

CHARLTON KINGS  
LOCAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 9

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

Hon. Treasurer

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

Copies of this Bulletin are available from the officers or from Charlton Kings Library.

Past Issues - Bulletins 6 and 7, price £1.45; Bulletin 8, price £1.55.

Copyright and Responsibility

Unless otherwise specified, copyright of articles or photographs remains with the author or photographer; copyright of original documents remains with the owner, or with the relevant Record Office.

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

Membership of this Society

Membership forms are available from officers. Annual Subscription 75p, or £1 for a couple.

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

The Bulletin is published twice a year.

Printed by - Top Flight, 93 St. George's Place, Cheltenham, Glos.

CONTENTS

Cover picture - New Court or The Court House	drawn by K. Venus
1. Charlton Kings Boy Scouts (7th Cheltenham Troop) The end of a Trail	G. Ryland
2. George Ryland exhibition, 4-9 December 1982	
3. The Lyefield	M. Paget
4. The Value of Agricultural Products in 1552	M.J. Greet
5. Tobacco Growing in Charlton Kings	M. Paget
6. Ridge and Furrow in Charlton Kings in 1982	J. Hill
7. New Court, An Architectural Report An Historical Interpretation	L. Hall M. Paget
8. Charlton Chapel: Speculation	M.J. Greet
9. Cider Mills in Charlton Kings - Ryeworth House	G. Bray (nee Hughes)
10. Apprenticeship and Bastardy: A Review of the Charlton Records	M.J. Greet
11. The River Pill	F. Baldwin
12. Folk Dance Team, 1949 - Miss Wilkin's photograph	
13. The Hamlett Family	G.B. Lane
14. Providence Place, drawing by G. Ryland, information from deeds	
15. Isaac Bell: Further News	M.J. Greet
16. Reuben Pates - another recollection	M.E. and J.F. Wilkins
17. An Ancient Road	M.J. Greet
18. NOTES AND COMMENTS	
(1) Parish Outing, correction to Bulletin 3	E. Green
(2) A Charlton Sale notice, contributed by	Dr. J.V. Ruffell
(3) The <u>Local Historian</u> August 1982, notice	
(4) Robins family, notice of book by J.A. Robins (1982)	
(5) Vineyards Farm site	
(6) Corrections to <u>Bulletin 8</u>	W. Evans
(7) Corrections to <u>Bulletin 6</u>	G.B. Lane

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

The End of a Trail



When we started this vignette series of the history of the 7th Cheltenham B.P. Scouts, we hoped that we might succeed in bringing out something of the character of the troop as well as some of its history. This could perhaps, in part, explain why we have had a Youth organisation in the village which has gone from strength to strength for some 70 years, while so many other groups have fallen by the wayside. I trust that to some extent we have done so, and I say that now, because this may be the last of the collection that I shall write. No, the copy hasn't run out - far from it. But enough is enough, and the first commandment of the religion of this generation is "thou shalt not bore". He who bores is damned, let us not court our own destruction.

I was going to talk of tracking. Tracking is a wonderful asset. As one walks through the country, one is never alone. There, all round one, nature has opened a wonderful book which one can learn to read. I was a very keen tracker myself and the 7th had several of whom BENJI's younger brother was not the least. Even when I still played golf, the first round in the morning was a wealth of information. That vixen has been down again foraging at MOOREND, the two badgers have a cub they bring down from Mountain Knoll each night to feed - he's getting quite sturdy. The sand in the bunkers tells me all this, and after a fall of snow I could hardly get through my breakfast fast enough to get to Mountain Knoll. There the snow would give me the census of most that lived in the wood.

But this standard of tracking is not acquired in a day. The young and successful tracker has to be trained. This we do with tracking games where certain simple shapes and arrangements have definite meanings. To the tracker it is the shape that counts, not the material. Thus a St. Andrew's cross, placed on the ground, any size, made of any material, means "Don't go this way"; while if the shape were an arrowhead, it means "Continue. You are on the right way." There are numbers of them - a language in themselves - and they should be known by the tracker. Thus the tracker must be observant, carefully search out the signs left by the one tracked, translate their meaning, and act. In a way, tracker and tracked are communicating all the time - rather like a "hare and hounds" game.

That year was a sad year for me - 1933. Early in the year, Billie died when my younger son Nicholas came into the world. I felt a great loss and desolation. The interests in many of my activities seemed to die immediately, all that was joyful and beautiful seemed to die for ever and a hopelessness settled upon me which felt as if it would last for ever.

Oh, the Seventh stood by me. They could and they did - but how could they help? Certainly they were there - certainly in all the many little things that had to be done, they helped. What could be done, they did, but nothing, I felt, would ever lift the great world of loneliness that had settled upon me. Billie had gone. I had lost her for ever. Of course the Seventh were at the funeral, their final tributes were there in a poetic farewell. But if anything I felt lonelier in my eternal desolation.

As we walked up the slight rise towards the open grave, the coffin was carried before me, and a few chosen tributes decorated the top. Involuntarily my mind became fixed on one at the back. A ribbon among the flowers showed it to be the troop emblem. A wreath - but no, was it a wreath? I looked again, and saw it was two wreaths, concentrically designed. My eyes opened wider, and a strange comfort and a wonderful hopefulness replaced my black desolation. The Seventh had given Billie the last word, the hope that destroys all desolation, for to the initiated tracker, the sign of the concentric circles read "I have gone home".

G. Ryland

## 2. GEORGE RYLAND EXHIBITION, 4-9 December 1982

Congratulations to George Ryland, a very active member of this Society, on a most successful exhibition of paintings, almost all produced in

the last 3 years. Very few artists put on a major first exhibition at the age of 90 and achieve a sell-out! The paintings were efficiently and expertly laid out by the staff of Mr. Breeze, Director of Cheltenham Art Gallery.

The works, mostly water colours, were conspicuous by the clearness with which they could be "read", without the aid of any decoupe lines. The cleanliness of colour and ease of drawing were outstanding. The results were not a series of snapshots of the Cotswolds, but a distillation of all that goes to make the area what it is, the work of years of memory and of profound respect for its beauty.

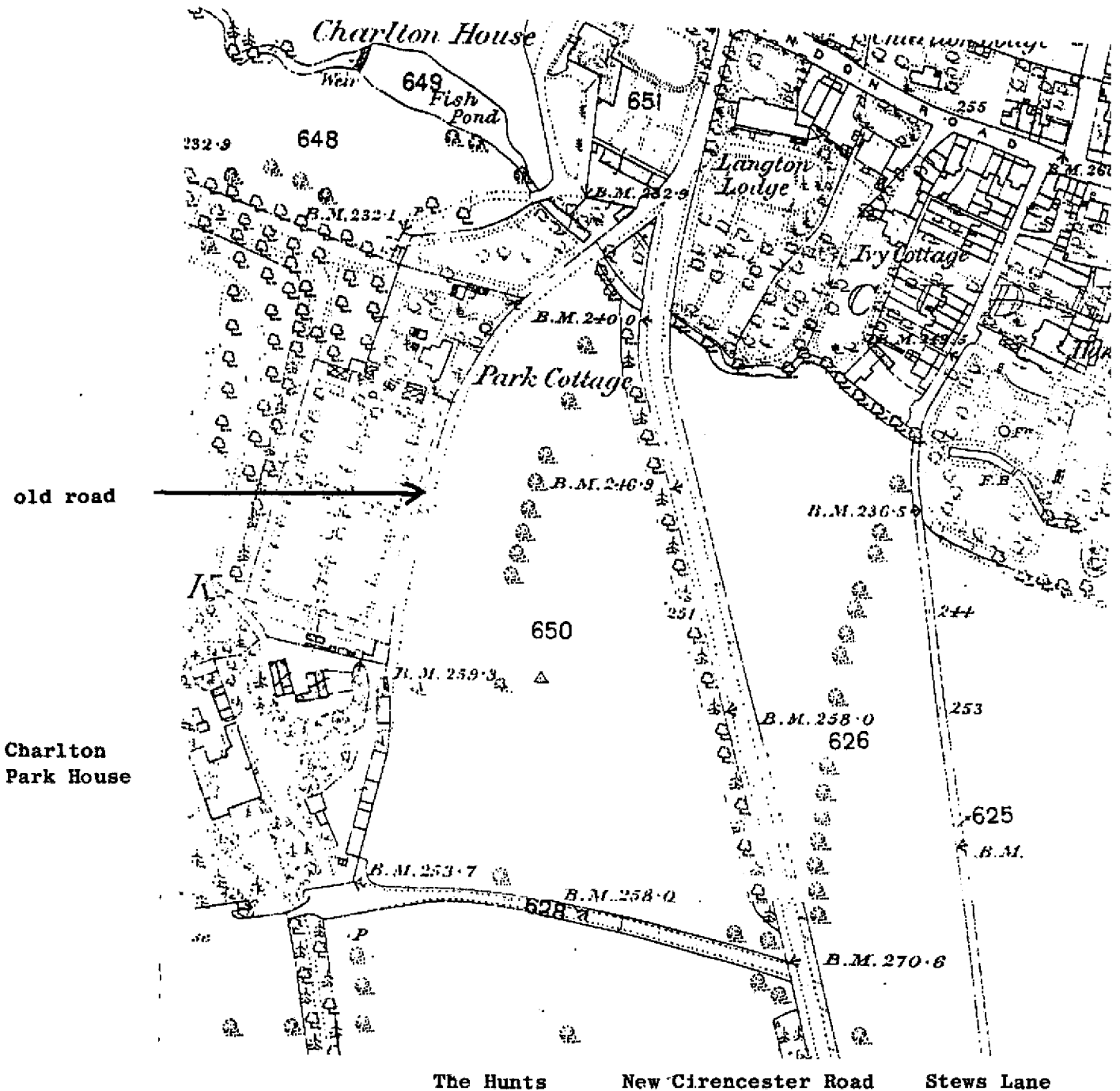
George has no great message to hand to us. We asked to see his pictures, he has obliged and we are grateful. "Here" he says "I have wandered all these years and been happy, come now with me for a while longer and be contented too".

### 3. THE LYEFIELD

When I was talking to George Ryland one day, he remarked "Do you remember the line of elms there used to be down Walker's field? they must have led somewhere." I did remember some of those trees being cut down by German prisoners of war about 1917. Then I looked at the 1888 25" OS which marks all trees; and I saw that, as well as the line down Walker's field on the east side of Cirencester road, there was a parallel line on the west side, inside the wall of Charlton Park. (1) And both lines were curved, like ploughlands. Then it dawned on me that these trees marked the line of ridge and furrow in the open Lye Field - they had been planted between 1700 and 1750 along the edges of inclosures when the open field was beginning to be inclosed. In fact, the area between the two lines represents the 7 acres in Lye Field, west of the footway from Stews Lane (Brookway Lane) to the church, held by John Tanty in 1743. (2)

Thank you, George!

25" OS 1888



- (1) Mr. Jennings (born in Park Cottages 75 years ago) remembers these trees well. He says the eastern line were elms, felled after storm damage in 1917. The western line were elms, sycamores, and walnuts. So (as one would have expected) the trees were not all of the same planting.
- (2) GRO D 109/1, Ashley manor court book 1742-1812.

M. Paget

4. THE VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN 1552

Information from the record of a dispute between Edmund Benbowe (1) (farmer of the Royal rectory of Cheltenham) and Robert Symonds of Charlton Kings (who farmed some land in the parish of Cheltenham) (2) concerning the amount of tithe payable, provides detail, including productivity, about the produce which Symonds obtained from his land and the value assigned to it. The plaintiff's values, while not entirely compatible with those advanced by Symonds (who would, presumably, have hoped they would be low), agree fairly well. Details of agricultural productivity in this period are rarely found.

The case began in the Gloucester Consistory Court, probably in January 1553, and the details given below complement information drawn from wills of the period given earlier in Bulletin 5 (pp. 7-10) and Bulletin 6 (pp. 25-26). The case is gisted in Volume 147 of the Hockaday Extracts in Gloucester Library, Local History Collection.

ACREAGE	CROP	PRODUCE	VALUE IN 1552
2	wheat	10 bushels	2s per bushel (Symonds claimed 18d or 20d was correct)
2	barley	An acre bears 6 "cockes" (ie heaps), each cock being 2 bushels	measure (presumably a bushel) estimated at 15d
4	pulse	4 cockes to the acre, each cock producing $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel	20d a measure
4	oats	6 cockes to the acre, each producing 1 bushel more or less	20d a bushel

Prices seem to have risen since 1542, when barley was 8d and wheat 12d a bushel (See Bulletin 4, p.7)

NUMBER OF ANIMALS	SYMONDS ADMITTED	DETAIL	VALUED AT	SYMONDS' VALUATION
160 sheep (which he sheared)	Not fully 100, whereof were not pastured 60 ewes (3) 8 died before shearing	Symonds said there were 15, 16 or 17 fleeces in a tod. Wool of the sheep comes to 6 tods, of which he sold 4, 2 at 12s 6d, 2 at 12s	18d per fleece	-
70 lambs	45	-	2s	18d
34 pigs	not known	-	8d	8d or 6d



8 milch cows	9 kine	customary tithe	-	-
8 calves	7 calves	per cow and calf		
2 "gifte kyene"	including 2 "gifte" (ie barren) cows	ld		
1 horse with young	-	every mare with young ld		

A witness, Thomas Packer, aged about 60, who had been in Cheltenham for 37 years and was the previous farmer of tithes, said Symonds had 100 sheep and 40-50 ewes. The value placed on a lamb by Symonds, 18d, had been the sum agreed between Symonds and himself, while, but only so long as, he was farmer. Symonds had to pay 25s 3d tithe and 41s 10d costs.

- (1) Edmund Benbowe was occupying The Forden in 1557 under Thomas Wye esq (presumably as guardian for the heir, Giles Grevill, a minor).
- (2) One Robert Symonds held (in 1557 and 1564) some 83 acres of land in base tenure of the manor of Cheltenham, in Charlton Kings. He is probably the man concerned in this court case. See "Tenements and Tenants in Charlton Kings" M. Paget, Gloucestershire Historical Studies XII (1981) pp 74-5)
- (3) Tithe was payable both on the amount of wool sheared and on the quantity of grass eaten by the sheep - hence the assertion that 60 of Symonds' sheep had not been pastured within the parish.

M.J. Greet

## 5. TOBACCO GROWING IN CHARLTON KINGS

On 27 April 1725, (1) Thomas Buckle of Uckington gentleman surrendered to the use of John Prinn junior "all his close of meadow or pasture called Tobacco Close in the parish of Charlton Kings, lying at the west end of the Lyefield and adjoining to it". For this land, Prinn paid 40gns, while his father John Prinn senior as lord of the manor of Ashley received 9s 6d heriot on the transfer.

Where was Tobacco Close? It is mentioned again in a surrender of 15 October 1743 (2) when John Tanty sold William Prinn 7 acres in the Lyefield, on the west side of the footway from Stews bridge to the church - this is the bridge over the Chelt at the bottom of Brookway Lane. Tanty's land had the common stream N, the way to the church E, Hunt's close S, and Tobacco Close W. So tobacco was once grown on a plot between the highway (now the back drive to Charlton Park) and the line of mixed trees (elm, sycamore and walnut, according to Mr Jennings) which divided the meadow acquired by Prinn in 1725 from Tanty's arable, bought by Prinn's son in 1743. (See the OS map on p.4)

When the new Cirencester Road was cut in 1826, it ran through the land which had been Tanty's.

In an interesting paper (3) "New Crops and their Diffusion: Tobacco-growing in 17th century England", Dr Joan Thirsk explains one of the attractions of this crop - a very few acres could bring the land-owner great profit.

Growers would pay a rent of up to £8 an acre, instead of the normal £2 paid for old pasture or meadow. It was generally believed that newly-broken grass land suited the crop best. In a good season, tobacco might bring in 10s to 18s per lb, and even in a bad year, the 2s-4s it fetched was a better return than grass. 10,000 tobacco plants could be grown on one acre. The crop was labour-intensive, planting, weeding and picking occupied a large number of women and children. For both these reasons, a small man who could afford to give up 1/4 or 1/2 acre of meadow, and had a family to do the work, might find it a useful supplement to normal husbandry. The difficult part was the drying and curing, for which drying sheds and some expertise were required.

The earliest date for the crop in Gloucestershire is 1619, when it was introduced at Winchcombe and Bishop's Cleeve; soon after that, John Ligon was experimenting with tobacco at Arle Court. The link between the Lignons at Arle and the Grevills of Charlton Kings suggests Arle as the source of our seed, even though the Grevills did not, apparently, own this particular close.

The Buckles, a substantial Cheltenham family, held no land in Charlton Kings at the time of the 1564 inclosure. They had acquired some by 1625. When tenants of the two manors taxed themselves to pay for the 1625 act to change manorial custom, John Buckle contributed £1.0.10 for his land held under Cheltenham and 10s for his land held under Ashley (4). Part of this was in the Lye Field. On 1 April 1636 (5), an order was made for a sufficient gate to be hung on the east side of the "Leighfields" at the expense of those holding land there, and John Buckle's name heads the list. The years c.1625 onwards are the most likely for tobacco growing in our parish.

The fight between the Government and tobacco growers in Gloucestershire continued under king and commonwealth, and there was a new prohibitive act in 1660. But many local JPs were involved, so enforcement was difficult. However, cultivation ceased of itself towards the end of the century. The price of Virginian tobacco was coming down, public taste began to prefer the Virginian leaf; our climate was uncertain; soil exhaustion may have played a part. Tobacco Close reverted to meadow, but the name remained.

- (1) GRO, D 109/original surrenders for Ashley C 74
- (2) D 109/1, Ashley manor court book 1742-1812
- (3) Rural Change and Urban Growth 1500-1800, essays in English Regional History in honour of W.G. Hoskin, ed. Chalkin and Havinden (1974) pp.76-193.
- (4) GRO D 855/M 68
- (5) D 855 M 10 f.130v

Part of Tobacco Close, looking towards the back drive (the old road) before development



## 6. RIDGE AND FURROW IN CHARLTON KINGS, 1982

This survey was carried out in September 1982, during a period of the vacation when the author was not attending archaeological excavations elsewhere. The idea of surveying and recording what remains of strip cultivation in this parish had often been discussed, and finally something was done to record surviving ploughlands and note other archaeological features. But this must not be taken as an exhaustive survey of Charlton Kings.

A lynchet or a ploughland is a bank of earth which accumulates because of the activity of ploughing. These ridges are familiar to people who play golf on Lilleybrook Golf Course or walk across the fields at Balcarras, although they may not know them by those names. 'Strip lynchets' are the fossils of strip farming, common to most of England during the middle ages. The alternate ridge and furrow was caused by up-and-down ploughing of the long narrow strips, which threw the soil towards the centre of the strip, so producing a high ridge. These were preserved or fossilized when arable cultivation stopped and the fields put under grass for grazing. Even in fields where recent ploughing has occurred, some evidence of former ploughlands can be seen.

The most extensive field system exists in the area between Greenway Lane and Glenfall and Ham. Here we have the clearest picture of what the pre-enclosure field was like (see Map 1). The evidence of the fields next to Greenway Lane suggests that this is a very old lane. Firstly, an old track leads off the lane, possibly continuing down to the stream. The track provided access to the fields. It can be seen as a long flat strip with a ditch and line of trees on the south side, while the strips north of it visibly end by this feature (marked A on map 1). Secondly, the sharp change in slope where Greenway Lane bends round by the reservoirs (B on map) suggest that this steep bank could be what archaeologists called a "negative lynchet" created when ploughing causes soil to move down a slope. This soil gathers at the lower boundary of the field by a hedge etc or in this case is removed by the stream. At the top of the field, a loss of soil will occur gradually over many years, lowering the level of the top, and creating a "negative lynchet" (see fig 1).

The two footpaths running from Ham Green to Glenfall are the remains of old tracks serving the fields, their former use being shown in the deep gullies which they follow, usually with trees on either side, or in wide baulks running between field strips.

Map 2 shows the remaining strips in the eastern part of the parish. Points of interest here are the old track at A following the footpath from East End to Colgate farm. The field above the Secondary School is probably the best-known field system. Here the field is divided into two by an old trackway. The field marked B is unusual, as it contains the only example of a 'real lynchet'. This is where ploughing which runs parallel to the contour causes soil to gather at the lower field boundary. The process creates terraces (see Fig 2). In field B, there are 3 such terraces, which could be the remains of Iron Age or Roman fields.

Map 3 shows the remains of ridge-and-furrow in the southern part of the parish.

Charlton Park fields were surveyed by Mr. B. Rawes before development (see Bulletin I).

In conclusion, quite a large amount of the medieval field system has survived in Charlton Kings. More has been destroyed by later ploughing and by building. What remains shows that our prosperity was based on arable rather than sheep farming, since the parish boundaries encompass only a very small area at the top of the Cotswold escarpment.

Jeremy Hill

Map 1

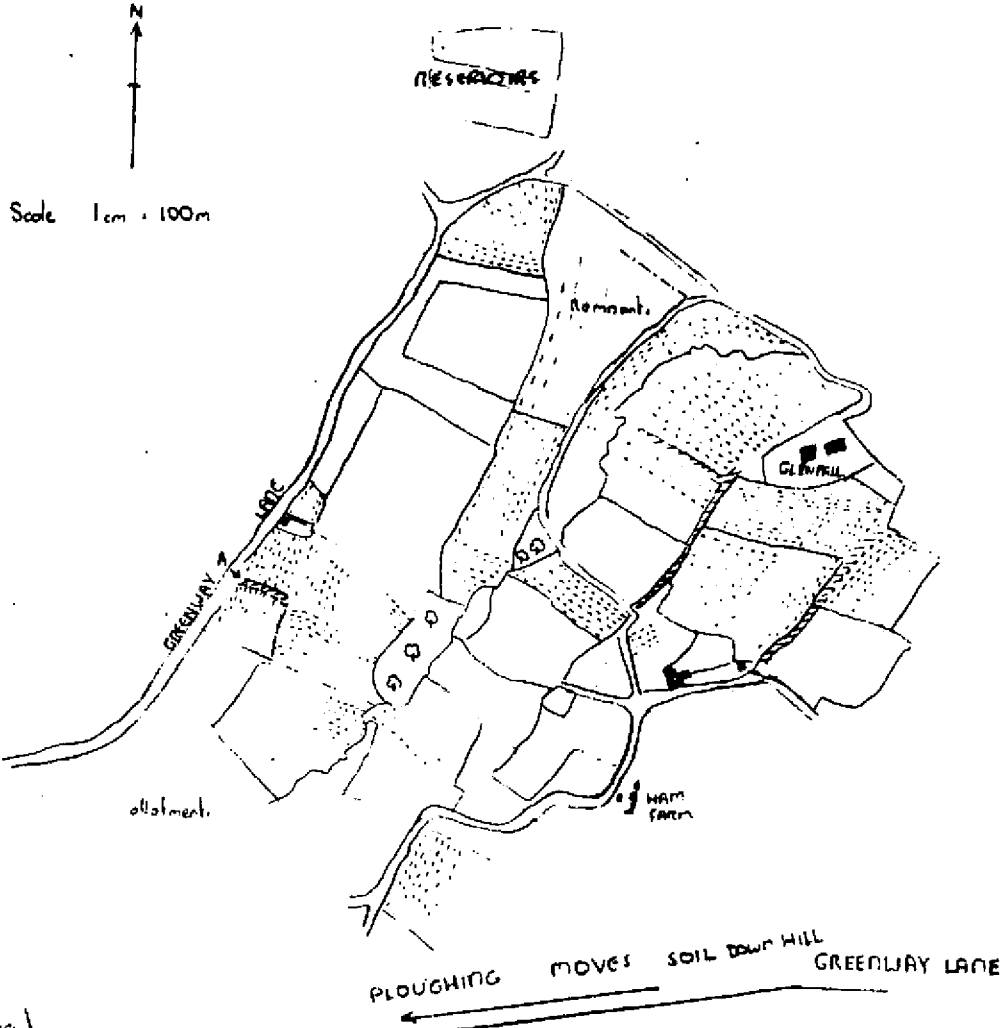


Fig 1

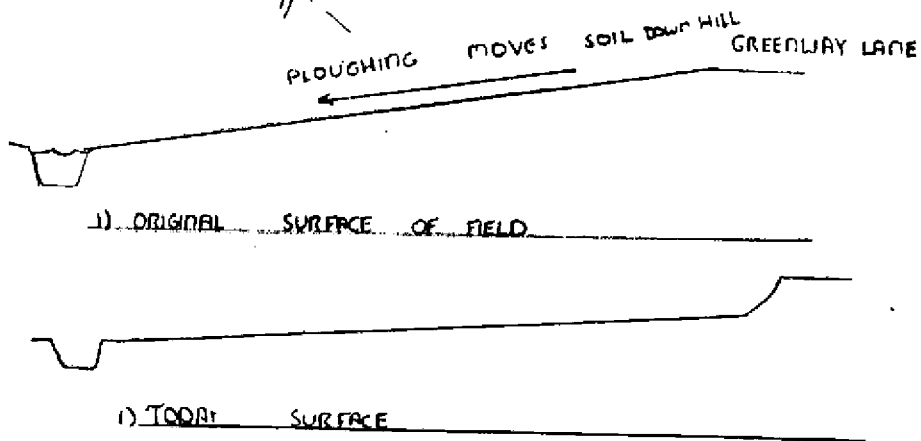
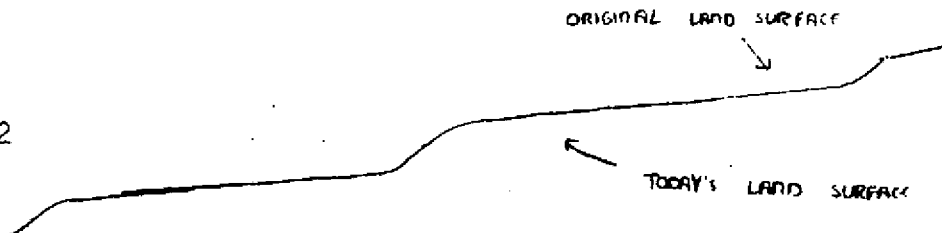


Fig 2



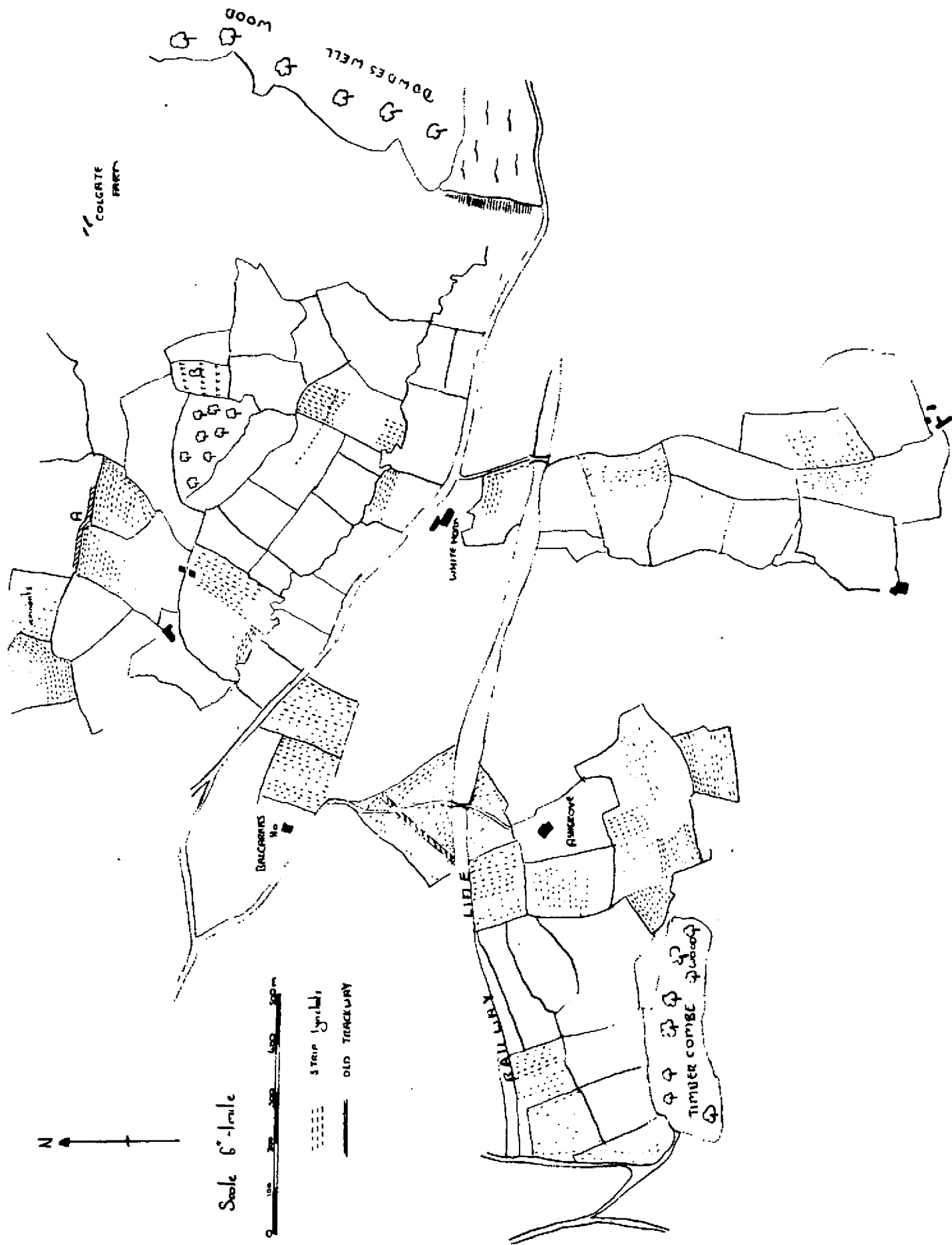
Map 2



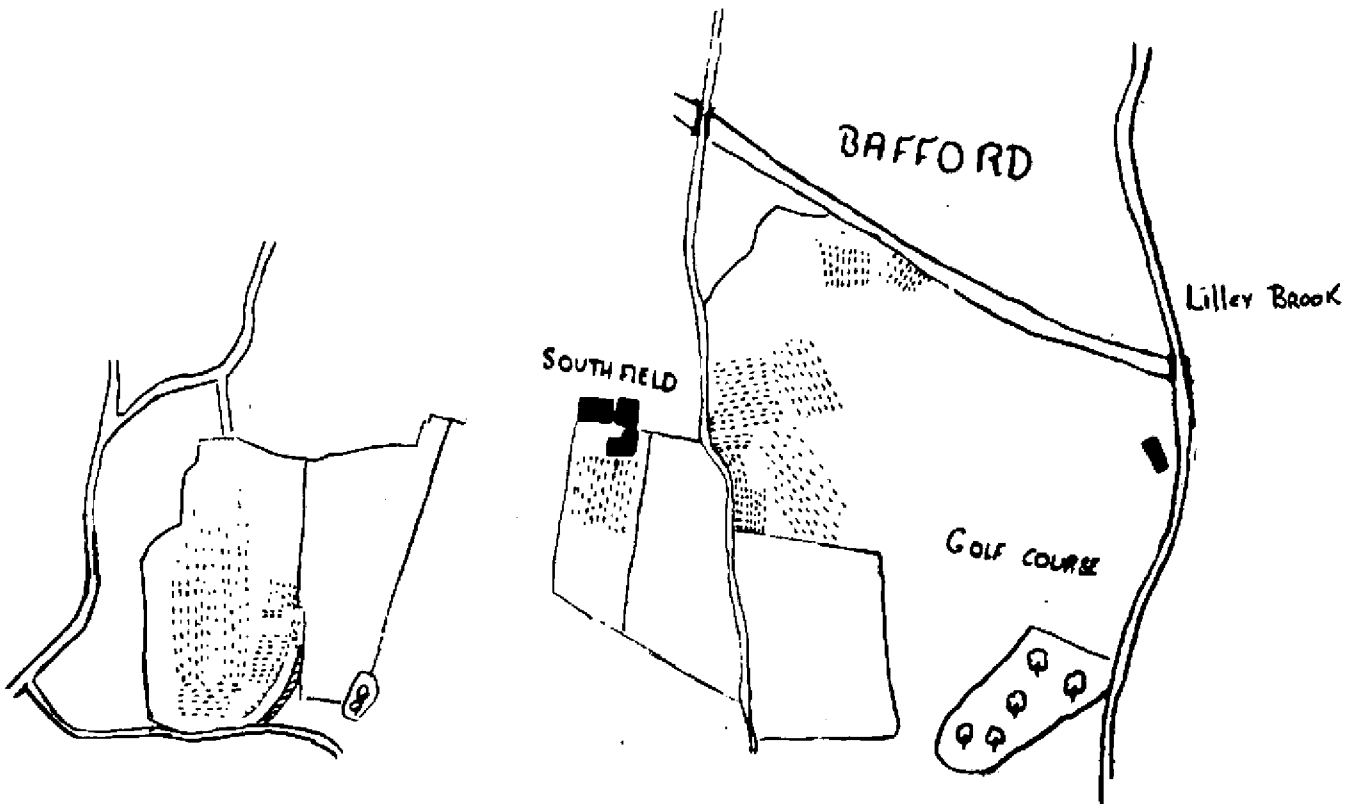
Scale 6"=mile



- Stair (gnat)
- OLD TRACKWAY



Map 3



7. NEW COURT - AN ARCHITECTURAL REPORT

SO 961205

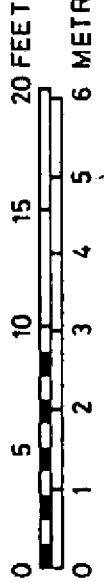
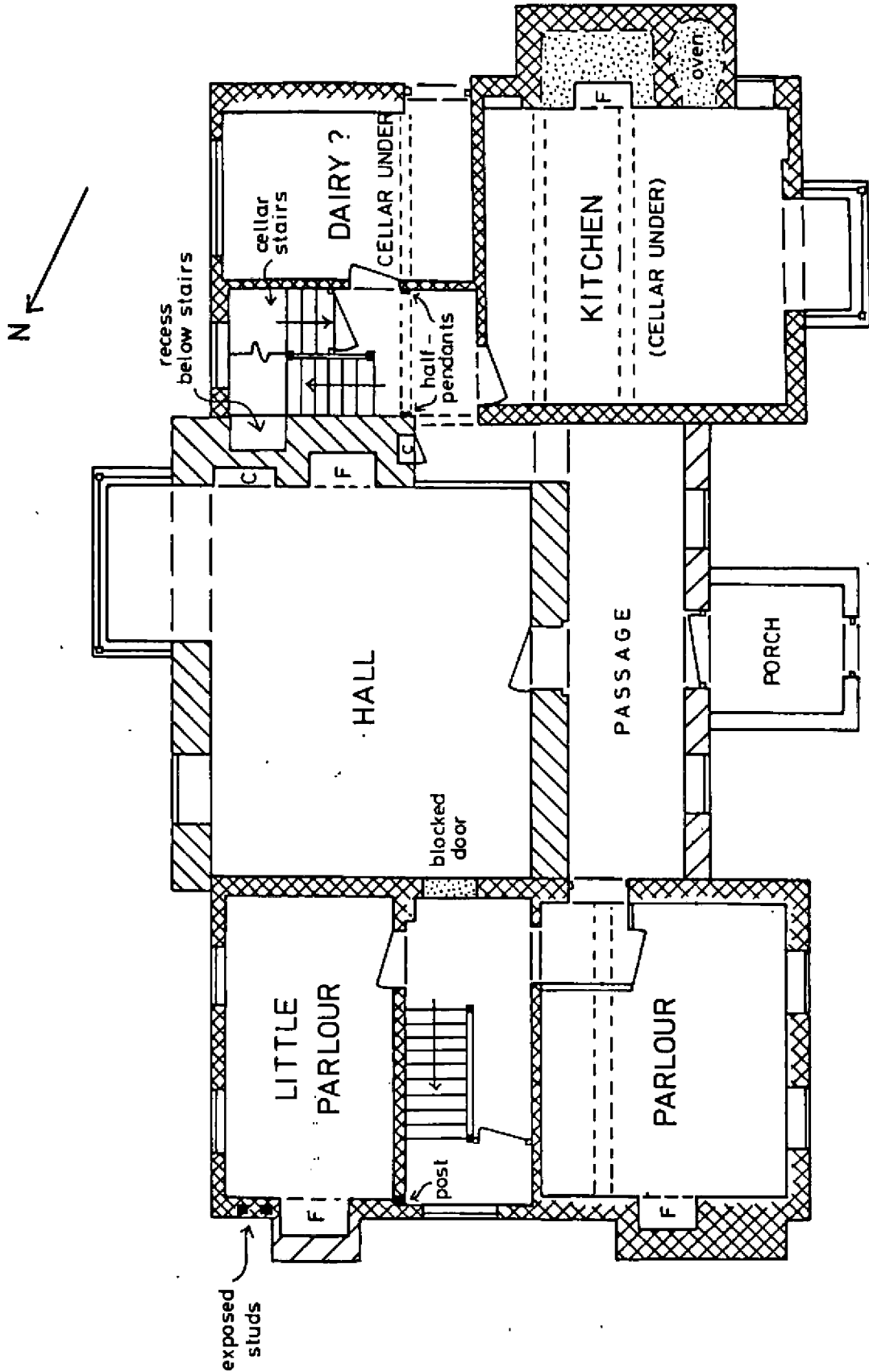
SITE. Level ground, parallel to the road, facing SW.

MATERIALS. The whole building is rendered; the central portion is believed to be built of brick, the two wings are timber-framed. The roof has plain tiles.

EXTERNAL FEATURES. Central  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -storey section with a small dormer on the NE side. It has sash windows with wide surrounds set flush with the walls and a wide eaves cornice supported by elaborate acanthus brackets. At each side are slightly lower 2-storey wings which project at the front and are joined by a later single-storey passage block with an even later porch. At the back the centre block projects slightly. The roofs of the wings are gabled at the front and half-hipped at the rear. The NW wing has 2 projecting stacks, the larger one stepped with a top section of old bricks, the other straight with more recent bricks. Between them is a large stair window of uncertain date; it has a central mullion and square leaded lights with old glass. Each half has 50 panes of glass. Next to the smaller stack 2 close-set studs and part of the middle rail of the timber-framing have been exposed. The SE wing has one large projecting stack and oven and an added bay window at the front. There

NEW COURT, CHARLTON KINGS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(50961205)



London, 3. March 1952

is another such bay at the rear of the central block.

PLAN. The central block contains a large hall with a fireplace at the SE end. The NW wing contains 2 heated and panelled parlours with a staircase between them. A blocked door led from the stair to the hall. The SW wing contains a large kitchen at the front and at the rear a small service room and a staircase side by side. A cellar runs under the whole wing. Access between the wings is now via the added passage block but presumably was originally through the hall.

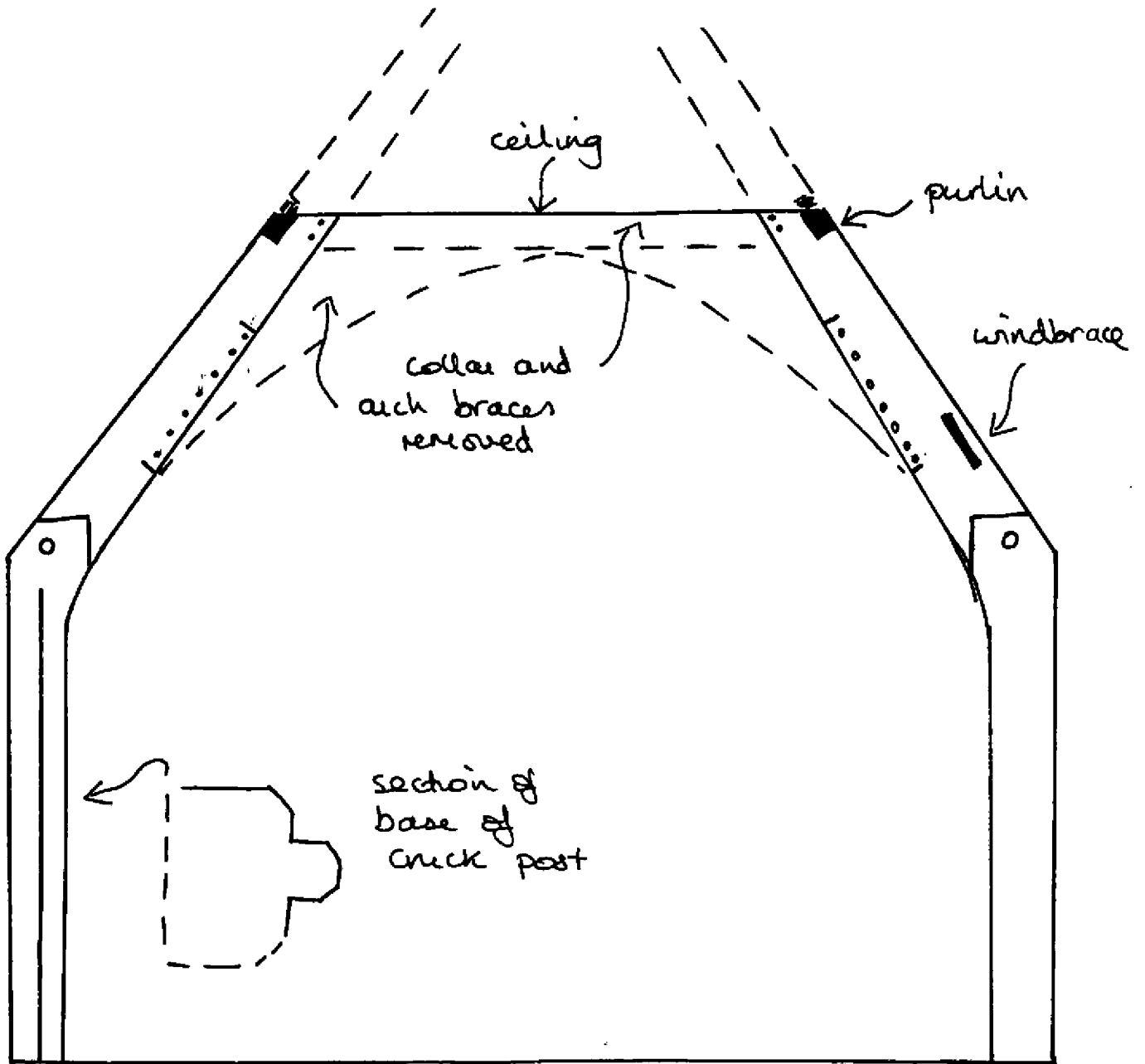
FEATURES, HALL BLOCK. The hall fireplace has egg and dart decoration. The room was once panelled and features in the cornice above the fireplace suggest a large overmantle as in the parlour. On the first floor is a large room with a passage along the SW side and a small closet in the N corner. The passage leads from one staircase landing to the other, and the floor level is higher than in the wings. The door to the hall chamber has a bolection-moulded architrave. There is one attic room above, reached from the service-wing stair. Two roof trusses and one pair of purlins are visible. There is an old panelled door of the early C17th with 3 large and apparently old strap hinges which must have been designed for a much larger door.

FEATURES, PARLOUR WING. The large parlour has a bolection-moulded fireplace surround and a boxed ceiling beam. Both rooms and the staircase hall have bolection-moulded panelling and cornices. The little parlour has lost its fireplace surround except for a projection in the cornice. Projecting features in the cornice of the SW wall suggest that the 2 panels between them were made a special feature, perhaps by the presence of paintings. The door retains half an H-hinge. In the other side of this wall, beside the stair, a large beam is visible with a post at the NW end. The stair is a dog-leg with a simple moulded handrail, moulded string, and plain square newels with flat caps. The elegant turned balusters comprise a tapered shaft above a vase, the two sections being separated by a square piece in typical C18th fashion. The cap does not fit very well on the bottom newel, and the upper newels project below the string in an unfinished appearance. Possibly the stair has been reassembled and was first used elsewhere.

On the first floor a lobby at the stairhead gives access to the 2 chambers; both doors have bolection-moulded architraves. Each room has a small fire-place in the NW wall. The partition stair and parlour chamber is framed with large square panels. The partition between stair and little parlour chamber is also framed but the details are covered over. Part of the roof structure is visible below the later ceiling. In the smaller chamber 2 purlins can be seen, with a pair of curved windbraces on the NW side. In the large chamber is a jointed-cruck truss. Its position close to the partition wall shows the latter to be a later insertion; there would have been a large two-bay chamber before the addition of the staircase. The jointed crucks have long vertical posts, chambered and stopped, which reach the floor and are presumably carried by the ceiling beam visible in the parlour below. The joints between the posts and the cruck blades are most unusual and rather crude, suggesting a late date (C16th) and/or construction by someone unfamiliar with the techniques of jointed crucks. The crucks have mortises for arch braces and a tenoned collar. Onewindbrace survives on the SE side.



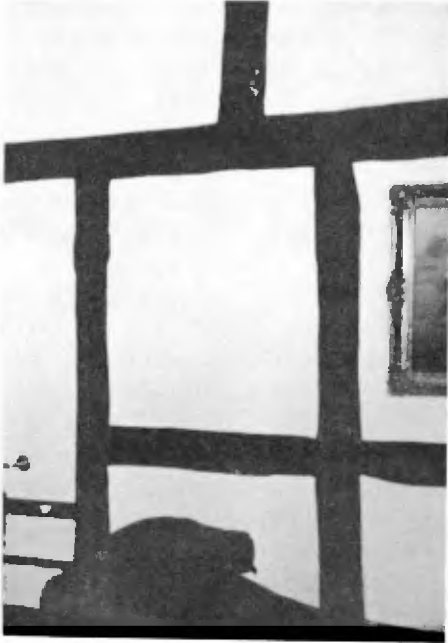
SKETCH OF THE ROOF TRUSS IN PARLOUR CHAMBER



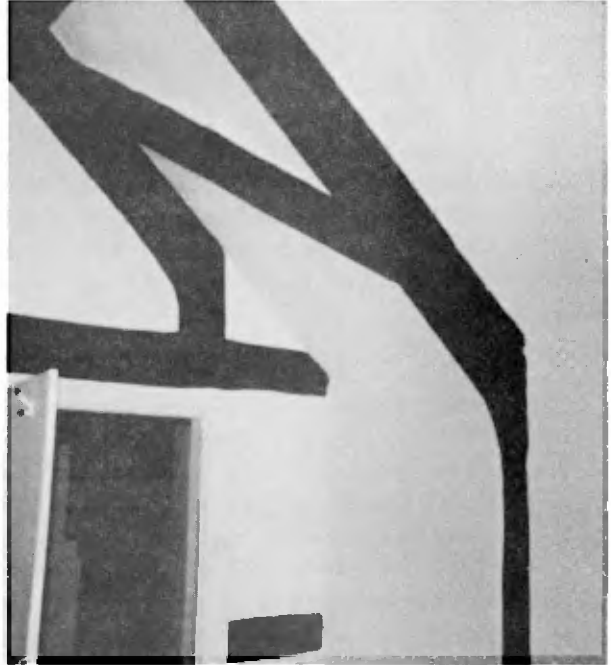
SKETCH OF ROOF TRUSS IN  
PARLOUR CHAMBER

All the photographs have been taken with the kind permission and co-operation of Mr and Mrs Allday, owners of New Court until December 1982.

Parlour Chamber (1)

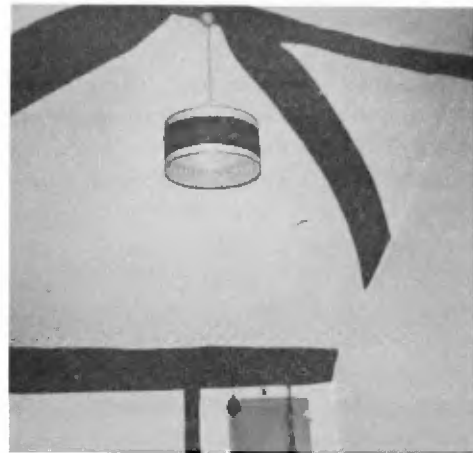
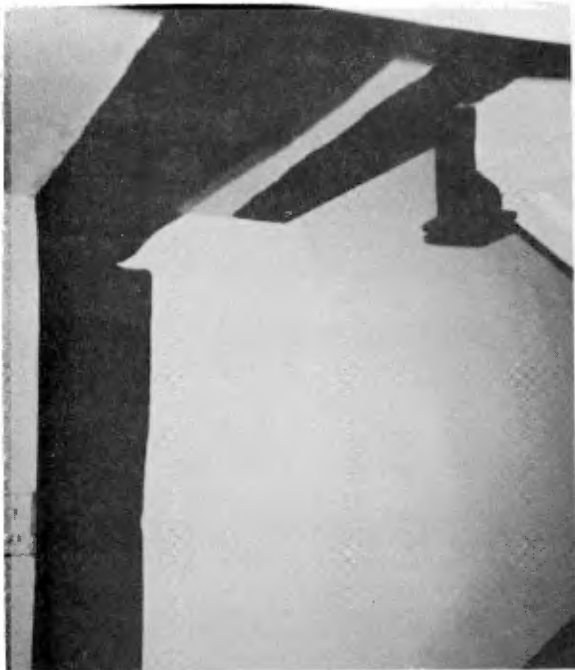


(2)

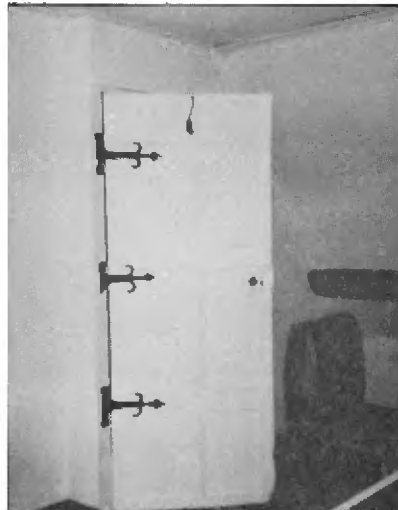


Small Chamber

Post and beam,  
South landing



Attic door with  
strap hinges



FEATURES, SERVICE WING. The cellar has a brick barrel vault except at the NE end, where the ceiling is supported by a beam and joists. The kitchen fireplace is blocked and the beams are boxed. The fine dog-leg stair has a moulded handrail, plain square newels with flat caps which are a continuation of the handrail, and balusters with a twisted shaft above a vase. The upper newel has a plain cap on its lower end and appears to have had a pendant removed. Two half-pendants of ball type are at either end of the beam at the foot of the stairs. Below the stairs, accessible from the cellar stair, is a recess in the hall stack, perhaps an earlier fireplace before the stair was built although this is far from certain. The small service room, perhaps a dairy, buttery or general store room, has a thicker wall on the SE side; it has either been rebuilt or built up on the inside to strengthen it.

On the first floor the stairs continue to the attic. At the foot of the attic stair is a very large post with a jewelled head; it supports a plain beam which is presumably a tie-beam of one of the roof trusses. The post is apparently supported on the beam visible at the foot of the stairs on the ground floor. The attic stair also has twisted balusters, but at the top is a row of 5 turned balusters with a "grip" handrail, probably dating from about 1620-40. The visible roof truss has a steeply cambered and tenoned collar (cut through by a later doorway), one pair of trenched purlins, and one row of curved windbraces. At the apex is a diagonal ridge carried by plated yokes.

DATE AND DEVELOPMENT. The house presumably started life as a medieval-type hall and cross-wings, one being a service wing and the other a parlour wing. On the first floor of the parlour wing was a great chamber with an open arch-braced roof of two bays and a small antechamber. Documentary evidence suggests that the house was first built in the mid C16th, a date agreed by the crude joints in the cruck truss. Other structural evidence which could confirm or deny this date is at present concealed. The house was probably built with an open hall, also timber-framed, with a screens passage on the site of the present chimney stack and perhaps with a lateral fireplace in one of the long walls. The differences on the roofs of the cross-wings might suggest that they were built at different dates, but it is almost impossible to tell without more structural evidence being visible. If they are of different dates the service wing is likely to be the earlier, but the differences could simply reflect their different functions and status. Assuming the C16th date to be correct, the parlour and kitchen chimney stacks are probably original features. If the hall was an open one each wing would have had its own staircase, probably a fairly simple ladder-type stair, but there is no visible evidence to show where these might have been.

The remaining early balusters in the attic perhaps came from a stair inserted by Charles Holt who obtained the house in 1613 with permission to alter it. This alteration could be the flooring over of the open hall and the addition of a grand staircase. Otherwise the main alterations belong to the late C17th or early C18th. It appears that little was done to it after Charles Holt as it still only had three hearths in 1671; these were presumably hall, kitchen and parlour. One would expect a house of this quality to have at least one first-floor fireplace by this date. The house was substantially altered around 1700, when the hall block was totally rebuilt. It appears that the new NE wall was built outside the original timber wall, giving a projecting front, and the wing roofs were rebuilt in half-hipped form. This gave a grand "front" facing the garden.

At the same time the service-wing staircase was added and the rooms in the parlour wing were panelled. The barrel-vaulted cellar was probably built at the same time, although the proportion of beamed ceiling at the NE end suggests that it replaced an earlier cellar. The exact chronology of the alterations is not clear. Margaret Rich bought the house in 1683 and died in 1692, and it is quite possible in architectural terms for the alterations to belong to this period. Her will refers to the "best stair case", clearly the one in the service wing, but also makes it clear that there was a passage between the two parlours. The second stair is clearly a later addition therefore. Her will also refers to a "closett within my great chamber", her great chamber being the one over the hall. She certainly had some work done to the house, as her inventory makes it clear that there were now five fireplaces, two of them in first-floor rooms. However, it has been suggested that she did not have sufficient money for the wholesale alterations and rebuilding and that these were instead the work of John Prinn, who bought the house in 1697. Margaret Rich's will and probate inventory refer to the little parlour as either the drawing room or the "little guilt room", and the second service room as a store room. They also mention a brewhouse and shop, implying the presence of various outbuildings. The inventory makes it clear that the "little guilt roome" did not have a fireplace, as no andirons are mentioned; as the fireplace appears to be contemporary with the panelling this is perhaps an argument in favour of John Prinn being responsible for the rebuilding. The staircase in the parlour wing belongs to the first half of the C18th, but appears to be reused from elsewhere. It may have been added in the 1790's, when the house was settled as a dower house; the hall doorway, fireplace and the passage block were probably added at the same time. The porch is late C19th or early C20th, the bay windows likewise.

Linda Hall, B.A.

#### NEW COURT - AN HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION

This is one of the most interesting houses in Charlton Kings, because we know a great deal about its history and a fair amount about its architecture. At the same time, there remain gaps in the evidence and places where it can be interpreted in more than one way.

The name, New Court, was in use by 1620, and probably means that this was a new house erected about the middle of the 16th century by or for Sir Henry Compton (who had a considerable holding elsewhere in the area). It was freehold of the manor of Cheltenham, part of Bafford tithing; and there is no free messuage corresponding to it in the mid-15th century Cheltenham manor rental.

On the west, New Court fronted a road (then known as Moorend Street, now New Court Lane). By the 16th century, this winding, deeply rutted, lane was felt to be an obstacle to traffic, and a new straight road was apparently cut through Hencroft as a by-pass. The house had a gate on to this road too. Indeed, it may have been the new road, which left a narrow "horn" of land between the two ways, that prompted the erection of a new house on this site.

As originally built, New Court was timber-framed, with thatched roof. Only one panel of the timbering can be seen today (some is hidden by plaster),

but we can see from this section that the studs are long and close together, typical of the period 1550-1560. There was a central hall with a fireplace and chimney, a solar wing at the north end and a service wing at the south. This was a very common late medieval house plan.

Sir Henry Compton was dead before the first inclosures from the open fields of Charlton were agreed in 1557. Tenants might fence one acre for every 10 held. Compton's heirs and their under-tenant John Lewyke were allowed to hedge 3/4 of an acre out of the 3 acres held in the open field called Milkwell, as the right proportion for the total 7 acres going with the house. Seven years later, a second inclosure was authorised, this time 3 acres for every 20 held. So Henry Compton esq, the heir and the occupier Johan Lewyke (widow of John) were allowed to enlarge their Milkwell close to one acre. (1) Sometime around 1600, Compton sold the 3 acres freehold in Milkwell field to Samuel Rudgdall, and then sold the messuage with its orchard, garden and 2½ acre close, and 1½ acres in the common fields, to Humfrey Harris yeoman (who already had a good deal of land in Naunton).

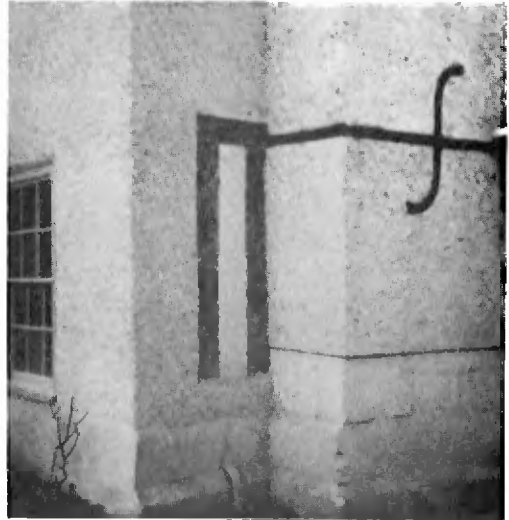
Humfrey Harris was not popular with his neighbours. In April 1608 he was presented in Cheltenham manor court (2) for having built a cottage by New Court and allocated only ½ acre of land to go with it, instead of the 4 acres demanded by the Elizabethan statute. The following October, he was ordered to remove or stop up a certain gutter leading from his well, by which dirty or stinking water was carried into the highway, causing grave damage. This suggests that the cottage was not just a dwelling - some unpleasant process was being carried on there. Harris paid his fine for the cottage regularly every year; in 1612 the court heard that he had divided it into two and now had two occupiers, John Tytchett (who had been there since 1608) and Thomas Arthur.

At this point, the Harris family decided to leave Charlton for Bredon, and on 4 January 1613/3 (3), Humfrey Harris with his sons John and Humfrey, and a mortgagee Robert Gootheridge, leased the house with closes, orchard, and garden, to Charles Holte of Withington gentleman for a term of 60 years. He was allowed to "alter, translate, make chambers, windows, chymneys, and to pull downe and build up in what fashion and sort it shall please the said Charles ---", and since he was to improve the property so considerably, Holt paid only £62 for his 60 year lease. The Harrises reserved the right to pay him £65 and cancel the lease, if they could find the money by the end of the following September, but this they made no attempt to do.

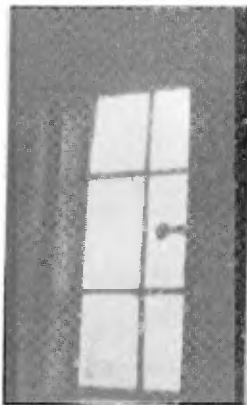
The death of Humfrey Harris senior was reported to the manor court on 6 February 1616/7 (4) and his heir was declared to be his son John Harris senior, who was of full age and did fealty for his freehold. John had no wish to keep his residual interest in the house and on 29 April 1620 surrendered it to Charles Holt for £13.6.8. By this time, Holt had done his alteration and was living in Charlton Kings - his son Charles was baptised here on 18 January 1617/8, and 4 other children followed.

All this means that we have a firm date for the first alterations to the house. Making chambers implies an upper floor to the hall and staircases to give access; there are still some early 17th century banisters at the top of the south staircase which must survive from Holt's improvement - both staircases may once have looked like this. The window lighting the north staircase may be his, and so probably the chimney in the parlour,

Timbering on north side of the house



Beams in attic, north end (over kitchen)



little window in south-west gable



Parlour chimney stack



Landing Window

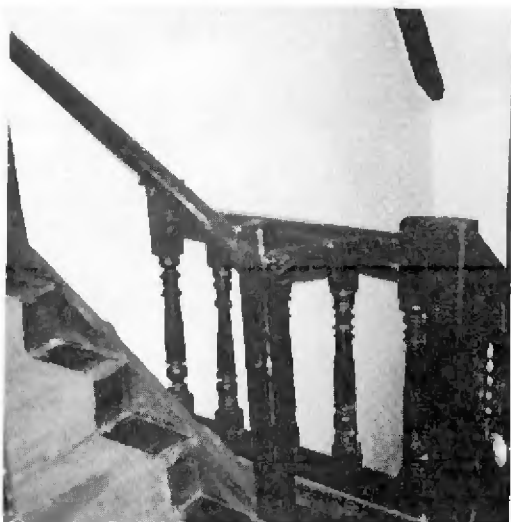


Chamber window (now in garage)



Landing window and parlour stack

Banasters on stairs to attic



an obvious addition to the original fabric. Many Cheltenham houses had chimneys added about this time.

Charles Holt had left Charlton by 1624, though he brought his daughter Lettice back to be baptised at St. Marys. On 26 August 1625 he sold New Court to Giles Atkins of Leckhampton and Sarah his wife, who had a baby son Thomas. Two daughters were born to them here, Beatrice in 1627 and Mary in 1628. The death of Giles Atkyns was reported in court on 10 April 1629, when his heir was declared to be his son Thomas aged 4 (5)

Thomas Atkins was married by 1655 (6) but he and his wife Frances had no children or none that survived infancy. After her death, Thomas and his sister Beatrix lived together at New Court, and were joined there by his mother Sarah Doncastle when she became a widow for a second time. When the Hearth Tax roll was compiled in 1671, Mr. Atkins was required to pay tax on 3 hearths, presumably his hall, parlour, and kitchen (unless, as sometimes happened, the kitchen fire was allowed tax free). This tells us that the small parlour on the east end of the north wing had no fireplace and was what the 17th century would have described as a "summer parlour" - the present chimney, though old, is clearly not as old as the parlour chimney stack.

Thomas had made a will in 1663, leaving the house to his mother and then to his sister. The two women mortgaged it in 1678, mentioning in the deed a dovehouse and stable, and a close adjoining called the Cherry Orchard. Mrs Sarah Doncastle widow was buried on 27 September 1681; and on 18 July 1683 Beatrix Atkins spinster with her heirs (a nephew John Branch and his sister Sarah Buttler widow, who must be children of Mary Atkins) sold the house for £170 to Margaret Rich of Dowdeswell spinster. Two years later, Margaret acquired an adjoining 2 acres called Court Hay, for £38.

We have a very clear idea of what New Court looked like at this time, from Margaret Rich's will dated 16 December 1691, and the inventory taken after her death (7). The will tells us that she was well connected, the youngest daughter of Edward Rich esq and sister of Sir Edward Rich and Mr Bayly Rich. She had probably inherited her good furniture and pictures, all a little old-fashioned by 1691-2, and was living very comfortably, though she did not possess a great income. Her companion in the house was her niece and god-daughter Mrs Anne Stone.

We may deduce a small staff. First in importance to her mistress was Margaret Rogers, her "little Maid", aged between 10 and 12, whose position seems rather like that of Pamela at the beginning of Richardson's novel. Margaret Rogers' parents, Nicholas and Joanah, are mentioned but clearly did not live in the house. There was one maid living-in, "my maid that lives with me", who was left 20s, some pewter, and one suit of linen. There may have been another who lived out - Isabell Waite was left 5s, a pewter dish and skillet. Two elderly women (possibly a washing and weeding woman), Mrs Harding widow and Goody Elbrow, were to have 10s and 5s respectively. There was no man servant.

Under the terms of the will, Mrs Anne Stone was to have for her life one part of New Court - the "parlour and Drawing room", the passage between them, and the two rooms above. That is to say, she was to live in the solar wing of the house, and share the use of the Hall and kitchen. The two cellars (under the kitchen and south passage) were for her alone,

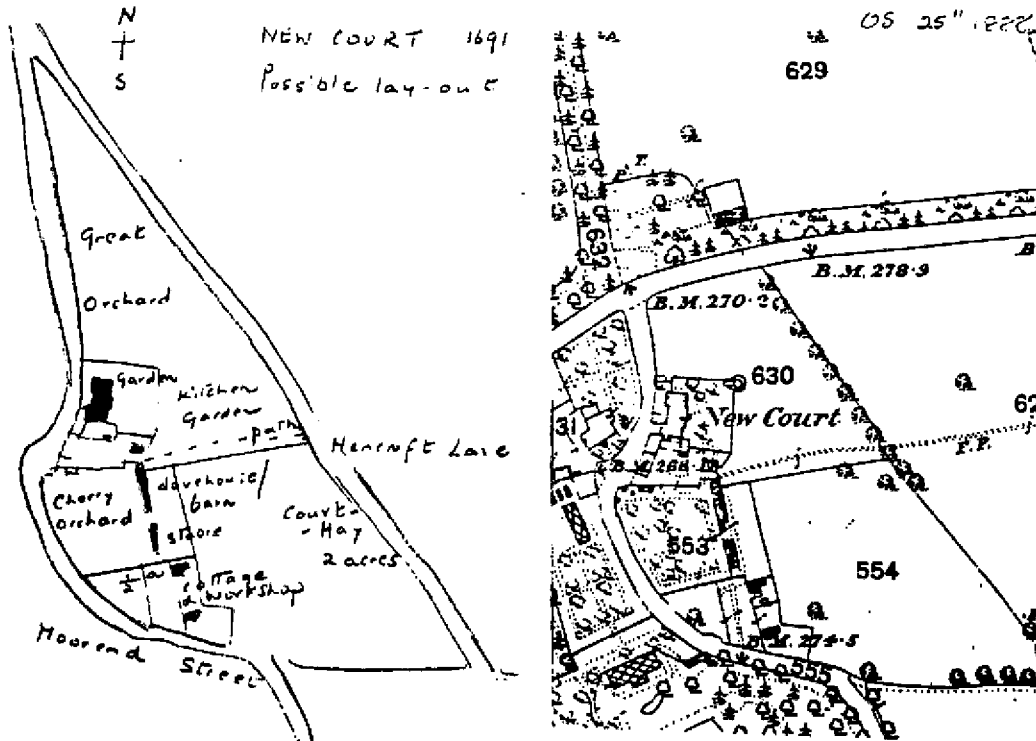


but she was to share the brewhouse "to wash scower or brew". She was to "have the place where the Coach stands for a stable or what use she will" - although Margaret Rich possessed a coach and harness (which she left to her god-daughter Mrs Mary Vilett) she kept no horse, and did not expect that Mrs Stone would either.

The rest of the house and outbuildings were left to her little maid Margaret Rogers, with a shared use of Hall, kitchen, and brewhouse "at seasonable Times". The brewing furnace was to be hers "but not to take it away soe long as my neece Stone lives at Charlton Kings". After Mrs. Stone's death, the whole house was to be Margaret's; and as she would probably not be of age when this happened, the executors "the widdow Sarah Whithorne and Beatrix Whithorn" were to "breed up soberly the said Margaret Rogers & they and she to live in the house and make the best of all the grounds, orchard, and gardens". Meanwhile, the gardens were divided - Mrs Stone to have "the little garden going out of the passage and the great garden that is up the steps and the cherry orchard with the piggeon house and the two rooms next the piggeon house, and halfe the barne that is under the piggeonhouse". However, when the pigeons were caught, Margaret Rogers was to be given half, "and for them she must lett my neece Stone have half the grapes apricocks and peaches that growe in the little garden next the kitchin". The great and little kitchen gardens, the great orchard, and the Court Hay were to go with Margaret's share.

It is not clear from this just how the gardens were sited. It seems possible that Mrs Stone's little garden was a small inclosure west of the house, and her great garden up the steps a larger inclosure east of the house - the ground here rises and steps would be needed. We may imagine these gardens hedged or walled around to give them privacy (like the little walled garden painted by Thomas Robins in his conversation piece) - it is unlikely that they had much in the way of flower beds, for Margaret had no man servant either indoors or out - she may have had a man in occasionally to scythe the grass. Land between the two roads to the north of the house may have been her great orchard; the sunny corner west and south of the kitchen and brewhouse her little kitchen garden with its grapes apricots and peaches; east of these offices, the great kitchen garden. A large outer "kitchen" was pulled down within living memory - this was presumably the brewhouse-cum-washhouse, somewhere south of the present kitchen and scullery.

Adjoining Moorend Street, the cottage and workshop erected c.1608 by Harris were still occupied in 1691. So the barn with 2 rooms attached and a dovehouse over it, with the cherry orchard nearby, must have been behind them, approached from Hencroft Lane only. (8)



Now for the furniture, as listed in the inventory taken on 1 September 1692 (8) after Margaret Rich's death, or as mentioned in her will.

In the Hall were 6 turkey work chairs, 2 oval tables, 7 pictures; andirons, fire shovel and tongs; and a clock. Few Charlton people had clocks in the late 17th century, though they were to become common a generation later. From the will we learn that the Hall was hung with "blew and yellow flowered hangings and curting" - these, and the two oval tables were among items left to her nephews Edward Rich esq and Mr. Ward Rich. This was a room where one ate but did not sit.

In the parlour were 8 cane chairs, 4 cushions, one olive-wood table and two stands, one large glass with olive-wood frame, 7 pictures, 6 curtains on 3 rods (for the 2 windows and the door, one presumes); 2 gilt sconces (to hold candles, probably on either side of the fireplace); 2 flower bottles (holders for potpouri?); 2 "Images" (possibly lamp or candle holders) and, most remarkable, "a marble statue". Had some relative brought these home from abroad? This room had a fireplace, so the list finishes with andirons and tongs.

We know from the will about 6 of the 7 pictures. One was "Sir Edward's" (her brother's), another "my father's picture with the great guilt frame", yet another "my sister Robinsons with the guilt frame". Besides these family portraits there were "our Saviour and Mary Magdalen in the garden, with a guilt frame", "the picture of Saul", and "the picture that has the quart pott in it, with the guilt frame". All these, and the great glass, Margaret left to her nephews Edward and Ward. No hangings, beyond

the 6 curtains, are mentioned as belonging to this parlour, but in so small a room there would scarcely be any part of the wall not covered with pictures, mirror, or sconces.

In the passage between the parlours were 8 wood chairs, 3 cushions, and 5 pictures, according to the inventory - again, we are told about 3 or 4 of them. Margaret's nephew Lyonell Rich esq was to have "the picture of my Father that is in the passage, and the Lady Bathurst her picture that hangs in the same place, and the picture of St. Peter that has the cock". Mrs Anne Stone was to have "my mother's picture" (from context, also in the passage) and likewise "all the pictures upon the best stair Case in my house" (which I take to be the north staircase, lit by Charles Holt's big window).

A spanish table in the store room (passed over by the appraisers as "a parsell of trumpery") was left by Margaret to her nephews Edward and Ward. She evidently thought it valuable, and it is possible that they had in fact removed it before her death. Still, one must not take too literally what appraisers say - they were neighbours, not experts, and they could not appreciate the exotic or the antique.

The summer parlour is called by the appraisers "the Little guilt Roome" because its walls were covered with "one guilt hanging", left by the will to Edward and Ward. Spanish leather hangings seem to belong with the Spanish table, the olive-wood furnishings, the statue and images - they all suggest travel in Europe if not further afield.

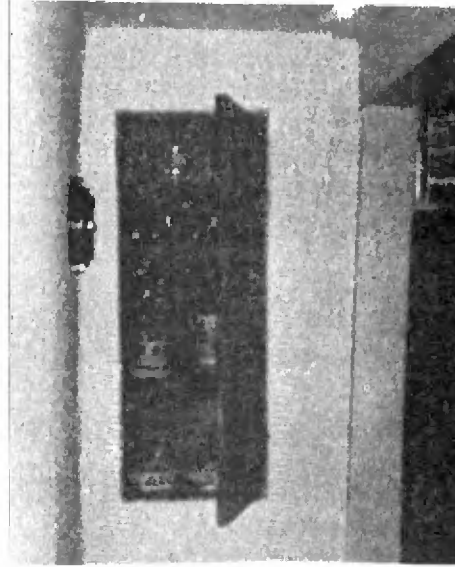
Because of the hangings, there were no pictures in this room, only 3 pairs of curtains and 2 rods for the two windows, a table with "one turkey worke Carpett" on it, "one squob and long Cushion". These were the plump cushions used on stools (examples may be seen at Knowle), and we know that Margaret had stools, though not in this room. She wanted her nephews to have the cushions - had she perhaps worked them?

Spanish leather hangings at Bateman's (Kipling's home, now National Trust).



No chairs are mentioned in this parlour, presumably because the 8 wood chairs standing "in the space" or passage could be carried in as needed. "Wooden Chairs with the turned frames" Margaret called them; she wanted her nephews to have them.

Somewhere downstairs was a "clossett" where the special glass and china was kept - 3 syllabub glasses, one plate, 3 china dishes, 3 fruit dishes, and 4 saucers or sauce dishes. It would be nice to think that this "clossett" was the 17th century wall cupboard still used for storing glass; but as it is mentioned immediately after the staircase and "space by the stairs", it is more likely to have been the store cupboard under the half-landing.



Upstairs, the principal bedroom was called the Hall Chamber. It had a fireplace. In it were Margaret's ready money and wearing apparell (together valued at £6). We know from the will that she had an "Indian Mantell" (left to Mrs. Hester Jordan) and "wearing Cloathes lynnen and wollen silk and silver whoods and scarfs", most of which she wished little Margaret to have, though "one suite of my lynnen but noe poynt nor laces" was left to the resident maid. In this room she kept securities for money owed her, her 5 rings (her "amathist Ring and the gold Ring marked with E.R:" were left to little Margaret); and a silver cup, plate, 3 spoons, a fork, a pair of sauce-holders and 2 salts (items she had probably used upstairs while ill).

Then there was the bedroom furniture proper - bedstead, bedmat, grey cloth curtains and vallenge, featherbed and bolster (no pillow), 2 blankets, a grey counterpane; and a second bed with a "half head Bedstead & matt", a flock bed and bolster, a rug, and 2 "stript curtains". We may assume that Margaret Rich had the big bed with curtains all round, while little Margaret slept on the half-headed bed. Bed curtains were partly to give the sleeper privacy, when rooms were often shared, partly to keep out draughts and promote warmth. With bed curtains and a feather or flock (ie wool) bed, very few blankets were required. Margaret Rich being an elderly woman had two, but little Margaret only one rug.

In this bedroom there were 4 chairs, a table covered with a carpet, wall hangings, 4 pairs of curtains (suggesting a couple of windows on each long side of the room) one picture, and a "Night bagg", by which I think the appraisers meant a close stool. They found the bed-pan (warming-pan) in the kitchen.

Off this chamber was a "clossett" or dressing-room. In it were a "box of drawers" (ie chest of drawers), 4 deal boxes, a flat box, and a comb box with 2 combs and brushes. A powder box, a silver looking-glass frame, a hanging shelf, "other Lumber", and "two Cupps edged with silver" complete the list. These cups sound like heirlooms, kept, but regarded as out-

of-date. It seems likely that the 4 deal boxes held clothes and the household linen, with which Margaret was well provided. She had 20 damask napkins and 4 table cloths, 3 diaper tablecloths and 15 napkins, 11 holland and hempen sheets, 2 holland towels, with "other things unnamed". It must be remembered that table napkins were essential when forks were not used - her personal fork in the bedroom was the only one in the house, and that was probably used to get pickle out of jars or the like. Margaret's is the first fork so far found in any Charlton inventory.

Margaret Rich divided her best damask linen between her nephew Lyonell Rich and her niece Mrs. Stone. Margaret Rogers was to have the diaper and holland, the best bed complete, the grey hangings from this room, "a pair of the best Blanketts overcast with red worsted", the chairs, stools, table, little feather bed and holster, "the white Cammels hair rugg that is in my Chamber", and "the furniture of the Clossett within my great Chamber with all the Bookes that are marked with M:R:". How we should like to know what those books were! The appraisers only say "In the Clossett, eighty-eight books, 1 glass case". So at least we know they were kept in a glass-fronted bookcase, and were small (8vo or 12mo).

In the Parlour Chamber (the bedroom over the heated parlour) were one bedstead, feather bed, bolster and 2 pillows (Mrs Stone obviously liked to lie high), a silk quilt and bed-head, a set of cloth curtains and valences. The will elaborates - this was the "Cloth bedd that is lined with Isabella Lutestring", the "pair of stript pillows and a quilt" that Margaret Rich left to her nephews. Lutestring was a glossy silk fabric, rather stiff, and "Isabella" a shade described by dictionaries as either "greyish yellow" or "a pale brownish yellow". (It was said to have taken its name from Isabella of Austria, daughter of Philip II of Spain, who vowed she would not change her linen until Ostend, besieged for 3 years, was in her hands!). I imagine that Isabella lutestring was really a yellowish wild silk, unbleached.

This room faces west and has only one window (though the parlour below has two). Yet the appraisers found here 2 curtain rods and 4 pairs of curtains. Two small windows in 1692 are possible, but it seems more likely that extra curtains were being kept here for some reason. The chamber was hung with "Kitterminster hangings" (some kind of woven tapestry?), and there were 2 large pictures, besides a "landskip". Mrs Stone had a looking-glass, a comb box, 2 powder boxes, and a chest with drawers, besides 2 chairs and 4 stools. This bedroom had a fireplace, so the list ends with fire-irons - brass-headed andirons, a fire shovel, tongs, and bellows. Presuming that the men who listed hearths for the 1671 tax did their work efficiently, this fireplace had been made since 1671. It could have been after 1689, when hearth tax was abolished, and window-tax substituted. Perhaps Margaret Rich had it done for the benefit of her niece - it would not have cost much, only the expense of making a hole into the existing chimney and the actual hearth. The fireplace and the two pillows in addition to the bolster on Mrs. Stone's bed suggest that she may have been subject to bronchitis or asthma.

The stairs originally led straight into this chamber, with one door from it into the Hall chamber and another into the smaller bedroom - 17th century houses seldom wasted space on passages upstairs. We can't tell whether the upstairs lobby had been made by 1692 or not, for the present staircase is not that used by Margaret Rich. Hers may have turned the other way, leaving the "space" beside the stairs on the east.

The small bedroom over the little parlour (called in the inventory, the "chamber over the space") had a half-headed bed with bedding, and the "Camell haire rugg" that was left to little Margaret. On the walls were tapestry hangings, and there were two curtains at the window; "an old box of drawers", a table, and 2 stools completed the furnishing. The resident maid must have slept here, perhaps to be within call of Mrs Stone should she need help during the night. We don't know Mrs. Stone's age; though a niece, she may not have been so very much younger than Margaret Rich (who says she was the youngest daughter in her family), and the whole tenor of the will seems to indicate that Anne was not expected to live very long.

Margaret Rich's kitchen was well equipped for her day. She had 12 great and small dishes of pewter, two "pye plates", 22 other small plates, a basin, 4 pewter stands for dishes, 16 pieces of tin ware, 3 brass kettles (large cooking vessels), 2 pots, 3 skilletts, a saucepan (a small pan for making sauces), and 1 copper pot. "One old still" and "one bottom of a still" suggest that she had formerly distilled drinks, medicines, or perfumes; but had given up the practice. There were fire dogs, a fender, 2 gridirons, 2 chafing dishes, 2 pairs of pot-hooks, and a pair of bellows on the hearth - all the roasting was done before an open fire and all the boiling in those pots or kettles hung over the flame. Baking was done in a proper baker's oven built into the wall beside the fireplace - this, being a fixture, was not listed by the appraisers. Perhaps for the same reason, they don't mention a table or cupboard; we may picture a fixed dresser against the wall, with its own work-surface; a hinged table fastened to the wall, or a stone or marble-topped table, set on brick supports. "My maid that lives with me" and her cronies Isabell Waite, Mrs Harding and Goody Elbrow, could take their choice of the 6 old chairs and two stools.

When Margaret Rich made her will on 16 December 1691, she may have been unwell enough to think she would not see the new year. However, she lived till late August 1692 - she was buried on 2 September, the day after her inventory was made. On 5 August she was obliged to borrow £100 from Joseph Ludlow, a Cheltenham mercer. This liability made it virtually impossible to carry out the provisions of the will. Mrs. Stone may have gone to live with other relatives - she is not buried in Charlton Kings. On 5 August 1695, the mortgage was assigned to John Prinn of the Inner Temple for £150; and shortly after this, Prinn got complete possession. On 13 January 1696/7 he came to an agreement with Nicholas Rogers of Westbury yeoman and Margaret his daughter for absolute sale of the property; and as the articles describe Prinn as "of Charlton Kings esq", it seems he had already moved to New Court. Little Margaret was to receive an annuity of £3 until she came of age (that would not give her more than £18 altogether). Then she was to sign a proper conveyance. This she eventually did, but not till 20 August 1739, when she was a middle-aged woman, living in Oswestry. She never married. Oswestry parish registers record her burial on 24 March 1767, as Margaret Rogers, spinster, of Cross Street.

The next stage in the history of New Court starts with John Prinn's purchase in 1695-7. He acquired a house, virtually unaltered since c.1613. To make the place more comfortable and up-to-date, he rebuilt the central hall in brick, putting the new brick wall outside the old timber frame; this accounts for the slight projection of the centre of the house, beyond the two wings, on its east side. He may well have left the timberwork standing till the new walls were up. He raised the ceiling of the new

Hall some 2 ft. 6 ins, and this meant raising the floor of the hall chamber and the roof over the central part of the house. That is why the middle of New Court looks unusually high. It is not really higher than a normal early 18th century house of this size, but appears to be so because the wings are still basically medieval.

A corridor up 4 steps was taken off the west side of the hall chamber

Sash windows around 1700 were of two types - 3 or 4 panes wide, according to the width of the wall in which they were to be set. So in the room above the little parlour, Prinn removed the lattice window and replaced it with a 4 pane one to give maximum light to a bedroom with only one window. But on his new hall facade, 4 paned windows would have been out of proportion, and the alternative 3 paned windows (so often seen in town houses built c.1700-1710) were chosen. Like all windows of the period, the woodwork was set flush with the brick wall, and there were no window-sills.

The front door from Moorend Street (New Court Road) led directly into the new Hall. The depth of the doorway in the west wall shows that this was intended to be an outer door. On the north wall, a door, (now blocked) opened at the foot of the north staircase. The south wall has a deep chimney breast, though the original fireplace has gone and a much smaller one substituted - the cornice indicates the intended width. Beside it was a doorway through to the kitchen - the only evidence for this now is the very thin partition at this point.

The panelling throughout the house, the door frames with bolection moulding, the parlour fireplace, and the door into the parlour, belong to Prinn's alterations. Presumably he would have panelled the hall as well as the parlours.

When John Prinn acquired Forden House in 1701, he lived there and let New Court. That house continued unchanged till the death of John's grandson William in 1784 brought it into the hands of Dodington Hunt. After Hunt's only son had come of age, a settlement was made in 1797 in anticipation of the marriage of the heir and the re-marriage of his father (see Bulletin 8 p.35), and New Court was chosen to be a future dower house for Dodington Hunt's second wife Anna Nettleship. They were married on 9 November 1798; presumably he would have renovated the house for her in 1797. He may have added the passage on the west side of the Hall, so that the front door no longer opened into the main room; new doors to that room and to the chamber above, and a slight reduction (because of the new passage) to the size of the great parlour would follow. It is not impossible that Hunt re-used in New Court staircases and doors which he had lately taken out of Charlton Park - the north staircase especially does not quite fit its present position. But it is a very elegant structure which Hunt may have been reluctant to throw away. The south staircase with its twisted ballusters is of John Prinn's day, but not necessarily put into New Court by him.

One would have expected Mrs. Anna Hunt to remove to New Court after her husband's death in 1803. But she does not appear to have done so. Her step-son and his wife had no children and were probably happy for her to remain with them. At all events, there was no break in the tenancy of New Court. In 1797-9, when Land Tax was being redeemed, the tenant was Mrs. Ann Lane, who was buried at Charlton Kings on 8 September 1811.

THE NEW EAST FRONT



A new four-pane window for the small chamber over the former "guilt" room.



Acanthus brackets under the eaves  
(Mrs. Hall's photograph)



A three-pane window without a sill, woodwork flush with brickwork

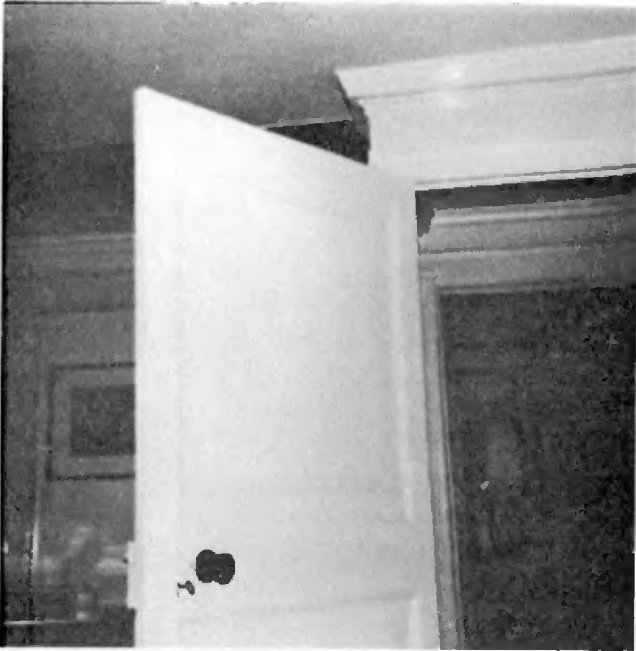


THE NEW WEST FRONT

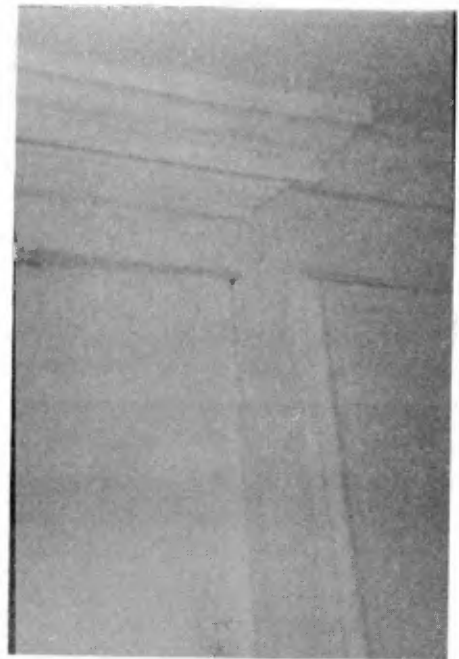
A west front window, without sill  
(the glass in the lower part of the window has been modernised)





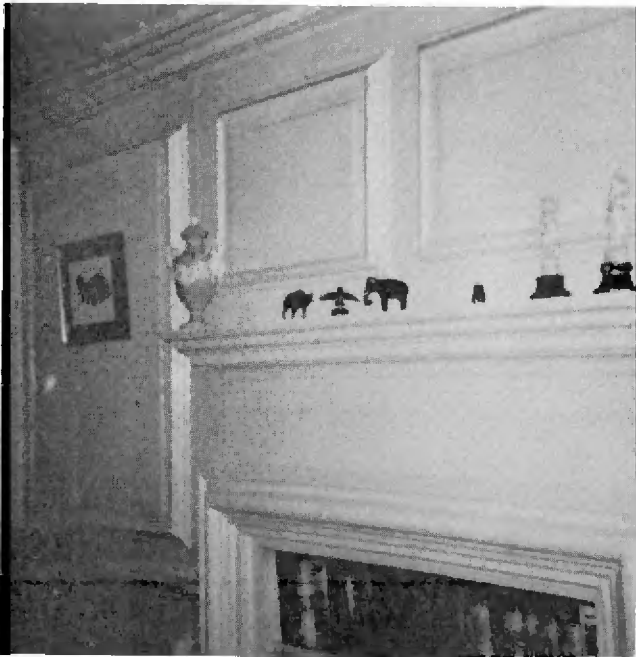


parlour door

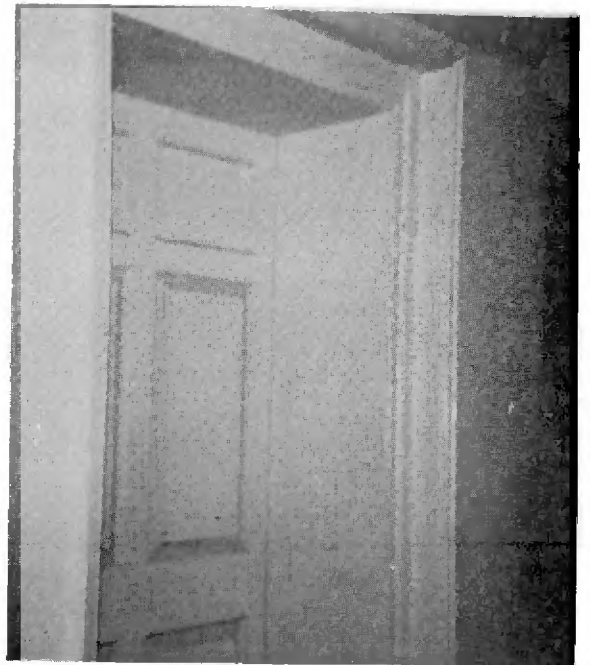


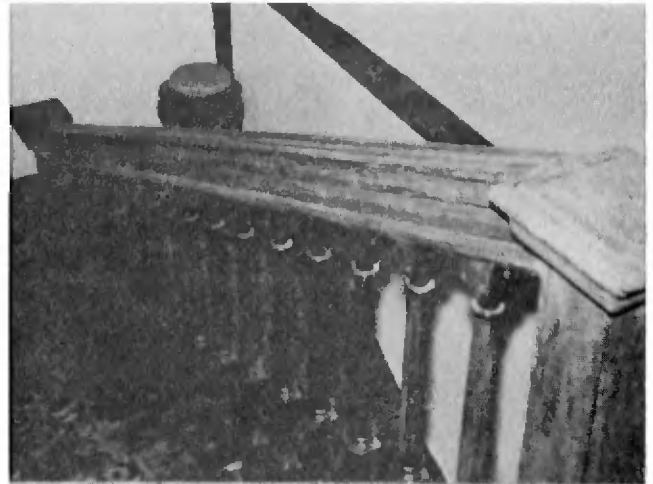
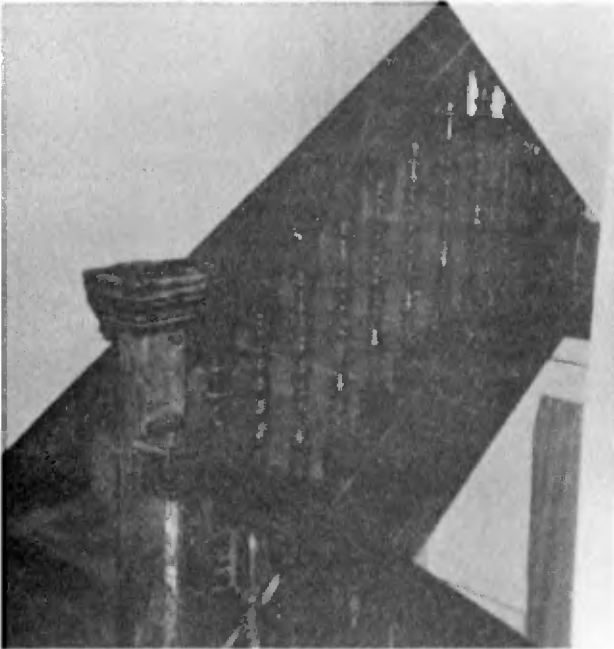
Fireplace, little parlour

parlour panelling and  
fireplace

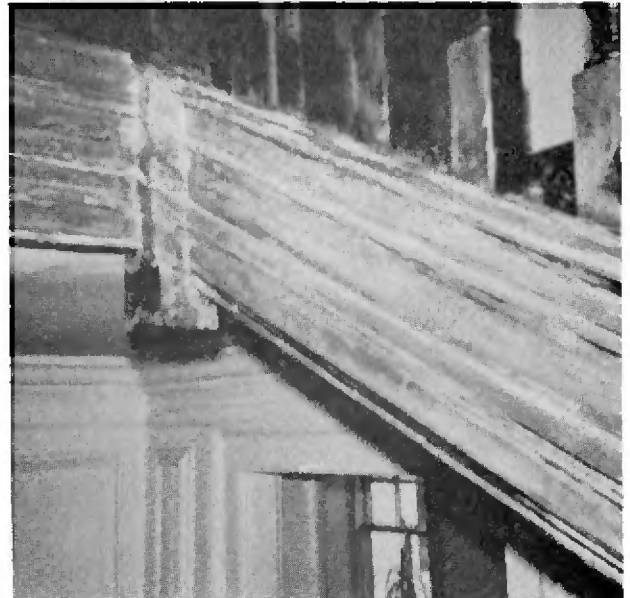


Doorway into Hall  
(once the outside door)





Top. These studs seem designed to fit into panelling



Meanwhile on 7 June 1791, James Hart of Charlton Kings had married Eleanor Lane of Little Risington; and during the years to 1800, five of their children (Alice, James, Sarah, William, and Stephen) were baptised at St. Mary's. After 1811, James Hart followed Mrs. Lane as tenant of New Court; to be succeeded by a John Hart esq (perhaps a brother?). Josepha Frances, daughter of John and Dorothea Josepha Hart, was baptised on 28 October 1830; and John Hart is named in the 1843 settlement of the Charlton Park estates. A Mrs Hart kept a school at New Court c.1837-1842. (9). In 1858, the tenant was Captain Joseph Trenery. (10)

New Court was sold with the rest of the Charlton Park estate about 1870. The tenant in that year was William Villar, who seems to have purchased. He was followed by James Villar (Directory 1880-1) and then W.A. Villar (Directory 1891-2). The Villars were architects, so it seems likely that the porch and the bay windows downstairs, and the triangular windows upstairs were added by them. In 1910 the occupier was J.T. Rogers (Directory), and then in 1913 Mrs. Burr (widow of an architect Dr Frederick Burr) bought it - the thatched summerhouse in the garden was there in her day and proved an apt setting for a proposal of marriage! (11).

- (1) GRO D 855 M 68
- (2) D 855 M 8 f. 8v, 65v, 114v, 136v; Statute 31 Eliz. c.7 (1588-9)
- (3) New Court deeds GRO D 1224
- (4) D 855 M 9 p.71
- (5) D 855 M 10 f.16
- (6) ibid. p.167
- (7) Inventory GRO 1692/149; the will is among the title deeds D1224
- (8) Two large buildings are marked on the 1888 25" OS, approached only by a path leading to a gate on the line of Hencroft Lane; and continuing on to reach the new Cirencester road, cut in 1826. The gate posts still survive in a garden on the New Court estate.
- (9) See Bulletin 5 p.30.
- (10) Rate book 1858, no 467
- (11) See Edward Selwyn Bazeley Recollections of a Forester (1970).  
I am grateful to Mr and Mrs. R.E. Moore for lending me the book.

#### 8. CHARLTON CHAPEL: SPECULATION

Further work on documents in the Cirencester Abbey Cartulary shows that, sometime before 1196, Walter of Ashley (lord of Ashley) and his wife gave a hide of land at Purbeck to the Canons at Cirencester (Document 568/Vol II). This gift was said to be for the benefit of the souls of their parents and ancestors. It is also noted in the Cartulary that there had earlier been gifts of land from others to the abbey's church of Cheltenham for serving private chapels.

- (a) Document 426/457 (Vol II), dated to 1143-1145, is a confirmation by Roger Earl of Hereford, of the gift made by one Butler to the Church of St. Mary of Cheltenham for serving his chapel. (Leckhampton had a chapel by 1162).
- (b) Document 419/450 (Vol II) dated between July 1141 and March 1150, shows that Walter of Brussels, a servant of the Earl of Hereford, gave a virgate of land in order that services might be celebrated at his chapel at Arle 3 days a week.

Charlton Chapel was dedicated in 1190/91 or 1193, and services were to be celebrated on 4 days each week and on feast days. It is not known, but perhaps possible, that the chapel at Charlton was set up as a quid pro quo for Walter's benefaction (if that were made as early as 1190), or, alternatively, in recognition of a local magnate well disposed to the abbey.

M.J. Greet

The site for the new chapel must have been given by the lord of Cheltenham or the lord of Ashley (since all land in Charlton belonged to one or other of the two manors). The donor must have been the king (Richard I) or Walter. Of the two, Walter seems the most likely - he had as part of his manor all the adjoining land (now the southern section of the churchyard). Richard I was busy raising money for his crusade and not very likely to help any other good cause - his local steward could not act in such a matter without reference to the central government.

9. CIDER MILLS IN CHARLTON KINGS - RYEWORTH HOUSE



The cider mill is still in place at Ryeworth House. It was used by local farmers for making perry until just before the last war, I think. Joe Burroughs, who lived in The Bank always came for Mr Rouse. The horse he used was very fond of the pulp and would stop to try and lick the stone as soon as Mr Burroughs left the mill - to be scolded - "Daisy, you're a damned old listener!"

One by-product which we enjoyed was what we called peat - the flat cakes left after the juice had been removed. This gave us bright glowing fires in the winter, and smelt sweet.

The perry pears were called Choker pears, they were so hard to swallow and so rough on the throat. But one local woman always used to ask us for some of the pears, to send to her son in Liverpool.

Gwen Bray (nee Hughes)

10. APPRENTICESHIP AND BASTARDY: A REVIEW OF THE CHARLTON RECORDS

The primary aim of the magistrates in binding out poor children as apprentices, or ensuring that parents supported their illegitimate children, was to prevent the children becoming a charge on the parish and ensure that they could earn a living. Some details of the way this happened emerge from the very few Charlton apprenticeship and bastardy orders which survive from the late 18th and early 19th centuries and are held in the Gloucestershire Record Office. Sometimes such records complement each other (1). For example, Hannah Bearn, born a bastard in 1786, was bound apprentice in 1795 to a nailer in Dudley, Worcestershire. Choice of employer may have been conditioned by the father's domicile in 1786, in Worcestershire.

Duties of master and apprentices are indicated in item c of the table at Appendix A. The employer often charged a premium before taking an apprentice, but at the end of the apprenticeship, the apprentice would usually receive an outfit of clothes; see item d.

The bastardy orders that remain almost entirely relate to men from outside Charlton. The procedure seems to have been to compel the alleged father to attend court (see item i) and there to take out a bond to indemnify the parish against the expense of supporting a child. The father had to pay accrued costs from the birth and weekly maintenance of about 1s 6d. The mother also had to pay a weekly amount, at about half the father's rate, if she did not care for the child herself.

Details of the process are illustrated by the table at Appendix B.

Sources

- (i) Apprenticeship records GRO P 76/OV/4/1
- (ii) Bastardy records GRO P 76/OV/5/1,2,3,4

Footnotes

- (1) But see also Bulletin 6 pp 39-45, B. Middleton "Charlton Vestry books 1698-1793"
- (2) Information from Dr. J.V. Ruffell

APPENDIX A APPRENTICESHIPS

DATE	NAME	APPRENTICED TO	TERMS	REMARKS
a) 30.11.1767	Thomas Robins, son of William Robins of Charlton yeoman	William Bliss	To serve until he be 24. If his father provide "apparel of all sorts" until 24 June 1774, Bliss would acquit Robins of the indenture.	Bound apprentice by Churchwardens: William Goodrich John Tauty Overseers of the Poor: Thomas Lea John Freeman Witness: C. Higgs  Thomas was probably a nephew of Thomas Robins the painter. William Robins (brother of the artist) and Jane his wife had a second son Thomas hp 6 January 1751/2 at Charlton. So he would be 15 in 1767. The family was going through a difficult time, which explains why the parish had to act. At this date or soon after, William Robins the grandfather was a debtor in Gloucester Castle gaol. He gave notice that he would "take the benefit of the Insolvent Act" on 15 May 1789 (Gloucester Journal) (2)
b) 8.4.1795	Mary Bearn	Isaac Huspage of Dudley, Worcs, nailer	till she is 21	Bearn was illiterate. She was not to receive sets of clothes at the end of her apprenticeship, possibly because her employer received no premium to employ her.

c) 10.10.1795	Ann Hemming	William Webley, bairdresser, Cheltenham	5 years. "To serve in lawful business accor- ding to her Power, Wit, and Ability". The master was to allow the apprentice "meet, competent, and suffi- cient Meat, Drink, and Apparel, Lodging, Washing and Things necessary, that she shall not be a Charge on the Parish".	Ann dau of Henry and Sarah Heming, bp 21 July 1781 - after 5 yrs she would be 18 or 20, possibly 21.
d) 29.11.1796	Elizabeth Hawkes	Sarah and Mary Linnell of Tewkesbury, for housewifery	till 17	Premium £2.2.0. To receive 2 gond new suits, one for holydays, one fmr work days, at the end of apprenticeship. Elizabeth dau of Elizabeth Hawkes, base born, bp 25 May 1783
e) 13.12.1803	John Hale	James Hitchcock of Cheltenham, carpenter		Premium £10.10.0

APPENDIX B

DATE	NAME OF MOTHER	LITERACY	OCCASION OF ORDER OR DATE OF BOND	SEX OF CHILD	ALLEGED FATHER	REMARKS
<u>BASTARDY</u>						
f) 15.10.1783	Isabella Billings				Edward Lea of CK yeoman. Bndd in £40 (to support mther)	William s of Isabell Billings bp 25 March 1783. She already had 2 base children, Prince bp 18 Ap 1786 and Thomas bp 18 Oct 1772
g) 13.8.1784	Elizabeth Fowler of Bisley		"big with child"		Richard Brown of Minchinhampton surgeon Bond in £40	Elizabeth dau of Elizabeth Fowler, base born, bp 23 Jan 1785
h) 21.9.1786	Hannah Bearn	illit.	about 20.8.1785	female	David Roberts of an unidentified parish in Worcs.	See Apprenticeship table item b). Not bp here.
i) 1.1.1778	Bee				Edward Page of Prestbury. He, John Page, and one other were each bound in £5, that the child would be main- tained and not be a charge to Charlton.	Hannah, dau. of Mary Bee bp 16 Jan 1780
j) 1.6.1790	Mary Staight		"big with child"		John Minett of Gretton, tailor	Constable of Char- lton and Joseph Timbrell "sworn cnstable for the execution of the warrant" to appre- hend Minett to indemnify the parish.
k) 15.9.1791	Mary Staight, Gretton, Winchcombe			male	John Minett of Woolston, order made £1.17.6	Child not bp here.
l) 10.2.1791 25.4.1791	Sarah Hill		1.4.1791	male	John Belcher of Hatherley; John Belcher yr, of Chelten- ham 2 appre- hension orders made for him.	Not bp. here.
m) 10.5.1792	Elizabeth (Bond)	illit.	"Big with child"		Joseph Burford	John son of Eliza- beth Bond base born bp 1 July 1792.
n) 24.9.1795 15.10.1795 25.7.1796	Ann Cummings	"	"Big with child" 21.12.1795		John Holland, Cbedworth, cord- wainer, (Bound in bndd with 2 others)	Amy dau. of Ann Commins base born bp 27 December 1795. Another child, Mary Fre- bury dau of Ann Commins bp 26 Feb 1804.
o) 2.11.1796	Mary Humphria		"Big with child"		Matthew - (?), of Ireland	Joseph son of Mary Humphria base born bp 8 January 1797
p) 17.11.1796	Sarah Hill	Literate	9.6.1796	male	Richard Davis, Bristol	Not bp here

DATE	NAME OF MOTHER	LITERACY	OCCASION OF ORDER OR DATE OF BOND	SEX OF CHILD	ALLEGED FATHER	REMARKS
q) 24.9.1798	Dinah Dix	Illit.	"Big with child"		John Millard late of Charlton	William son of Dinah Dicks base born bp 25 Nov 1798
r) 30.11.1798	Ann Musty	Illit.	"Now big with child likely to be a bastard"		William Cull, Gretton	Thomas son of Ann Mustoe base born bp 24 March 1799
s) 22.5.1800	Sarah Didcock		7.10.1799	Female	John Wintle, wine merchant Gloucester	Elizabeth dau of Sarah Didcote base born bp 8 December 1799
t) 21.11.1805	Ann Painter		"Big with child"		Edward Smith, baker of Charlton, bound in £30	Charles son of Ann Painter base born, bp 4 April 1806
u) 19.8.(1806)	Rebecca Bond			male 11.3.06	Joseph Page of Cheltenham. To pay £1 and 1s 3d per week (7 <sup>½</sup> d to be paid by mother if she did not care for child)	Henry Page son of Rebecca Bond base born bp 23 March 1806.
v) 29.12.1807	Elizabeth Cole		5.11.1807		Thomas Ashmeads, labourer. Ordered to be apprehended at request of Mary Howman, overseer of the poor.	Jeremiah son of Elizabeth Cole bp 26 Jan 1806
w) 28.6.1808	Jaoc Arnold			Female 1.10.05	Richard Cresswell late of Bibury. To pay £1 and 2s 6d per week (mother to pay 1s 3d if she did not care for it)	Anna Maria dau of Jane Arnold base born bp 3 November 1805
x) 9.4.1811	Mary Shorey			Female 11.3.11	Edward Kenwood To pay £1 costs so far and 1s 6d per week	Not bp here.
y) 7.5.1816	Ann Wheeler			Female	William Fluck. carpenter, Cheltenham. To pay £1, and 1s 6d per week (9d from mother if she did not support child)	Anne dau. of Anna Wheeler spinster bp 2 April 1816
z) 19.7.1815	Susannah Smith			Male 28.10.14	Richard Archer, yeoman. To pay £2.5.10 and 2s per week (1s per week from mother if she did not support the child)	Robert son of Hannah (sic) Smith servant bp 30 Oct. 1814
bb) 31.1.1815	Ann Willis			Female 3.1.15	William Keerby of Charlton, to pay £1 and 1s 6d per week (9d from mother if child not supported)	Mary dau of Anne Willis sp, bp 15 Jan 1814

## 11. THE RIVER PILL

This stream, which has now disappeared underground into culverts, originally formed the dividing line between Charlton Kings and Naunton. Starting near Daisy Bank, it came through Pilley, with a ford at Pilford. Then it flowed between Charlton Lower field on the east and Naunton field on the west, and down the east side of Old Bath Road (Pilford Lane). The river's proper course should have taken it into the Chelt at Sandford mill. (1)

By the early years of this century, only an occasional overflow ever reached the Chelt at Sandford bridge. The stream was still open on the east side of Old Bath Road from the west end of Claypit path (the Chicken Run) almost to Thirlestaine Road. But there it was diverted sharp left across the road to run through the grounds of a house called Connellmore (now pulled down).

Originally the grounds of Connellmore went as far as Naunton Park Road and included the belt of fir trees there. Then in 1929 the house was sold by Mr Cox and a piece of the land was fenced off so that his sister Miss Cox could build a house she called Connellbeg. Connellmore was bought by Colonel Stoney-Archer. My father moved into the gardener's cottage at Connellmore; and in 1930, when he was making a rockery, he discovered the Pill water running through the grounds only a little way under the surface - he used it to make water-gardens 60 yards long. A 2 inch pipe had been taken off at right angles and led down to the greenhouses to fill the greenhouse tanks - it was silted up but he cleared it and then you could hear the water running under the ground. All you had to do was to remove a wooden bung from the opening in the pipe and fill up the tanks.

After the water-gardens, the stream went on through water-cress beds. There was a badger sett by the water-cress beds, even the boss didn't know where it was, father used to go down at night to watch the badgers.

From Connellmore, the culvetted stream went through the grounds of Linton House, under Naunton Lane, and fed the pond at the back of Cheltenham College Junior School. It received more water from the Miniditch, which drained the former Lydington Lake above Leckhampton station; and then it passed under Bath Road by the Exmouth Arms. It went beside a house named Crossways in The Park to Hatherley Park where Mrs. Drew used to live, and so into Hatherley Brook. The River Pill and the Hatherley Brook combined went on by Dean Close School, through Benhall, at the back of Dowty-Rotol, and thence into the Severn.

In 1932, there was a terrific thunderstorm and flooding. So they put in a big pipe at Hatherley Brook, with a swing door to open if the weight of flood water became too great.

F. Baldwin

- (1) This stream had already been slightly diverted by 1692. On 8 June, Nicholas Wells granted a 12 year lease of a certain water course "commonly called Weare" which ran in the Nether Moor from Benbridge to Edith Pates' Mill meadow. Edith held the mill and wanted a lease of the new channel which took the Pill water into the mill stream above, not below, Sandford mill. The implication is that this diversion had been made well before 1629. To maintain the banks, Edith was allowed to dig soil for one rod distance on either side. (GRO D855 M 10 f. 25).



12. ST. MARY'S G.F.S. FOLK DANCE TEAM, 21 May 1949



Betty Weaver, Jill Lawrence, Cecil Bridgman, Margaret Rawling, Margery Wilkins, June Combe, Miss Williams (teacher), Winnie Winter, Joan Hooper Doreen Matthews, Mary Phillips, Norma Neather, Jean Brickwell

(Photograph lent by M.E. Wilkins)

13. THE HAMLETT FAMILY

Israel Hamlett was the first of this prodigious Gloucestershire family to arrive in Charlton Kings when, on the 2nd August, 1758, he married Sarah, the eldest daughter of William Price and his wife Winifred, nee Pates. Israel and Sarah were married by licence at the parish church of St. Mary's after the formal Allegation dated 27th July of that year. Thomas Parker, a barber of Gloucester city agreed to stand as bondsman for the sum of £500.

It is not certain where in the village the young couple originally made their home, but evidence shows that at a later date they finally settled in a property known as Churchend House - renamed The Grange in the nineteenth century - siding on to, what is to-day, Grange Walk.

Israel and Sarah had six children. William, the eldest, was born in 1759; followed by Winifred in 1762; Samuel, 1764; John, 1768; Robert, 1770, and young Thomas in January of 1774. All the children were baptised in St. Mary's church, but Robert only survived eight months and was buried in the local churchyard on 14th July 1771.

Little is known of William other than the fact that he married Elizabeth (Betty) Brown on 24th November, 1783 at Cheltenham parish church. They

too had issue of six, with the consistency of names - William, Samuel, Betty, Sarah, John and Robert. William junior also married an Elizabeth (Betty) from the family of Greening in Cheltenham. Samuel lived only nine years. Young Betty became the wife of Samuel Lewis, but Sarah ended her days as a spinster at 22, Park Street. John is to be found in 1851 living at Charlton House Lodge with his wife Hannah, (nee Powell) his daughter Hannah Maria, and his grandson Alfred. In the meantime Robert had found a Hampshire born wife in Charity Spickernell from Fordingbridge, and in 1841 was residing in Horsefair Street. By 1851 Robert had died leaving Charity, with their two young children, Thomas and Mary, at number 112. 1861 finds Charity living alone at the age of 68 in No.50 of the same street. She survived her husband Robert by forty years and was buried beside him in grave 120 in St. Mary's churchyard on 18th December, 1884.

Israel's first daughter, Winifred, married John Varnish on 30th December, 1786 at the parish church. His son Samuel was destined to be a bachelor throughout his life. He was 74 years of age when he died on 26th July, 1838 bequeathing all his properties, goods and chattels to his nephews and nieces. Two cottages, in which his respective tenants were William Brooks and William Ashmead, stood on the site which was later to become 'Longleat'. This land adjoined and was bounded by that of his brother John, and was bequeathed to Samuel's namesake and Israel Thomas, two sons of his late brother Thomas. His nephew Samuel had married Mary Ann Tarling in 1834. It would seem apparent that young Samuel had, during the month following the testament of his uncle's will, committed deeds that were to bring great displeasure to his elderly relative as, by a codicil dated the 10th May, his inheritance was reduced to a mere one shilling and sixpence which was to be paid out "during the term of his natural life" by his brother Israel Thomas.

The house in which old Samuel lived, together with the two adjacent - one occupied by William Caudle and the other by William Page - also a piece of ground adjoining, bounded on the east by Horsefair Street, on the south by The tone, on the west by Colonel Prinn's land, and the north by land belonging to his brother Thomas, were left to his nephew and nieces, John; Sarah, (the wife of John Bryant) and Dorothea (who later married William Henry Haynes) the children of Thomas. Another property occupied by William Packer, was left to niece Hannah, also a daughter of Thomas's. Nephew Robert, the son of Samuel's eldest brother William, was to have the cottage tenanted by Henry Hooper together with ten perch of ground adjoining. Another ten perch was added to the cottage occupied by Edward Bennett and devised to Joseph Mayo, the husband of John's eldest daughter Mary. A ninth property, evidently vacant at the time, was to go to Thomas's youngest son, William Price Hamlett with the addition, in accordance with the codicil, of a 'Sitting' in Charlton Kings church; the other 'Sitting' was for Robert.

A sad year 1838 must have been for young Sarah when her uncle Samuel died. In March of that same year she had attended upon the death of her father Thomas. Her mother survived him by only three months, and it was 24 year old Sarah who attended upon her uncle's death in the July.

Israel Hamlett's third son John had removed to Leckhampton when on 4th February, 1799, he took for his bride Hester Cole of that parish, thus saving their second child the ignominy of their first born, Mary who had arrived into the world sometime before the wedding ceremony. John too had six children by Hester, and it was probably the birth of Jacob that caused her death; neither survived. Hester was buried on the 21st January 1810. The family tomb now held seven members of the family. The first

occupants had been Sarah's parents, William and Winifred Price in 1775, followed sixteen years later by Israel Hamlett.

Israel's will, dated 20th June 1791 leaves - or returns! - the sum of £12 borrowed from son William being "the ballance of the Money lent me for the Estate I lately purchased of John Cherrington and Ann Turner", Ann being John Cherrington's sister and the wife of William Turner a rope maker of Gloucester city. The Manor Court books confirm this transaction.

Israel died six months later leaving his assets to be divided between his four sons, his wife being sole executrix. Sarah did not live to execute her duty; she died in the October of 1802. On the 6th day of August, 1803 her third son applied for the grant of administration. Son William evidently had his own lands and properties as his wife Betty's will clearly shows; these were declared to be under the manor of Ashley and were to be divided between her sons, William, John, Robert, and daughter Sarah. Daughter Betty had married Samuel Lewis of Swindon in 1813, so their first born, Eliza was to receive the fifth share with young Betty her mother drawing 'the rents, issues and profits'.

Life must have been far from easy for the forty-two year old widower John after the death of his wife Hester. Of their surviving issue of four only Mary, at the age of twelve years, could have filled the role of 'Little Mother', the rest being virtually babies with their respective age of three, two and one. Three years later he married again. Rachael Adlam, the daughter of Robert and Christian Adlam came from Shrewton, Wiltshire. She married John, at the age of twenty-four, on 6th September, 1813. Within two years the children had a half-sister, Elizabeth (later to become the wife of Joseph Merrett). William, the second child of this second family was baptised on 26th December, 1816. He grew up to become a wheelwright and in the same year, 1838, of the loss of his two uncles and aunt, brought a more cheerful occasion to the family by his marriage to Ellen Smith, a daughter of Daniel Smith. Their direct descendants to-day are residents of Cheltenham. Five more children completed this second issue of John's - Jane, 1818; Caroline, 1820; Samuel, 1822; John Lewis, 1825, and Ann, 1829, but Jane, Caroline and John did not reach adolescence, and Samuel only lived until he was 28, dying of pulmonary consumption in 1850. In accordance with tradition they were interred in the churchyard of St. Mary's, Charlton Kings.

On October 1st, 1829, John, Israel's third son, joined his forbears and first wife in the family tomb. His will reveals that he died in possession of 'all that piece of land called Church Piece'. It had formerly belonged to William Thornton, a local developer, and John had purchased it in 1825 for the sum of £500. John also owned seven tenements apart from his own residence in Hamlett's Yard. One of his tenants was Joel Caudle whose cottage was devised, with ten perch of land, to John's illegitimate daughter Mary, the wife of Joseph Mayo, on condition that they 'Raise no Scandalous Reports to the Injury of my Dear Wife'. Daughter Sarah inherited the adjoining property then occupied by Thomas Caudle; this also had ten perch of land to go with it. William Thornton and Richard Ashmead were to be the executors and trustees of the whole estate, and were authorized to sell the residue off in lots, but only with the consent of John's widow Rachael. The proceeds from this remainder were to be divided between John's children. They were also to share the Well or Pump and all have free use of the court. Explicit instructions were also left regarding the rare walnut tree. The walnuts from this were to be divided every year amongst them all. By 1838 all of Israel's offspring had died.

Thomas, Israel's youngest son died in March 1838, followed in the June by his wife Hannah who was sixteen years his junior. Their daughter Sarah attended upon their death as she did with her uncle the following month. Six appearing to be a popular number of issue for Hamletts, Thomas had followed suit, leaving behind Samuel who had been born within a year of his marriage to Hannah, Sarah, born 1814; Hannah, 1817 (and later the wife of George Nash) Israel Thomas, 1823; John, 1825, Dorothea, 1826 and finally William Price who was born in 1829. There would have been three more but the first Hannah, Israel Thomas and Dorothea did not survive. Each had died previous to their namesakes being born. Samuel the eldest married Mary Ann Tarling in 1834 in the parish church and probably settled within the parish itself. Israel Thomas did likewise after his marriage on 25th November, 1844 to Eleanor Wilson at St. Mary's church, but Dorothea with her husband William Haynes, John and his wife Catherine and William Price and his spouse Emma (nee Hawkins) decided to seek their fortunes in the 'New Land', America. They all departed together, as did so many others, in the year 1850, soon after their respective marriages. For the record the writer has, through research, established a close relationship with their direct descendants, thus spanning the hundred and thirty-two years of closeness between the emigrant brothers and their sister. A further link has been formed with a descendant of Israel's fourth son John. Remarkable when one considers the universal dispersment of many families over this same period, but not so amazing through the unity of genealogical researchers.

Israel Thomas may well have been the only one of Israel's progeny to remain in Charlton Kings in the mid-nineteenth century, although he did live for a short time, after the death of his parents, with his sister Dorothea in Winchcombe Street. By 1851 he and Eleanor with their family of three were living at 99 Horsefair Street. Their eldest son, Israel Thomas junior was five years of age. The second son William had been born in 1847, and their first daughter Ellen in 1850. In keeping with the apparent tradition of six, three more were to follow.

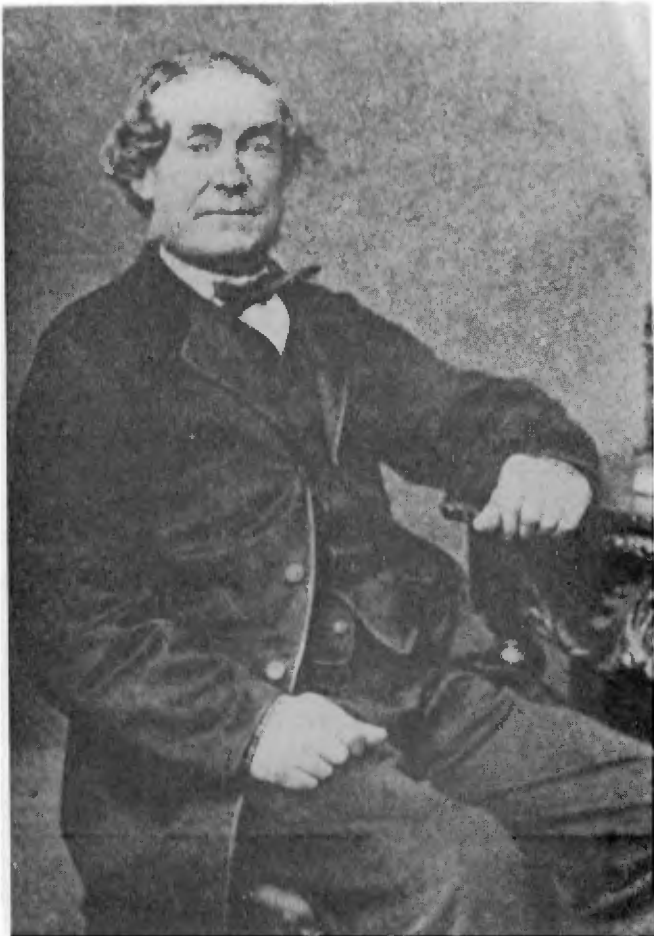
By the time the second daughter Fanny arrived in April 1852 the family had moved to 13 Hamilton Street. In 1854 another son, Albert was born, but, the conjecture is, died at an early age. 1858 brought Charlotte Elizabeth into the fold, and finally John in 1861. Israel Thomas junior, after wedding Mary Ann, a daughter of John Reeves, market gardener, departed the parish for Cheltenham town where his descendants live to-day. William married into the Karn family. Caroline, whose descent is traced from the Packer family, married William Hamlett on 15th July, 1876. They had one son only, Ernest William, born on the 12th May, 1878. Ellen married Alfred Wakefield. Fanny became the wife of James Wood, the owner of Cambrian Nurseries. Charlotte married Walter Gaskin; and John is reputed to have followed in the steps of his forebears to America.

Israel Thomas senior (or Tom as he was known in the family) met his death in the latter part of the nineteenth century through a simple but most unfortunate accident; he tripped and fell outside The Royal Hotel in the village. The afternoon of the 16th February, 1895 had been spent in the congenial company of his friends, in the cheery confines of the inn; although it was proved that he was not suffering from over-indulgence! His home at that time was New Street Cottage, and it was to this address that he was quickly escorted when the misfortune occurred. His neighbour, Mr. Mitchell showed great concern over the mishap which soon developed into a serious condition, whereupon Dr. Renton was called to attend. Daughter Fanny was



The Hamlett tomb situated near the vestry door of St. Mary's church, Charlton Kings, wherein were interred

Winifred Price (1775)  
William Price (1775)  
Israel Hamlett (1791)  
Sarah Hamlett (1802)  
Elizabeth Price (1807)  
Hester Hamlett (1810)  
John Hamlett (1829)  
Eleanor Hamlett (1891)  
Israel Thomas Hamlett (1895)



ISRAEL THOMAS HAMLETT (1823-1895)  
grandson of Israel through his youngest son



ELEANOR his wife (1825-1891)  
formerly Eleanor Wilson daughter  
of John Wilson of Leckhampton

soon fetched from the Nurseries and remained with her father until, at 6.15 p.m. on the 18th February, 1895 Israel Thomas Hamlett departed this life. At the official inquest held the following Wednesday at the Royal Hotel, a jury returned a verdict that "Death was due to concussion of the brain caused by an accidental fall" Israel Thomas was to be the ninth and last member of the family to be interred into the family tomb, and on the 23rd of February he joined his ancestors and his wife Eleanor who had pre-deceased him by four years.

In 1865 Israel Thomas junior had married Mary Ann and had moved into Cheltenham. Of the older Israel Thomas's sons only William remained in Charlton Kings. After William's marriage to Caroline in 1876 the couple moved into Brixton Place. Little is known of William other than the fact he met an untimely death at the age of fifty. Caroline remained a widow until her death in 1929 at the age of 77. They were both buried in St. Mary's churchyard.

Ernest William, the only child of William and Caroline, was a prodigy of music. He started studying the organ at an early age, and by 1899 had already been entrusted to stand in as organist for the services at St. Mary's church. He received high praise from a Fellow of the Guild of Church Musicians, William H. Brasher who resided at 'Trevoise' in the village, and was then the regular organist of St. Mary's. Music was obviously one of the immanent endowments of the Hamlett family. Thomas's grandson, Francis had become a noted composer in the USA, and organist at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Long Island, NY. Dorothea's grandson, who had adopted for his profession her maiden patronymic, excelled as a singer, and in the gas light era toured with such famous people as Caruso and Mme. Schumann Hienk. So it seemed a natural choice that young Ernest should become an indentured apprentice to the music firm of Dale Fortey in the Promenade at Cheltenham. He was only eighteen years of age when he organised and conducted the Charlton Amateur Minstrels. These were a fun and music loving community of young Charltonians who entertained the village during the long dark days of the winter seasons. One particular handbill of the period announces "The Last Entertainment of the Season" - April 11th, 1896 when 'the Minstrels' put on a variety performance at Charlton Kings Working Men's Club and Institute. It was purported to be "PHUNNIER-RUMMIER-CHUMMIER-than EVERER", but the greatest attraction was to be the illumination by 'the New Incandescent Gas Lights' - and all for the admission price of One Penny! But in later life Ernest Williams was to achieve greater musical heights. In the year 1900 he married Alice Innes Cole, the daughter of a Gloucester naturalist, and in 1901 their first son, Cyril Ernest was born. He too developed his father's and the family talents. A second son, Harold Innes, followed in 1906 but diverted the inherent gift towards art. Neither boy produced a patronymic successor.

By the end of the second decade of the twentieth century Ernest's marriage had legally ended; his wife Alice had transferred her affections. Destiny ordained that this branch of the tree was to die, for when Ernest William married for the second time he was blessed with just one girl, Gwendoline ✕ Betty who, whilst she changed her surname, did not lose that inherent gift and love of music added to which, as the writer of this short history, is the pride of being a descendant of a yeoman family which for at least two hundred and fifty years had centred its life in the old Charlton Kings.

G.B. Lane ✕  
Isle of Wight

MILTON KING'S

Working Men's Club & Institute

# The Last Entertainment

OF THE SEASON

SATURDAY, APRIL 11th, 1896.

BY THE

## CHARLTON AMATEUR MINSTRELS

CONDUCTOR - MR. ERNEST HAMLETT

PHUNNIER - RUMMIER - CHUMMIER - than EVERER

### PROGRAMME - PART I.

- PROLOGUE - "The Japs' Patrol" *W. Thorne*  
**THE WHOLE OF THE TROUPE**  
 Two - "In Heaven" *W. Thorne*  
 MRS. BONES, TAMBOURINE, PIANO, & Co. (Duet)  
 Night Song & Chorus - "Do Dingle Doo" *W. Thorne*  
 LARGELY SING - "I'm glad to thank you" *W. Thorne*  
 CHARACTERTIC PLANTATION MIGHT - "Do Squire Ribber" *W. Thorne*  
 FREDERIC FRANKLIN, (The old squire at home)  
 HERODIAS DUFFY - "The Judge" *W. Thorne*  
 PALLAD - "I, varying eyes of Long Ago" *W. Thorne*  
 MASTER WILLIAM MOLES  
 KOMEK SONG - "Do the Seasoning what does it" *W. Thorne*  
 CHARLES SPRAGG  
 SOLE AND GIGGLE - "Days when do I used to be" *W. Thorne*  
 MASTER ARTHUR MUMFORD  
 TRUSSY SONG - "That was famous for me" *W. Thorne*  
 FREDERIC FRANKLIN  
 NARRATIVE - "Do's lory lory" *W. Thorne*

### PART II.

- BALLAD - "A Flowering Sea" *W. Thorne*  
 W. THORNE  
 SONG (IN CHARACTER) - "Our Huggo Little Home" *W. Thorne*  
 W. THORNE  
 STUMP ORATORY EXTRAORDINARY - "Hedone to Young Men" *W. Thorne*  
 CHARLES SPRAGG

Concluding, by performance of the national Anthem, Ministry with the Sovereignty, Peace and Justice

## SKETCH - "OH! WHAT A DAY!"

### Characters:

- MR. T. CLEGG (Proprietor) *for business purposes and respectable* FRED FRANKLIN  
 member of society  
 T. CLEGG (Historical), alias Tomkins, alias Johnson, a Swagman, WILL THORNE  
 Mr. Vernon BONES, a fatted one, CHARLES SPRAGG  
 Sergeant QUACKBAG, a recruiting sergeant, ERNEST HAMLETT  
 Mr. SQUIRE JONES, a detective, ARTHUR MUMFORD  
 ROBERTSON JONES, proprietor of Boker's Theatre, ERNEST HAMLETT  
 ANNEBINE MARY, wife of Mr. T. Clegg, WILL THORNE  
 HENRY HAINES, their servant, W. THORNE  
 LUDWIG, W. THORNE

Beautiful Scenery, specially painted by Mr. Wm. Thorne for this Performance, illuminated by the New Incandescent Gas Light.

No trouble has been spared to make this the last Entertainment of the Season.

### Tickets at the Club, as follows:

Reserved Seats, 1/- Front Seats, 6d. Second Seats, 3d.  
 Admission - ONE PENNY.

Doors open at a Quarter to Eight. Tickets held by subscribers from 7.30 to 7.45  
 CURTAIN RISES AT EIGHT PRECISELY.

N.B.

The Club is not responsible for any loss or damage to property, and the Club is not responsible for any loss or damage to property, and the Club is not responsible for any loss or damage to property.



ERNEST WILLIAM HAMLET (1878-1945) - aged 2 months, and just 'breeched'



Caroline Hamlet

The church organist

"Mr Ernest William Hamlett of 19 Chestnut Road, Salford, who died on Nov. 29 at the age of 67, was a lifelong musician."



THE HAMLETT FAMILY

Israel = Sarah Price  
 b.1733 | b.1730  
 m.1758 @ St.Mary's church.  
 d.1791 | d.1802

William = Betty : Winifred = John : Samuel : Hester (1) John : Robert = Thomas = Hannah Field  
 b.1760 | Brown b.1762 Varnish : Cole b.1768 (2) Adlam b.1770 b.1774 b.1774  
 m.1783 | m.1786 | bachelor m.1799 m.1813 m.1812 m.1812  
 d.1825 | d.1838 | d.1810 d.1829 d.1838 d.1838 d.1838

1784 William = Betty Greening : 1798 Mary = Joseph Mayo 1815 ElizB't = Joseph Merrett  
 1786 Samuel, dec. 1799 Jacob, dec. 1816 William = Ellen Smith \* (1)  
 1788 Betty = Samuel Lewis 1807 Hester, = Wm.Daw 1818 Jane, dec.  
 1789 Sarah, spinster 1808 Thomas 1820 Caroline, dec.  
 1791 John = Hannah Powell 1809 Sarah = Sml.Pates 1822 Samuel, dec 1850  
 1792 Robert = Char'y Spickernell. 1810 Jacob, dec. 1825 John Lewis, dec  
 1829 Ann.

Samuel = Mary Ann : Sarah = John : Hannah = George : Isr.Thos=Eleanor: John=Cathr'n :Dorothea=Wm : Wm.Price=Emma  
 b.1813 Tarling b.1814 Bryant b.1816 Nash b.1823 Wilson b.1824 Livingst' b.1826 Haynes b.1829 Hawkins  
 m.1835 m.1835 d.1895 d.1895 d.1891 -To USA- m.1846 m.1846 m.1850

Isr.Thos=Mary Ann : William=Caroline: Ellen= Alf'd : Fanny =John : Albert: Charlotte =Walter : John  
 b.1846 Reeves b.1847 Karn b.1850 Wakefield b.1852 Wood b.1854 Elizb'th Gaskin b.1861  
 m.1865 d.1899 d.1929 of b.1858  
 Cambrian b.1858  
 Nurseries -To USA-

Alice Innes (1) = Ernest William = (2) Adah Leigh  
 Cole m.1900 b.1878 m.1921

Cyril Ernest : Harold Innes : Gwendoline Betty =  
 b.1901 m.1919 b.1906 m.1929 : b.1922 Chas.W.Lane.  
 d.1979 d.1981 m.1940

G.B.Lane  
 Isle of Wight  
 1982.

An extract of the HAMLETT family tree relevant to the accompanying history covering one Charlton Kings branch. Through research, descendants of each of the first three emigrant families and one from Wm.& Ellen\*(i) are to-day close relatives and friends of the writer - such is the joy of genealogical study!

14. PROVIDENCE PLACE



Some more evidence has come to light, in deeds lent by Mrs. Mary Stanhard and deeds of Cheltenham Corporation to explain the development of this section of Church Piece. The general outline of the history of this land was given in Bulletin 4 pp.37-9.

Nos 4-6

It may be remembered that in 1825 William Thornton bought the whole of Church Piece for £600, and made a 12 ft private road down the middle of it. He sold a frontage plot to John Hamlett, though no conveyance had been made before Hamlett died. However, as Thornton was a trustee named in Hamlett's will of 9 December 1829, there was no difficulty in selling in lots. By 1832, two houses had already been built on part by John Bridgman - he was living in one and had a tenant Martin Rowles in the other. Now he gave £42 for outright possession. Bridgman is described in the deeds as a "cord-wainer" or shoemaker; he was borrowing money and building cottages as a speculation. Three had been erected by 1838.

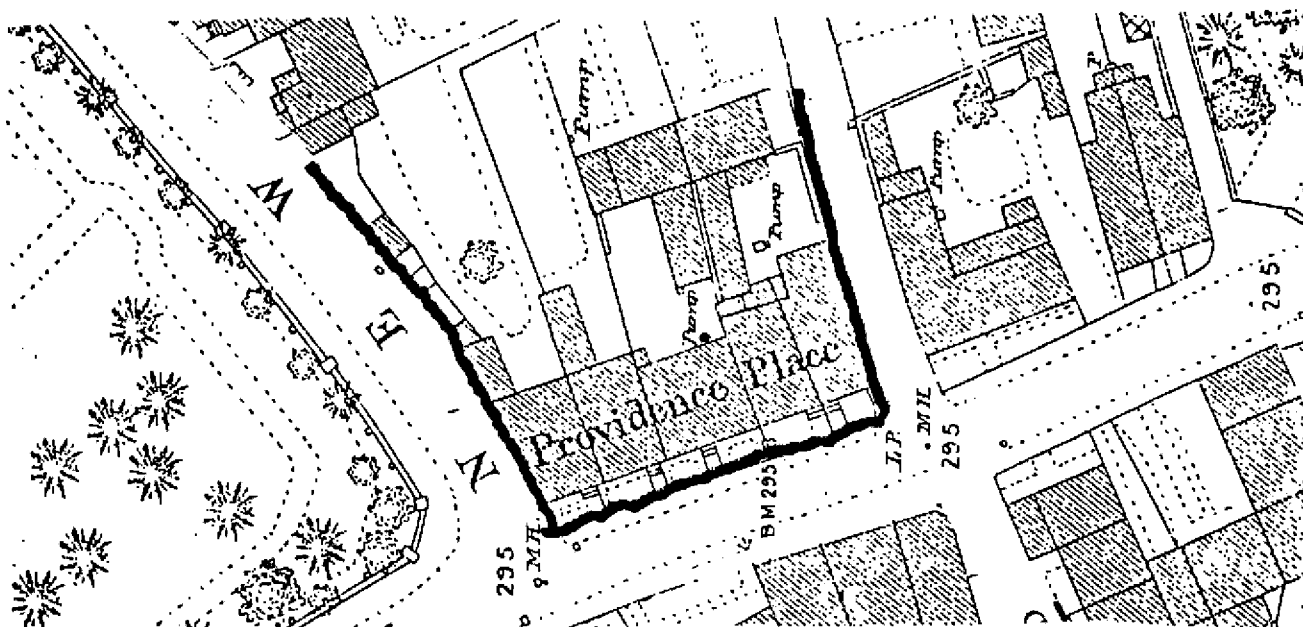
Bridgman was never able to pay off his debts. After various transactions, he mortgaged his 3 cottages (Nos 4 and 5 facing Horsefair Street and No 6 in a yard behind them) in 1876 to secure £150. Bridgman's will dated 30 December 1891 devised all his real estate to George Field, a Charlton

stone mason, but there was a relative, one Benjamin Bridgman of Stoney Stratford, printer and stationer, who challenged this and after a compromise got possession of Nos 4-6. When eventually the property was sold in 1930 for £305, it was said to consist of the land with 3 adjoining cottages or dwelling-houses "which messuages have for long been two only, known as Nos 4 and 5 Providence Place". No 4 was sold to Florence Annie Conins, together with a right of way on foot or with a motor car across the open yard in the rear of No 5 by means of the entrance from Church Piece of a width of 12ft (provided she paid a share of the cost of renewing the doors at the yard entrance). Nothing in the conveyance "should entitle the said persons to keep any vehicle stationary for any purpose on the said yard", so she was not to park there.

### No 3

The OS map shows that No 3, the middle house of the row, was rather larger than nos 4 and 5. In 1847, Elizabeth and Thomas Peacey the occupiers mortgaged it for £111 to Giles Ashmead (d.23 October 1849). The surviving trustee under Ashmead's will, John New, devised all property vested in him as mortgagor to his daughter Jane and she, after her father's death in 1861, appointed new trustees, Henry Dyke of Charlton acutioneer and George Oram of Charlton farmer. They put No 3 up for sale. The purchaser was Charles Webb of Charlton glover, who paid £95 to the trustees and £5 to one William Hawkes of Charlton timber-merchant, representative of the Peaceys. The house was said to be bounded north by premises belonging to John Bridgman, south and east by premises of Mr Charles Leng or Long - it would appear that the conveyancer got his compass points muddled!

Webb in his turn mortgaged the house and other property to Ernest Hartland of Merton College, Oxford, esq (second son of Alfred Hartland - see Bulletin 7 p.15), and with his mortgagee put up the whole for auction at the Royal Inn on 28 May 1875. The first sale was frustrated by the death of the purchaser after six months - No 3 was auctioned again on 10 November 1876 and conveyed to Edwin Baldwin of Charlton gardener, who paid £110 for the site, 21 ft x 60 ft, and the house. After the death of Baldwin's widow Amy in 1901, the surviving executor John Fair of Charlton mason, a son-in-law, sold the house to Horace Edwards for £110, the old price. House prices in Charlton appear to have been very stable.



15. ISAAC BELL: FURTHER NEWS

Further research has shown that Isaac Bell (see Bulletin 8 pp 59-65) and his family were living at 12, Hermitage Place, Cheltenham, at the time of the census in 1851. The details are:-

Name	Age	Job	Birthplace
Isaac	51	gardener	London, Marylebone
Martha	41	laundress	Charlton Kings
Ann	19	dressmaker	" "
John	17	gardener	" "

This shows that Bell was only brought up in Scotland, not born there, as I thought earlier. His wife was born in Charlton, it now appears, not outside Gloucestershire as given in the 1841 Census and stated in my earlier note.

The Butler's name (Bulletin 8 p.62) may have been Went or some such, rather than Wyatt. The rhyme pattern of the poem on p.64 aabccb suggests this.

M.J. Greet

16. REUBEN PATES

When Miss Wilkins' brother J.F. Wilkins read her paper on Reuben Pates (Bulletin 7 pp54-5) it reminded him of the time when the hounds chased a fox across the paddock at Glynrosa - the owner was asked by the huntsman, if he'd seen the fox? and answered "No, and if I had I shouldn't tell you!". In the end the fox was killed in Copt Elm Road, in Reuben Pates' pig-sty, to his great disgust. The huntsman hung the carcass on the newly-painted railings of the house! and Mrs Pates had to bring out a pail of soapy water to remove the blood stains.

17. AN ANCIENT ROAD

In Bulletin 4 (p.40) attention was drawn to a paper in Glevensis 14 (pp 21-2) describing the ancient road down Aggs Hill to Mauls Elm. A mid 13th century deed in Cirencester Cartulary (Vol 2 p.383, no 428/459) speaks of this road as the king's highway. Walter Hawlf gave the priory an assart of land "infra Rodeway versus orientem juxta regiam viam"; being the land which William de Fonte held.

The 1848 tithe map shows TM 113 and 114 as Lower and Upper Roadways; so Walter's land was probably on part of the site of Hewletts Reservoir. The road originally ran straight on down the hill.

M.J. Greet

18. NOTES AND COMMENTS

(1) A Parish Outing

I wonder if the caption under the photograph at the top of page 32 of Bulletin 3 is correct? Surely "King" plied on the Severn. In fact, I remember a trip on her from Gloucester to Wainlodes Hill. Is the site Wainlodes? I can certainly read the word "Tewkesbury" on the life belt.

Eric Green, Little Paddocks

(2) A Charlton Sale 1760

A notice in the Gloucester Journal for 25 December 1759 reads "Sale of property of Rev. Mr. Chapone May 27th 1760" - two messages in Charlton Kings. This seems remarkably advanced notice to give of a house sale. Can anyone help is to identify the houses? Was the Reverend gentleman by any chance connected with the famous Mrs Hester Chapone, essayist (1727-1801)?

Notice from the Journal contributed by Dr. J.V. Ruffell.

(3) The Local Historian

The August 1982 issue of The Local Historian, Vol 15 no 3, contains (pp.166-173) Mary Paget's article on the Cheltenham and Ashley manors inheritance customs "A Study of Manorial Custom before 1625".

A review of the first 3 issues of the Charlton Kings Bulletin by Dr. J. Bettey appears on pp.188-9.

(4) Robins Family

A detailed genealogical study of this local family has been compiled and published by Mr. J.A. Robins of 12 Churchfield Crescent, Poole, Dorset, in The Robins of Gloucestershire and London, 100 pages of A4 size, 17 family portraits, price

Besides the two artists, Thomas the elder and his son Thomas, the Robins family produced Henry and John Robins who founded during the 1770s the Covent Garden auctioneering firm which George Henry Robins was to make famous (see D.N.B.)

(5) Vineyards Farm site

An article on the third season of archaeological work at the Vineyards Farm site appeared in the GADARG publication Glevensis 16 (pp 17-19) issued in 1982.

(6) Charlton Kings Football Team c.1930 (Bulletin 8, p.54)

No 5 in the back row should be Fred, not Sammy, Crooks; No 8 Bill Brewer; No 10 in the front row was probably Jack Haines; and No 11 was Ted Price.

W. Evans, 15 Cooper's Court

(7) Bulletin 6, p.19, Hamlett family

"Samuel divided his property among his children" should read "nephews and nieces".

G.B. Lane