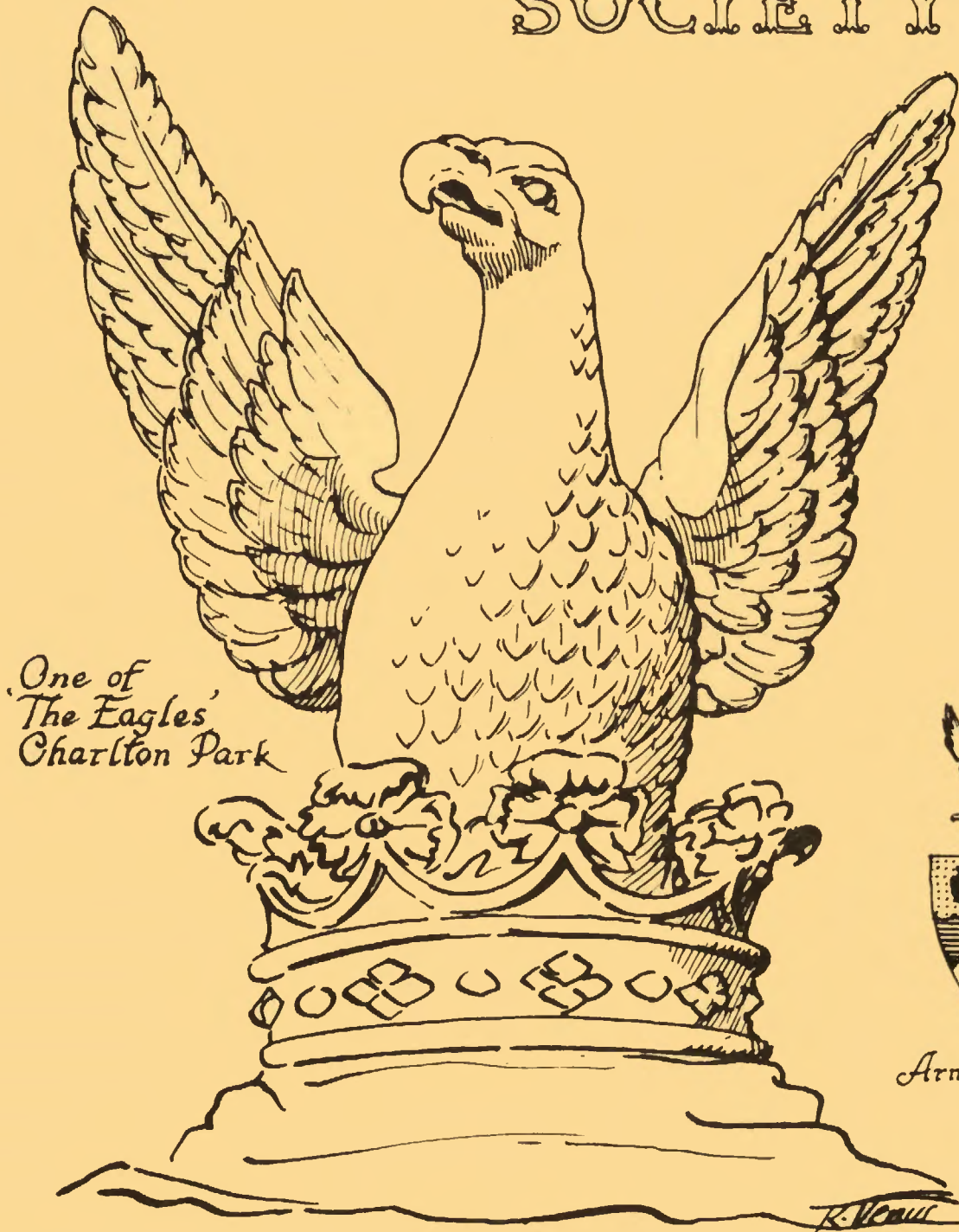


CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 8ⁱⁿⁿ

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

E.L. Armitage
9 Morlands Drive
Charlton Kings
Tel. Cheltenham 27533

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CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RESEARCH BULLETIN NO 8

AUTUMN 1982

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1. CHARLTON KINGS BOY SCOUTS (7th CHELTENHAM TROOP)

(a) The Acolyte

Pioneering in the scout movement never sounded a very romantic branch of the game, but it always made an appeal to me. The pioneer really comes into his own when the troops are operating away from base. He must choose, lay-out, maintain, and eventually clear-up any camp-site. This in no way diminished the responsibility of any troop member for camp cleanliness, but it did eventually pin responsibility down to one body, which is always an advantage where discipline must be maintained.

The pioneers' duties are by no means simple. Take the siting of a camp. One could try standing on a slope of the COTSWOLDS and saying "That's a nice view - I think we'll choose this". A good site needs more than a view. After installation, someone would soon enquire "Why do we have to go so far for wood?" or "Couldn't we have got nearer to water?" No, there are many small matters to consider and decide; but although it did not lack its practical day-to-day content, the job always had a certain amount of romance for me. Anyway, they gave me plenty of pioneer work to do in the 7th, maybe because, being a teacher, I had a little more time to spare, and pioneering demanded it.

For one thing, it involved transportation, the moving of the camp gear, tents, kits, not to mention a considerable amount of stores, necessary for the initial feeding of the troop. This, of course, later became relatively simple; but in the early days, finding some means of transport that could be spared at that time of year to do our relatively unimportant jobs was by no means easy, particularly as we had to run everything on a shoestring.

The immediate problem was to get the kit and camp equipment for three patrols to the eastern edge of CLEEVE COMMON some five miles away, and the vehicle I found was a farm cart and horse. This I felt would do the job and at the minimum of expense. But my knowledge of the care and welfare of a horse was nil. Of course it would not be very long in our care and in that period our ministrations for its welfare would be minimal. They should, nevertheless, be correct. Eventually it was decided that some chances must be taken. After all, many people with no greater intelligence than us, we opined, managed horses without disaster. There was nothing the matter with the cart and as far as we could tell that went for the horse.

So we started on our pilgrimage and along the tar-macadamed road nothing could be simpler, even the west slope of CLEEVE HILL - certainly a bit more trying for the horse - presented no real difficulties.

When we were over the top of CLEEVE, the road dropped comfortably down to Winchcombe. But if you wished to reach the POSTLIP estate, about half way down you took a sharp right-hand turn, and here the macadamed road gave out. Now we were on rough and very ready COTSWOLD surfacing.

For a while the road, tho' rough, was reasonably level as it skirted the side of the Common, but the gradient soon increased. The horse's pace slackened, his grip of the road was less sure, and the energy demanded by this trying bit of terrain grew greater each yard we progressed. We shouted, we encouraged, we exhorted the horse in a language we fondly

imagined he understood, but our overall progress was not encouraging. We grabbed the wheels and did our best to add some minor propulsion. But it was all to little avail. The frequency with which we applied large stones to stop the backward run at a halt, proved we were fighting a losing battle. Not only was the horse not equal to the job - he was also showing signs of distress already. His shoulders hung, his knees were bent, and his nostrils covered his head in steam. What could we do? It was unthinkable to go all that way back with our goal almost in sight. But we were at the end of our resources.

Then came one of those silences. For a very short period, all was still. "Twenty minutes silences" my mother used to call them. For no explicable reason, if you looked at the clock, the hands were at "twenty minutes to" or "twenty minutes past"! We all looked up the road where, coming down towards us were a man and a boy. The boy may have been a farm-hand, the man was not. He carried a thumb-stick and wore what was probably the Englishman's uniform of the day - flannels and a brown tweed coat. As I say, there was a momentary pause. The man stepped forward, caught one glimpse of the horse, and then all hell broke loose. He cursed us as an incompetent bunch of ignorant amateurs, bungling a professional job at the distressing expense of a dumb animal.

Since my early and innocent days, I cannot say that I have known the more eloquent of the drill-sergeants of this planet, but I have known a number. They are an awe-inspiring race and those of my own country have earned themselves a proverbial standing with other adorners of our native tongue. In this oration I detected an Irish accent, but little else. I had never been over-protected from the hurly-burly of school inter-communication. But here my mind was being assaulted by verbal missiles quite unrecognisable to me.

He cursed us and described our ancestors - or lack of them - in no complimentary manner. He dissected our intellects and laid bare our hypercritical love of animals. He towered above us and his command of distorted English was frightening. He did everything but breathe fire. Posed as Lucifer Incarnate, he accused us of breaking every rule in the decalogue - and then invented some for this special occasion!

Loss of breath alone forced him to stop. He turned to the boy and gave an order, and the boy disappeared.

The effect of all this upon us scouts was devastating. We were not only speechless but could scarcely move. We were in a state of shock. Never had we known behaviour or heard language like this, in our lives. He handed his thumb-stick to me, deftly unhitched the horse, and drew it from the shafts. Then he let it loose on the grass and regained his stick.

There was a short wait when we didn't know what to do or where to look, and just shuffled our feet nervously, when over the hill returned the boy leading two cart horses harnessed tandem fashion. The horses were soon attached to the cart, the strain tested, and the boy looked towards the man. It was then the man spoke to me "I suppose you are the scout lot for the Paddock, up by the Common?"

"Yes" I said.

"Well", said he "We'll see you there. You bring the horse. I'm Mr. FOSTER's bailiff. Now let's get going."

So he solved our difficulty and we returned our transport. I tried to thank him but it wasn't an easy matter.

POSTLIP was a very interesting village, the farm in good condition, and the farming excellent. The bailiff knew something more than distorted English! The manor was Elizabethan, yes, black and white, timber and brick, and even planned in the traditional 'E'. But the gem was the small late-norman church, built during that lawless time of STEPHEN in ENGLAND when "men said openly that Christ and all his saints slept". Now, I believe, it was owned by Mrs FOSTER who kept a part-time priest there and ran it as an assistant chapel to the Roman Catholic church of Winchcombe. In fact Mrs FOSTER, herself a staunch catholic, had (I suspected) built up a strong little Catholic community.

One afternoon she paid us a special visit and generously invited us all to the manor to tea on Saturday. She then said that no doubt most of our boys were Church of England, but if they felt they would like to go to church on the Sabbath, there was a nice short late afternoon service, BENEDICTION, and she would be glad to welcome them. In gratitude we could not but accept, and so, there was I, on Sunday afternoon, taking a spruced-up section of the Company down to the little Norman church.

They made us welcome, they made us comfortable, and seated us in a small loft overlooking most of the ground-floor of the chancel and nave - probably where the orchestra sat in days gone by. The worshippers were seated quietly in their seats - a low organ voluntary filled the church, hardly louder than an insect's hum. Then even the organ died away and for a while it was a perfect summer's afternoon.

Suddenly a loud chord on the organ brought us all to our feet and our eyes were riveted on the doors at the side of the chancel. They swung open and thence in a blaze of colour, a whisper of music, and a haze of heavenly perfume, stepped forth a resplendent acolyte and attendant altar boys. Stately their walk as rhythmically swinging their censers they stepped at the head of the procession. It was as if we in the COTSWOLDS had for a moment been granted a fleeting view of some heavenly pasture. My company was transfixed, wide-eyed and incredulous. It was not that the wave of an angelic wing had swept them. Theirs was a different mental image. They swung round to me, interrogative and incredulous. What were they seeing? Couldn't I also see? their eyes enquired. That was no acolyte. That was the incarnate Beelzebub that had accosted us on the Cotswolds the week before! What was he, bailiff, Lucifer, or angel?

But I will say this ---- not one of them let me down ---- no one giggled.

The loft settled down, the service continued, all was as it should be, and I pondered on the explanation the boys most certainly would demand of me. What could I say? Eventually I've no doubt I should dodge the questions as Hamlet did ---- "There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in your philosophy".

(b) Coln St. Aldwyns

I am not here to sell you the Coln country, and for two reasons. Firstly, it has already been done by more competent people than I, and secondly, had it not, it would be capable of selling itself - a most beautiful trout stream meandering through the COTSWOLDS on its way to the North Sea.

When the scout-master, Mr. E.J. FEAR, rang me up in July 193 , and asked me if I could help with a camp at Coln St. Aldwyns, I said I'd be delighted. His business then was in its early stages and a bit demanding, and as a young family man, I had not got a lot of spare money to spend on expensive holidays.

I was then living in the PAINSWICK ROAD area of Cheltenham and not so readily in touch with the 7th, but one Sunday morning the S.M. picked me up in his car and whirled me off to do a RECE in Coln St Aldwyns.

It was a nice run-up and the spot that the S.M. had got permission to use was excellent. It was flat, it was dry, there was shade if needed. Water and fuel were handy, and the spot was no distance from the village. The estate carpenter showed us round, and he and I took to each other. So we decided on our pitch, and on the first Saturday in August, we brought the 7th Cheltenham up to Coln St Aldwyns in a lorry.

It was an easy camp, some are. Nice weather, no mishaps, good neighbours, everything was fairly comfortable. But camps are seldom featureless, and this one was not. It was a pity the S.M. could not be in camp the whole time. No one regretted that more than he. But I did my best to deputize and he seemed satisfied, so that covered that.

But if you remember, about that time the cinema was so well established that people were being encouraged to make their own films, and small cine cameras were becoming popular. The S.M. had one of these expensive cinematograph playthings and his immediate ambition was to make a record of a day in a scout camp. This, as far as I was concerned, was impossible because he could not be in camp all the time. Did I think I could take over and do the necessary photography when he was not about? Now that was different! It was one thing to look after the welfare of a troop of scouts in camp, twenty-four hours a day, for a fortnight, but to contract to handle a new contraption like a cine camera was quite another matter. You see, I hate things mechanical. Actually I think I am afraid of them. Even fountain pens, I've always said "wait for me", and immediately I hold one, it splutters all over the place and refuses to behave. I can't use them. Now, a cine camera!

Certainly the opportunity was too good to miss. So after extensive explanations by the S.M. before his departure, I summoned all the courage I possessed and accepted the proposition.

It was a very pleasant, reasonably uneventful, camp. One difference for me was that I had my family with me. BILLIE my wife and TONY my only son. He was about three years old. Billie was a great friend of the 7th and they were very fond of her. They all got on very well together. Oh no! I did not on this occasion have them under canvas. Tony was too young. No, we found a cottage in the village where they slept, but the rest of the time they spent with us. Tony found this early life among the tents and the scouts very attractive.

Attached to our paddock was the estate carpenter's yard. We spent a good deal of time talking together and in his line I found him very well informed. Just the story of the design of a five-barred gate I found more intriguing than I could have imagined - what a weight the supporting oak post had to carry and how that weight was distributed. And that was only part of it. What had the gate to keep out of the field - or, for that matter, what it had to keep in? So how best to place the horizontal strips? Much of this, of course, had been decided by tradition, but experiments in agriculture and its attendant necessities were still going on.

But, of course, I had to keep in mind what the G.S.M. wanted in his absence, and I did my best with the camera, but I am afraid it wasn't very laudable, and the serious bits of photography were done by the S.M. on his quite frequent visits to the camp. He was very adept, but I came to the conclusion that with my rooted mechanical terrors, my line might be that of a director. We discussed this, and the S.M. suggested I should have a bit of the film to myself - he would do the photography, I would direct the actors. This was much better. I felt much more at home, and I "went to town". The section I was doing was the issuing of rations in the morning to patrols from the quartermaster's tent. I did it in style, as far as I knew. My actors were briefed and even well drilled. As they moved, I gave constant instructions, and they took direction excellently. I thought we'd have a bit showing the gigantic job it was feeding all these boys, so shot a low horizon scene and made it all look immense. It was a piece of work I was very proud of, and when we got it moving and the SM was just as proud to photograph the action, we were all very satisfied ---- until we discovered we hadn't got a film in the camera! and had to do it all over again.

Well, we expected our little set-backs, and we got them, but nevertheless the film was completed, and in those early days I think it was quite an accomplishment.

The cutting was of course left to the S.M. Then he had the bright idea of "Graphics". Now graphics could only mean me. If anything had to be drawn, they always sent for me. Mr FEAR bought a frame in which the camera could be placed to photograph the graphics - I did the graphics. They were mildly humorous while being quite informative. The whole made a very presentable little film of which we were, I think, justly proud.

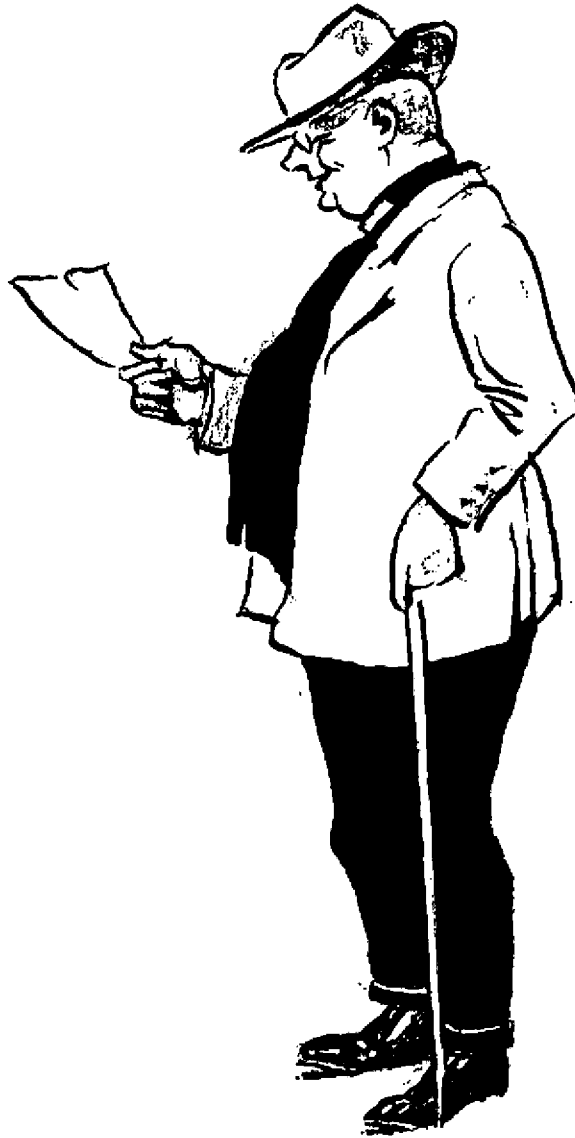
One of the outstanding days of each camp was Visitors' Day. This camp was no exception. A full charabang of parents came to visit their offspring, and, as usual were mostly very complimentary about the way the boys were looked after in camp. It had also become fairly traditional for the troop chaplain to accompany the visitors; and there, sure enough, as the bus stopped inside the paddock, dismounted the Vicar in a white linen coat and a panama hat.

This of course was filmed and had a graphic. Mind, I quote from memory, but I think it was something like "S.S. Lyefield comes to anchor outside the Quennington Dock". So you can see the spirit of the film.

But, as I say, the camp was mainly without incident. When we got back, however, there was a lot of work to do on the film. Cutting, illustrating, photographing and then linking all up again. Of our spare time it took us, I suppose, some 3 or 4 weeks.

Then there was a "first night" - of course to the troop at headquarters - and it was a great success. We know novelties usually are, but the film is still in existence and if I saw it again, I think my opinion would be still the same.

But there was one very dramatic result of the film showing. PERCE had not been at the camp. His work, as a young reporter, did not permit of his being free in August; but there he was to see the first showing, and when it was over his imagination was bubbling over with the story he would write for tomorrow's first edition. It was not all clear yet, but the matter was there. However, one thing was crystal clear. Of the placard



that proceeded the afternoon edition, there was no doubt in his mind what the content would be. It would be short and concise - have instant drawing power, it would be a statement that demanded immediate elucidation, and to complete the excellency of his ideal placard, it should have the power mildly to shock.

Shock? Mildly shock? Imagine the village of Charlton Kings that September evening as it went round innocently to get its early evening paper to be confronted by Perce's devastating placard in front of the small paper shop - "VICAR OF CHARLTON KINGS SHOT AT COLN ST ALDWYNS"!

G. Ryland

2. THE GREVILL PEDIGREE

The Herald's pedigree of this family, as printed in the Visitations of 1623 and 1662 has long been felt unsatisfactory, and in 1932 a revised tree of the descent from William Grevill of Campden to Robert Grevill of Arle was compiled by F.B. Welch, using the Visitations and Fosbrooke. (1) Since then, additional information has come to light through the energetic researches of M.J. Greet.

- (i) deeds and wills in Kent Record Office (U 269 T246/1,2; T176/3,5,7,9; T199)
- (ii) an uncatalogued collection in Gloucestershire Record Office (D 1224)
- (iii) a single deed in Worcestershire Record Office (WRO 3375 parcel 16 ii 705:99)
- (iv) a family tree in Great Witley Church, Worcs, showing the relationship of the Grevills to the Cookseys of Holt.

From these, the parish register, and Cheltenham court books (GRO D 855) we can now begin to put together a more complete pedigree which will help in understanding the Grevills and their association with Charlton Kings. Some queries still remain!

(1) John Grevill the elder

William Grevill of Campden who bought Ashley manor alias Charlton Kings in 1386-7 and died in 1401, had a son, John Grevill of Selzincote, who married the widow of John Beauchamp. She was Joyce or Joice, daughter of Walter Cooksey and his wife Maud (Gt Witley). On the marriage, John Grevill bound himself to convey to trustees the manor of Charlton Kings, which he asserted to be of the yearly value of £40 clear - if it proved less, he was to convey other Gloucestershire property worth 100 marks (£66.13.4) If the chief lord refused consent to an alienation of the manor, then other Gloucestershire property was to be substituted. This deed is dated 22 April 1425 (Kent R.O. u261 T 176/7).

That is the John Grevill who appears as John the elder in deeds of 1432 and 1434 (D1224/nos 2,3). Besides the manor, he held in Charlton two Cheltenham manor freeholds, the "Nethirhowse" with half a virgate of land (previous tenant John Wyddecombs) and a Bafford messuage with virgate of land (previous tenant Thomas de la Forde (D855/M68)

(2) John Grevill the younger

John the son must already have been of age in 1434, for William Weoley of Chipping Campden on 5 March 1434 was quitclaiming to him property in Oxfordshire which Weoley had lately had by feoffment of Richard Grevyll deceased (a member of the family not yet placed). John Grevyll esquire (the father) was a witness (D1224).

Though Welch does not give him the title "Sir", John the younger had been knighted before 3 September 1470 (D 1224 no 4). His will is dated 2 August 1480 (Kent R.O, U. 269 T246/1). In it he leaves £40 to his son Thomas, £200 to a niece Anne (daughter of his unnamed sister), and £100 to his own daughter, Margaret. After some small legacies, his wife Lady Joan and his son Thomas

are told to use the residue of his personal estate for the health of his soul. This will was proved on 23 August 1480.

John had increased his stake in Charlton. Besides the Netherhouse and The Fornden, he held a messuage and 6 acres, previously Thomas Snell's (D 855/M 68), and by 1470 he had acquired lands and tenements in Cheltenham, Arle, Alston, and Charlton Kings, late Percivell Fysour's - these last he transferred to trustees (D 1224 no 4). One of the trustees was Richard Grevill (presumably Richard Grevill of Lymington, Glos, a distant relative).

(3) Thomas Cooksey alias Grevill

Thomas son of John adopted his grandmother's name Cooksey. He is sometimes Thomas Cokeseey otherwise called Thomas Grevill, as when on 28 March 1492 he transferred to 3 trustees various properties including his manor and land in Charlton - all this they quitclaimed back shortly afterwards (Kent R.O. U 269 T 199). According to the Great Witley tree, he was made a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Henry VII and died without issue in 1498. The last part of this statement should read "without issue male", for he did have a daughter Elizabeth. She married Edmund, son of William Childe of Northwick co Worcs esq (U 261 T 176/9). No doubt Thomas would have liked to leave all his estates to Elizabeth and Edmund, but part appears to have been entailed; he therefore "sold" it to the next male heir, his third cousin once removed John Grevill (descendant of the original William Grevill's brother Ludovic). John may well have given him some consideration for an immediate transfer. However, the natural consequence was that "Variance and discordes have ben and yet dependith" between John Grevill and the Childes, not to be resolved till on 20 February 1504 the former was persuaded "by mediation of their friends" to pass over to Elizabeth and Edmund five tenements in Chipping Campden; they then consented to his retaining property in Warwickshire and the two Gloucestershire estates of Weston Maudit and Charlton Kings. It will be realised from this that the Grevills had widely scattered interests and that for them Ashley manor and the tenements in Charlton were fairly unimportant elements in the whole.

(4) John Grevill

However, the Charlton property was sufficiently valuable to dower a daughter. When John Grevill's daughter Agnes married Edmund Tame of Fairford, John's "lordship within Charleton Kynges and all lands, tenements, and rents" were conveyed to the groom, and the "sale" confirmed by an action in the abbess's court at Cheltenham in which William Grevill and the bailiff of Cheltenham were instructed to act for John and his son Edward (a letter to this effect from D1224 was printed in Trans. B.G.A.S. 76 (1957) 171-2). All this was done under some agreement we do not possess, no doubt as security for cash since Tame did not keep the manor. The documents show that this John Grevill does not deserve the "Sir" before his name in Welch's pedigree - after his death a memorandum noted "John Grevill of Milcotte squyer and Joan his wyffe had issue between them Edward Grevill of Drayton co Oxon their son and heir ---", and Edward in a letter of 15 May 1504 speaks of his father as plain John Grevill.

Incidentally, in these documents the manor is called "Assheley", so Welch was mistaken in thinking that the name Ashley did not appear till 1625.

(5) Edward Grevill

From Edmund Tame, the manor was transferred in 1503 to John Westby (D1224 no 8). He had married Margaret daughter of Robert Grevill, the man whose descendants were to obtain permanent possession of it. But it is clear that Robert had not acquired Charlton in 1503. The likelihood is that he had lent money to Tame or to Tame's father-in-law (the concealed but real owner) and the conveyance was only security for this. Probably it was Margaret's dowry put out on mortgage. For in 1515, John Westby surrendered his interest in Ashley and the Charlton tenements to Edward Grevill knight (D 1224 no 13), and Edward was still in legal possession in 1520, when he mortgaged both for £400, promising the mortgagee further assurance from Dame Anne his wife and John his son and heir (D 1224 nos 15,16).

We do not have the final conveyance of the Charlton property from Sir Edward Grevill to Robert and his heirs. It happened soon after 1520. On 21 June 1528 Sir Edward made his will, proved 1 October 1529 (U269 T246/2). He left property in Buckinghamshire to his son Thomas, and ordered that his daughter Alis was to be "sufficiently found and kept" and "bestowed and disposed in Religion or marriage conveniently, by her assent" with such money as the executors should think reasonable. His sister Elizabeth and also Mrs Dalby and Joys were to be rewarded for their pains and labour taken with him, which sounds as though they had nursed him through a long illness. After paying debts, and some legacies for which Sir Edward was responsible, any surplus was to be spent for the health of his soul, but as the personal estate was unlikely to meet these demands, the executors were to receive the issues of part of his real estate for one year. Those executors were to be his wife Dame Anne, his son and heir John, his brother-in-law Thomas Denton, and the parson of Drayton. "In great causes" they were to desire the counsel and advice of his other brother-in-law Sir Edmund Tame.

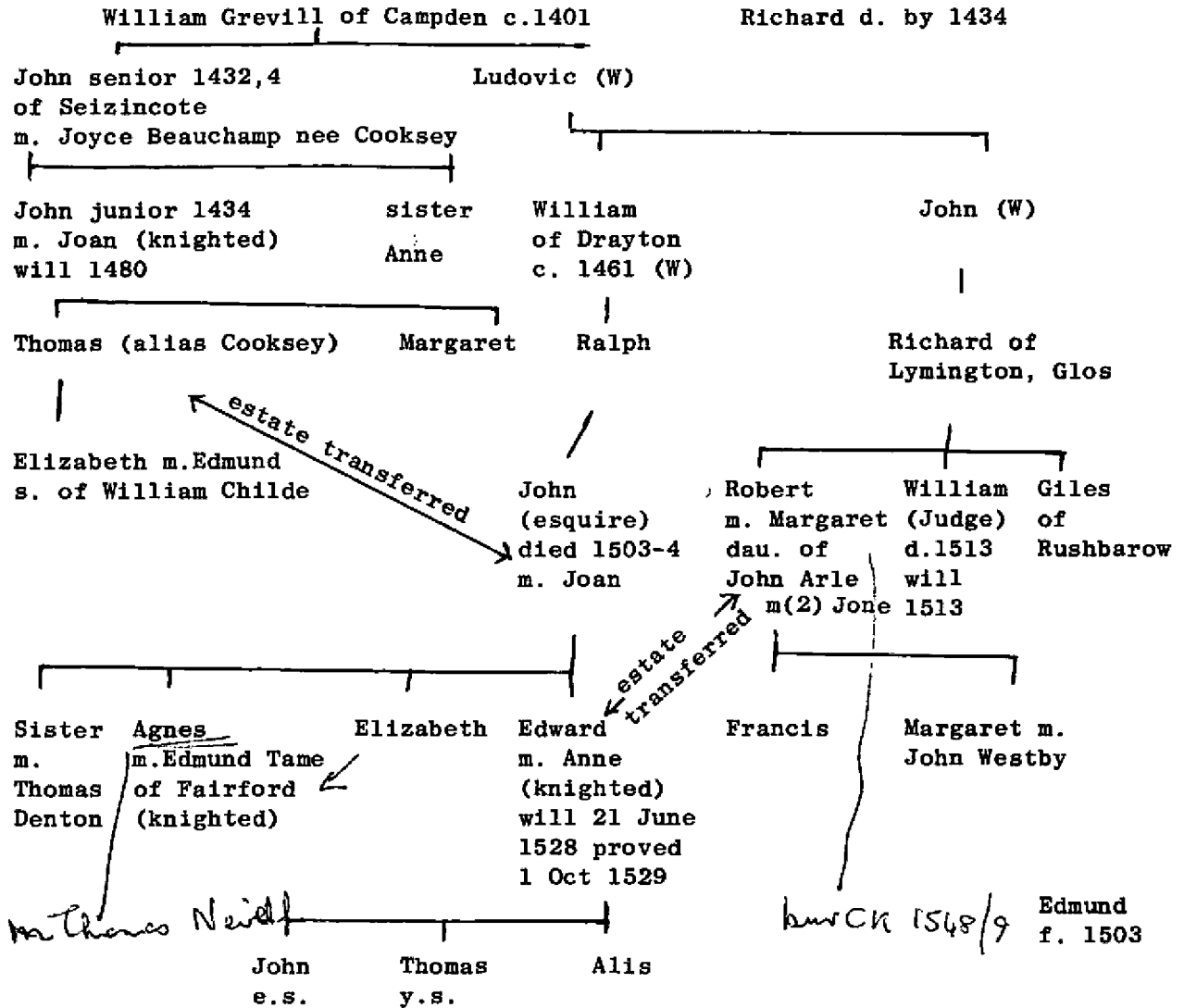
(6) Robert Grevill and his brothers

By his marriage with Margaret, daughter of John Arle, Robert acquired Arle Court. This he eventually passed over to his brother William, the judge; that may be where he got the money to lend to his relations and dower his daughter Margaret. The 1503 deed cited above shows her to be already married. It also mentions Robert's brothers William and Giles (Giles Grevill of Rushborow in the Visititation). Another Grevill mentioned is Edmund, who cannot yet be placed. In 1507 Robert, though not yet possessed of the manor and property, was living at Charlton Kings, presumably as sub-tenant of his kinsman Edward, perhaps managing his estate for him. If so, then the occupier was able in the end to buy the owner out.

William the judge died in 1513 - his brass is in Cheltenham parish church. In his will he refers to some land he held in Charlton Kings, not further described (Hockaday Extracts, Hockaday 147).

Robert's will is dated 7 February 1548/9 (GRO 1548/76) and was proved before 25 March. He desired to be buried "in the paryshe church of Chorleton Kynges before the blessyd sacrament" (but there is no burial entry in the register, so his wishes may have been disregarded). He gave 4d to the high altar for tithes forgotten, since he farmed in the parish. His wife Jone was to be executrix.

At this point, we may summarise in a tree the information gained so far.



(7) Francis Grevill

Ashley manor and the other Charlton properties passed into the possession of Robert Grevill c.1520-9. The Visitation says his will is dated 1548 and that he died in 1550, but this is at least a year too late, for his son and heir Francis is already called "esquire" and "of Chorleton Kynges" in the defeazance to a bond dated 20 July 1549 (D 1224).

Francis had married Mary daughter of John Rainsford of Tew co Oxon (V), and their son and heir Giles was born c.1541, for he was of age by 1562. A settlement of 20 September 1550 is recited in another deed - it was made as soon as possible after Francis came into the estate (D 1224). The first Grevill children to be baptised at St Marys were Edith or Jedith in 1555 and Ann in 1556. It seems probable that the father died very shortly afterwards, for he is not listed as occupying any tenement in Charlton when the first inclosures were authorized in 1557 (D 855 M68). But he was not buried in this parish, and for some years the head of the family was usually interred in the Grevill vault in Cheltenham, though wives and children were buried here (2). This is an indication that as yet the Grevills did not feel

themselves to belong to Charlton. Giles the son came of age and the surviving feoffee quitclaimed the property to him on 24 May 1562 (D 1224); in the same year, Francis' widow married again, becoming the second wife of Robert Milton.

Edith Grevill married Thomas Cunynsbye at St Marys on 1 March 1583/4.

(8) Giles Grevill senior

The list of tenants in 1557 mentions Gyles Grevill gentleman who held of Ashley manor a "copyhold" messuage and 27 acres of land. He could be the heir's uncle (a brother of Francis), or even a son of great-uncle Giles of Rushbarrow; all we know is that he had a grant made for the term of his life in the manor court (D 1224 no 28). Giles Grevill the elder was still occupying his tenement in 1564 when the second inclosures were allowed, though he was no longer a principal tenant and his land was now described as freehold. He witnessed Giles the younger's mortgage to William Ligon of Arle in 1565 (D 1224 no 28) and must have died soon afterwards. We don't know if he left any descendants, but he may well have done so.

(9) William Grevill m. Ann Love

If he did, this would account for the William Grevill who on 24 January 1574/5 married Ann Love at Charlton church. (The Visitation makes her marry a child of 4!). William and Ann had two children, Joane, buried here on 3 February 1575/6 and perhaps born at Ann's old home; and Phrancis, baptised and buried on 10 May 1577. Ann herself was buried on 7 February 1593/4.

(10) Giles Grevill m. Dorothy Freeman

Giles Grevill (son of Francis) who came of age in 1562 married Dorothy Freeman, probably a daughter of that William Freeman of Bacheford or Batsford who was a feoffee under the 1550 settlement. The young couple may have been living with her parents. They had a son Francis (born 1558 ^{see B 37} according to the Visitation) and then, after three daughters, sons Giles (born 1568), William (born 1570) and Edward (born 1572), ending with twins John and Margaret (born 1574). Of these children, only William and Edmund were baptised here. So it would seem that Giles and Dorothy did not come to settle at The Forden till about 1570 (possibly after rebuilding). There must have been an epidemic in Charlton in the autumn of 1574 - Giles lost his daughter Margaret (buried 24 September), his son John (buried 15 October) and his wife Dorothy (buried 25 October). He survived her nearly ten years and was buried as Gyles Grivell Esquier on 28 February 1583/4, the first time the Charlton register gives a Grevell any higher rank than gentleman.

(11) Francis Grevill m. Mary Goddard

Francis inherited in 1584. He married Mary Goddard (V) but had only one daughter Antonia (born c.1605). In default of male heirs, the manor and estate would pass to his next brother Giles at his death; but not until his death; and Francis was alive, it is said, in 1619 (V). However, the Cheltenham manor survey of 1617 states that Giles Grevill (not Francis) holds the manor of Ashley, 3 messuages, 3 cottages, and land. Either the date 1619 is a mistake, or some time before 1617 an agreement between the brothers resulted in the Charlton property being transferred immediately

to the next male heir. We have seen the Grevills making this kind of arrangement in similar circumstances before.

(12) William Grevill m. Anne Moore

~~This younger William was the third son of Giles and Dorothy (credited by the Visitation with having married at the age of 4). Baptised on 3 May 1570, William would have come of age sometime in 1591, and by that date he had married Anne.~~ She was Anne Moore, if John Stubbs the steward is right in calling Mr Moore her brother (D855 M68 f.26). Their first child was William (baptised 25 March 1587, buried 4 April 1589), and the second Ann (buried in 1604). After came Margaret (baptised 8 August 1592), Richard (baptised 31 January 1593/4), Rose (baptised 16 April 1595), and Katherine (baptised 7 May 1597). There was no son Giles.

The father Mr. William Grevill was buried on 21 October 1603, leaving his widow as guardian under his will. According to her sworn statement (M 68 f.26v), her husband had held a capital messuage or farm and lands called Rogerslandes, under the manor of Ashley. In this property she had a life interest if she remained unmarried - following death or remarriage, the heir would be Richard the youngest son. Richard was in fact the only surviving son. But the use of the word "youngest" indicates that the farm had originally been held in base tenure by Borough English, the custom by which the youngest (not the eldest) son or daughter inherited - though William had apparently had a special grant. This Anne Grevill was the Mistress Ann Grevill who gave John Stubbs so much trouble over his inclosures in 1609, and we know from his list of tenants that she had 66 acres in the common fields uninclosed (more than any Charlton tenant except Richard Pates with his 70).

Her daughter Rose married Alexander Packer of Ham in 1611, and the mother was buried (no doubt to the great relief of Stubbs) on 12 October 1612. Her son Richard was still a minor, but would come of age in a little over two years. I think Richard married a wife named Elianor and had a son Henry who died before his mother. That would account for the messuage and land occupied by Eleanor Grevill widow, previously her son Henry's, which a later Giles Grevill bought back about 1690 (D 1224). Mrs Eleanor Grevill widow was buried on 7 May 1695.

(13) Robert Grevill and his son Robert

There is a Robert Grevill, whose son Robert was buried at Charlton Kings on 16 January 1612/13, for whom I cannot account. He does not seem to have held any tenement here. Possibly a son of William (9), but if so baptised elsewhere.

(14) Giles Grevill m. Sarah Payne

Giles Grevill the next in succession married Sarah daughter of Richard Payne of Rodborough (V). ~~None of his children was baptised in Charlton Kings, for most of them were born before their father came into the estate; even then, he may not have moved here immediately.~~ This may be the point at which the family's interests begin to be centred in Gloucester. The first son was William, born c.1609-10, died aged 13 in 1623(V), and the next Giles, who died in 1645 aged 36 (perhaps they were twins). After came Francis (1616), Richard (1619), Edward (1620), and a daughter Frances.

"Gilles Grevill esquire" was buried at Charlton on 11 January 1631/2 (not 1629 as in the Visitation). The parish register is out of order in the 1620s,

having fallen to pieces and been resewn wrongly; but this entry is certainly right under 1631/2. There was a slight delay in payment of the heriots due on Giles' death for his Cheltenham copyholds but on 27 February 1631/2 the bailiff and his deputy collected "one Roaneish or reddeishe gray Mare and one Blackeishe or darke gray younge gelling as heriotts due to the lord of the said Mannour uppon the death of Mr Giles Grevill lately deceased", which had been "detenied from them by John Dole, Mr Grevills man" (D855 M 10 f.80).

(15) Giles Grevill m. Anne Wood

Giles Grevill who inherited in 1632 married Anne daughter of Richard Wood of Brookthorp (perhaps in 1636 - there should be a deed of that year among title deeds for The Forden, according to a label in the handwriting of W.H.Prinn, but it has disappeared). He died in 1645 and was buried at St Michael's, Gloucester (V). His widow married again, one of the Jordans; and it is worth mentioning that Silvanus Wood of Brookthorp and Toby Jordan alderman of the City of Gloucester were trustees of the marriage settlement of the next Giles. "Mrs Ann Jordan, formerly the wife of Giles Grevile gentleman" was buried at Charlton on 7 December 1680.

(16) Francis Grevill

Francis was the third son of Giles and Sarah, and next brother to the Giles who succeeded to the Charlton estate. Francis too settled in Charlton and according to the Visitation had five children here, Sarah (1638), Giles (1640), Francis (1642), William (1646) and Elinor (1648). If Francis' elder brother were domiciled in Gloucester (as seems likely), he may have been living at The Forden and acting as farm bailiff. His eldest daughter seems to be the "Mrs Sarah Greville spinster" buried at Charlton on 15 April 1711, when she would have been aged 73.

(17) Edward Grevill of Gloucester, mercer, and his son Giles

He was fifth son of Giles and Sarah, and died in 1670. He had married Mary daughter of John Hayward (V), and had one surviving child, Giles. We have the will of this Giles Greville, made 1 March 1688 and proved 25 October 1689 (GRO wills 1689/240). In it he made his mother Mary sole executrix and left her the bulk of his property in the City of Gloucester. But in the land and tenements in Weobley co Hereford, lately purchased from Leigh James the younger of the City of Gloucester deceased, she was to have no more than a life interest, and after her death the reversion was to go to Giles' servant maid Jane Finch and her heirs, "and I leave it to the Discretion of my said loved Mother to give unto --- the said Jane Finch such Mourning upon my decease as she my said Mother shall think fitt".

His loving kinsman Mr Giles Greville of Charlton Kings was to have 20s to buy a mourning ring.

Mary Grevill survived her son by seven years. Her will was made on 21 April 1690 but not proved till 19 November 1696 (1696/233). She desired to be buried in the church of St. John the Baptist in Gloucester and left her sister Joan Bastin of the College widow an annuity of £10 for life. Among other legacies, she left her loving cousin Mr. Giles Grevile of Charlton Kings 20s to buy a ring, just as her son had done - Giles was to be her executor and raise money for payment of debts and legacies from her property, after which it was to go to his son her kinsman Edward. This seems to indicate that cousin Giles was the Giles born 1640, who died in 1692; he was alive

when she drew up this will, though dead before it was proved.

(18) Giles Grevill m. Jane Lee

Giles son of Giles and Anne, (born 1640) is said to be "of the City of Gloucester" in his settlement of 4 October 1660 and of Charlton Kings later on - he was churchwarden at St Marys for the year 1679-80. When the 1660 settlement was made he had already married Jane only daughter and heiress of John Lee of Walford co Hereford and Joan his wife. They had settled on the couple land and tenements worth £20 a year, and other property worth £50 a year was to come to them after the parents' deaths. To match this, Giles now settled The Forden and land worth £70 a year - this was by no means the whole of his Charlton estate, and Ashley manor was not included (D 1224). Giles' uncle Edward Grevill of Gloucester was one of the witnesses to this settlement.

Giles and Jane had a large family. Beside their eldest son Giles, there were William (born and died 1666), John, Charles, Edward, Francis, Silvanus (bap 8 Feb 1679/80), Jane (buried 4 November 1682), and Hester (bap 16 December 1683). That meant six younger children to be provided for in 1691. So in consideration of the "natural love and affection" he felt towards them, Giles Greville of Charlton Kings by lease and release of 19 and 21 December 1691 conveyed to five trustees (two of them being his sons John and Charles and another William Jorden of Gloucester a connexion) his manor of Ashley, a messuage and land in Charlton occupied by Elianor Greville widow, and other named lands in Charlton and Naunton "not formerly occupied with The Forden" on trust after the father's death to sell and with the money raised, after payment of his debts, to pay for the children's education and maintenance while under age. Part was to "be employed for the binding the said Edward and Silvanus apprentice to some trade as they shall be capable of at such time as they shall be fitt to be placed." The rest was to be spent for the equal benefit of all the younger children till the sons should be 24 and Hester 22. After that Edward was to receive £100 and the remainder be divided equally among the others. Edward as we have seen was already in part provided for by the will of Mary Grevill under which he would eventually inherit her property in Gloucester. That will had been made in 1690 and as Giles was to be executor, he must have known all about it.

There was no need to provide for Giles' widow, Jane wife of Giles Greville gentleman was buried at Charlton on 9 October 1685.

Giles Greville gentleman was buried here on 17 January 1691/2.

The Visitation gives Giles and Jane a daughter Anne, who died in 1682. This should read Jane. The register does record the burial of Anne daughter of Giles Greville gentleman on 14 February 1693/4; this girl cannot be a daughter of Giles the elder, for then she would have been living when he provided for the younger children; it could be a daughter of the next Giles, his eldest son.

(19) John Grevill

John, son of Giles and Jane, married Judith Pates of Charlton, at Swindon in 1693. Their son Pates was baptised on 1 July 1695. He was followed by John (baptised 11 June 1697), Hester (baptised 10 April 1699), William (baptised 3 November 1701), Edward (baptised 17 March 1703/4) and Charles (baptised 16 April 1706). In these entries, the register calls the father gentleman. He does not appear to have been buried in Charlton. But after

his death, Judith his widow married twice more, first Thomas Pates her "cousin" (by whom she had a son William) and then Roger Probert.

John Greville the son (born 1697) was buried on 13 March 1744/5, seemingly unmarried. Edward Greville, (born 1703/4) had a wife Mary; their children baptised at St Marys were Hester (1 November 1730), and William (16 September 1732). Mary wife of Edward Greville was buried on 18 October 1752. Edward's sister Hester married - Britten (D 109/1) and had a daughter Mary.

(20) Charles Grevill

Charles son of Giles and Jane, was already established in a profession when his father made provision for his younger children in 1691, and of age (for he was made one of the trustees) - he is Charles Greville of the City of Bristoll apothecary in 1697 (D 1224). He was alive on 21 October 1714 (D 1224) but dead by 21 February 1715, leaving a widow Hester, a sister of Charles Brereton to whom she instructed Samuel Cooper her lawyer to pay £200 and interest. Hester was then living in Bristol.

Charles and Hester had a son Charles, who became a doctor in Gloucester, and also married a Hester. He is the Dr Charles Greville of Barton Street, who had an obelisk in his garden "inlaid with old broken China", which Thomas Robins drew on 14 September 1757 (see Gardens of Delight, the Art of Thomas Robins). Dr. Charles Greville's will was dated 22 May 1768, It is recited in the will of his widow Hester Greville of Gloucester dated 1 October 1770, proved 3 November 1779 (GRO wills 1779/161). From this we learn that Hester was a second wife and that by his first wife Abigail Scudamore, Charles had had an only son John Scudamore Greville, married by 1770 to a girl Mary. To her daughter-in-law Hester left the leasehold messuage in her own occupation which her husband had left to her in his will and a freehold. There was also a daughter-in-law Elizabeth (ie step-daughter), married to - Lewis, and grandchildren William Luthington Lewis and Charles Lewis, to whom bequests were made. The picture is one of a very united family.

(21) Giles Grevill m. Anne Packer

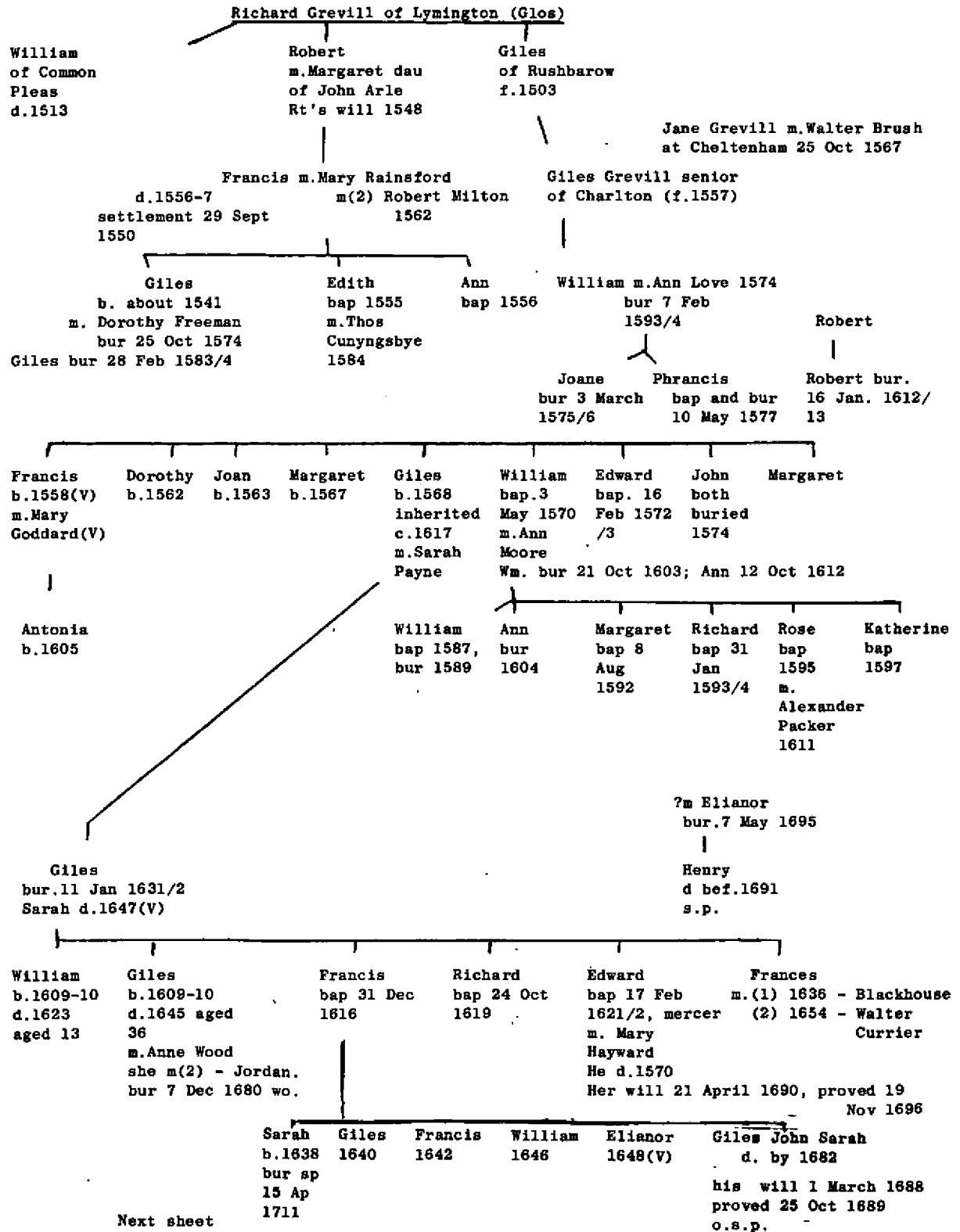
Giles (born 1663-4) married Anne Packer of Breedon in 1685 (V) carrying on the family habit of marrying at the age of 20 or 21. So far as we know he never lived in Charlton Kings. When his father died, he was Mr Greville of the Six Clerks' Office in Chancery Lane, and had a house in the parish of St Dunstan in the West. His father's settlement on the younger children in 1691 had given Giles as heir the option of buying in the manor and the other lands mentioned at £100 less than their full value (D 1224) but one of his first actions was to give the trustees a quitclaim, in consideration of £40, so enabling them to sell off several small plots in 1695 and then the manor and the rest of that land in 1697 to Edward Michell of Cheltenham. Meanwhile, Giles had by lease and release of 2 and 3 September 1692 appointed a life interest in The Forden and the land going with it for himself and his wife, but mortgaged the remainder of the estate. Several other mortgages followed. Finally on 21 January 1698/9 he agreed to levy a fine on one messuage, one barn, one stable, one dovehouse, one garden, one orchard, 80 acres of land, 6 acres of pasture and common of pasture in Charlton; this had the effect of destroying any estates tail, and implies that there was no son to succeed him. If he had a daughter, she must be the Ann Greville buried in 1694. So there was no reason why he should not sever all links with the ancestral home in Charlton and arrange a sale to John Prinn, which he did 24 and 25 November 1701, for £725.

(22) The Grevills at St Mary's

Considering how many generations of the family lived here or owned estates here, it seems odd that we do not know where they were buried. Even when Bigland recorded memorials inside the church and tombstones outside in the churchyard, there were no relics of the senior line. The only stone he found was that of Edward Grevill yeoman (buried in 1768) somewhere on the floor of the south transept.

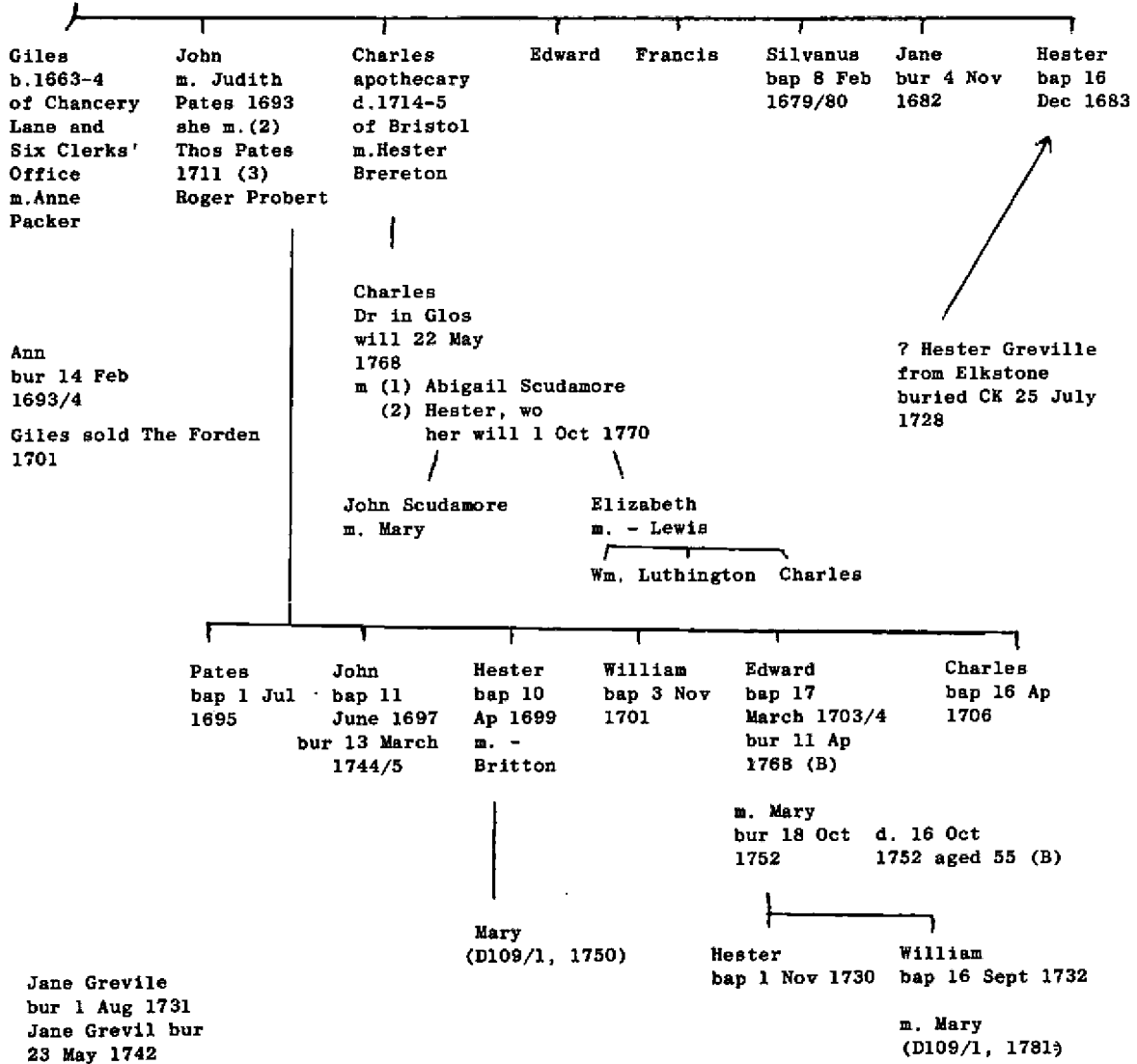
(23) The pedigree

We may now put into a tree all the known descendants of Richard Grevill of Lymlington whose son Robert acquired Ashley manor and The Forden c.1520-9.



Giles (b. 1609-10), d. 1645), m. Anne Wood

Giles, of Gloucester 1660 m. Jane Lee bur 9 Oct 1685
of Charlton Kings later)
b.1640, bur 17 Jan 1691/2

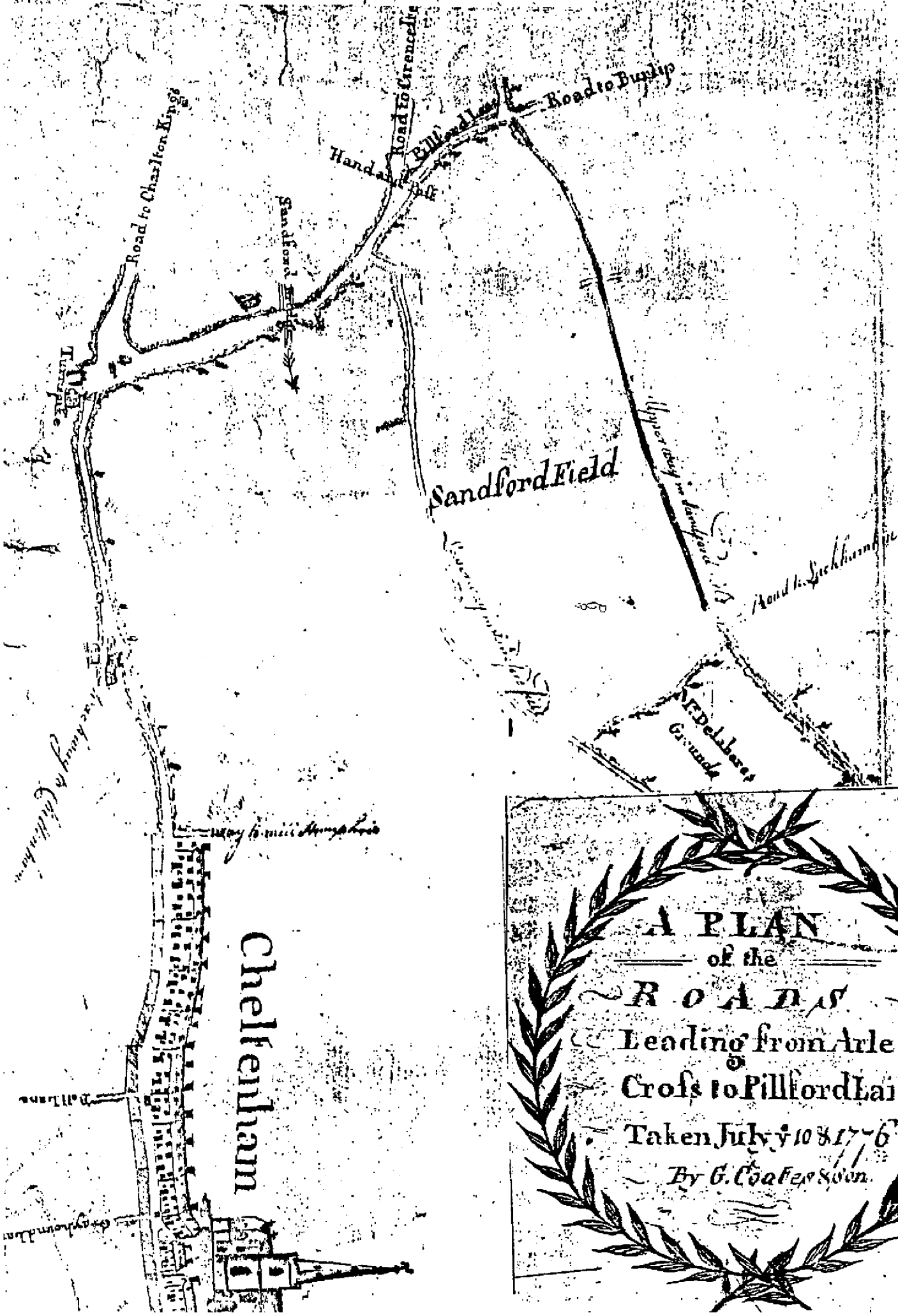


- (1) "The Manor of Charlton Kings, later Ashley" F.B. Welch, Trans Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society 54 (1932) pp 145-165.
- (2) Unfortunately there are gaps in 16th or early 17th century registers for St Mary's Cheltenham

Mary Paget

A Scale of Yards

0.521 1777 8/1



A PLAN
of the
ROADS
Leading from Arle Cross
to Pillford Lane
Taken July 10 1776
By G. Coates Son.

3 THE FORDEN OR FORDEN HOUSE (NOW CHARLTON PARK) AND FORDEN BANK ROAD

The history of this site is much more complicated than used to be supposed, and cannot be understood apart from the story of roads in Charlton Kings, and the development of Charlton itself.

a) Forden Bank and Sandy Lane

Forden Bank was part of the parish road which led from Ravensgate Common (and beyond) down Timbercombe and Up End, to the east of New Court, by Hencroft Lane, and to the south and west of Forden House. It crossed Forden Brook (ie Lilleybrook) below the house, first by a ford, later by a bridge (1), and proceeded over the Lower Field of Charlton Kings, cutting across the road to Cirencester (Sandy Lane) and the road to Birdlip (Pillford Lane or Old Bath Road) to become the upper way through Sandford field (Thirlestaine Road) and come out at Westall Green. Sandy Lane also crossed Lower Field, went over the road to Birdlip, and became the Lower Way through Sandford field (Sandford Road), leading into Lads Lane, Hayshill (2), with a branch up to Westall Green. Neither road led directly into the town of Cheltenham and this suggests that they started as trackways, possibly pre-dating the growth of a town on the river bank (as did the ancient road down Aggs Hill) (3)

We know for certain that these two roads, Forden Bank and Sandy Lane, followed the course described from the 15th century to 1784, when parts of both were diverted. (4) These are the roads illustrated by Thomas Robins in his picture of Mr Prinn's house painted c.1748 (5) and shown on "A Plan of the Roads leading from Arle Cross to Pillford Lane Taken July the 10th 1776 By G. Coates & Son", (6) a portion of which is reproduced here.

b) The Settlement Pattern

The Saxon settlement at Cheltenham must, from the place-name ending 'ham', be older than Charlton, with the place-name ending 'ton'. The first element of Charlton, OE cheorl, tells us that this area was developed by the lord of Cheltenham (the king) to provide land for the men who worked his demesne - before that, they may have been landless labourers living in his hall. We have to imagine the whole of modern Charlton as undeveloped waste, wood or scrub. It was cleared gradually, perhaps by groups of younger men under leaders, each of whom built a farmstead named for himself and cleared the land round it. So we have such early place-names as 'Baedela's tun' or farm (Battledown), 'Cuda's hill' (Cudnall), and 'Babba's ford' (Bafford). (8) Post-Conquest settlements may also have started as homesteads but people called them 'Ends' because they represented new land developed on the edge of existing cultivation. So we get Church End, Up End, Crab End, East End, Moor End, Dowdeswell End.

c) Division into Tithings

A great deal of Charlton land had been developed by the last half of the twelfth century, when a small manor was cut out of Cheltenham to reward Walter of Ashley. Before the end of that century, a chapel had been built at Charlton, so initiating the process which in due time would create a new parish. The frankpledge system demanded that every adult male should belong to a tithing, collectively responsible for public order and individual good behaviour. So Charlton was divided into three tithings. One was Ashley, the land now held under Walter's manor; the second was Bafford, the area we known as Bafford plus Moor End and, significantly for our study, land on Forden Bank - all this still held the manor of Cheltenham; and the third was Charlton,

the rest of the land held from Cheltenham lying scattered over the whole 'parish' and especially at Ham (OE hamm, water-meadow). We may presume that when Charlton was divided in this way, the thirds each had roughly the same number of tenants with their respective holdings. (9)

It will be seen that the site of The Forden was part of Bafford tithing. It was freehold, held of the manor of Cheltenham. Whatever the history of Forden House, it was never Walter's capital messuage or the place where his manor courts were held. Nor was New Court (built c. 1550) which was likewise part of Bafford tithing and freehold of Cheltenham. We do in fact know where Ashley manor courts were held - that story will be told separately.

d) The Forden - development of the site

When we consider the whole of Bafford tithing in relation to Cheltenham, it is obvious that the brook by Forden Bank was the first major obstacle that settlers coming by this track had to cross to reach fresh land to the east. So it seems very likely indeed that the primary homestead for Bafford was planted here, on the east bank of the stream, on a deep bed of gravel; and that this was the original Babba's Ford, The Ford. (10). Such a hypothesis can never be proved. But it seems to be borne out by the names of medieval tenants of the house - Simon de la Forde (before 1233), Thomas de la Forde (1274, 1288, c.1301-4), John de la Forde or John ate Fordheye (c.1335, 1352), Agnes atte Ford of Charlton (1353), and in the late 14th century another Thomas de la Forde, who was succeeded by John Grevill senior (fl.1432) and his son John (11).

The house is mentioned by name as "Fordon Mese" in 1504 (12), when it featured in a fictitious suit in the manor court. After divers family arrangements which mystified contemporaries and are hard to disentangle now, the manor of Ashley and The Forden, with land in Charlton, Naunton, and Cheltenham, came into the possession of Robert Grevill of Arle, sometime between 1520 and 1528.

The status of The Forden and its proper relationship to the Grevill family's manor of Ashley puzzled contemporaries. This looked like a manor house, yet it was not. A Charlton witness before the Council of the Marches at Montgomery Castle in 1541 thought that perhaps there were two Grevill manors "thone Asheley cowt & thother cald Forden Cowrte" (13), and there may have been a grain of truth in the notion that Robert would have liked to withdraw his small estate at Forden from Cheltenham's jurisdiction - then he could have had a manorial dovecote and other privileges. If that were his ambition, it was frustrated. The house was freehold of the manor of Cheltenham in 1557, when Thomas Wye esq (presumably the heir's guardian during his minority) held and Edmond Benbowe occupied it. (14) No more than 37 acres of land went with the messuage (it had been reckoned a virgate in the mid 15th century). Out of this Wye was to inclose 4 acres in the Barley Meade.

Giles Grevill the younger, gentleman, had come of age and was both tenant and occupier of the messuage, with the 37 acres when a second permission to inclose was given in 1564 - this time he might fence 5 acres in Milkwell in respect of his 37 acres. He also held 5 Ashley tenements, including one occupied by Giles Grevill senior, gentleman (his uncle or great-uncle) which had been held separately in 1557. Estate-building had begun and probably house-building too. We may suggest c.1562-8 as the date when the new timber-framed house, still the core of Charlton Park, was erected; and give Giles the younger credit for it.

We are fortunate to have an architectural account of Charlton Park, before recent changes, in a paper written for Cheltenham Civic Society (15). Under the 18th century brick shell is a timber-framed "Tudor" building with "fine oak beams". "From the beams ---- and from the view looking down on the roof, it is clear that at each end of the entrance front there was, in bygone centuries, a portion surmounted by a gable supported by these beams, with a lower portion (heightened in more modern times) between the two ends. These gabled parts formed the ends of two wings which extended towards the pond --- what the wings with the entrance front --- did was to enclose a courtyard open to the sky, with windows looking on to the courtyard. Some of the latter still exist. They are stone mullioned and apparently of Stuart date, but they no longer look on to a courtyard but on to the walls of an oval building which has since been built in the courtyard and which rises up about two-thirds of the height of the main building as it now is. As one looks at the entrance front, one can see that the main top line of the house, instead of finishing off square, slopes down at each end. This is the outside of the old gable.

In one top room there is some colour-washed wood panelling which, unlike the other panelling, is oak and nicely moulded, very old, and possible contemporary with the Stuart windows--"

These sloping corners of the east front of the house can be seen in a photograph taken by Miss Dorothy Vassar-Smith c.1919-20. (16) Today, only the north-east corner is visible, the rest being hidden by additional building.



The same view in 1980



and 1982



Giles' eldest son had no male issue, so the property passed c.1617 to the next heir Giles. He may have been responsible for those "Stuart" mullions. Probably he wanted more upstairs rooms; he may have put an upper floor over the hall. In the 1617 survey of the manor of Cheltenham, Giles is set down as holding Ashley manor and in addition 3 houses, 3 cottages, and 65 acres of land belonging to Cheltenham manor. The estate was growing, but it was still not very large.

The next Giles Grevill was buried at Gloucester in 1645 and this fact shows that his main interest was not in Charlton Kings. His brother Francis however, had 5 children born here between 1638 and 1648, and may have been living at The Forden during those years, looking after the estate for his elder brother and then for his young nephew Giles, who was only five when his father died. Young Giles was "of Gloucester" at the time of his marriage to Jane Lee. With her he received land worth £70 a year, and to meet this he settled The Forden, also said to be worth £70 a year, in 1660. Giles enfeoffed five trustees in his capital message called The Forden, with outhouses, barns, stables, buildings, yards, courts, gardens and orchards adjoining, and the land described as

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------|
| The Homeclose (1 acre) - meadow or pasture |) | |
| The Byttomes (1 acre) - pasture |) | |
| The Pulley or Pooley (3/4 acre) - arable |) | in Charlton |
| Haules close (4 acres) - meadow |) | |
| | | |
| Ten Laines (4 acres) - meadow | | in Cheltenham |
| | | |
| 4 closes called The Meade Plot, the Furzey Leasowe, Blakemore, and The Butts (15 acres) - meadow |) | in Charlton |
| |) | |
| The Strowd (4 acres) - meadow or pasture | | in Charlton |

60 acres arable in open fields

20 acres in Cheltenham Lower Field

30 acres in Charlton Lower Field

7 acres called The Croft, in Charlton

3 acres in the Castlefield, in Charlton

The first four closes, (almost 7 acres), appear to have been near the house. Blakemore was near Coxhorne and The 'Strowd near Sappercombe. Charlton Lower Field comprised the area later the park and all the land up Sandy Lane from the Lilleybrook across to Naunton. Castlefield stretched from East End road to the Chelt and from the Hearne brook up to Flaxley, and was not then divided by any road. The land settled did not by any means comprise the whole of Giles Grevill's estate in Charlton, only enough to bring in £70 a year.

The Hearth-tax roll for 1671-2 tells us that "Mr Grivell" was owner of a house with five taxable hearths (in addition to the one allowed tax free). That implies a hall, parlour, and 3 chambers with fire-places either downstairs or upstairs. There would also be the kitchen (not taxed) and various unheated rooms - the modern idea that every living room must be heated would have amazed our hardier ancestors. Summer parlours were often without hearths.

Giles and his wife had settled in The Forden by 1679, when he became churchwarden at St Marys. His eldest son Giles was destined for a Civil Service career in the Six Clerks' Office in Chancery Lane. The second son John remained in Charlton and may (like his uncle Francis) have taken over management of the estate, Charles the third son became an apothecary at Bristol, and the father left instructions for his younger sons to be apprenticed to suitable trades as they became old enough. Having a large family to provide for meant that the estate must be broken up. The heir was to have The Forden and its land, but Ashley manor and a good deal of other land was passed to trustees with instructions to sell. The heir had the option of buying back the manor for £100 less than its real value; but he did not avail himself of this.

When the last Giles Grevill mortgaged The Forden to his relative Dorothy Packer in 1697 (17), a dove-house and cyder mill are mentioned as going with the house - the first reference to that dove-house which is seen in Thomas Robins' picture, standing in the middle of the stack yard south of the house.

Finally, in 1701 Giles sold The Forden and nearly all the land mentioned in the 1660 settlement to John Prinn of the Inner Temple. He was a son of William Prinn of Cheltenham, Father and son in turn were stewards of the manor of Cheltenham. Four years previously, John had bought himself a house in Charlton, New Court. Now he paid £725 for The Forden and 70 acres 3 roods of land (17).

(e) Forden House

John Prinn at once set about modernizing his new home. A timber-framed house looked very old-fashioned by 1701, and no doubt he wanted sash windows which were the latest thing in 1701, replacing the long casements of c.1660. The old photograph of the east front shows us that when John Prinn clothed his timber-framed house with brick, he put in sash windows, of the type usual before 1709, on both ground and first floors. We can still see a couple of these windows unaltered, on the first floor. An Act of 1709 ordered that window-frames should no longer be set flush with the wall, but be set back four inches, leaving bare brick - the difference is illustrated in Summerson's Georgian London

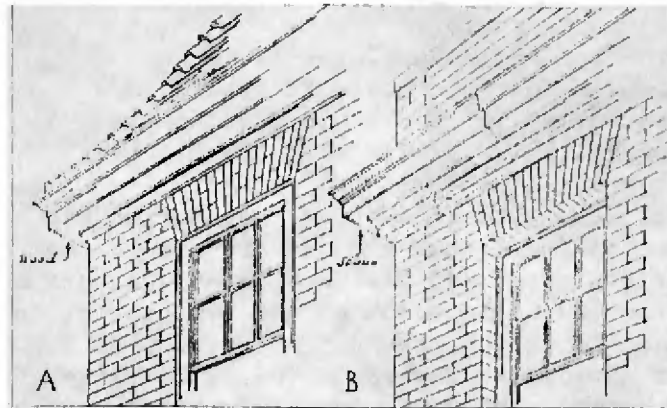
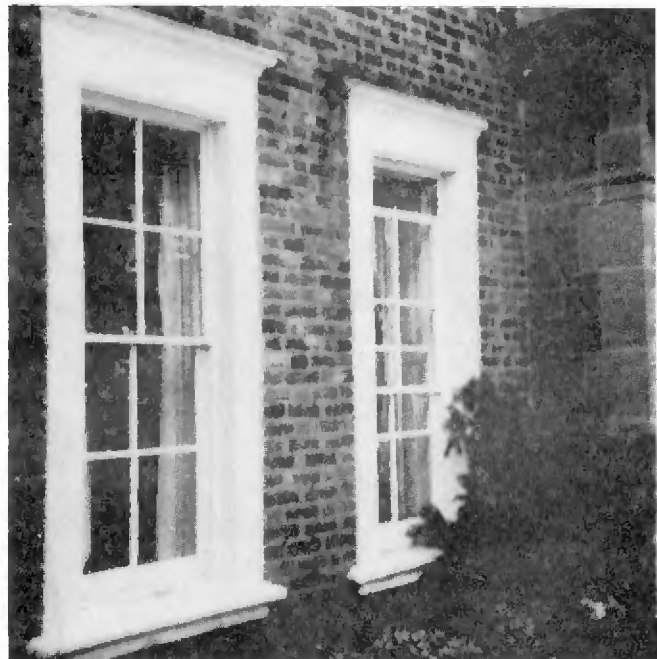


Fig. 8. Changes in building practice under the Acts of 1707 and 1709. The parapet, stone cornice, and recessed window-frame in A show the effect of the Acts.

Compare with drawing A this window on the east front, with the window frame set almost flush with the wall and no window-sill



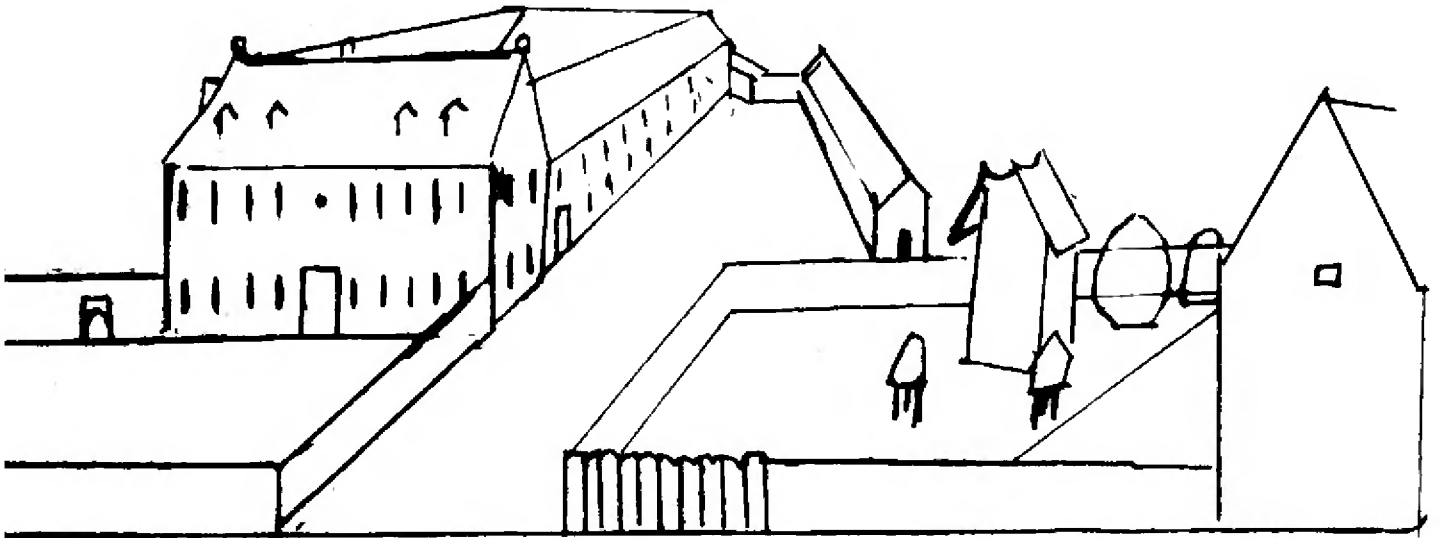
East front



South front

and with drawing B these narrow windows on the south front, where there is a wide wooden frame round the window opening, the glass is only set back very slightly, and there is just a narrow sill. (The styles have been renewed; originally, they would have been thicker).

The south side of the house is shown in a sketch by Thomas Robins done c.1742. It was No 6 in the exhibition of Robins's work at Cheltenham in 1979.



A rough impression of the sketch

The house on this side looks much as it did in c.1919, if one can imagine it without the Victorian bay windows and the creeper (which has covered a blocked window over the door).



Since then, the door has been moved into the centre of the facade, and dormer windows (in keeping with the period) have been inserted in the roof.



When Robins drew the house, the south windows did not face onto a garden. A stable ran parallel with the house, and another door with a porch at the far end of this block gave easy access to it - the open space between was a yard. Adjoining the stable was the stack yard with its dove house and rick stilts, and a large barn (also marked on the road diversion plan of 1784.)

The drawing shows (more clearly than Robins' finished picture) that the central courtyard was still open to the sky. It had been closed at its western end

by a new block, taller than the rest of the house; but not the west front we know today. In the mid 18th century, there were two storeys, not three; the windows were irregularly arranged, 4 on one side and 5 on the other, of a door leading into a walled garden; and as far as one can tell from drawing and painting, they were of the same type as those on the south front, long and narrow, only two small panes wide. There were dormer windows in the roof, no window over the door, and no pediment.

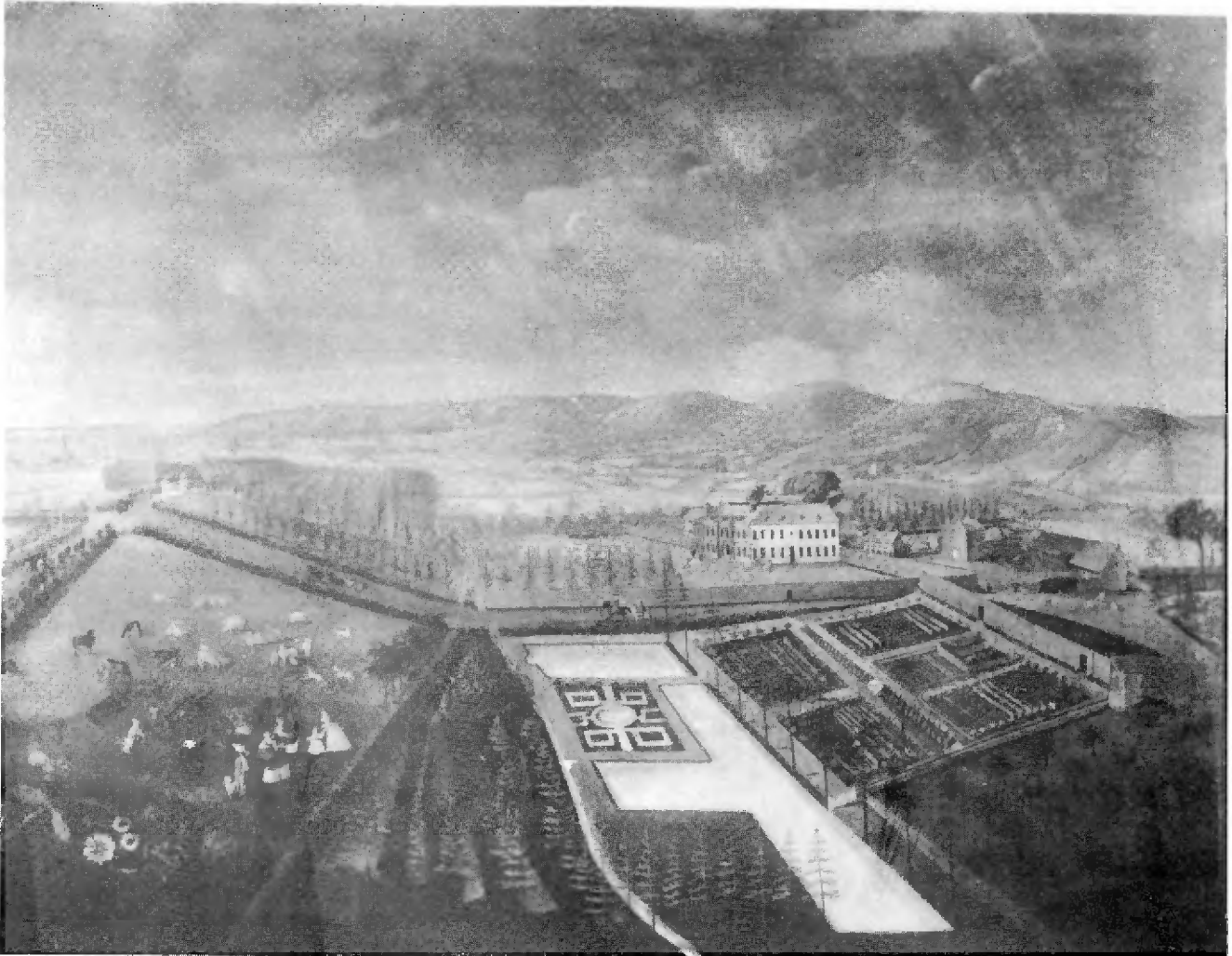
We are probably safe in assuming that John Prinn the purchaser (who lived till 1735) built this west front as well as that on the south. He will have begun his brickwork on the east (pre 1709) and continued with the south face where the narrower windows suggest a date c.1710-1715. The north face (now hidden by new building), as painted by Robins, suggests c.1720 with its projecting bays, its brick and stone parapet to all but the eastern section, and the stone caps to the windows. A low wall near the house separates it from the grounds.



A rough impression of Robins' north face

The new west block must have been the last part of John Prinn's work, and from the date 1732 on beams and a chimney piece, may not have been completed till then.

The date 1743, when William Prinn inherited, is cut into a beam now in the library (the 19th century stable) - this beam is not in its original position, and there is much evidence for re-use of old materials.



Thomas Robin's picture of the house c.1748, reproduced by permission of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum.

If we could reproduce the Bulletin photographs in colour, the variation in shade and texture of the bricks in the south facade would be very noticeable. They are deep red, some of them blackened in burning, and presumably they were burnt somewhere on Prinn's land (the usual 18th century practice). There is a bed of good blue clay under the gravel near the house. Most of the brick formerly produced in Charlton was like this dark red.

Robin's picture shows that a great deal of tree-planting had taken place shortly before 1748 - a new avenue leads from the house to the Eagle gates on Old Bath Road (where they are marked on the Quarter Sessions plan of 1784), and there is a new plantation of conifers on the west bank of Forden

brook. We are safe, I think, in attributing to William Prinn much other tree-planting between 1743 (when he inherited) and c.1760. By that date he had added considerably to the estate. In 1700, Charlton Lower field was still arable, held in strips - an undated plan of around 1750 shows it before inclosure (17), and the court books explain how the Prinns gradually bought or exchanged strips in order to gain possession of the whole. William bought up small-holdings in Moorend, Bafford, and Church End - 2 messuages belonging to descendants of the Gabb family, purchased in fifths between 1751 and 1756 (total cost £280); Tanty's house at Moorend, 1745 (£50); Mansell's cottage at the Withyholt, 1746 (£22); Ward's messuage at Church End and The Hunts, 1750 (£50 and £40); Green's house at Moorend, 1759 (£106). All this meant great change in the area - large fields laid out, the park begun, a new farm house at The Withyholt instead of the old houses and their lands put together to make one sizeable farm. The estate map of 1811 (18) shows several avenues across William Prinn's land. One ran from the end of Claypits path (the chicken-run) towards the house, to provide a vista; another was the sycamore avenue which survived in its entirety until the houses in The Avenue were built from the 1930s onwards - some of the trees still stand and are easily 200 years old. A line of sweet chestnuts (of which one alone survives) used to border the walk from the west end of the church to Moor End Street (Laundry lane) - all this land, known as Hencroft, belonged to William Prinn. There was a row of elms by Hencroft Lane. Trees bordered the turnpike road (Sandy Lane) as it crossed the estate; trees bordered Hollow Lane (the front drive). These last were elms. Most of them were cut down and replaced with limes in 1907 (19), a few were still standing in 1918. They must from their size have gone back to the mid 18th century. It will be remembered that avenues went out of fashion soon after 1760. William Prinn was the first of the family who could have planted them; his was the last generation that would have wanted to do so. By the early 19th century (as readers of Mansfield Park will recall), landowners who wished to "improve" old houses and make their grounds more picturesque were busy cutting them down.

One of the surviving sycamores in The Avenue 1982 and the last sweet chestnut



f) Prinn pedigree

Information about the Prinn family can best be expressed in a tree. (B) signifies dates taken from Bigland, (M) from memorials still in the church. The pedigree is necessary to explain the next stage in the development of the house.

William Prinn (steward of the manor of Cheltenham) d. 12 Nov. 1680 (B)
buried Cheltenham parish church. aged 61
| m. Anne, d. 20 Aug 1697 aged 69 (B)

John, born c.1660, d.26 Feb 1734/5 aged 73 (B) (steward of the manor of
buried 28 Feb 1734/5 Cheltenham and of the Inner
| m. Sarah (3rd wife) Temple)
d. 25 Jan 1728/9 (B). bur. 28 Jan 1728/9

John, rector of Shipton (the antiquarian)
born c.1686, d. 11 May 1743, aged 57 (B)
bur 14 May 1743, will 12 April 1737
m(1) Catharine (nee Lloyd?)
d.25 Nov 1717 (B), bur 28 Nov 1717
m(2) Mary Percival
d.23 June 1760 aged 65 (B) - mentioned in 1737 in will

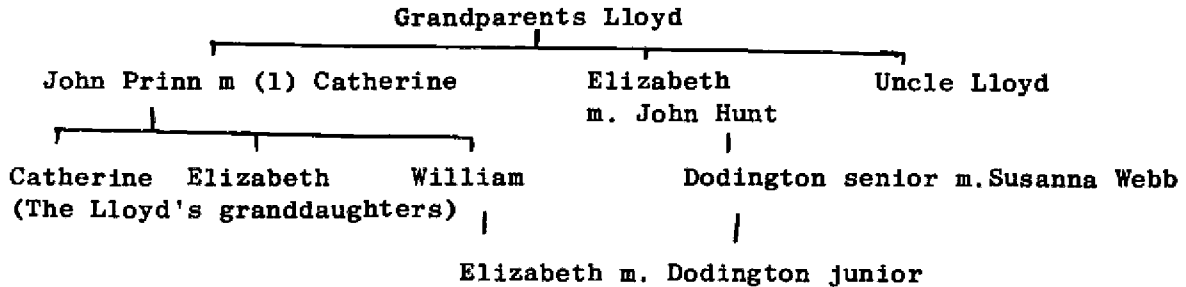
<p>Catharine bap 4 July 1712 d 29 June 1744 aged 32(B) bur 30 June 1744 "gentlewoman"</p>	<p>William bap 3 Ap 1714 bur 12 Feb 1784 m. Elizabeth e.d. of Thomas Ridler of Edgeworth she d.5 March 1771(M) bur 8 March 1771 settlement 11 and 12 March 1755. His will 15 Sept. 1779 codicil 21 Sept 1782</p>	<p>Elizabeth bap 8 May 1716 d.19 June 1744 aged 28(B)</p>	<p>John bap 20 July 1717 bur 1 Ap 1718</p>
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Elizabeth b.1748, d. 10 Aug 1772(M), bur 12 Aug 1772
m. Dodington Hunt of the Inner Temple, bur 5 Nov 1803, will proved 14
March 1804; m(2) Anne Nettleship 9 Nov 1798 she d. 3 June 1813 aged
63 (M)

|
William Hunt (assumed surname Prinn), bap 12 Aug 1772, d.10 Jan 1821(M)
will 14 March 1818
m. Hester d. 27 Dec 1822 (M)
no issue

The will of the Revd John Prinn made in 1737 (GRO wills 1743/110) provides important information to add to this. First, he leaves legacies to his two daughters which they must accept in full for any demand "by virtue of any legacy from their grandfather, grandmother, or uncle Lloyd". Second, he leaves 5 gns to his "sister Hunt" and 5 gns to "her son my nephew Dodington

Hunt". So before the Elizabeth Prinn/Dodington Hunt marriage of 1771, the families were connected. Nephew Dodington Hunt of 1737 must be Dodington Hunt senior (1706-1750) son of John Hunt of Compton Pauncefoot, and John Hunt's second wife was Elizabeth Lloyd who died in 1750. The inference is that the Revd John Prinn's first wife Catherine was born Lloyd and Elizabeth's sister.



Elizabeth Prinn and Dodington Hunt junior were therefore second cousins. All the Prinns were buried in a vault under the north transept of St Marys, and the name JOHN PRINN can still be read on a floor slab just behind the choir stalls. But Bigland's list of monuments tells us that there should also be flat stones with inscriptions for his wife, son, daughters-in-law, and granddaughters. The marble memorial to Mrs Elizabeth Prinn and her daughter Mrs Elizabeth Hunt (the only elegant memorial in the whole church), and the other Prinn/Russell monuments, can be seen in the south and north transepts. (20)

g) Charlton Park

William Prinn's wife had been an heiress. From her he acquired an estate at Bisley which with an estate at Crickley he settled in 1771 on his daughter Elizabeth and her husband Dodington Hunt - the Hunts were not to have any interest in the Charlton property till after William Prinn's death. So the next major alterations to the house, and the change in its name, did not take place till after 1784, when Dodington Hunt entered into his life interest. He was a man of taste (we know that he had had his portrait painted by Gainsborough) - he was wealthy, so he had the means of gratifying it.

His first action was to apply to Quarter Sessions for diversion of the road at Forden Bank; and the turnpike road (Sandy Lane) was closed soon afterwards. Then the reconstruction of the west front was put in hand, and seems to have been completed before the visit of George III to the house in August 1788 (21) - this is the west front as he saw it and as it was drawn in 1789 for Bigland.

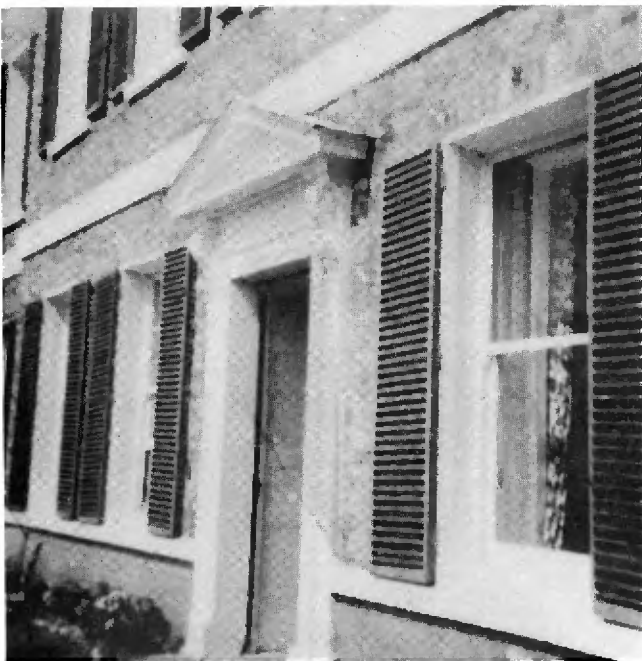


West front c.1919

The facade was now symmetrical, 5 windows on each side of the door; a window in place of the sundial over the door; a third storey instead of attics with dormers; a pediment and cornice. At the same time, the open courtyard was filled in, and the oval room created, with its Adams decoration.

This new west front is a typical late 18th century building - more sophisticated in design and execution than its predecessor. The bricks are nearly uniform in colour and texture, paler than those on the south face of the house (light coloured brick being more highly regarded in 1784 than red, and uniformity rather than variability being esteemed. These bricks too may have been

burnt on the estate. We still have a Claypits path (OS) and the 1811 estate map shows pits or ponds on either side of that path by Old Bath road - one survived till c.1930, when the Charlton Park Gate houses were built. The window-frames on the west front are deep set, with wide sills. But we must imagine all these windows with contemporary glazing-bars and crown glass (as on the first floor) not the dullness of Victorian plate glass.



The west front 1982

About 1788-9 the large cedar trees near the house may well have been planted. They appear to be 200 years old. (22)



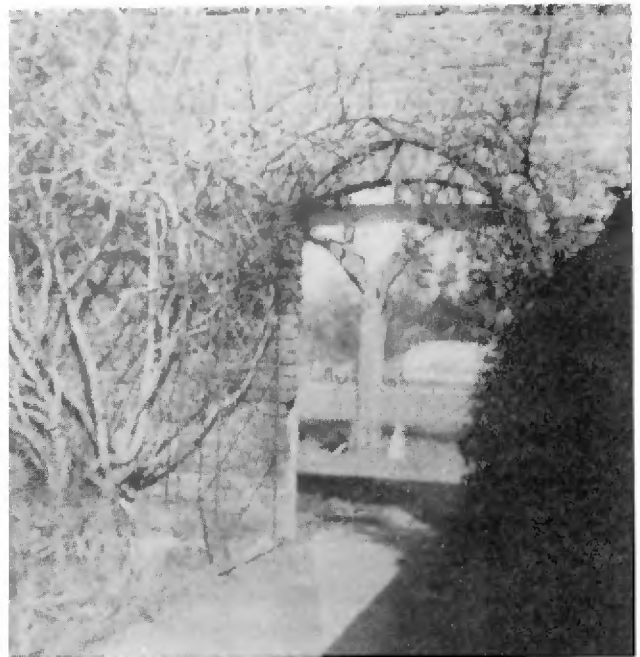
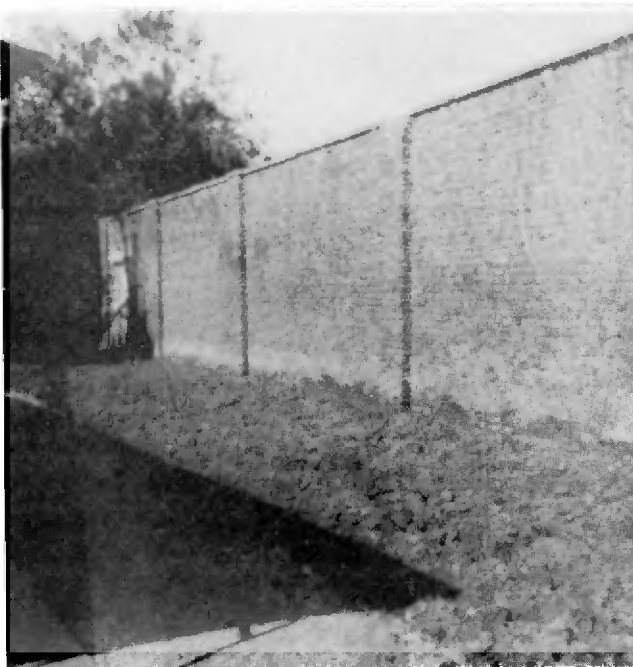
The house had been given a new and more imposing appearance, and in keeping with this Dodington Hunt changed the name to Charlton Park and began to keep deer. They are drawn among the trees in the 1789 print, and were observed by a passing American on 30 July 1796 - he noted in his dairy that it was a "Neat Park tho not large, some very fine deer, chiefly the spotted and fallow deer, the largest I have seen in England." (23) The family pride in these deer is clearly expressed in 1818, in the will of William Hunt Prinn "I will, order, and direct that my Park at Charlton Kings aforesaid shall be kept and preserved as a Park and that the number of Deer therein shall not be reduced to less than Fifty". There was an underground chamber in the park for hanging the carcasses after a cull.

No gentleman in 1784 liked to have a farmyard next to his mansion. So Dodington Hunt accompanied his rebuilding programme with a drastic clearance. New stables were built east of the house (the bricks and timbers obviously taken from the older buildings), the old stable block and the farmyard and barn abolished. Even the dovecote was removed. Bigland's print shows trees and an open space where they had stood, but we must not expect great accuracy in his details - a surprising view of the church is given, to suggest (falsely) a connection between Charlton Park and the advowson of the living!.

The stables (now library)
built in re-used brick



The old walled kitchen garden went too, and a new $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre kitchen garden with extra-high brick walls was created north of the house, beside the road to Cheltenham (the back drive). These walls used up old brick from the westfront (to judge by their colour and texture).



The walled garden in 1979

Dodington Hunt had money to invest in the purchase of extra land on a considerable scale. Several farms were added to the estate before the end of the century. In 1799, Dodington Hunt and his son redeemed the Land Tax charged on the several properties for a total of £3546.11.8. The sum charged yearly on the mansion and the Charlton farms was £96.14.6, and the redemption contracts give a complete picture of the estate at that time (with estimated acreages).

Mansion house, outbuildings, garden, lawn, park, plantations and pleasure grounds occupied by Dodington Hunt (meadow and pasture) 100 acres
Hen Croft (meadow or pasture) 15 acres
Nursery (arable) 2 acres
Lyefield (meadow or pasture) 10 acres
Lyefield with Woodrow and a piece of land late in the occupation of William Buckle lying open to each other (arable) 22 acres
Church Croft (arable) 9 acres

A number of small groves and copses were in hand (60 acres in all), scattered over the whole parish, not one more than 3 acres in extent. There were now 7 farms, Southfield, Bafford, Ham, Northfield, Reynolds, Vineyards, and Ravensgate, with some small tenements, the Leather Mill, and several cottages. There was also the messuage called New Court, then in occupation of Mrs Ann Lane.

Hunt had made a fresh settlement in 1797, in anticipation of his son's marriage and his own re-marriage. His second wife was Anna Nettleship, who brought him a portion of £800. As his widow, she was to receive an annuity of £300 and the messuage called New Court was to be a dower house for her. William Hunt, who on coming of age had taken the name Prinn in addition, was to have an annuity of £60 from the day of his father's re-marriage and a further £200 a year from the day of his own marriage; on the father's death, he would of course come into possession of the mansion and all the settled property. New Court would revert to him after his step-mother's death. In case there were children of the second marriage, Dodington Hunt reserved Ravensgate farm bought from John Collett and others, and premises called Grevill's (a copyhold tenement at Up End) bought of Robert Arkell of Whittington Court, with power to appoint shares for such children; but William Hunt Prinn had the right to buy in the farm and lands for £3500 within 12 months of his father's death. (As there were no children of the second marriage, this clause never became operative).

The marriage of Dodington Hunt and Anna Nettleship took place on 9 November 1798. Dodington Hunt died on 2 November 1803 aged 60; his will was proved on 14 March 1804. In it he left his widow an extra £300 in addition to her settlement, and her watch, rings, jewels and "other paraphernalia of her person" - he gave £100 to Gloucester Infirmary, 30 gns to the poor of Charlton Kings and 10 gns to the poor of his native place, Sandford Orcas (to be disposed there by his Cousin John Hunt junior and John Down). Besides these legacies, he gave Thomas Nettleship (his brother-in-law) £20 and, more unexpectedly, £100 to James Dodington Sherwood, Captain in the East India Company. Sherwood must have been a very distant connection, related to the testator on the Dodington side. Son and wife were to be executors. Mrs. Anna Hunt survived her husband 10 years, dying 3 June 1813 aged 63.

I have not found the marriage of William Hunt Prinn; but it must have been through his wife that he came into possession of the estate in Wales, mentioned in his will.

The following table, showing the order of succession laid down in that will has been compiled with the help of Somerset Record Office.

ORDER OF SUCCESSION ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF WILLIAM HUNT PRINN 1818 (I-XII)

HUNT

John Hunt of Compton

Pauncefoot (d.1721) m

(1) Elizabeth d of Charles Roscarrick

(2) on 8 Feb 1700, Elizabeth Lloyd (d.1750)

John

(1702-1740)

m. (1724) Elizabeth (1734)

Brodrepp (d.1743)

William

Bragge

Elizabeth Dodington

(1709-1750)

m. (1) the Revd John

Jekyll

(2) Joseph Jekyll

(1779)

John 5 other 1 dau

sons

(1725-1807)

m. Honor

Hussey (d.1823)

Dodington

of Inner

Temple (d.1803)

m. (1) Elizabeth of Margam,

PRINN d of Wm Glam. 1797

Prinn (D.1772) o. s. p.

(2) Anna

Nettleship

(1798) - d. 1813

John Hubert HUNT

of Compton

Pauncefoot, only

son (1775-)

(IX)

George

Bragge

PROWSE

(took

name

PRINN)

o. s. p.

(I)

William Hunt

PRINN (1772-

1821) will 1818

m. Hester (d. 1822)

s. p.

William Frederick

JEKYLL (W.H. Prinn's

godson), inherited

under Hester Prinn's

will.

DODINGTON

? daughter m. Sherwood

James Dodington SHERWOOD E. I. C., Major-General (d. 1837) (II)

Jane Eliza (III)

m. (1) Sir William Russell

1st Bt

(2) William Heathorn

Dame Jane Eliza Russell took the name

PRINN on inheriting (1841). She d.

1888 aged 90

Anne

(d. 1839)

(IV)

Violet

(V)

Louisa

(VI)

Sarah

(VII)

Caroline Stuart (all daughters unkn. 1818)

(VIII)

Sir William Russell 2nd Bt (1822-1892) m. Margaret only dau of Robert Wilson

Sir William 3rd Bt (1865-1915)

Albert (1869-1914)

o. s. p.

Margaret Jane (1867 -)

m. (1) in 1900 Herbert John Allcroft (d. 1911)

(2) in 1917 Brig-Genl John Guy Rotton

CB, CMG

son o. s. p. Jewell, m. Sir Philip Magnus

WEBB of Roundhill

Wincanton

Nathaniel

Elizabeth

(d. 1797)

m. (1) the Revd John

Jekyll

(2) Joseph Jekyll

(1779)

Capt John RN Nathaniel

45th Regt

m. Lucinda

Jane, dau

of Thomas

Storie

Campbell;

o. s. p. 1826

(XI)

George Jane

(Revd)

m. (1794)

o. s. p. Thomas -

(1843)

(XII)

h) The Succession

William Hunt Prinn made his will on 14 March 1818. He confirmed his settlement on his wife Hester; provided for a child, apparently his; left his wife some properties in co Glamorgan absolutely and his Gloucestershire property for her life; and then considered the future of the family estate, since he and Hester had no issue, and he had no relation on either side nearer to him than a second cousin. From among his relatives and connections, he selected 12 possible inheritors to take after his wife's death, some very distant kin being preferred to most of his "cousins". The family tree shows this more clearly. Two days later, he added a codicil to his will in order to explain his actions, make some personal bequests, and give directions about his corpse. He left his great-aunt Mrs Elizabeth Millard, widow, £500 and £500 in stock if he should have so much in the publick funds. "Mrs Millard assured me by word of mouth that she never should quit Wells and utterly and absolutely refused Charlton being left her, which otherwise my sense of Duty & affection would certainly have induced me to have done - she declared she had income sufficient & wanted no addition - as she has always been a Mother to me I might appear ungrateful if I had not stated the above facts". He left money to 3 godchildren. "I leave to Dr. Newell MD of Cheltenham the Spanish grandee's walking stick given me by the Revd Hugh Huges (deceased) and brought from Spain by Col. Leggatt in 1809. I positively order and direct that my body shall be opened and minutely examined within 24 hours after my decease and five guineas to be given to the Professional Gentleman who does it - I should prefer Dr Newell if he can conveniently attend."

This obsessive interest in his health and the state of his internal organs confirms the impression of invalidism given by his epitaph in St Mary's "In the Service of his God, his Country, and his Fellow Creatures, the Energies of his Comprehensive and Benevolent Mind were Uniformly Exerted to the Utmost that a Delicate State of Health would permit. Beloved and Lamented by all who knew him, he closed his Mortal Life January 10th 1821, Aged 48 years." His wife did not live 2 years after her husband - she died 27 December 1822 - and then the estate went to the first in succession under the will, Colonel George Bragge Prowse, who took the name Prinn. He died without issue on 12 January 1839; and as the second in succession Major-General James Dodington Sherwood had died on 18 January 1837 without male issue, Charlton Park became the inheritance of his eldest daughter Jane Eliza, who had married the 1st Sir William Russell. She too took the name Prinn and continued to use it after a second marriage in 1842 to William Heathorn.

The property was then re-settled, her son the 2nd Sir William Russell being of age. The family silver and pictures were to be heirlooms; and this decision produced an interesting list of all the important pictures in the house, with their locations. Among family portraits were those of Dodington Hunt by Gainsborough, of Dodington Hunt and his wife, of William Hunt Prinn when 4 years old by Beech, of the Revd John Hunt by Beech, of Dodington Hunt the father, of William Prinn by Taylor, of a lady "supposed to be William Prinn's wife", two of Mrs Lloyd (William Hunt Prinn's great grandmother mentioned in the Revd John Prinn's will) and one of her son ("Uncle Lloyd")

"A View of Charlton Park in its former State" is, of course, Thomas Robins' picture of the house, now in Cheltenham Art Gallery. In addition, there were pictures claimed to be by Holbein, Tintoretto, Jansen, Wouverman and others, but they were probably copies or pictures "after" the master.

There was a new and accurate survey of the estate, and this information was incorporated in the 1843 settlement.

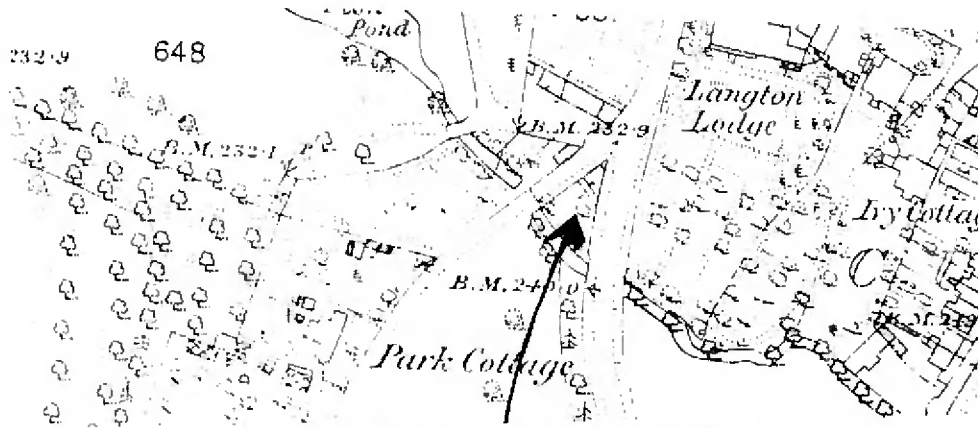
This is how Charlton Park itself was described in the survey of 1843.

1.	Mansion House, yards, shrubberies	-	2.1.0
1a.	Pleasure garden, walks etc	-	-.2.15
2.	Kitchen garden	garden	1.1.35
3.	House and garden, Samuel Carter occupier (bailiff's house)	-	0.1.31
4.	Entrance lodge and garden	-	0.0.17
5.	Green Hunts	grass	7.2.27
6.	Upper Croft and Potatoe ground	grass	6.1.15
7.	Upper Wing	"	5.1.29
8.	The Lawn	"	1.2.9
9.	Lower Wing	"	4.0.21
10.	The Lake	water	2.1.26
11.	Old Park	grass	16.1.0
12.	Bembridge (part in Charlton, part in Cheltenham)		16.1.35
12a	Narrow slip outside Bembridge) (" ")	"	0.1.25
13.	Plantation (in Cheltenham)	wood	0.0.33
14.	The Flats and Deer Sheds	grass	22.0.38
15.	Plantation, partly stubbed	wood & arable	1.0.34
16.	Bourton Bank (<u>recte</u> Forden)	grass	24.0.0
Total within Charlton Park			113.0.30

No 15, "Plantation, partly stubbed" and no 35 "Remainder of Fir Plantation" in hand, may relate to some of the groves of fir trees planted by William Prinn, which are shown as young trees in Thomas Robins' painting. They would have been mature timber by 1843, and too regular for later taste.

"Entrance Lodge and garden" refers to the small brick house built in a triangular plot where the back drive comes out into Cirencester Road. I had taken it for a turnpike cottage and been puzzled to think why a toll house should be built facing the back drive which was no longer a public road, with a blank wall to the new turnpike - the style of the building was clearly post 1826. The deeds explain that this land had gone with Charlotteville, a house in Cudnall later called Langton Lodge; there was an orchard, Cowell Orchard, along the stream below the house, on part of which a stable

and coach-house had been built. When the new road was cut, these had to be pulled down, and an odd triangle of land was left between the old and new roads. On this a cottage was built which the Revd John Harwood sold to Dame Jane Eliza Russell for £130 in 1840. That was how Charlton Park estate acquired one tiny corner of land north of the Chelt. (24)



i) Landscaping the park

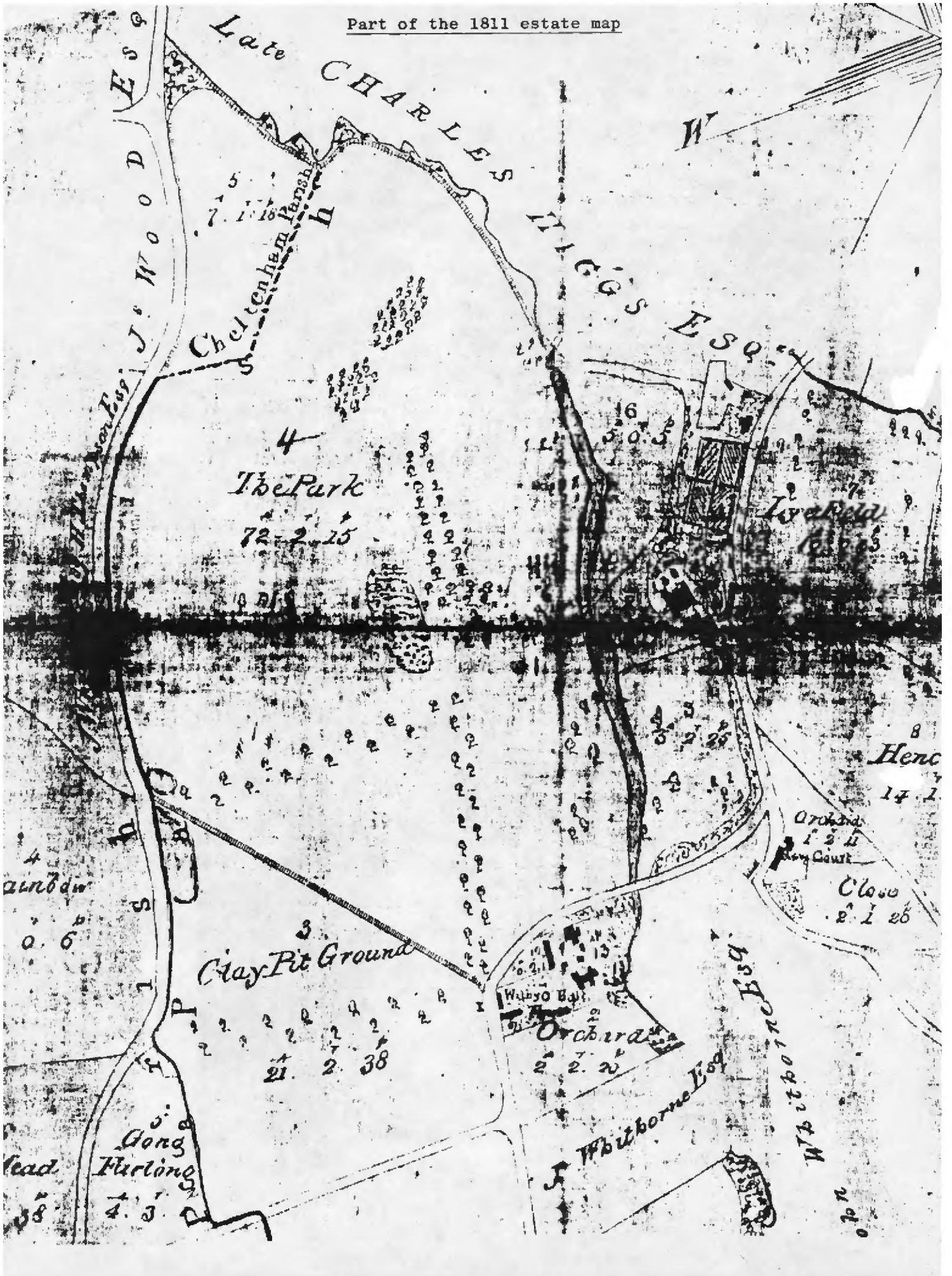
Bigland's print shows a smooth lawn between the house and the stream, but no lake. The creation of the lakes and improvements in the park were the work of William Hunt Prinn. He succeeded in 1803, on his father's death, and the excavation of the main lake in front of the house, with the smaller ponds and waterfalls above and below it, was his first concern. That work had been completed by 1811, as we know from the estate map; and the ice-house near the lake must also date from this period.



The Lake and a
Waterfall c.1919



Part of the 1811 estate map



However, the 1811 estate map assures us that at that date, nothing had been done to vary the old arrangement of the park. Something was done very soon afterwards. The New Guide to Cheltenham (pp.133-47) printed for S.Bettison c.1820, describes Charlton Park as "the residence of W.H.Prinn esq. shrouded amid luxuriant scenery and enlivened by herds of deer. Some years since, the manor house was re-built in a modern and commodious style; but the park and pleasure grounds being naturally low, did not admit of much picturesque beauty. However, the present possessor has evinced the superior excellence of the improved art of gardening, when applied with sound judgement and real taste, in relieving the flatness of some parts by objects with which the distances are pleasingly broken, and giving the rivulet a delightful effect by widening and enlarging it. A circuit of about two miles is inclosed within the park-pale; and we may truly observe, that it wears a face of scenery new and beautiful, such as its former appearance could not have promised". This glowing description is hardly borne out by the little evidence we have. The 1843 estate map does, indeed, show that the avenues had been thinned to scattered trees. Some trees had been planted - probably all the large cedars now standing. They are not as big as the cedars near the house, 30 years or so younger; W.H.Prinn could have planted them between 1812 and 1820. No eye-catchers are indicated in 1843, no architectural "features".



A cedar in the park 1982

The Scots pines which were so noteworthy when Miss D.Vassar-Smith photographed her favourite views (some still survive) represent landscaping of the 1840s, soon after the new settlement and map of 1843; while the Wellingtonias or Sequoias are unlikely to have been planted before the 1860s - this tree was introduced into Russia in 1840 but did not become popular here for some 20 years.

Part of the 1843 estate map





Two features at Charlton Park can be related to the making of Cirencester Road in 1826. One is the dry-stone wall that surrounds the pleasure grounds, with the vase finials on the gate posts (moved back a little c.1939 when the entrance was widened). The other is the iron railing that inclosed the park.



- (1) The stream here was called "Foorden brooke" in 1612 (GRO D 855 M 10 f.36). The bridge is referred to in 1623 (D 1224).
- (2) Two tenants were ordered to cleanse their ditches "next a certeine way lyeing att Bayes Hill in Allston leading towards Charleton Kings, the which much annoyes the way to the hindrance of passengers--" on 30 September 1631 (D 855 M 10 f.89v). The name "Sandy Lane" is not old.
- (3) See Nigel Cox's paper in Glevensis 14 pp 21-2 (GARARG 1980)
- (4) Q/SRh 1784 C/1.
- (5) In Cheltenham Art Gallery.
- (6) QSRh 1777 A/1
- (7) Ham, a safe dwelling, a village. "The element ham is found in most parts of the country but --- it is relatively uncommon or rare in the NW(---), the Midlands (---) and the W.Midlands and SW. This distribution would suggest that ham belongs to the earlier period of the English settlement and that it was becoming obsolete as a place-name term as the settlement advanced towards the West". A.H. Smith Place-Name Elements (1970) I 226-7.

tun, a fence or hedge, then an inclosed field, an inclosure with a dwelling, finally a hamlet or village "-- in the older period when place names in tun were being created, they are not likely to have denoted" more than a farmstead. "The later development of meaning to 'hamlet' 'village' followed the growth of a village round its nucleus farmstead" ibid. II 190.

For the meaning of Charlton, see H.R. Finburg Lucerna

- (8) A.H. Smith Place Names of Gloucestershire pp 96-101.
- (9) Once the system was set up, the division into tithings remained fixed. See Cheltenham Court books, GRO D 855/
- (10) The other crossings of this stream were higher up, at Grindles ford and at the end of Bafford Lane - the tracks that forded the brook there came from Leckhampton and led towards Charlton church, which makes them later in origin than the church (built c.1190).
Mr. Jennings of Park Cottages, who worked for many years in the garden of Charlton Park, says the gravel bed there is at least 20 ft deep.
- (11) I am grateful to Mike Greet for these references to the Fordes:-
Simon Cirencester Cartulary II 384 (429/461; 431/463)
Thomas ibid. III 898 (472), GRO D 1876/1 and 2, Hundred roll 1274.
John D1876/1
Agnes D1876/3
Thomas - mentioned in rental of Cheltenham manor, c.1450
John Grevill holds a messuage and virgate freely in Bafford, late of John Grevill his father, and formerly of Thomas de la Forde. (D855 M 68)
- (12) D 1224.
- (13) D 1224. Evidence given in a case about Reynold's tenement - John Hikkes who held the premises by demise of Sir Edward Grevill deposed "he cannot precisely say whether the premises ought to be the inheritance of the plaintiff (William Reynolds) or of Robert Grevill esq now Lord of the manor"-- he thought there were two manors "--and both the seyde manors have bene in the handes & possession of divers other persons before this tyme wythin the tyme of his remembrans--"
- (14) D855 M 68.

- (15) Old Houses of Gloucestershire - 900 years of History at Charlton Park a paper written for Cheltenham Civic Society by E.Scott-Skirving, W.L. Mellersh, and L.W. Bayley. I am grateful to Mr Bayley for allowing me to see a copy.
- (16) Afterwards Mrs Marriott. The album was later given to Miss E. Statham, who generously gave it to me when the Local History Society was founded.
- (17) D 1224.
- (18) This estate map and another of 1843 have been copied for us by Mr C.W.K. Donaldson, and have been a tremendous help in placing fields mentioned by name in court books and deeds.
- (19) Information from Mr Jennings, Park Cottages; the lime trees were planted the day he was born.
- (20) They were shifted from the north transept to the south transept after the 1876-8 restoration, when a pipe organ was to be installed; two were taken back to the north transept when the reredos was added to the altar in St David's chapel (the marks on the wall behind it are still visible) For inscriptions, see Bulletin 5 pp 40-51.
- (21) Gwen Hart History of Cheltenham (1965), p.141.
- (22) The tree at th NW corner of the west range can hardly have been there before the alterations; both cedars appear coeval or very slightly older than the cedar in front of Ashley Firs, a house built in 1792.
- (23) BGAS 92 (1973) p.177; Bulletin 5 p.65.
- (24) D 1224. The cottage has been demolished. Mr Jennings (who lived in it) says there was a wire in an earthenware pipe connected to a bell in the cellar; this was to summon the lodge keeper to open the drive gate, probably kept locked to stop people using what had been a public road. The sketch reproduced in miniature belongs to Mr. Jennings, and is by the late V. Holman.

Mary Paget

4. THE THREE SIR WILLIAM RUSSELLS OF CHARLTON PARK

During the last century, the three holders of the Russell Baronetcy, which was created in 1832 and lapsed in 1915, all of whom were named Sir William Russell, lived at Charlton Park for a part of their lives.

The first Baronet, a Scot, was born near Edinburgh in 1773, the son of a Writer to the Signet. He qualified as a Doctor at Edinburgh, and then emigrated to India, where he acquired a large and successful practice. He became an expert in the treatment and prevention of Cholera. Doctor Russell, as he then was, married twice. His first wife, a first cousin, bore him two daughters, and the second, and the more significant from the standpoint of this note, was Jane Eliza Sherwood, the daughter of Major-General James Dodington Sherwood. This second marriage took place on 1 December 1814, the bride aged 17 and the bridegroom aged 41.

Under the Will made by William Hunt Prinn on 14 March 1818 Mrs Russell was given a life interest in the Manor of Ashley otherwise Charlton Kings and the lands associated with it which included the principal mansion house of Charlton Park. This life interest was limited to take effect after a similar interest given to her father, and immediately before a life interest given to

her first son in tail male. Dr Russell himself received no interest under these dispositions.

By Dr. Russell's second marriage there were six children: five daughters and a son named William, born on 6 April 1822.

Dr Russell returned to England with his family, making his home in York Place, Portman Square, London. In 1830 or thereabouts he travelled to Russia with another doctor, David Barry, so as to study and advise the Imperial Government on a cholera epidemic which had spread there from the East and was eventually to reach Great Britain in 1831. For his services Dr Russell was made an Honorary Member of the Imperial Academy of Medicine and Surgery of St Petersburg and a Knight Commander of the Order of St Anne of Russia. Following his return to England he was appointed by the British Government in November 1831 to be a member of a Central Board of Health which had been formed to combat the epidemic, and in recognition of the capacity he then showed was made a Baronet of the United Kingdom on 9 April 1832. A little earlier he had been proposed for a Fellowship of the Royal Society, and was elected Fellow on 5 April 1832. Those supporting him were leaders of his profession, headed by the President of the College of Physicians, Sir Henry Hallford, but besides these there were a naturalist, a botanist and an orientalist, perhaps testifying to Sir William having interests other than those that were purely medical.

Major-General Sherwood died on 18 January 1837, whereupon Lady Russell became entitled to enjoy her life interest under the Will of William Hunt Prinn. I assume that she then took possession of Charlton Park and the rest of her interest, since it was at Charlton Park that Sir William died on 26 September 1839, aged 66, to be succeeded by his son William, then aged 17.

In obedience to the wishes of William Hunt Prinn declared in his Will, Lady Russell assumed in February 1841, pursuant to Royal Licence, the name of Prinn in lieu of Russell and became known as Lady Prinn. She continued to use that name after a second marriage to a City merchant named William Heathorn which took place in or about April 1842. Some years later Lady Prinn and Sir William Russell decided to break the entail on the family estates created by the Will of William Hunt Prinn and by a Disentailing Assurance dated 29 September 1851 these were vested in Sir William absolutely. Lady Prinn seems to have left Charlton Park at about this time and with her husband went to live at 14 Upper Wimpole Street, London. She died there aged 90 on 14 July 1888 less than four years before the death of the Second Baronet. Her husband, William Heathorn, survived her until May 1891, when he died aged 94.

In the meantime the Second Baronet had begun a career in the Army which ended in 1871 by his becoming a Lieutenant-General on the Retired List. Obtaining a Commission as a Cornet at the age of 19 in the 7th Hussars on 2 July 1841, he became a Lieutenant in 1846 when aged 24 and a Captain the next year. Extra-regimental employment followed between 1849 and 1852 as Master of the Horse and later Aide-de-Camp to Lord Clarendon, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

As time went by Sir William engaged himself in other than military affairs, becoming a Magistrate and a member of local Boards and concerned himself in the development of his estates and in commerce. For example, as a prominent local landowner he presided at a Meeting in 1853 of copyholders of the Manor of Cheltenham who had claimed that fees charged by the officers of the Manor were unauthorised by custom. Litigation followed, terminating in favour of the copyholders in 1856.

It will be recalled that British participation in the Crimean war began officially by a declaration of war on Russia on 31 March 1854 by Great Britain and France leading in due course to a landing at the Crimea in September of that year. Early the next year it was announced locally that Sir William was about to leave for the theatre of war and subscriptions were collected towards a testimonial. This took the form of an engraved silver salver presented to him at a public meeting on 28 August 1855 at the Charlton Kings Infant School. From Sir William's speech of thanks it appears that at that time he was not under orders and did not have immediate plans to leave, but in due course he did, acting for a time as a deputy to staff officers of the Cavalry Division. Although fighting seems to have ended at about the end of 1855 a formal proclamation of peace was not made in Cheltenham until 1 May 1856.

Following his return from the Crimea Sir William entered national politics for the first time, being elected on 28 March 1857 as a Liberal and one of the two Members of Parliament for Dover. He also took up local responsibilities holding appointment as a Cheltenham Improvement Commissioner between 1857 and 1858.

However May 1857 saw the beginnings of the Indian Mutiny during the course of which Sir William greatly distinguished himself as a soldier. As the mutiny progressed it became clear that the East India Company's forces must be strengthened by troops from Home if the outbreak was to be put down. As a result Sir William left with the 7th Hussars from Canterbury (where it was then stationed) on 18 August 1857 for Gravesend and sailed on the troopship Lightning for India, disembarking at Calcutta on 23 November after a voyage of 87 days. The 7th Hussars were sent to Lucknow, arriving there in February 1858 in time for the capture of the town. Various subsidiary operations against the rebels followed during that year and Sir William did not leave for England until March 1859. He had become Lieutenant-Colonel of his Regiment in November 1858, was mentioned in Despatches, and was made C.B. on 11 May 1859. He also received the India Medal with clasp.

Sir William suffered a political setback when defeated at Dover on 10 April 1859 at a General Election, but he was enabled to return to Parliament as one of the two Liberal members for Norwich on 28 March 1860. There he remained until 1874, being re-elected in 1865 and 1868. In more local affairs, he became a Cheltenham Magistrate in January 1860 and one of the Local Improvement Commissioners for Charlton Kings in 1862. This was the beginnings of the Charlton Kings Local Board of Health which was constituted in 1868. Active Army service was however coming to an end, and after exchanging from the 7th to the 14th Hussars in 1861 he took half pay and went into retirement on 29 November 1864.

In his private life, Sir William took the important step of marriage on 1 January 1863 when, aged 41, he was married at Hove, Brighton, to Margaret, the only daughter of Robert Wilson of Dundivan, Lanark. Local newspaper gossip spoke of her having a fortune of her own of between £100,000 and £150,000 and of being young and exceedingly handsome. From this marriage came two sons; William the eventual Third and last Baronet, born in 1865, and Albert born in 1869. There was also a daughter, Margaret Jane, born in 1867.

In common with other local landowners Sir William interested himself in the prospects of improving the existing system of railway development in and around Cheltenham. In 1861 he opposed the building of a railway between Cheltenham and Bourton-on-the-Water, but this may have been because he himself

was then closely concerned as to another intended railway also running Eastwards which later that year was launched as the East Gloucestershire Railway and became the subject of several Private Acts of Parliament between 1862 and 1868. The first of these, the Act of 1862, authorised only the making of three short stretches of railway, but it never came into operation effectively being enacted conditionally on agreement being reached immediately as to the route of a further line running into Cheltenham which was not forthcoming within the time limited by the Act. Thus everything fell to the ground and a fresh Act had to be obtained in 1864. In both of these Acts Sir William's name appears first amongst the Promoters which included other local men of importance amongst them Sir Michael Edward Hicks Beach later Earl St. Aldwyn.

The Company's Act of 1864 provided for six lines of railway which when taken together and with those of other railways with which it was hoped to co-operate would have provided a link between Cheltenham and Oxford and thence to London, and a connection North of Oxford with another railway running Eastwards towards Cambridge and the Eastern Counties. Unfortunately it never seemed possible to achieve all that had been hoped for. Only a small 12-mile length of line was ever built by the Company and this was opened in 1873. In 1890 the Company was taken over by the Great Western Railway Company, £2.7s.6d. being paid for each £10.0s.0d. of the Gloucestershire Company's Ordinary Stock.

Despite the obvious lack of success it must be appreciated that this promotion was not purely speculative, but a bona fide attempt by local landowners to improve on what they rightly considered were the inadequate facilities - particularly towards London - that had been provided for the district by the Great Western and the Midland Railway Companies.

In 1866 Sir William decided, presumably with a view to disposal by sale or mortgage, to have his title to the landed property owned by him in the Parish of Charlton Kings and the locality registered at the Office of Land Registry under the Land Transfer Act, 1862. This was a most exceptional action, since in general the facilities afforded by the Act had not proved attractive to landowners or their legal advisers.

The registration process involved an official examination of the applicant's often very lengthy documentary title which, if approved, and after publicity in the shape of advertisements in newspapers, and notices served on neighbours, led to entries being made on an official register. These consisted of an official description of the land coupled with a map prepared at the Tithe Commission, the name of the registered owner, and finally details of any burdens on his land such as mortgages. Advantages lay in the fact that to prove ownership the proprietor need only disclose the register entries and the plan. Past history and any possible defects in title were blotted out by the fact of registration.

The official advertisement of Sir William's application which appeared in The Gloucestershire Journal of 11 August 1866 taken with the evidence given to a Royal Commission which reported in 1870 on the working of the 1862 Act provide particulars of the areas of land involved and their values. The Royal Commission was told that the application was of some magnitude and complexity.

So far as concerns the Parish of Charlton Kings only, the title to the Manor or Lordship of the Manor of Ashley valued at £3,000 was to be registered and also to Charlton Park (of which part fell also in the Parish of Cheltenham) containing about 113 acres and valued at £56,000. In addition

there were 22 separate named estates and the Charlton and Ravensgate Commons. Taken as a whole, the entire application, which affected also land outside our Parish, related to about 2,107 acres of land which, when the Manor of Ashley is included, had a total value of just under £250,000.

All this property passed away from Sir William after he had suffered the financial disaster in 1870 to which I refer later. The Manor of Ashley, however, came back to the third Baronet in the early part of this century.

At the same time as he proceeded with railway promotion and the development of his estates, Sir William also engaged in what after his death was described as a 'gigantic' scheme. This was the formation with others of a public company called The Metropolis Sewage and Essex Reclamation Company with an authorised share capital of £2,100,000.

In outline, the company was created under two private Acts of Parliament passed in 1865 and 1866 to exploit a concession which had been obtained by two men, one of whom was a V.C. of the Crimean war, to utilize the effluent from the London Northern Outfall Sewer in fertilizing for agricultural purposes some 7,000 acres of foreshore that the company was authorised to reclaim off the Essex coast at the Maplin Sands. The effluent was to be conveyed by brick conduit required to be not less than 9½ feet in diameter cross-country from Abbey Mills, near Bow, to Maplin, a distance of some 30 miles. The Acts envisaged that the reclaimed foreshore was to be converted into farmland, populated, and eventually incorporated administratively into the mainland.

Public support for the company was not forthcoming, but the subject of sewage farming in general was then a matter of serious concern to agriculturalists and others, and it is of interest to see that the Institute of Surveyors was prepared to spend two of its meetings in 1871 to hearing and then discussing a progress report from the Manager of the farm that the company had succeeded in establishing at Lodge Farm, Barking. From this it seems that marketable and profitable crops could be obtained, although the general verdict at the end was that the matter required further study and discussion.

After the failure of the Sewage Company to obtain public support, Sir William appears to have carried on business as a shipowner at 19 Billiter Street in the City of London and it was from that business address that in March 1870 he presented his petition to the London Bankruptcy Court for the liquidation of his affairs by arrangement, admitting debts of £575,000 which he was unable to pay. The petition was successful, and in June 1870 a majority of creditors appointed a trustee to carry out the liquidation. It is to be noted that this course of action did not incur the formal stigma of bankruptcy, but there can be no doubt that Sir William's creditors stripped him of almost all his possessions including the landed property, and he was in due course obliged to vacate Charlton Park.

It would be thought, perhaps, that these misfortunes would have necessitated a complete retirement into obscurity. But Sir William must have shown great courage in remaining for a time in public life. In 1871 he not only became a Lieutenant-General on the Retired List, but published his own scheme for reorganisation of the Army. (This was about the time of Lord Cardwell's reforms.) He then continued as M.P. for Norwich until 1874 when he retired.

Sir William died, aged 69, at his home, 66 Gloucester Street, Warwick Square, London, on 19 March 1892. At his funeral service at St. Stephen's Church, Westminster, there was a large attendance of private and military friends of the family, interment following at the family burying ground in Highgate Cemetery. Surviving him were his Widow, Margaret, the two sons, William and Albert, and the daughter, Margaret Jane. Sir William had left personal estate having a gross value of £78, and his Will dated 11 November 1891 in which he left all his property to his Wife, Margaret, was not proved by the Third Baronet until 11 March 1893.

The Third Sir William Russell was educated at Fettes School in Scotland, and obtained for himself a post having special responsibilities as Assistant Auditor of the Civil List at the Treasury. It may have been his experience of and relationship with the Royal Household that led to appointment as Secretary of the Committee for organising the Coronation of King Edward VII. This duty will have been arduous since the ceremony had to be postponed as a result of the King having to undergo an operation for appendicitis on 24 June 1902. Inevitably the ceremony that took place on 9 August 1902 was curtailed. Sir William never married, and died at his sister's home in Shropshire on 25 November 1915.

One having family knowledge has favoured me with some items of recollection and comment which serve to put flesh on what is inevitably an assembly of dry facts collected from many sources. The Third Baronet was a sportsman and very well liked. He had to accept that though he was brought up to be rich he must come to terms with the fact that he was not. The Second Baronet had the reputation of being the handsomest man in the British Army and he strove to have everything about him big and grand, even down to his hairbrushes and his armchair. But he was a fine soldier with a host of friends who did not leave him in his time of trouble but helped as best they could when disaster came for himself and his family. The First Baronet was handsome too in a less flamboyant and more scholarly way than that of his son. He was a most distinguished Doctor.

Are there any relics of the three Baronets in Charlton Kings today? Apart from the memorial to the First Baronet and Lady Prinn in St. Mary's Parish Church there seems to be nothing. We have no Russell Streets or Roads, and the Russell Arms in Hales Road displays the Arms of the Duke of Bedford. However as we pass the gates of Charlton Park Convent today, we can bear in mind the following passage from the 1863 Queen's edition of Norman's History of Cheltenham which is a useful indication of local opinion of the Second Baronet and his family at that time:-

"We thus see that ... down to Dr. Russell, the benevolent and philanthropic preventer of the spread of a dire epidemic, and his son Sir W. Russell, bart. the patriot, the statesman, and defender of his country - that this family have acquired their honour and renown by their intrinsic merits. On this account they deserve to be recorded on the pages of not only local but national history. The ancient family crest surmounts the massive pillars at the entrance to the mansion at Charlton Park, and it is truly characteristic of the military courage displayed by the owner - a Spread Eagle issuing from a coronet."

C.W.K. DONALDSON

5. CHARLTON TEAMS - some old photographs lent by Mr and Mrs. E. Skinner.
Can you identify anyone?

(1) CHARLTON ST MARYS FOOTBALL CLUB 1920



Back row	(1)	Richard Wakefield
	(2)	- Wakefield senior (his father)
	(3)	Frank Jordan
	(4)	
	(5)	
	(6)	Frank Neather
Middle row	(7)	Sam Dodwell
	(8)	Frank Denley
	(9)	Fred French
	(10)	Wally Peart
	(11)	
Front row	(12)	Cecil Woodman
	(13)	Roy Knight
	(14)	Cecil Hodgkinson

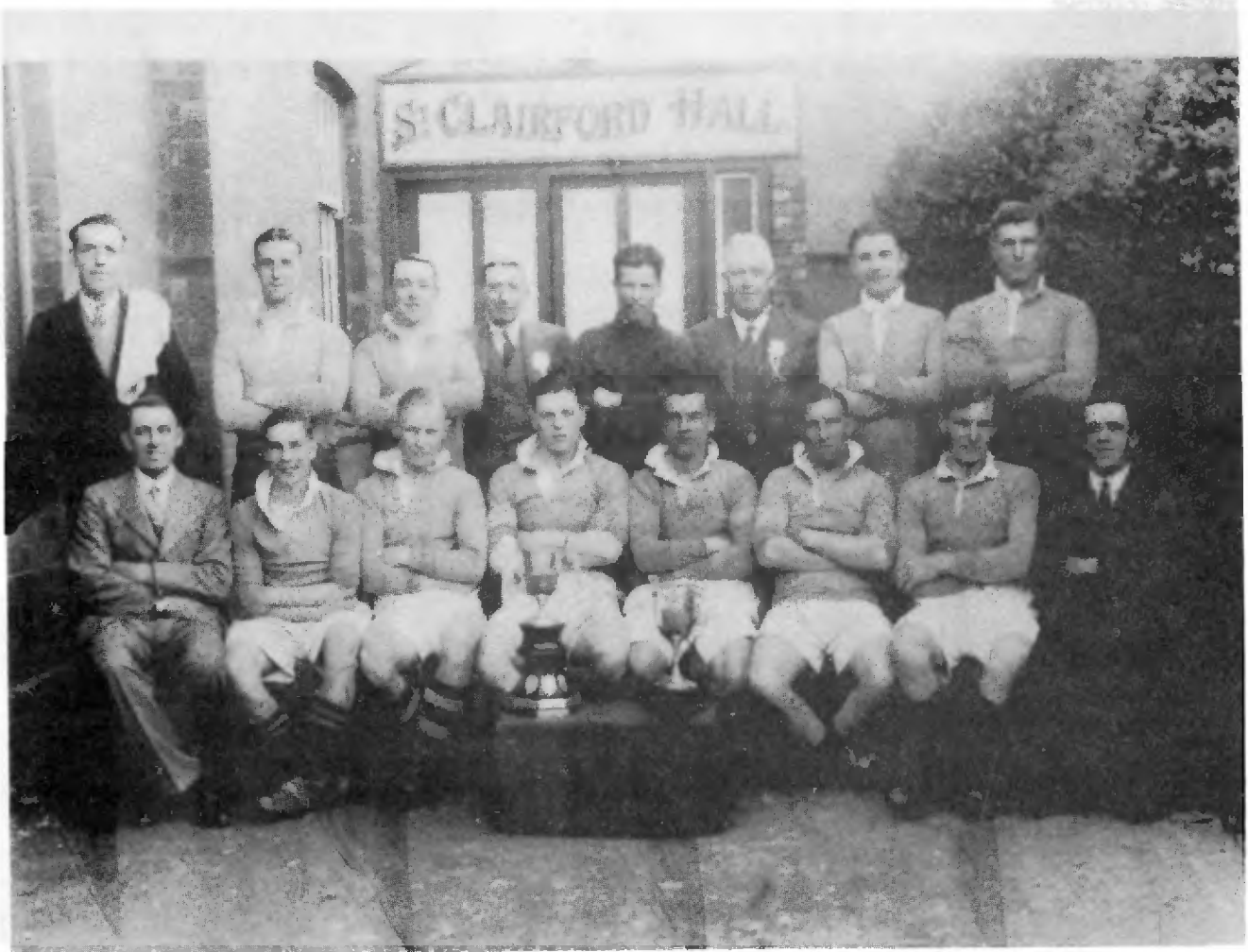
(2) CHARLTON KINGS FOOTBALL TEAM c.1927-9



- | | | |
|-----------|------|--------------------------|
| Back row | (1) | Cyril Johnson |
| | (2) | Fred Cox |
| | (3) | - Jarvey |
| | (4) | Jack Wright |
| | (5) | Alf Sutton or - Selick |
| | (6) | Tom Mobley |
| | (7) | Bert Lawrence or Gillman |
| | (8) | Wilf Wakefield |
| | (9) | Vick Hughes |
| Front row | (10) | Reg Mobley |
| | (11) | Bert Butt |
| | (12) | George Page |
| | (13) | George (Cub) Harris |
| | (14) | Walt Denley |
| | (15) | Sid Johnson |
| | (16) | Jack Humphris |

(3) CHARLTON KINGS FOOTBALL TEAM (Outside St Clairford Hall at the Club)
c.1930

Back row (1) Vick Smith
(2) Bert Lawrence
(3) Reg Mobley
(4) Fred Eakitts
(5) Sammy Crooks
(6) Dick Smith (surveyor)
(7) Ron Palin
(8)
Front row (9) Jack Palin
(10)
(11)
(12) Perrin Prout
(13) Bobbie Roberts
(14) G. Williams
(15) Jack Protherough
(16) Wally Peart



(4) CHARLTON KINGS CRICKET TEAM



- Back row (1)
(2) Wakefield senior
(3) Arthur Boroughs
(4) Frank Boroughs
(5) Wilf Wakefield
(6) Harry Kilminster
(7)
(8)
- Front row (9)
(10) ? Billy Simmons
(11) George Sadler
(12) Maurice Wakefield
(13) Richard Boroughs
(14) Fred Phipps
(15) Albert Mitchell

6 A MORE PRECISE DATE FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE 12th CENTURY CHAPEL AT CHARLTON KINGS

In the Cartulary of Cirencester Abbey (1) is the notification (2) by William, bishop of Hereford, that he had dedicated, at the request of Richard, abbot of Cirencester, the chapel of Charlton Kings. The document is undated, but

it is attributed by Professor Ross to the period between 1187 (when Richard became abbot) and 1198 (when bishop William died). It can, I think, be dated more precisely than that, however. It is likely that the bishop would have acted as a substitute for the bishop of Worcester only when the see of Worcester (in which Charlton was until 1541) was vacant. A separate document (3), an indult of Pope Celestine III, dated 31 July 1195, mentions the chapel at Charlton, so clearly it had already been dedicated by then.

There were only two vacancies in the see of Worcester in the period 1187 to 1195. The first fell between the death of William of Northall, 3 May 1190, and the consecration of Robert Fitzralph, 5 May 1191. The second period was between the death of the latter on 27 June 1193 and the consecration of his successor, bishop Henry de Sully, on 12 December 1193. The dedication of the chapel can thus be assigned to one of these two periods, and cannot be later than 1193.

- (1) Edited by C.D. Ross, (OUP 1964)
- (2) Volume II, document 415
- (3) Volume I, document 158

M.J. Greet

7. ST MARY'S BELLS

St. Mary's has a peal of 8 bells. Originally there were 6, but now there are 8. Some of the peal were cast by local bell-founders.

Treble	5 cwt	1893	Mears and Stainbank, London
2nd	5 cwt	1893	
3rd	5 cwt	1801	John Rudhall, Gloucester
5th	2 cwt	1893	John Palmer, Gloucester
6th	9 cwt	1630	
7th	11 cwt	1893	Mears and Stainbank
Tenor	17 cwt	1723	Abraham Rudhall, Gloucester

On Saturday 12 January 1867, the Charlton Kings Society of Change Ringers met to celebrate their second anniversary. They rang 286 scores of grandsires upon the bells of Charlton Kings church, and completed it in 2 hours 15 minutes. They afterwards sat down to dinner, with a party of friends from the Royal Inn, Mr Charles Freeman in the chair. To the toast "The Charlton Kings Society of Change Ringers", Mr Midwinter, a member, responded. The company broke up at seven o'clock after a very pleasant evening.

A tablet erected by the Society of Ringers of Charlton Kings records that on Tuesday 25 February 1868, they rang forty two grandsires six scores containing 5040 changes. This was believed to be the first peal rung on these bells, and the ringers were

Richard Shaylor	Treble
Henry Karn jun ^r	2nd
Walter Hemming	3rd
James Midwinter	4th
Walter James	5th
Henry Karn sen ^r	Tenor

conducted by James Midwinter.

On Saturday 15 June 1889, St Michael's Juniors, Gloucestershire and Bristol Diocesan Association, rang 5040 Plain Bob Major

Treble	Edward B. James
2nd	Francis E. Hart
3rd	Sydney E. Romans
4th	Raymond J. Wilkins
5th	Henry Mitchel
Tenor	William J. Sevier, conductor

A peal of Grandsire Triples, Taylor's Bob and Single Variation, was rung on Tuesday 13 June 1893, to commemorate the augmentation from 6 to 8 bells. The dedication had taken place on the preceding day.

Treble	James Midwinter
2nd	William T. Pates
3rd	Albert W. Humphries
4th	Francis E. Ward
5th	William Dyer
6th	Frederick White
7th	George Phillott
Tenor	Walter James

The Revd. T.Hodgson MA, Vicar; W. Bagnall and William Price churchwardens; Frederick White, bell-hanger.

Today the bells are rung regularly on Sundays for morning and evening services, and on Tuesdays for bell practice. We have an enthusiastic band of adults and young people.

Jackie Walker
(one of the ringers)

7. A WILL, AN INVENTORY, AND A SPECULATION

Jacob Portret lived in Cudnall, in the area of Spring Bottom, but not in the house which now bears his name. That had not been built. All we know about him to date has to be deduced from his will and from the inventory of his moveables made on 1 November 1744, at the time of his death (1). He was either a childless widower or a bachelor, for the only relations who receive legacies under his will are two nieces, Isabella and Mary Portret. These women must be the daughters of a brother, but since the will makes no mention of him, he had probably predeceased Jacob.

So far nothing has been found to indicate when or why Jacob Portret settled in Charlton Kings or where he had lived before coming here. Nor is there any indication where the nieces lived. The inventory shows that his house had three bedrooms, each with a feather bed, but there is nothing to suggest that the women lived with their uncle. Almost certainly the family were French or of French extraction. The surname shows this, so does the fact that the only books valued in the inventory are in French. He kept his books in the kitchen, and it is tempting to think he normally sat there, rather than in his elegantly furnished great parlour. At any rate, the kitchen is where he had his easy chair.

The inventory describes Jacob Portret as a fan painter. He was very comfortably situated, for his goods and chattels are valued at £162.2.6, among the 14 highest valuations in the parish which have so far come to light. He was well thought of socially, for the court books refer to him as Mr Portret. Moreover, William Prinn of Forden House (now Charlton Park) was a witness to his will, and Edward Gale, his neighbour, was his executor. No painting materials appear in the inventory, which suggests he had retired, but is not conclusive evidence of this. They might well be included among the "odd things" mentioned in several places. He had something over £100 invested in mortgages, a normal and safe form of investment at a time when banking was new and precarious.

He owned luxury goods, for silver plate and a silver watch appear in the inventory, and in his will he left his silk nightgown to Iazard daughter of Edward Gale and wife of John Mathews. It is perhaps well to note that this nightgown is what we call a dressing gown. It probable made Iazard a good dress.

The furnishings of Jacob Portret's house are of interest. He has all the normal kitchen gear. He has fifteen chairs, one easy chair, but only two stools, which suggests both wealth and attention to fashion and comfort. Stools are the chief seats of the poorer or more old-fashioned members of the community. He has a larger than usual number of pewter plates and dishes, three dozen of the former and fifteen of the latter, which suggests perhaps that he had once been a member of a larger family. However, this type of goods appears in most inventories; it is the quantity which is greater than usual. What is unusual is that Jacob Portret drank tea and coffee. He has one pewter pint pot only, but he had two coffee pots, eight earthen tea pots, 2 tea-kettles (as opposed to ordinary kettles ie vessels for cooking), a tea table and china. This is the only reference to tea furniture in any Charlton Kings inventory surviving in Gloucestershire Record Office, but it must not therefore be assumed that no one else in Charlton Kings took tea. The number of inventories which survive is relatively small, and we do know that one other man, Samuel Cooper, received a present of tea when it was something of a rarity.

There is very little to indicate Jacob Portrets' personal tastes, unless the possession of two pairs of garden shears and a wheelbarrow suggests that he liked gardening, and liked his hedges and grass well clipped and neat, after the Continental fashion.

The chief interest of his will, which is dated 20 December 1743, is the disposition of his goods. No mention is made of any real estate. He left a legacy of £50 to each of his nieces mentioned above, to be paid to them out of money owing from Edward Gale "in case I shall not use the same monies during my life time". But his chief legatee is Thomas Robins the artist, at this time a young man between twenty-seven and twenty-eight years of age. Robins is treated as a son. He is to receive £200 and careful provision for its payment is made; and he is to have all the furniture from the Hall and Parlour - in other words, the best furniture in the house. One would very much like to know more of the relationship between these two men, both of them in their own ways, painters. Thomas Robins' work often includes, besides his landscapes, a border of flowers, shells, and butterflies, painted in exquisite detail and with a greater technical skill than that exhibited in the main landscapes. Moreover, he did paint fans - there is one in Cheltenham Museum. Was he influenced in any way by the work of the older man? It is certainly likely. It could be that Thomas Robins was Portret's apprentice. He must have received instruction in art somewhere and it is hard to see where else he could have received it in Charlton Kings. Had the two men worked together on any joint enterprise? There are those eight earthen tea pots, a large

number for a single man. It rather suggests that they may have been acquired in the biscuit to be decorated to order, either for the firm manufacturing them, or, as was quite common, for local customers who could thus have them painted to their liking, often to celebrate a particular event such as a marriage. After decoration the pots were returned to the pottery for glost firing. It is not impossible that Jacob Portret and young Thomas Robins had worked together on some such project. But this is the merest speculation. As yet there is not one shred of evidence.

(1) G.R.O. wills 1745/80; inventories 1745/1

J. Paget

8. ISAAC BELL: GARDENER RHYMER

An interesting item in the Cheltenham Local Studies collection is a single copy of a small book, 138 pages long, Poems on Various Subjects by Isaac Bell (61G821) (1). The author was a gardener who lived in Charlton Kings for about 20 years in the early 19th century, during which he spent some three years, 1825-1828, working at East Court.

Though Bell did not claim to be more than "just a Rhymer" (quoting Burns on the title page of his book) with "humble lays; Expect not aught in them sublime to see", containing "scraps of rhyme, humble, simple, brief, that knows of nothing but the truth to speak", he clearly wished for the favour of "great folks". This he perhaps received, for his book contains a list of leading local inhabitants and business people as subscribers. However, he also offered his poetry to "the neither proud nor great" in the hope that "with it (they) may pass an hour away". Moreover, as he had a sharp and critical eye for social detail, his poems provide some insights concerning the local scene in Charlton in the period 1825 to 1830 or so. They thus interest the local historian. (2)

The main source of information about Bell is his own poetry. This information is of two types: (a) the evidence of the notes or dedications on the poems (b) the content of the poems themselves. While too much reliance on deductions from the latter can be dangerous - if no allowance is made for the possibility of artistic licence - the portrait which emerges seems reasonably clear cut and consistent. Other information has been used, where available, to fill out the picture.

Bell was born at "Maxton, near Tweedside", near the Jed, about 1801. He was orphaned at nine, and brought up by a maiden aunt. He was sent to school, but was often truant, fishing for trout or salmon - he was once caught by a water bailiff, punished, and then went to school (more regularly?) where "he got on very fast". He then tried working as a tailor, next as a cooper, but not liking these trades turned to gardening and trained for five years.

A sailor brother then came home and took him away to London, but returned to sea leaving Bell poor. After an unpleasant time in London, he secured a place where he stayed for five years. He had become a gentleman's gardener in Hampstead by March 1824 (a period when there was apparently something of a fashion for employing Scottish gardeners) and stayed until the employer (apparently George Collins) died aged 70 - Bell wrote an epitaph for him. He then left, apparently in 1825, to work for (Col) A. Nicholson at East Court. Colonel Nicholson had fought at Waterloo, and (of more importance to

Bell) had drunk with Robert Burns. In August 1828 Bell left East Court - later he may have been re-employed there.



East Court in 1826

The house had suffered a fire in 1825. The Bath and Cheltenham Gazette of 8 March 1825 says "On Friday morning a fire broke out at East Court, Charlton near Cheltenham, the seat of Alexander Nicholson esq, which burnt for a considerable time with great fury, consuming all the upper rooms and the roof, the melted lead from which ran down in torrents. It was first discovered about six o'clock: had it happened at night, there is no doubt that the entire fabric, with the whole of the splendid furniture, and a most valuable library of books etc would have been destroyed. The engines were immediately sent from Cheltenham; and it happily being the hour at which numbers of workmen were proceeding to their different employments, all the furniture, plate, books etc were speedily removed to the coach-house and outbuildings. Fortunately no lives were lost, nor have we heard of any accident. Mr Nicholson was insured; but it will take considerable time to rebuild the house which was justly admired by all who saw it. The pipe of the hall-stove is supposed to have caused the fire."

Since Bell does not refer to the fire, I presume he was not employed at East Court until after it had taken place.

By 1828 Bell had married Martha (Patty) Hooper, who had been born outside Gloucestershire about 1811. He was fond of his wife - "of wives the best --- ready to run and wait on me", and she figures in some of his poems, on one occasion as conducting a school in her kitchen. Their first child, Mary Ann, died on 13 November 1828 but was not buried in Charlton. In the Charlton parish register there is evidence that one child, Ann, was baptised on 28 May 1831, and another John (born 24 June 1833) on 21 July 1833. By the 1841 census, the family was living in East End - Bell was 40, his wife 30, the children 10 and 8.

When last heard of, in 1844, Bell was still a gardener and then living at Park Lodge, Charlton Park. He appears to have left Charlton by 1851, not being mentioned in the census of that year, and has not yet been traced further.

Some clues to his later life may be given by the references to social contacts in the poems - eg. he had contact with one Jessop, with whom he made a visit to the gardens at Croome D'Abitot (Worcestershire), and who is probably to be identified with C.H. Jessop who ran a nursery garden and bird park at St James, Cheltenham. The list of subscribers to his book may also help. It is hoped to pursue these leads in the future.

His character and the poetry

Bell's poetry reflects his own experience of life, his social contacts, and his observation of nature. He appears to be quite well educated; he had read Scott and Shenstone, and was certainly influenced by Burns. He had read some history and had written poems about an Indian chief, Orellana, who suffered persecution (at Spanish hands?), and the Anglo-Saxons Edwy and Elgiva.

He also read newspapers and wrote about a wide range of contemporary events; the deaths of Canning, whom he admired, George IV, and a local farmer Mr. W. who died of consumption. He described J. Barnes' sale of his wife at Gloucester market for 18d, a quart of ale, and a pipe of tobacco; the doings of Mr Lovesey who got drunk at Cheltenham and fought an oak tree on the way home. He wrote about politics, the oppression of the Poles, the independence of Belgium; the church

"Nor do I wish a bishop's see
Nor no commendam place for me
The people's hate to share."

and also about the local landscapes and places near Cheltenham - Robert Capper's garden at Marle Hill, Charlton in spring and summer, Conway Higg's Oak on Whirling Hill, an inventory of the 'Golden Pheasant' tap room.

He clearly had a sense of humour, a fair degree of practical ability, and a fair measure of self-assurance, though his aunt had told him to be "humble sober, both honest and just". He appears, nevertheless, to have been sometimes highly critical of people he did not like, or who incommoded him. He was not uninterested in women and lost one job through an unfortunate love affair. All of these characteristics and themes emerge in his poetry. He seems to have begun writing while at Hampstead and continued until perhaps 1831 or so.

On leaving Hampstead, for example, he wrote an inventory in verse of the garden equipment for which he was responsible, and intended to present it to his employer. While it provides an interesting list of what equipment was used in a garden of the period, it is too long to print here. Its theme is the employer's meanness - since remedying defects in the garden equipment

"will be of course expense
A thing which always shocks your sense."

Bell wrote quite a number of poems about gardening matters; about plants and trees, even advice to one young neighbour not to marry a gardener

"Pray take my advice
A gardener never marry
For you will find that more than twice
He is long with Rose-Mary."

He also wrote much about animals, in particular about birds; there are poems about a parrot, cranes, a canary, thrushes, a moorhen. He mentions Nicholson's mare which had been at Waterloo and which died at 19 in 1828, being buried at East Court. Bell did not like cruelty, and criticised a man at Hampstead who had allowed a pig to starve to death

"To those it surely is disgrace
We our superiors call".

He also wrote about a crane killed by two dogs. Yet he was prepared to be cruel in the course of his work if it was necessary - his method of discouraging rats was barbaric. He was keen on shooting. And it must be remembered that badger-baiting in Charlton went on in the churchyard after Sunday service till stopped in 1834.

There is sometimes more than one thought at work in a poem. The objection to the death of the pig doubtless was prompted by the prospect that of

"roasted pig(lets) the servants now
No more will have a treat."

for Bell liked his food. He seems to have written verses especially when sending or receiving gifts. He acknowledged oysters sent from London and a piece of pork in this way, and sent poetry when sending flowers ("in general females love red and white"). He complained in verse when an inn was unexpectedly closed.

Bell's time at East Court seems to have been one of the best times of his life. The Nicholson family treated him well. Col. Nicholson, his two daughters, their animals (though not the cattle and sheep in the illustrations), members of the staff (eg the butler Wyatt) and his life there figure prominently in his work. He even seems to have preserved a connection with them after leaving East Court.

Some times of his life appear to have been difficult. He seems to have suffered poverty and been the victim of gossip. For example, on one occasion he tried to borrow money from Jessop "since living here, Miss Fortune has been too severe"; and again

"Unnotic'd, turning up the soil
Am I obliged to sweat and toil
Hard for my daily bread,
While many run with random haste
And thousands spend in wilful waste
Scare knowing how it fled."

Examples of his poetry appear in the Appendix. A new (limited) edition of his work is in preparation.

Addendum

Since this note was written, it has been established (from information kindly provided by Mr. E. Armitage) that Isaac Bell and Martha Hooper

were married on 24 August 1828 at St Mary's church, Charlton, in the presence of Thomas and Mary Hooper. Bell's first child, Mary Ann, was baptised at Charlton on 26 October 1828, though they were living in Cheltenham. Bell's marriage may explain why he left his employment at East Court - presumably he wanted a better job, now he had increased family responsibilities. Bell's second child was Mary, baptised 28 March 1830, by which time the parents were again living in Charlton.

The Charlton Park estate settlement of 1843 lists the Lodge, with Bell as tenant - but his name has been deleted, suggesting that he left it very shortly afterwards. The latest information yet available about Bell is the entry in Harper's Directory for 1844, which lists him at Park Lodge; but this may be based on enquiries made the previous year.

- (1) Published S.C. Harper, 93, Winchcomb Street. No date, c.1833.
- (2) For other articles touching on Charlton in the period c.1830, see
 - (a) on Education, Bulletin III 18-28; V 29-31
 - (b) on the Workhouse, Bulletin I 22-27; III 42-50

M.J. Greet

APPENDIX

- (1) Sent with my watch to Mr D---, Cheltenham

Sir, please to look what stops my watch
It will no longer go;
Last night it stopt, the reason why
I leave with you to know.

'Tis in a fit, I needs must think
As there's no motion in it
And therefore, tis no use to me
To tell the hour or minute;

It being dead, I pray revive
And put its springs in order
That I may have it back alive
And sound from all disorder;

You see it went till nine o'clock;
and at that very hour
As if by cholera morbus took
It lost all life and power.

The board of health could nothing do,
by either pill or lotion;
And so I send my friend to you
To give new life and motion;

Then pray, do use thy utmost skill
To make it keep time well
And very much oblige it will
Your humble servant Bell.

(2) On a good-natured Butler, named W----t

So solid and sedate is our friend W---t
Surely from heaven he was sent,
 To keep peace on the earth;
He's so good tempered, and so mild,
He's like an inoffensive child
 That's just received birth.

From strife and envy he is free,
And every wicked vice we see
 Predominant in man.
He's so good natured, and at ease,
in trying every one to please,
 He obliges all he can.

(3) An Epitaph on a disagreeable Housekeeper named R---d

Stop, passenger! and read, e'er you proceed,
These lines indeed, wrote on old R----d;
She when alive, did weekly strive
And did contrive us mad to drive.
No more avail her wicked tales
And now she rails in death's dark vales.
Our thanks to death, that stopp'd her breath,
And here beneath a cold bed hath; -
So, to be brief, we have relief
From her mischief, which ends our grief.

(4) Epitaph of Joe C-----, of Charlton Kings

Here lies Joe C----, a swearing, blustering sot,
Whose greatest pleasure was his pipe and pot,
With drink ne'er satisfied, whate'er he got.

With gin and beer he moist'ned well his clay,
Before he died, he often us'd to say
He'd settle all his debts, at the great reckoning day.

Under this earth neglected now he lies
Who did religion and its laws despise
Without the fear of God before his eyes.

(5) The Wish

Oh! for a spot of ground, a little spot,
To build myself thereon a humble cot;
A small brick cottage chaste with windows four,
A little portico and gothic door,
A short span roof covered with slates of blue,
A chimney scarcely seen in the front view,
A little cellar for a cask of beer
To treat a friend with and my spirits cheer;
A little larder for an humble food,
Of meat and cheese, and coarse brown bread but good.
At each side of the door a narrow border,
Judicious fill'd with flowers kept trim'd in order.
A piece of ground for vegetable greens,
Such as sprouts, cabbage, turnips, pease and beans,
A low built wall inclosing all around

Wherein in season currants may abound,
So as my partner, if she so incline,
Might make at least a gallon of pure wine
To drink relations' health at Christmas time,
When friendship hand in hand together chime
With blazing fire, clean house, and corner seat,
And little mugs of wine, the poor man's treat;
This to enjoy - nor envies rich or great,
But feel contented in his low estate;
Thus would I live and see my offspring rise,
With ruby health fresh beaming in their eyes;
And every day would heighten my delight,
To teach their tender mind to shoot alright,
Here I could die, and the dark world scan,
And bid adieu to all the cares of men.

(6) On East Court

When I finish my day's work
I sit down to rest,
For by no care nor sorrow
My mind is opprest.

The garden and walks
Of this country seat
With every convenience
Are furnish'd complete.

I enjoy the sweet evening,
In a cottage that stands
By the side of yon garden,
Which a fine view commands

Laid out with much taste
Tho' on a small scale
And the site is delightfully
Plac'd in a vale.

Of Leckhampton hill
And the country around
Where pictures from nature
So varied abound.

Luxuriant and fertile
The gardens abound
With the best fruit and flowers
In Gloucestershire found.

From my cottage I view
Lofty hills and green trees,
Interspers'd with sweet fields
Which my fancy doth please.

The fields with good pasture
The cattle supply,
Which in winter are shelter'd
By hill steep and high.

On the right is the village,
To the left stands East Court
Where ladies and gentlemen
Of times resort,

To the north is the race-course
Where that old English sport
May be seen from the top of the house
At East Court.

To partake of rich dainties,
With great splendour drest,
And the poor too is made
Hospitality's guest.

With these lovely prospects
I every day see,
I live here contented
Both happy and free.

9 NOTES AND COMMENTS

(i) Mr Ryland has been looking at the photograph (Bulletin 6 p.14) of a group outside the Royal. He says the tall man was Bill Thorn (brother of Mr J.J.Thorn the headmaster) who worked at Witcombe's touching up pictures. The girls are Gwen and Connie Booth, and the short man "Oshie" Bond.

(ii) Mr Baldwin has a commonplace book kept by William Barrett of Barretts' Mill in 1746. Here is one of the remedies.

"Very Good for a paine In the back or side Good Ould Rum and som Goos Greas
Mixt to Geather Make the rum hot a nuff to melt the Gus Greas and beat it
in Well" (Good for local historians doing surveys?)

(iii) There was a short article on Charlton Kings in Gloucestershire
and Avon Life April 1982, written by M. Paget.