the Poors Houses	£1.8.8
1708	Work done at Poors Houses, Tiling and pins	£0.5.6 £1.0.0.
1713	Restoration of Parish Houses	£12.10.0
1717	Mending all the Poors Houses	£5.0.0
1775	Work done at the Parish Houses	

Then starting in 1786, there are a series of entries for work done at the "Poors Ground". Trees are cut down, timber "halled" out. Daniel Humphries is paid for "Post and Railing the Poors Ground". In 1787 12s.6d. is paid for "2400 of Quick"(9), Thomas Portlock is paid for planting them, and Richard Harding "for hoeing Quick". By 1789, Edward Greenwood is paid 17s.6d. for "cutting and laying a Hedge in the Poors Ground". One wonders why the Poors Ground was cleared - was timber fetching a good price? Or was the money needed to pay "Land Tax for the Poors Ground left by Mr. Cooper, not charged since the year 1779 - £20"?.

Another major outlay was for upkeep and repair of roads and bridges. As early as 1697 there is an entry for repair to High Breach Lane. In 1700, for "casting a ditch" £0.6.2; In 1720 "moving rubbish and filling the Sand Hole". We are given the names of parish bridges that needed repairs - Stews Bridge (10), Ham bridge, and Crab End bridge. £20 was paid in 1786 to a Mr. Evans for the use of Bridges and Highways - presumably a County Rate to repair bridges on main roads.

The vestry had to pay for removing paupers - 1708 "Richard Clarke's daughter to Wooten-Under-Edge" - and for transporting soldiers, as in 1727. The day of the parish "perambulation" is recorded in 1753 because Thomas Benfield provided bread, beer and ale. Quite large sums, £5 to £7, were paid to provide militia substitutes.(11)

Money had been left by Samual Cooper in 1743 (12) to provide

schooling for 6 children. The vestry administered it. In 1776 there appears an entry for schooling, £4 for one year. A Mrs. Sallis received this sum for "instructing 6 Poor Children" and the amount does not vary over the 16 years, 1776 - 1792. At one point she is paid for "making a child's gown". In 1790 Mr. Sallis' name appears, one presumes his wife had died or was no longer able to run the school; and the following year a Mr. Robins takes over the "schooling".

There are many more items of interest, such as the list "of the particular Estates of each Inhabitant of the Parish of Charlton Kings" which gives names and districts. But I have only picked out those that are typical of many, or seem unusual, or just light up vividly for us life in a country parish 200 years ago.

1. GRO P 76a CH 1/1 and 2
2. W.E. Tate The Parish Chest, A Study of the Records of Parochial Administration in England (CUP, 3rd ed.1969)
3. The most important of these were imposed by statute:-
rate for bridges 1530-1; for gaols 1531-2 and 1698-9;
for relief of maimed soldiers 1592-3; for the poor
1597-8 and 1601; for highways 1654, re-enacted 1662 and
1670; for removing vagabonds 1662.
These separate rates were amalgamated in 1738-9, and in
1743 JPs were empowered to deal with rating appeals.
Church rate ceased to be compulsory in 1868.
4. Presumably the Thomas Nettleship of this parish who died
in 1819 aged 85. See Bulletin 5 p.50 for the inscription
on his tablet in St. Marys.
5. There was probably a separate book for the constable's
expenses, which has not survived.
6. See Bulletin 4 pp 19-22
7. Winding and daubing - filling the timber framing with
withies and plastering. For Church House, see Bulletin
2, cover picture, and p.34
8. One of these was demolished to build the workhouse in 1826
- see Bulletin 1 p.22. Three others were in Spring Bottom,
and were rebuilt in 1876. One still survives, having
passed from the vestry to the UDC and from the UDC to
Cheltenham Borough Council!
9. Quick - i.e. quickthorn or hawthorn.
10. In Brookway Lane.

11. For the necessity for this, see M.J. Greet's paper on militia substitutes Bulletin 2 pp. 14-20.
12. See Bulletin 3, p.18. The suggestion that Cooper's school was held in the cottage behind Morris' shop is probably wrong.

B. Middleton

8. TOKENS FOUND IN WATER LANE

In the early spring of 1980, Mrs. C. Rose of 1 Water Lane, Hambrook Park, found two lead tokens in her garden. The site of the find was a yard from the Chelt, just by the old coach-house.

Mr. Venus, who has drawn the tokens for us, established that the metal was lead by comparing the mark it makes on paper with the mark made by lead.

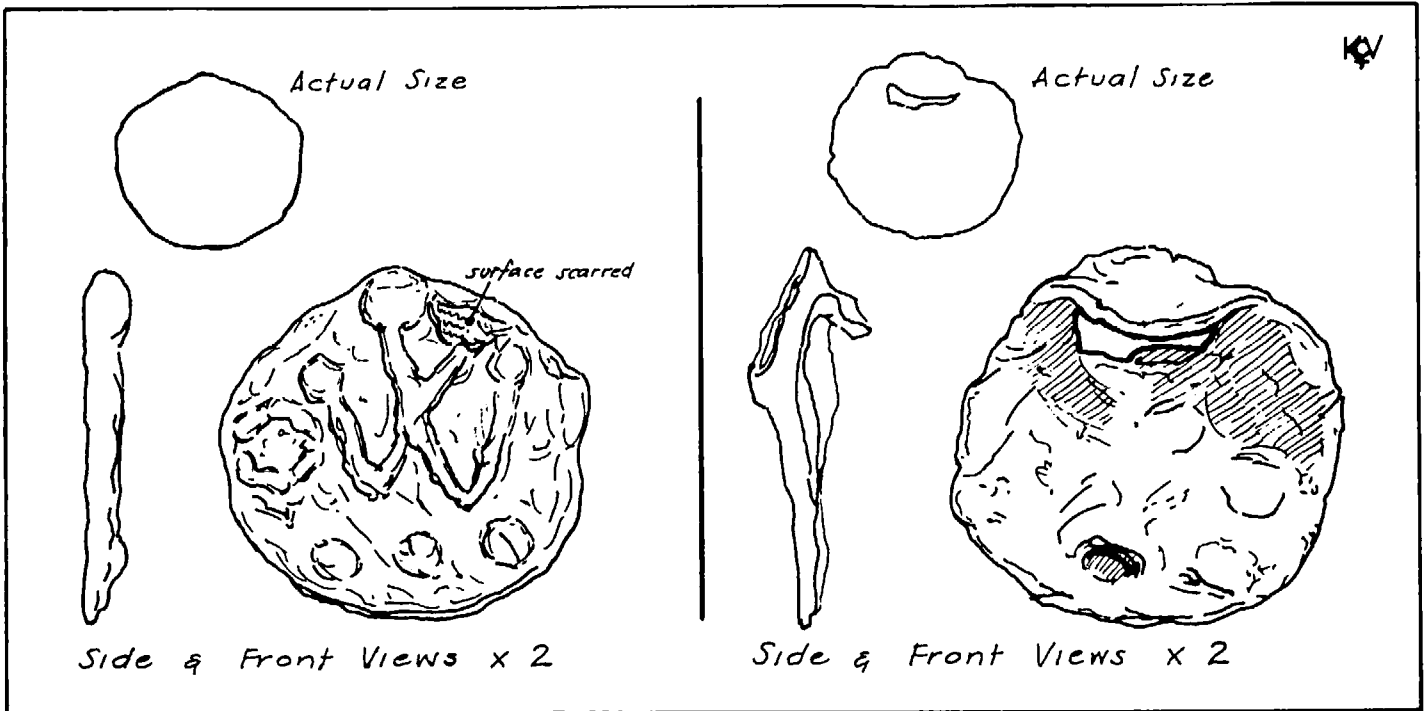
Various possibilities were suggested; but the Museum of London has now decided that the tokens are probably 17th century, and probably given to workmen on piecework. Here is what Mr. Brian Spencer, Senior Keeper of the Department of Medieval Antiquities, has to say:

"Thank you for your inquiry about the two lead tokens from Charlton Kings.

Sadly, there is not a lot one can say about these enigmatic objects. As a class they are the least-understood members of the numismatic field. They have turned up in London in very large numbers and, generally, speaking, they are decorated on one or both sides with a great variety of linear patterns, initial letters and simple objects like anchors, swords, bottles, animals etc. A few of them are dated and fall within the period 1600-1750. We excavated a stone mould for casting several such tokens from a mid-17th century tavern rubbish-pit at Brentford. So it is likely that your token with the W is 17th century.

The purpose of the tokens is in doubt. They may well have served more than one purpose. But because they are so crude and bear no identifiable names, I cannot think that they were widely circulated or that they served as cash like the copper and brass tradesmen's tokens of the 17th and 18th centuries. It has been suggested that they were given to workmen on piecework and were cashed at the end of a job. The fact that many tokens have been found beside wharves along the Thames foreshore, for example, suggests that they may have been used to signify loads carried or stowed. Then again, large numbers of tokens seem to have accumulated beside riverside taverns so perhaps they were (also) used as gaming pieces.

In regard to your perforated token, if that is what it is, it may be worth mentioning that I have seen holes punched in other lead tokens presumably so that they could be strung together; but sometimes there are two holes near the centre and in these instances the tokens had presumably been re-used as buttons."



Now we know that in the 15th century, Charlton or Cudnall mill in Spring Bottom was turned into a fulling mill (1). We don't know how long it continued to be used for processing cloth. However, there were at least 4 weavers in Charlton Kings in 1609, according to John Smyth's Men and Armour (2) and it is very possible that the mill was still used for fulling. Later on, we know it became a leather mill. In the 16th - 17th centuries, John Martin senior, his son John Martin junior, and his grandson Walter Martin, all held the mill in turn as copyhold of the manor of Cheltenham; Walter Martin as youngest son and customary heir of John the younger and his wife Alice was admitted on 5 June 1612, paying 33s 8d. fine for the mill with its two dwellings and about 38 acres of land (3). He was still the tenant in 1625, when an act was obtained to change the custom of the manor.

So, we may tentatively attribute the tokens with their W or M device (perhaps intended to be read as WM, Walter Martin) to 1612 - c. 1625. In that case, he could have given one to his workmen every time a length of cloth was "walked", so that at the end of the week they could be paid according to the number of lengths handled. Something of this sort was often done when most of the labourers employed were illiterate, as a check on both the employed and the employer.

- (1) Hart A History of Cheltenham (1965) p.43
- (2) See Bulletin 1 pp.7-11
- (3) GRO, Cheltenham court books D 855 M8 ff.20v.-21, 115v, 118v (references to the Martin family)
- (4) The process by which lengths of cloth were cleaned with lye and thickened. Originally this was done by men walking on the cloth, but from the 13th century onward, walking was a mechanical process.

"The essential features of the early fulling mill worked by a water wheel were, first, a spindle (i.e. an extension of the axle of the wheel) on which were several cams, and second, a set of stocks, or stampers. As the spindle rotated so the cams raised the stampers and then caused them to fall heavily upon the cloth lying in a 'box'. The ends of the stampers were notched in various ways to turn the cloth over. This development, which came about during the twelfth century, eliminated the exhausting chore of 'walking' woollen cloth, and led to the migration of the fulling process from the towns where there was plenty of manpower to rural districts where water power was available.."

D.H. Robinson The Wandering Worfe (Waine Research Publications 1980) p.13

9. MORE ON LOOKING-GLASS HOUSE

a) A Carroll Riddle

An article in Bulletin 3 mentioned the connection between Lewis Carroll, Hetton Lawn, and his great masterpiece, Through the Looking-Glass. Shortly after reading this, I came across an article in The Magic of Lewis Carroll ed. John Fisher (Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd. 1973). This expands our knowledge of the events of 1863 and poses more queries! The relevant section is reproduced here by kind permission of the publishers.

D. Copson

"As Carrollian scholar Roger Lancelyn Green has indicated, the most significant reference in the entire Diaries (of Lewis Carroll) to his attendance at a magic show is contained in the entry for April 6, 1863, during his visit to Charlton Kings near Cheltenham: 'April 6, 1863. Rain all day. Spent most of the time at Hetton Lawn, in the schoolroom with the children, showing them photographs etc. Went with the party in the evening to see Herr Dobler, a conjurer.'

The children were Alice, the daughter of Henry George Liddell, the Dean of Christ Church, herself the original inspiration for the Alice of Wonderland, together with her sisters Lorina and Edith. In 'Looking-Glass Reflections', an article in

the Autumn 1971 edition of Jabberwocky, Green provides a convincing argument for supposing that the Hetton Lawn mansion was the original Looking-Glass House: that Miss Prickett, the governess accompanying Alice, was the prototype of the Red Queen, 'the concentrated essence of all governesses'; that Leckhampton Hill nearby - 'Principal mountains - I'm on the only one' - provided the ideal vantage point from which the Gloucestershire plain itself would appear 'marked out just like a large chess-board'; that the four days Carroll spent at Cheltenham from April 3 to April 7 1863 were as crucial to the inception of Through the Looking-Glass as the river excursion to Godstow on that 'golden afternoon' in 1862 had been to Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. If that is so, then the repertoire of Herr Dobler could well have played its own part in a story which contains, as we shall see, a plethora of conjuring motifs.

Histories of magic and magicians tell us that a Herr Ludwig Leopold Döbler was born in Vienna in 1801 and graduated from being a favourite of Viennese society to universal acclaim, whereby he eventually came to England in 1842. An artistic as well as a box-office success, he caused a sensation with his varied feats - igniting with a single pistol shot every one of the two hundred candles which made up his stage setting; his version of the inexhaustible bottle yielding not merely an overflow of wine but a spectator's marked handkerchief borrowed earlier in the performance; and his 'Distribution of Flora's Gifts' from a small twisted felt hat to the ladies in the audience. He retired in 1848 and died on April 17, 1864. It is feasible that he may have ventured to England during the last months of his life, but if he did so no record of the visit other than Carroll's can be traced. Scheduled to give a public performance, he would surely have attracted press billing, if not the publicity worthy of a magician who was the first in history to have a street named after him, the Doblergasse in Vienna. Neither the weekly Cheltenham Chronicle nor the daily Cheltenham Journal carry a report or prior announcement of a performance by a Herr Dobler around the time in question. They do, however, go out of their way to record another magical performance that took place in the Cheltenham Assembly Rooms on April 6, 1863, namely the controversial ghost lecture of Professor Pepper, who the Christmas before had caused his own sensation at the Royal Polytechnic in London with his materialisation of a ghost-like presence on a fully lit stage. The Cheltenham Journal described the event: 'It's a lecture illustrated by a large number of attractive electrical experiments and the exhibition of a spectral figure produced by the aid of an instrument called the photodrome which was as good an imitation of what we should imagine a ghost ought to be like as anything that can be conceived'. Could Carroll have possibly confused the names? Could Herr Dobler have been a joke name among the children and himself for Professor Pepper, its own pun on the

'seeing double' the phenomenon implied? Is there any significance in Carroll's omitting the unlaut from Döbler's name in the diary entry? Was a small town like Cheltenham ever likely to sustain two shows by two master professional magicians on the same evening?

The remarkable coincidence is that of all other magicians it should be Pepper's name that presents itself in this context. Had the illusion with which he made his name not been presented to the public until 1872, there would have been reason for supposing that Pepper himself had been inspired by Through the Looking-Glass. As it is to know that the illusion involved the uncanny mingling of live action with what amounted to mirror reflected forms is to find it difficult to see how Pepper could have sent Carroll back to Hetton Lawn the following day without the framework for what would prove to be his own most ingenious creation. But whether on that day Carroll saw Professor Pepper, the authentic Herr Döbler or an imposter, he must have been familiar with Pepper's phenomenon....."

(b) THE Looking-Glass

Tenniel's illustration to Alice Through the Looking-Glass shows part of a very ordinary Victorian chimney-piece mirror with a cable pattern up the side, hung above a round-topped Coalbrookdale type grate - the sort of looking-glass and grate that any Victorian child knew and could identify with. The real Looking-Glass was quite different.

It is easy to see why THE Looking-Glass intrigued the Liddell children. Instead of a cable pattern or a scalloped edge to a glass with straight sides and curved top, this Looking-Glass is nearly square. All round it is a delicate border of inter-twined branches and twigs. Birds sit in the branches - almost life-sized. At the bottom on either side are two little figures, a boy on the right watching a sleeping girl on the left. At the top of the frame is a boy playing with a dog; at the foot, another dog. Originally the whole frame was gilded.

A Looking-Glass like that was obviously special, the Gateway to Another World

(c) Alice and Oxford

For those who want to identify all the local references and particular elements that went into the making of Alice in Wonderland and Alice through the Looking-Glass, there can be no better or more fascinating guide than Mrs. Mavis Batey's Alice's Adventures in Oxford (Pitkin books, 1981), with illustrations that link everything in the stories to the real Oxford of Alice's childhood. How natural and right that a lexicographer's child should enjoy playing with words - the inexact phrases people use which don't express their meaning, and nonsense words or rhymes like Jabberwocky which say so much.

ALICE'S LOOKING GLASS?

DID THIS MIRROR
AT HETTON LAWN
INSPIRE ALICE'S
ADVENTURES?



Sketched by permission of Mr. H. Newman

detail at bottom - centre

"Through the Looking-Glass has a very special setting. The year was 1863, the year of the wedding of the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) to Princess Alexandra of Denmark, and the book begins with Alice playing "Let's pretend we're kings and queens" with her sister. The Illuminations in Oxford to celebrate the wedding day on 10 March and the visit of the royal newly-weds to the Deanery in Commemoration Week play a part comparable to the Godstow picnic in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland; both were highlights in Alice's life". Between the wedding and the royal visit came the Easter holiday at Hetton Lawn, where the children were staying without their formidable parents. Mrs. Batey writes "In the Easter vacation of 1863 he (Carroll) had the rare opportunity of being away with the children without their parents, when he was invited over to Charlton Kings, near Cheltenham, by the Dean's grandmother. The stories connected with Looking Glass House, the Garden of Live Flowers, and the breezy walk above the checkerboard country (the Gloucestershire plain seen from Leckhampton Hill) relate to this visit. A hilarious journey back to Oxford followed with the train jumping over the 'six little brooks' to appear in Through the Looking-Glass". Preparations for the royal visit to Oxford followed, with Miss Prickett briefing the children on behaving suitably in the royal presences. "Curtsey while you're thinking, it saves time". The White Knight who escorted Alice through the last stage of her game towards the awaited crown was, of course, Charles Dodgson himself, (though in the Alice illustrations, Tenniel has given the knight his own face), and the knight's farewell to her "I shan't be long. You'll wait and wave your handkerchief when I get to that turn in the road? I think it'll encourage me, you see" reflects the author's regretful awareness that Alice was growing up - the visit to Looking-Glass country was bound to be the last of their adventures together.

Alice's Adventures in Oxford (32 pp, price £1) can be obtained from The Treasury, Christ Church (+ 30p. postage)

(d) The later history of Hetton Lawn

The early history of this property was outlined in Bulletin 3 and in the Charlton Group's paper on Cudnell houses in Gloucestershire Historical Studies XI (1980) pp.61-3. Bulletin 3 also gave Eric Armitage's summary of the Revd. Henry George Liddell's will. Some further information can now be added.

William Bolton bought the Ashley Manor copyhold house in Cudnall Street in 1785. After he had sold off part of the land, the house was left with a garden, orchard, and Home Close which adjoined John Gale's land (site of Charlton Lawn and garden) on the east, land of Dodington Hunt, esq (copyhold of

Cheltenham manor) on the west, and a piece of freehold on the south. Before long Bolton had acquired Hunt's land and the freehold, bringing his property down to the Chelt. (1) That was why he needed to mortgage. He did not do much to the old house, the 17th century block pulled down about 1970 (2).

Liddell bought Bolton House from Bolton's grandson and the mortgagees in 1860, and re-named it Hetton Lawn. All that now survives is Liddell's building. The outside, with its heavily rusticated stonework, is not very attractive to modern eyes, but the interior is impressive, with its spacious hall and large lofty rooms. The proportions are so good that the great height does not feel overwhelming, the ceiling mouldings are strong and simple, and the tall slender windows provide plenty of light. Alice was very familiar with all the rooms we can see now and especially with the drawing-room which then had the Looking-Glass over its mantelshelf.

Under his father's will, Charles Liddell of Peasmarsh, Sussex, as devisee in fee, claimed the property on 5 February 1873. From this point, the story is taken up by the Hetton Lawn title deeds (3). The abstract of title starts with a mortgage for £3,000 in 1878, in which the house is described as "all that messuage then known as Hetton Lawn, formerly known as Bolton House, situate at Cudnall... with the stable, coach-house, offices and yards, and with the garden and orchard respectively thereto adjoining... bounded on the North by the public road formerly the turnpike road leading from Cheltenham to Oxford (i.e. Cudnall Street) on the South by the River Chelt, on the East by land then or formerly of Samuel Higgs Gall (recte Gale or Gael) Esq., and on the West by land then or late belonging to the Revd Henry Pruen (i.e. Elborough Cottage)".

In 1880 all the copyhold was enfranchised, the Ashley part for £72.10.0 and the Cheltenham part for £25.

The property was mortgaged again, and in 1888 the mortgage was transferred to the Revd William Wren Liddell of Cowley Rectory, the third brother, who died intestate in 1892. Letters of administration were granted to his elder brother and next of kin, the Revd Henry George Liddell (Alice in Wonderland's father). Their two unmarried sisters were then living at Hetton Lawn (4).

Though the mortgage was now held by H.G. Liddell, the property still belonged to Charles, and in 1892 he had an opportunity to improve it by buying up a piece of land on the south side of the Chelt. This would safeguard the Liddells against unsightly development on that side of the Chelt. He paid £325 for a plot of one acre 3 roods 9 perches, measuring 475 ft. from east to west and about 137 ft. down to the water, at the western end. This had been part of Sir William Russell's land and had been sold, along with other parts of his estate, in 1867, after his vain attempt to develop his new road, Copt Elm Road, as an area of larger houses.

By his will of 17 July 1894, Charles Liddell gave £1,000 to his wife and all the rest of his real and personal estate to his son Charles Lyon Liddell. Further mortgages were entered into, and after the deaths of the spinster sisters, the house and land were sold on 6 October 1904 to George Robert Stephenson of Charlton Kings Esq. However, the purchaser did not enjoy his property for more than one year. He died on 26 October 1905, leaving his sons George Stephenson and Thomas St. Lawrence Stephenson (with his daughter Isabel Swettenham widow who died on 6 February 1906) as trustees for sale.

After this, the story of the house becomes a matter of living memory (almost!).

- (1) The surrender of 23 August 1860 to Liddell makes it clear that the extra land was added by Bolton (GRO Ashley manor court book D 109/3)
- (2) Mr. Whitestone says the wing pulled down was "basically 17th century" still.
- (3) Title deeds cited by kind permission of the present owner, Mr. Harold Newman.
- (4) Post Office Directory for 1891-2, lent by Mrs. M. Davis

M. Paget

"CIDER" MILLS IN CHARLTON (BUT IT WAS REALLY PERRY!)

There was no apple cider made here, it was all perry.

There used to be six mills in Charlton Kings, that I can remember:

- (1) In the barn at Salt's Farm. Mr. Dunn the butcher filled in the trough and used it as a slaughter bench
- (2) At Coxhorne Farm. This was at the farm (not at Old Coxhorne, a house built by Franklin the butcher; the mill now at Old Coxhorne was brought there as an ornament).
- (3) The Beehive had one
- (4) East End Farm had one - still there by the school but without the shed. It used to be in a brick building (you need a heavy over-head beam to hold the King-post). It hadn't been used for some time and the last time I used it, it was so covered with ivy, I had to cut the ivy away to get in!
- (5) At Ashgrove Farm. This was smaller than the others and was covered with a roof supported on pillars, without sides. I think this building has fallen in, but the mill may still be there.
- (6) At Ryeworth House - this has been demolished.

There was a scratcher mill at Ham - not a proper mill, but a mill driven by an engine - you put the fruit into a hopper.

Not so good, it didn't crush the pips.

They were all in buildings large enough to take mill and horse, and strong enough to support the heavy beam that went across the top. There was a centre or king post with a spindle fitting into the beam at the top and another fitting into the base. To this post were fastened the arm that kept the mill-stone in position and the arm to which the horse was fastened - the hames on the collar had chains which hooked into rings on the arm and the horse drew it from the hooks, he didn't push it.

I was the last man to make "cider" in Charlton Kings, at that mill at East End Farm. My father had made so much, I was fed up with it, but a friend who had a lot of fruit asked me to do it, offering me half, but I wouldn't take any!

Nowadays they put too much "brook apple" in it! (i.e. water - there shouldn't be any water in real cider, only juice).

When you put the juice into the tun, you put a cork in, not a tap - otherwise the men would "fall" against it and then you'd have "apple bed"! (dead drunk!)

My father used to go round Charlton Kings buying up fruit, apples or pears. In the 20s, I used to go to Detmore to pick the fruit - there were two big pear trees with poultry pens in front of them, which made it difficult to pick them. At that time Miss Malleson had Detmore and ran courses in poultry-keeping for students - she was also the first Labour agent for the Cheltenham constituency.

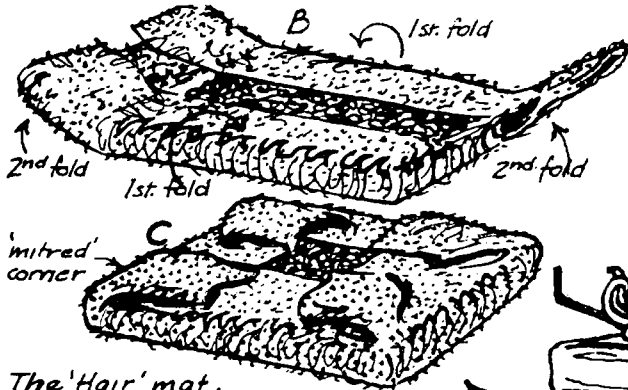
A. Mitchell

THE MILL AT ASHGROVE FARM

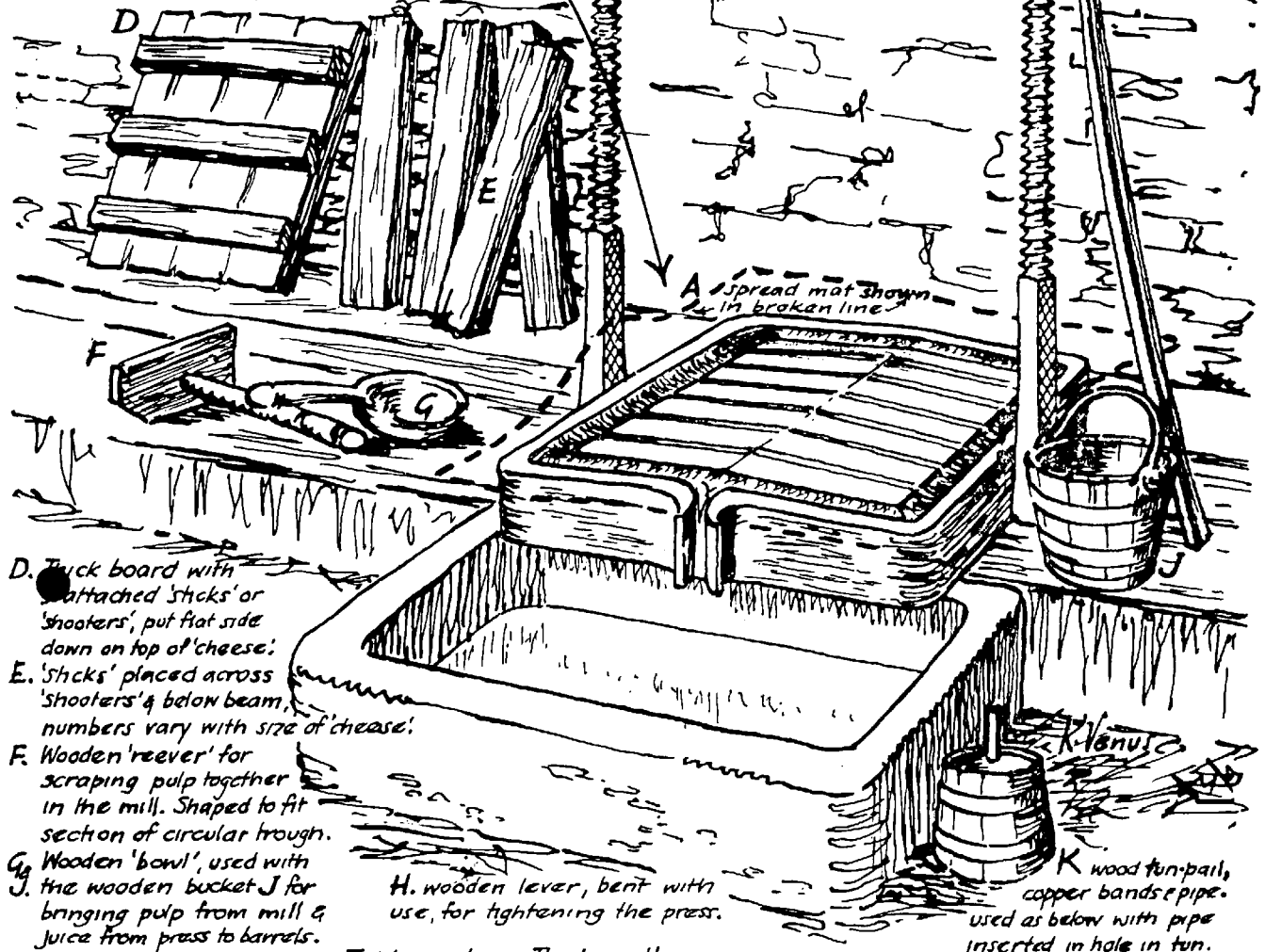
This cider mill, mentioned by Mr. Mitchell, is still there in a derelict state. The photograph has been taken for us by Mary Wilcox.



*Mr A Mitchell's memories of
the Cider Press & implements
East End Fm., Charlton Kings*



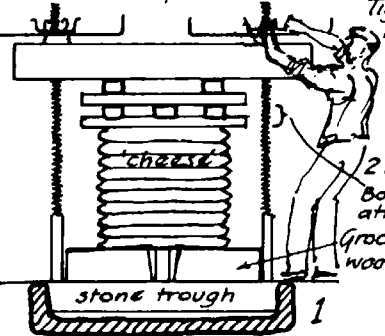
The 'Hair' mat.
(shown by broken line in sketch)
is spread on block; centre filled
with pulp, A; Sides folded as B;
Corners 'mitred' as in C. Next mat
placed & filled on top. Repeat.



- D. Truck board with attached 'sticks' or 'shooters', put flat side down on top of 'cheese'.
- E. 'Sticks' placed across 'shooters' & below beam, numbers vary with size of 'cheese'.
- F. Wooden 'reever' for scraping pulp together in the mill. Shaped to fit section of circular trough.
- G. Wooden 'bowl', used with the wooden bucket J for bringing pulp from mill & juice from press to barrels.

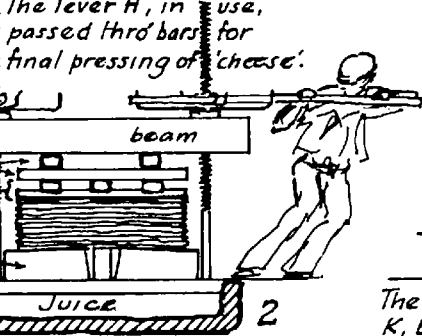
H. wooden lever, bent with use, for tightening the press.

K wood fun-pail, copper bands & pipe. used as below with pipe inserted in hole in tun.



Tightening by hand to start

2 rows of 'sticks'
Board D with attached 'shooters'
Grooved & channeled wooden block



The lever H, in use, passed thro' bars for final pressing of 'cheese'.



The wooden bucket & fun-pail, K, being used to fill the tun.

11. TWO EIGHTEENTH CENTURY GENTLEWOMEN

The wills of Mrs. Hester Brereton and her daughter Theophila

On 12 March 1707/8, Hester Brereton of Charlton Kings widow made her will (1). She began by commending her soul to God and her body to be buried "as near my late husband as may conveniently be, in hope of a joyful resurrection". Most wills of that date began with some such pious formula. Fifty years later, custom had changed and such openings are rare, and then usually occur in the wills of very old people who followed the pattern they had known in their youth.

At the date of her will, the widow had four children living; two sons, Charles of the City of Gloucester gentleman, and Richard of the Middle Temple gentleman; and two daughters, Theophila who was unmarried and most likely lived with her mother (although the will does not say so) and Hester, wife of Charles Grevile of the City of Bristol apothecary. It is clear from the will that each of these children had been left money by their father. The legacy to Theophila had not been paid, and that to Charles paid only in part. The first part of the will, therefore, deals with the settlement of these obligations. It says that her executors are to pay all her debts and particularly "one Bond and Obligation of the Penalty of four hundred pounds bearing an even date with this my will, whereby I stand indebted and am obliged for myself and my heirs executors administrators and assignes to pay to my daughter Theophila Brereton of Charlton Kings spinster the full sum of two hundred pounds of lawful English money, which sum is a legacy left her by the will of her late father, and likewise one other bond and Obligation likewise bearing even date with this my will, whereby I stand indebted for myself my heirs administrators and assignes to pay to my son Charles Brereton of Gloucester gentleman the full sum of One hundred and twenty pounds with the lawful interest thereof, which sum of One hundred and twenty pounds is the remaining part of a legacy which was left him by the will of his late father ..." Theophila and Charles as joint executors were to take these legacies out of her personal estate as soon as possible after her death "if the said severall sumes or either of them shall not be paid and the securityes for the same cancelled and discharged in my life time".

In the early 18th century, people set more store by their clothes and household linnen than perhaps we do today. Hester left her daughter Theophila "Five pounds in money, all my wearing Apparell both linnen and woolen and all Sheets, Pillow beres (pillow-cases) Table Cloths, Napkins and all other linnenwhatsoever... to her own use and to be taken out of my Personall Estate before any division shall be made thereof between her and my son Charles".

Mrs. Brereton's bequest to her son Richard seems comparatively small, but the will gives reasons for this "I give to my son

Richard Brereton of the Middle Temple London gentleman one pair of tables and all thereunto belonging (2) which is now lent to my cousin Brereton of Cirencester, and also the sum of ten pounds to be paid by my executors within three months after my decease, I having paid him a considerable fortune which was left him by his father and he being to enjoy a considerable estate after my decease".

That estate included customary messuages and land held of the manor of Ashley (3) in which the widow had a right during her life; there may also have been freehold which her husband Theophilus could have disposed of by settlement or by will (but no such will has yet been found).

When Mrs. Brereton turns to her married daughter Hester, the will hints at some dispute over the legacy from her father. "Item, to my daughter Hester Grevile wife of Charles Grevile of the City of Bristoll Apothecary the sune of twenty pounds to be paid ... in three months after my demise, which I will and desire to be the only share or Proportion which the said Hester Grevile or her husband Charles Grevile or his or her executors Administrators or Assignes shall have or receive out of my Personal estate And if the said Charles or Hester Grevile or either of them or their executors Administrators or Assignes or any person for him or her or them shall at any time after my decease claim or demand of my Executors or commence or begin any suite either in law or in Equity for any greater sune or any other sune or proportion of my Personal Estate other than the sune of Twenty pounds... hereby bequeathed or shall refuse to give my executors administrators or assignes a Release or Receipt in full of all demands to my Executors administrators or assignes, when the sune of twenty pounds be paid... then it is my will that this Bequest shall be utterly void and the said Hester Grevile... shall have no Benefit of this my last will ... the said Sune of twenty pounds to be equally divided with the rest of my Personal estate between my joynt executors, I having already fully paid the said Charles and Hester Grevile such legacys as were left by her father and given them other moneys out of my own pocket".

It is a pity we cannot know what exactly lies behind all this, but it is clear that Widow Hester considered the married couple were likely to try to claim more than their due.

When she had made these legacies to her children, Mrs. Brereton next left twenty shillings to twenty poor widows living in or near the parish of Charlton Kings, that is, twelve pence apiece. This sounds a very small sum to modern ears, but in the first decade of the 18th century twelve pence was worth having.

Finally she wills that all her remaining goods, cattles, chattels, household stuff and all her personal estate whatsoever be equally divided between her son Charles and her daughter Theophila.

This will was signed on 12 March, and Mrs. Brereton must have died almost as soon as she had made it, for the parish registers show that she was buried on 17 March in that same year. There is nothing in the opening phrases of her will to suggest she expected to die so soon. Many wills do have such an indication; "being infirm of body though sound in mind and memory" is a common form. Moreover, in the passage concerning the payment of money due to Theophila and Charles, she says "if the said severall sumes or either of them shall not be paid and the securityes for the same cancelled and discharged in my life time", which sounds as if she hoped and perhaps expected to have time to pay. There is another thing - if her son Charles of Gloucester is the Charles son of Theophilus Brereton who appears in the parish register as being baptised on 28 January 1682/3, he can have been only fifteen at the time of his mother's death, not of legal age to act as executor. (It is of course possible this entry may refer to another Charles, but, as will appear later, this is not likely).

Theophila did not long survive her mother. Her will is dated 21 February 1709/10. (4) It begins with the same pious formula as that of her mother (the family lawyer (5) must have favoured that one) and expresses a wish that she be buried "as near to her deceased Father and Mother as can conveniently be in hope of a joyfull resurrection". Theophila was very interested in her own obsequies. She left "£15 to be paid out on my funeral in the manner I have directed in a paper inclosed in this my will". Unfortunately, the paper does not survive. It would have been interesting to have had details of so grand a funeral as the large sum left for it indicates. Were all the mourners provided with white gloves, for instance? They might well have been, for Theophila was unmarried and it was a common custom for maids to be mourned in white.

The lady also left £12 "to be layed out for a monument to be placed on the wall of the Chansell with the names of my deceased Relations and with my age and time of departure". Theophila got her monument, and a drawing of it and copy of its inscription appeared in Bulletin 5. It will be noticed from this that her executors did not altogether carry out her instructions ; her age at the time of her death is not given, though a little mental arithmetic shows she was twenty-six. The monument was moved from the chancel in 1878 and is now high up on the south wall of the nave.

Richard Brereton is described as "of the Citty of Oxford" in his sister's will. She left him "£50 to be payed him in six months after my decease and my diamond ring to be given him at my death".

There is no sign in Theophila's will of any quarrel with her sister Hester or her husband Charles Grevile. "To my Brother (we would say brother-in-law, but it was not the fashion to do

so in the 18th century) Mr. Charles Grevile of Bristoll apothecary £10 to be payed him in six months after my decease. Item to my sister Hester Grevile my mourning ring and all my wearing aparill boath wollin and linen as is not disposed of hereinafter in my will, which I desire she may have at the time of my death. Item to Hester Grevile daughter of Charles and Hester Grevile £10 to be payed to my Brother Charles (Grevile) in six months after my death".

There follows a number of small legacies to other relations and friends. "Item to my Aunt Susana Andrews of Longhope in the county of Gloucester spinster Three silver spoons and twenty napkins I had formerly of her and my black gound and petty coat and best riding hood". It is clear from this that Mrs. Hester Brereton had been a Miss Andrews.

Item to John Batten of Charlton Kings £1. "Item, to Katherine Batten wife of John Batten two pounds and to her datter Elizabeth Ruke datter of Ka: Batton one pound to be payed at my death". There is no indication in the will why these persons receive legacies. They were presumably friends.. or just possibly old servants. This also is true of Mary Hodges of Longhope who receives £2, but it seems she is elderly, for in the next item the will says "To the Poor of Charlton Kings two pounds and if Mary Hodges be not alive at my decease then the whole fore pounds to be given to the said poor by Mr. Cooper and John Batten Senior". I am very inclined to think that Mary Hodges at least was an old family servant of the Andrews family, but that is guess-work.

Finally, when all her debts and other legacies have been paid "all the rest of my goods plate household stuff and all my personal estate whatsoever to my brother Charles Brereton of Gloucester gentleman and I make him executor". At this date Charles Brereton was still a minor, and a marginal entry shows that another executor was appointed on 28 March 1710 when probate was granted.

- (1) GRO Wills 1707/-
- (2) These "tables" were most probably of the type where a separate top was placed across some form of trestles. They had the advantage that they were easily moved and could be folded away when not in use.
- (3) Richard Brereton esq claimed as heir of his late father Theophilus Brereton deceased on 21 March 1710/11, and was admitted to all the customary messuages, lands and tenements to which he had not been before admitted, paying 6s. 9d. heriot (GRO Ashley manor original surrenders D109/ surrender 67). His earlier admission or admissions do not survive, but it seems likely that he was now claiming the final sixth of the copyhold, his after his sister's death on 28 February 1709/10. For when his nephew and heir, another Richard Brereton, claimed on 31 July 1743, the heriot he paid for the whole was 40s.5d. (D 109/1).
- (4) GRO, Wills 1710/57
- (5) Probably Samuel Cooper

12. THE HOUSE CALLED CHARLTON VILLA, LATER THE FIRS OR FIRSDEN, NOW ASHLEY FIRS

Peter Kendall's paper on Private Education in Charlton Kings (Bulletin 5) mentioned an Academy for Young Ladies of a very refined and exclusive type run at Charlton Villa, first by Miss Arabella Cockburn, and later by Miss King. The school started before 1818 and was still functioning in 1849.

The deeds of Ashley Firs, made available through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Littlewood, tell us the story of this house and explain why it was available for use as a school during that period, and indeed till 1854.

The land on which this house and its neighbour (now called Roadlands) stand was in the Ryefield, which covered the area from Greenway Lane to Spring Bottom. There was no Ryeworth Road till c. 1770. Part of the field was freehold, part was copyhold of the manor of Cheltenham and part copyhold of the manor of Ashley. After Ryeworth Road was cut, the strip nearest the new road was Cheltenham copyhold; the strip behind that, copyhold of Ashley; and a strip to the east of both was freehold. So it was the peculiarity of these two houses that every sale required a surrender in both manor courts; and when the freehold too had been added to Ashley Firs, a conveyance of the freehold as well!

The two houses at the corner of Greenway Lane and Ryeworth Road are marked on Thomas Billing's map of the London turnpike in 1798, and shown as in the ownership of Mr. Freeman. This was the Richard Freeman who had bought a strip in Cheltenham manor from Robert Arkell in 1793 and a strip in Ashley manor from Richard Humphreys in 1798. He built both houses, siting them across the old strips to give both a SE outlook and one a frontage to Ryeworth Road. They shared the same water supply.

The deeds of Ashley Firs start in 1801, when Richard Freeman surrendered to use of Anne Lane of Charlton Kings widow "all that messuage or tenement situate in Cudnall ... together with the barn, stable, and garden in front of the same, and the joint use of the well with the occupiers of the messuage near to the same and the right of a road or passage thereto ...", all in the manor of Cheltenham. By a second surrender in the manor of Ashley, Freeman added land at the back of the house. The sitting tenant in 1801 was John Ballinger.

Anne Lane died in 1810 and her copyhold passed to her sister Arabella Sprigg widow, who sold it in 1817 to Jane Greenway of Gloucester widow for £725. A year later Jane died and by will left her real estate in trust for her granddaughter Mary Jane Youde, then living in Denbighshire and later at Ostend. All these owners were absentees, only interested in the rent the property would bring them. This explains why the house was let as a school; and why it ceased to be used for that purpose

after 1854. For in that year Elizabeth Lovesy of Charlton Kings spinster acquired Charlton Villa for £1,300 (the Cheltenham manor part) and £280 (the Ashley manor part).

Elizabeth Lovesy was a daughter of Conway Whithorne Lovesy (of Coxhorne and The Knapp). By her will dated 15 January 1867 she left her dwellinghouse in which she resided called Charlton Villa to trustees who were to allow her friend Rupertia Sandes (nee Higgs) to live there for life, if she moved in within 3 months of the testator's decease. Otherwise they were to sell. This they eventually did in September 1875, to Thomas Tyers Tyers for £1,200 and £400; he and his wife Harriet Kennedy Tyers with their sons Thomas, Sydney, James, Seymour, and Alfred came to live there and renamed the house The Firs. The adjoining house (Roadlands) was then called The Elms.

Tyers died at Charlton Kings on 14 August 1883 and his widow on 31st March 1884. Their son Thomas, now in Orders, sold to George Herbert in 1890, and he in 1900 to Sara Watson. At the same time, he sold her $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of freehold land on the eastern boundary of the property between it and a garden belonging to the Gaels. This added the land on which Mr. and Mrs. Littlewood have now built their bungalow. When Mrs. Watson died in April 1911, her trustees sold for £1,570 (£200, £1,000 and £250) the freehold and the two copyholds to Florence, wife of Commander Shortland RN. The Shortlands changed the name of their house to Firsden, and under that name it was sold in 1918 for a total £2,200. In 1920 the copyholds were enfranchised.

The prices paid for the house over the years give an interesting example of fluctuating property values. After a large school-room had been added to Richard Freeman's original oblong stone building, the house was scarcely altered outside, the only noticeable change being the Victorian bay windows downstairs - the original Georgian openings can be seen behind them - and a small bay over the door. The porch appears to be early 20th century.

ROADLANDS

M. Paget

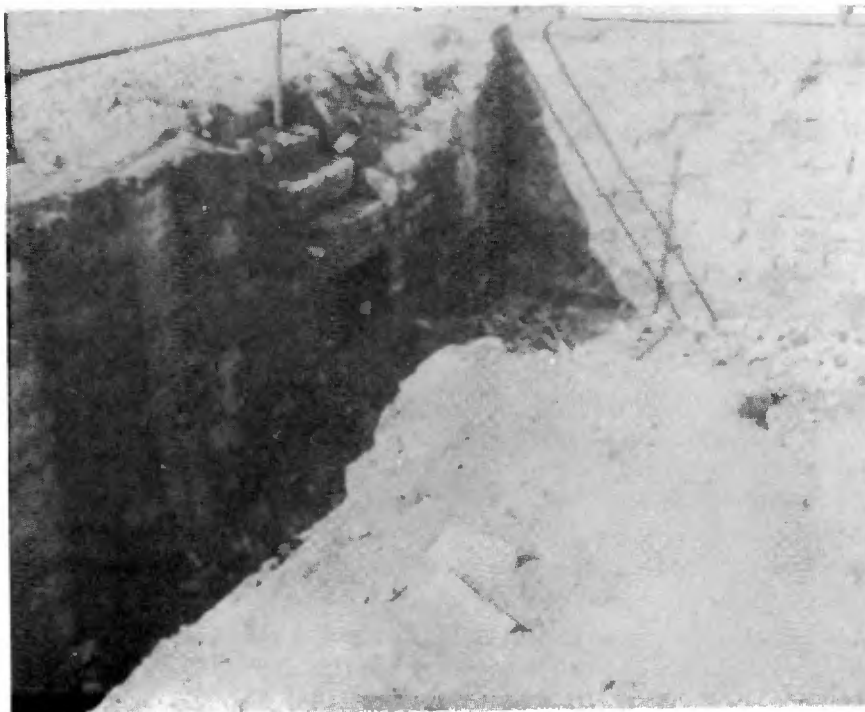
ASHLEY FIRS



13. A LAST LOOK AT THE ENDEAVOUR

These photographs were taken about 1975, when the site of the shopping centre and library were being cleared, and the cellars of the old Endeavour were exposed to view. As the snaps show, the cellar walls were built of dressed stone.

The photographs have been given to the Society by Mr. Worboys in memory of his wife who was one of our members, and very interested in our work.



14. A RAILWAY CENTENARY, 1 JUNE 1981

We hope in a later Bulletin to have a fuller paper or papers on attempts to link Cheltenham to the outside world by a railway through Charlton Kings. In this Bulletin there is only space to notice briefly that the first of June this year was the centenary of the line planned as the Banbury and Cheltenham Direct Railway (1), which was to be worked "in perpetuity" by the Great Western Railway.

A map of the line was deposited in the parish (as legally required) and is still with St. Mary's papers. It shows the line from Cheltenham to Bourton as already completed, linking up with the GWR line on to Chipping Norton, with a further section to Banbury still to be built - in other words, this is a map prepared when the project was taken up again in 1879, after being abandoned for a while. It had been a troublesome route, involving the building of a long viaduct at Dowdeswell and a long connecting embankment on the Charlton side. The late Mr. A.W. Keen worked on that embankment as a young man of 17 - 18; he told his son that very often when the men went to work in the morning, they would find all the clinkers and soil had slipped, leaving the rails up in the air!

The important dates in connection with this line are, first the opening on 1 June 1881; second, the agreement which in 1891 allowed the Midland and South Western Junction Railway to use the track between Cheltenham (Lansdown) and Andoversford; third, the doubling of the original single line in 1900-1; fourth, the change of name which in 1909 turned Chipping Norton Junction into Kingham Junction (hence to Charlton people this was the Kingham line); fifth, the making of the quarry incline which ran into the main line just west of Charlton Kings station (this incline was in use for no more than two years, 1924-6); and finally, the closure of the line in 1962.

While the MSWJR was allowed to use the GWR track through Charlton Kings, MSWJR trains were not allowed to stop at any station between Cheltenham and Andoversford, and had to have a separate station there called Andoversford and Dowdeswell! So passengers from Charlton Kings had to book on the GWR as far as Andoversford, and rebook for Chedworth, Cirencester, Swindon, or beyond, after walking from one Andoversford station to the other. An ancient growler was kept for transporting passengers with luggage! However, by the MSWJR, Cheltenham was linked with the London and South Western Railway, and so with Southampton and the South coast. Many troop trains came this way between 1914 and 1918.

To Charlton people, the line to Kingham was important because it provided us with a more convenient route to Paddington than the one via Gloucester and the Stroud valley. At Kingham, our local train connected with the express from Worcester. Leaving Charlton Kings at 6.45 a.m. one arrived at Paddington by 9.50!

and coming down, the 12.45 from Paddington got to Charlton Kings by 3 p.m. (though it only stopped if the guard had been notified at Kingham). In those days, Charlton Kings was a proper station, with station master, porters, booking office clerk, signalman, and all station appurtenances, signal box, signal, and sidings. It was not till some time after the Second World War that it was degraded to a mere Halt.

(1) I am grateful to John Williams and others for information about this centenary. For further information on the line and some photographs of Charlton Kings station, members should consult J.H. Russell The Banbury to Cheltenham Railway 1877-1962 (1977).

A photograph of Dowdeswell viaduct being widened appeared in the Cheltenham Chronicle of 1 June 1901 (available at the Local Studies Centre).

M. Paget

15. NOTES AND COMMENTS

(1) Charlton Kings Fire Brigade

Mr. Baldwin says the story of Mr. Lord and the brigade properly belongs to Cheltenham - he paid £5, a lot of money in those days, for the privilege of calling the Cheltenham firemen up!

A Cheltenham fire brigade helmet, very similar to the Charlton one illustrated, has been on display in Cheltenham museum. It is more than likely that all the helmets used by these and other brigades came from the same makers.

(2) Militia Substitutes

Bulletin 2 page 16 (b) - There may have been 2 men named John Eagles (perhaps father and son?) in view of the long gap between the dates of substitution (1781-2 and 1814)

(3) Alice Lynet's will

Bulletin 5 p.7 - item b. William Pats was to receive a "donge wayne", not a longe wayne

item e. for "ij bolters of seythas", read "ij bolsters of feythas" (i.e. feathers).

I apologise for missing these typing mistakes!

(4) Policing Charlton

In Bulletin 5, reference was made to the fact that there were only three policemen to police Charlton in the 1920s.

A letter to the Cheltenham Examiner in February 1896 said that the Chairman of Charlton (Urban District) Council had referred to a suggestion that more police were needed for the parish. This had been dismissed on the grounds that there was "less crime in the Parish than formerly". The writer said the state of Charlton Kings streets was certainly unsatisfactory. "The free use of our streets and pavements is too frequently obstructed by their being turned into playgrounds, and the police are unable to cope with this and other nuisances as they ... wish because there are only three men to several miles of country." (1) In 1903 there was a cartoon in the Chronicle and Graphic 25 April - nine constables were to be added to the Cheltenham force, to supply the want of police felt in Battledown and elsewhere. At a Council meeting, the Mayor had said he rarely saw a policeman in Battledown!

(1) W.H. Bridgman vol VII p.69

(5) The Cider Press at Ryeworth House (Bulletin 5 p.37)

This was a two-screw press, an improvement on the earlier one-screw type which could get out of balance. Mr. Reed would therefore date it as late Victorian.

Members may like to know that there is a Cider Museum in Ryelands Street, Hereford.