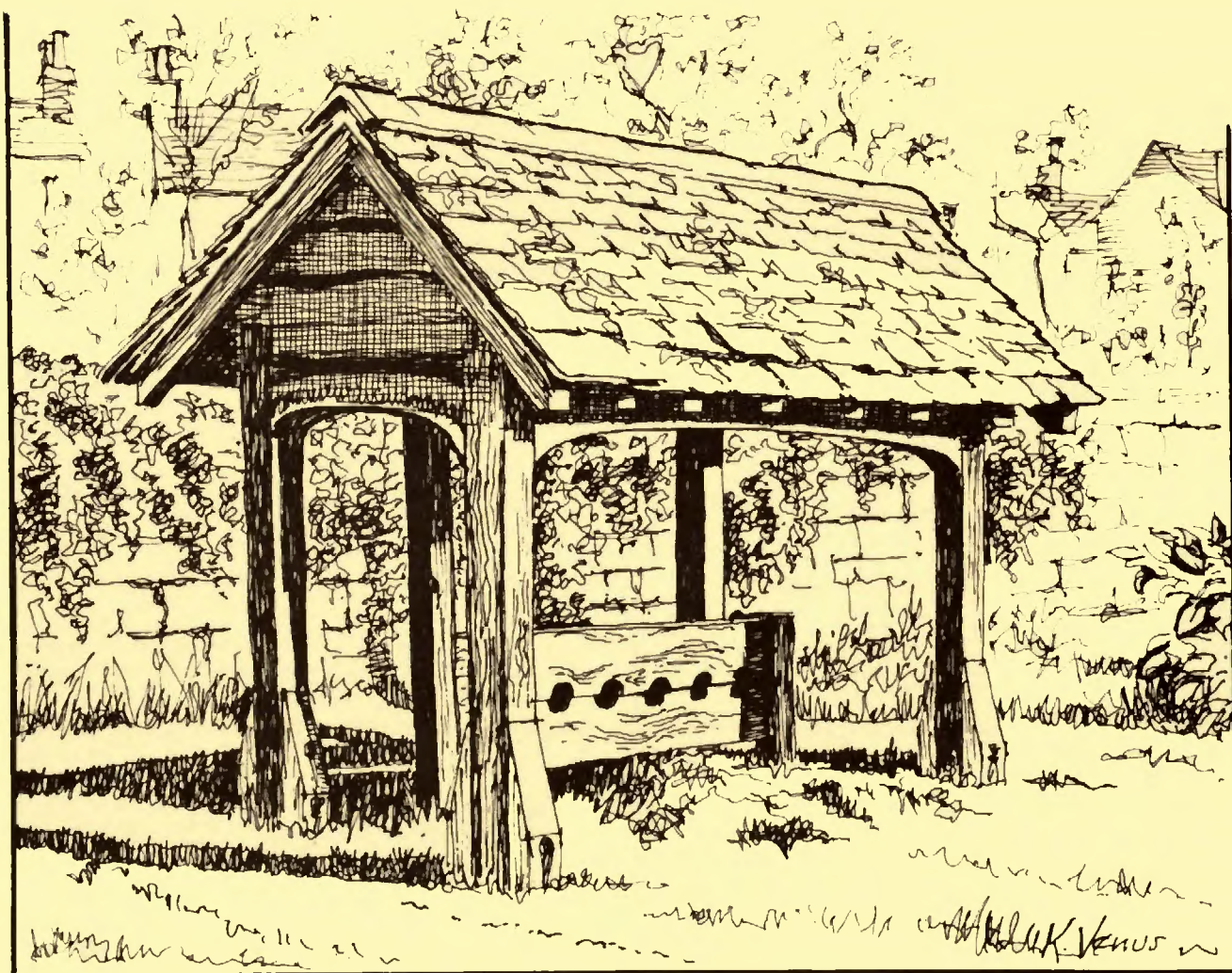


CHARLTON KINGS  
LOCAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 11

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Past Issues - Bulletins 6 and 7, price £1.45; Bulletin 8, price £1.55  
Bulletins 9 and 10, price £1.50

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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.

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1. OBITUARY

We are sorry to record the death, on 2nd November 1983, at the age of 63, of Christopher Donaldson, a keen, long-standing member of the Society, and a Committee member from January 1983. He is remembered for his ready help in research behind the scenes, and not least for his contributions to the Bulletin: on Robert Podmore (Vol 10 pp 13-15), on the Russells (Vol 8 pp 46-51), and to the Copt Elm/Lyefield road article (Vol 7 pp 38-40).

We were all disappointed not to hear the paper he was to have read to us last October, on the working of the Charity Commission.

M.J. Greet, Chairman

Mrs. Donaldson has given us the following notes about her husband's career. Christopher Donaldson served first in the Royal Artillery and then in the Royal Army Service Corps throughout the War, joining up in September 1939 and being at Dunkirk. He was not demobilised until 1946. In 1949 he was admitted as a solicitor and after four years in private practice he joined the Charity Commission, coming to the Land Registry in 1954. When he became Assistant Land Registrar in 1958, he went as the most senior professional officer to Lytham St Annes, and in 1962 he was promoted there to be Land Registrar. In 1965 he moved to Gloucester as District Land Registrar



## 2. FOUR TILL BEDTIME

Nature seems to have been built on a principle of perpetual motion. One must always be employed. It sometimes amuses me to hear my grand-children wonder aloud how on earth we occupied our leisure when we were young. No wireless, no television, and only a little cinema. Time, they conjecture, must have hung very heavily on our hands - we must have been bored stiff.

I, certainly, found myself busy enough. There was seldom any boredom in our house. Granted there was no wireless nor any television and only a budding cinema in town. But we were a fairly big family and all these things meant money. No, as long as God provided the lighting and the Urban District Council the stage, we did our best to use them. Most of our leisure was spent happily and busily in the road. So let us try to remember how we comported ourselves between the time we were freed of scholastic duties and the time a setting sun put an end to our outside day's activities. Even then, there was the gas-lamp. It was my first introduction to village night-life. Beneath that lamp was a reasonable bit of pavement. When the lamp



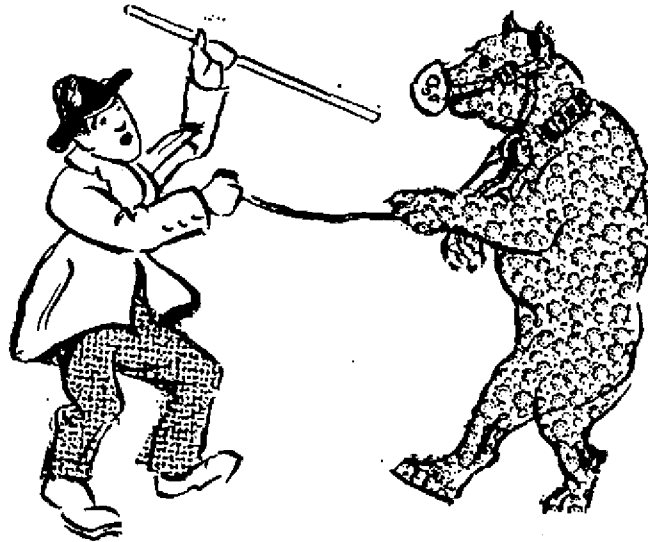
lighter had been round and played his part as a nocturnal Apollo, marbles could be comfortably played until the participants were too tired to continue or irate parents came raging to retrieve incipient gamblers and get them to beds they should have occupied hours earlier.

Of course, marbles and hoops had held their seasonal sway from time immemorial. Hoops certainly had an appeal all of their own but there is little I can say of them.

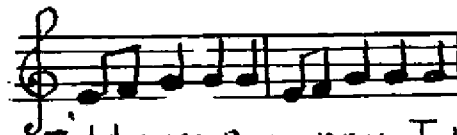
Marbles, on the other hand, are so crammed with interest, I fear even to start writing about this, our initial form of gambling. Would you know an alley? Would you know a bloodall, recognise a 'stall' and be able to 'peck'? Well when you have mastered these, come back again to me - but we shall only have started because 'Little Ring' was played from a 'stank' (a straight line), while Big Ring was played from a circumference or ring. Of course there was nothing as intricate about hoops. They represented just sheer physical energy. Oh yes, some girls liked playing games of a circus variety, running through the hoop while it was in motion; but hoops, though very popular in those days of the empty roads, had little appeal for me. I don't think I ever possessed one. In spring, gangs of girls put long skipping

ropes right across the road and skipped to rhyming games. Boys had tops which they started in the gutter and whipped all down the street.

Frequently of course, the entertainment was done for us. I shall never forget the afternoon, after tea, when a little moving crowd heralded something unusual. When the centre of the crowd could be seen, there was a man of a very un-English appearance leading by a rope and pole an animal such as I had never seen before.



Oh yes, I knew what it was but I had never seen one. This was a 'dancing' bear. The music was supplied by the seedy old man whose entire repertoire could be expressed in five consecutive notes, which he repeated and repeated walking backwards



Tiddy-om pom-pom. Tiddy om, pom-pom.

lifting his feet the while in a manner he hoped, by suggestion, would induce the animal to imitate his actions. A silly, short, music-less tune, but it is funny how it has lodged in my mind and remained there, some well over eighty years. Altogether it struck me as a sad and seedy display but at this point it is difficult to say how much of this is hindsight.

Occasionally an old Scottish piper visited us. He was one of my favourites. There was something romantic about the highland dress. He wore a green plaid and a glengarry. To see him, kilt and sporran swinging, coming down the Lyefield Road, together, I suppose, with his wild music, stirred something deep within me which lasted long after he had departed.



I was never so affected by another set of international musicians, who visited us frequently before the first world war. There were itinerant German Bands. The name was a bit flattering. They were usually groups of four to five strolling players, joined together to play as a group. They obviously had been well drilled in the rules by the police in the large towns and it amused us to see how religiously they stuck to them in the villages. They always kept on the move and they always walked (I dare not say 'marched') in single file in the gutter. They, of course, were a change and we enjoyed watching them but all they ever left behind was perhaps a catchy tune - such as 'Has anyone seen a German Band?'

But one of our favourites was the organ grinder man. He came on Friday afternoons so we seldom saw much of him except in holidays. He had a regular route and he stuck to it. There was the old, unshaven Italian, his wife with the flamboyant headscarf, the box-organ, and on the end of a 15 foot string the monkey.



The Italian spoke little English and his wife perhaps less, but the monkey managed to communicate quite well. If we asked him, would he like a biscuit, he would nod. He seemed to keep in reasonably good condition!

Eventually the march of progress showed itself, the box-organ gave way to an upright piano on wheels. From then on, things were never the same. The old attraction had gone. Perhaps all entertainments cannot entertain all the time.

Then there were much more sophisticated entertainments occasionally on in the village, as the Flower Show and the Fete. The former took place generally at Lilley Brook and the latter at Charlton Park. To watch the cavalry tent-pegging at the former and to watch, with a lot of nail biting, how Soldier Smith was going to do in the 'Mile'! But this is all epic writing and too big to be handled by this modest article.

Left again to our own devices, TIP-CAT was also a very popular game. This proved that a ball was not necessary for all games. One played from a base line to a target some 5 yards distant. The CAT was a short piece of wood, about 6 inches long and sharpened at each end. The TIP was an ordinary bit of nut stick. If the CAT lay flat on the ground and was struck smartly at one end, it would fly into the air. It was then the player's game to strike it towards the target and score.

Once, just once as far as I remember, nature took a hand in our entertainment. I was a small boy of ten and as we stepped out of school one afternoon in 1902, it had rained blood! That was quite something! School Road, Lyefield Road East, Cleevely's Field, Thorn's Field, all covered in blood. Nature had overdone it, as she sometimes does. This was not entertaining, it was frightening, and many a small boy in our 'green and pleasant land' crept into his bed that night knowing that fear, his unpleasant bedfellow, was already waiting for him.

Of course it was all explained later. MONT PELEE, a volcano in the Carribean, had erupted on 8 May and the fine ash had blown the 3000 miles across the Atlantic and fallen in the rain on this afternoon in May.

It was soon a half-remembered phenomenon and we, in our less dramatically behaved island, continued much as we had always done.

G. Ryland

### 3. GETTING INTO TROUBLE, 1585-1635

People often talk as though our forefathers were free to do exactly as they wished, without interference from the rules and regulations of the present day. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Cheltenham court books for the manor and hundred of Cheltenham 1585-1635 (D 855 M 5-12) provide plenty of evidence to the contrary. People were often in trouble because they had broken the law of the land or an order of the court. Here I have picked out a few examples, arranged in roughly alphabetical order.

#### (1) Affrays

Brawls were not uncommon in Charlton Kings and parish constables were expected to report on them to the court. Thus on 8 April 1585, John Blicke reported an affray made by Thomas Gotheridge (of Ham) on John King (of Cudnall) and Thomas as aggressor was fined 4d. A more serious fight occurred in March 1598. Reginald Machyn made an affray on Ralph Free servant of William Ridgedale,



Ralph retaliated, and both men drew blood. Each was fined 18d. More serious still, Robert Hawthorne a man of substance living at the fine timber-framed house in Spring Bottom called Hawthorne's (now King's House) and also tenant of a third of Northfield farm with its valuable sheepwalk, drew blood on Richard Gooderich (of Ham) and was fined 3s 4d. Women were not above fighting. Margaret wife of Philip Crosley drew blood on John Griffin's wife against the king's peace - it cost Philip 12d (1613). And when Margaret Ruggedall and Mabel Diggason swore at each other and then had a good standup fight, mutually drawing blood, Mabel alone was fined - apparently the court blamed her for the whole regrettable incident (1634).

A constable John Whithorne who in 1610 tried to hush up an affray between Thomas Warden and William the servant of Richard Pate gentleman, found himself in trouble too.

## (2) Ale Sellers and Drunks

Anyone could set up an alehouse but he was responsible for the good behaviour of customers in his house and he had to keep the Assize of Ale and sell in standard measures. Again, the constable kept an eye on his activities. However, it was easier to pay a fine than buy properly authenticated mugs or jugs. William Whithorne as constable in 1614 informed the court that Richard Stephens was selling ale in illegal measures - six years later Richard Stephens was still keeping a common ale house and still breaking the Assize. Another persistent offender was William Crump who in 1611 and 1612 gave short measure, kept cards in his house, and allowed his customers to play illicit games. They may have felt that the amusement offered excused the short measure!

An ale seller was expected to see that people did not get drunk in his house. John Machin (1627) admitted a certain John Gellife of Charlton to his house in time of divine service (which was bad) and let him remain there till he was very drunk (worse!). Jane Parker too, the wife of John Parker, received John Dole of Charlton and others and let them all drink themselves drunk (1627). Alehouse haunTERS and common tipplers were dealt with firmly by the court, and common drunkards might even receive corporal punishment (1612).

## (3) Archery and The Butts

Every able bodied man was obliged by statute to practise archery and in 1597 10 Charlton men were fined 3s 4d each for not using their bows and arrows. But it was no use, archery was a dying skill. By 1627 "the shooteing butts" of Charlton Kings (like those of Cheltenham and Swindon) were reported to be in decay, and though the court ordered that they should be repaired, we hear no more of them. Indeed, by 1638, Charlton inhabitants were digging up and carrying away "the greene att the Buttes" to use the sand for mortar.

## (4) Bawds, Scolds, and the Cucking Stool

Charlton Kings seems to have been commendably free from such tiresome women. But in 1616 Margaret Jones was denounced as a "common scold to the disquiet of her neighbours" and in 1627 Joane Redhead was stigmatized in open court as "a Bawd". Presumably both women were punished. Cheltenham, however, had "no sufficient cucking stoole" by 1636.

(5) Butchers

Butchers were forbidden by statute to kill or sell meat in Lent. The court tried to reinforce this by special orders in 1614; and in 1629 Richard Ballinger and Robert Clarke were each fined 6s 8d for killing and selling during the fast. No doubt it was seen as a judgement when Richard Ballinger was killed by a bull "beeing not bayted" in 1633.

(6) Chimneys and Fire Hazards

Many houses in Charlton and Cheltenham were still without chimneys at the beginning of the 17th century. Inhabitants of the Hundred were ordered (1609) to heighten their chimneys "for the avoyding of the danger of fier" where they already had chimneys, and to make sufficient chimneys in houses, ovens, and oasts, if they had not. But this order had to be repeated in 1612, with a threat of a 10s fine. Individuals from Charlton were regularly reported for breach of these orders, Robert Percivall twice (1612, 1613), Roger Holder, (of Cudnall) and his tenant Thomas Wheeler twice (1616 and 1630), and Holder and Wheeler were warned not to make a burning or fire anywhere else. Even in 1636, Richard White's chimneys were "very insufficient" for keeping his fire safe.

Naked flame could be very dangerous. No one within the Hundred "shall keepe any candles burning in any barnes stables or outhouses without a Lanthorne" (1614), and he might be fined as much as 20s for neglecting this necessary precaution.

(7) Constables

The unpopular office of constable was served by a different man each year, and every tenant was obliged to take his turn. Constables were expected to keep a watch on their neighbours and take note of the general state of affairs within the parish. In 1627 constables of Charlton and Cheltenham were said to have neglected this duty, allowing "vagabonds and sturdy beggers" to walk in and through the town without punishing them. It cost the two officers half a crown each.

Vagrants were feared, and punished accordingly. Each township was expected to maintain a suitable whipping post. Arle in 1636 was ordered to set up a new whipping post specially for punishing rogues and vagabonds.

(8) Contempt of Court

We don't know why Nicholas Welles of Charlton "spoke divers words in contempt of the court" in 1609, or what he said, but it cost him 12d.

(9) Cottages

An Elizabethan Statue had prohibited (with a few exceptions) the erection of any new cottage unless it had 4 acres of land attached to it. Strenuous but largely unsuccessful attempts to enforce this law within Cheltenham Hundred were made in the years c.1608-1635. Humfrey Harris (of New Court), for example, built a cottage in his grounds - he paid a regular fine for it as long as he remained in Charlton Kings, and his tenants were fined every year for occupying it. That cottage was still standing and still occupied at the end of the century! Edward Hewes tailor was also paying a yearly fine for the cottage he had built and occupied himself. Richard Stephens

(the man who sold the ale in dubious measures) erected a cottage on the lord's waste, somewhere in Charlton; this time his neighbours complained that it would prejudice them (by reducing the area of land available for commoning their beasts) and Richard agreed that the cottage should not be inhabited - his fine was respited as a result. Other Charlton offenders were William Atwell a tanner, William Free, John Gale, Thomas Clarke, Samuel Bicke, Richard Whithorne, John Griffin a labourer, and Richard White a carpenter. The plain fact was, that there was a great shortage of houses for a growing population.

Subdivision of existing houses was also prohibited. Thomas Clerke a Charlton yeoman converted part of his house into a separate habitation and was fined 2s 6d (1613). But he was not compelled to pull down his partitions, and he was no doubt receiving far more than half a crown in rent every year.

(10) Felon's Goods

These were automatically forfeit to the lord of the manor. So when Eleanor Pogers was convicted of murder in 1631, her brass caldron and her coffer, which were being kept for her in the house of Hugh Powell, were seized to the lord's use on order of the bailiff.

(11) Highways

It was the duty of every one to help to repair the parish roads. Surveyors of the highways were appointed yearly to see that the better-off sent carts and horses to cart stone and gravel, while the less well-off laboured for a week to spread them. But every year there were presented at court a long list of those who had neglected this necessary work - failure to send a cart and horse could earn a fine of 1s or 2s or more according to circumstances, while those who did not turn up to work were fined at a rate which works out at 2d a day.

Some ill disposed persons made the roads worse by taking gravel from them. In 1608 Thomas Atkins by his servants Wheeler and Machin dug and took away soil on the highway leading towards Sandford Bridge (on Old Bath Road). Others threw rubbish on to the roads, as the Kents did in a Cudnall lane in 1597, or let stinking water run onto the highway, as Humfrey Harris did in 1608. The nuisance had to be considerable before the court took notice of it; and naturally enforcement was easier in the town than in the country.

(12) Hue and Cry

It was the duty of everyone to join in pursuit of a thief seen in the act. John son of Nicholas Dowdswell refused to do so, for some reason, and was fined 12d. (1626). Was he perhaps a friend or kinsman of the accused?

(13) Illegal Games

Many games, such as bowls, quoits, stawball and trap, were unlawful and those who played them were presented. The trap was a "shoe-shaped wooden device with pivoted bar that sends a ball from its heel into the air on being struck at the other end with a bat", and trap ball was a game played with this (OED). 25 Charlton men were said by the constable and tithing man to have played stawball and trap in 1609. Charlton Kings had no bowling green, apparently,

but Cheltenham had, and some of the men fined for playing there may very well have come from Charlton, to judge by the names. Even William Panton, vicar of Cheltenham, was among those fined for playing bowls. Such presentments recur yearly.

Playing cards were forbidden and card players fined. Alehouse keepers who had cards in their houses got an especially black mark. A shuffleboard got Robert Gotheridge a tailor into trouble in 1629, and Robert Cleevely, John Beven, Gabriel Tyson, John Nicholls and Isahar Davis who were found playing at Gotheridge's house were fined 12d. Five years later, Gotheridge and 3 others played cards in Robert Whithorne's house and were fined 3s 4d each, probably as persistent offenders. A more serious view was taken of four Cheltenham men who played shove-groat on Sunday - they were put in the stocks (1613).

(14) Inmates and Incomers

The court in 1613 ordered that anyone receiving under tenants or inmates must give notice to the constable and churchwardens (in case the strangers were likely to become chargeable to the parish, under the poor law act of 1601). Thus, in that year, Thomas Johnson born outside the township of Charlton was said to have lived there for 5 months without giving the parish officers any security. William Dickenson had received John Reignolds as tenant in a Charlton cottage - he and Reignolds were fined respectively 40s and 10s (though Reignolds was a Charlton name and John may well have been kin to people living in this parish). Mary Trinder a widow took a lodger, William Mills labourer. Both were fined. The order against inmates might even apply to sons-in-law (1625).

(15) Malt Drying

No maltster or other persons within the Hundred might "dry any malt on the Saboth daies or in the night after nyne of the clocke in the winter season or tenne of the clocke in somer" (1614). The penalty was 20s fine. This regulation served a double purpose. It was partly a restriction on Sunday working, which had always been frowned upon, and partly an attempt to reduce a fire hazard.

(16) Night Walking

To be found walking abroad during the hours of darkness was enough to get a man suspected of evil intent. James Page in 1627 was said to be a common noctivagus.

(17) Poaching

Various forms of poaching were practised. Walter Cherington was wont "to shoote att" and follow partridges with a gun, while Richard Stevens commonly took the birds with a net (1630). Both were fined 5s.

John Hawling and his servant Richard Dowdeswell in 1626, eleven Charlton men (including a John Dowdeswell) in 1630, were all fined for fishing in the common stream or the river leading from Dowdeswell to Walter Marten's mill (ie the Chelt.) John Jones alias Friday a Charlton shoemaker was a common fisher in the stream there, to the great destruction of the fish (1630). There were probably more fish in the Chelt at that period, and there were fishponds on the stretch below Charlton mill, though poachers seem to have avoided these preserved waters.

Even bathing in the river was suspect.

(18) The Pound

The township had the duty of maintaining a common pound or park, where straying or impounded beasts could be secured until their owners claimed them and paid a fine. The Charlton pound (in Horsefair Street) was frequently out of repair (1613, 1622, 1624, 1633) - by 1633 the place where the park formerly was had been turned into a garden! (as it is to this day).

Taking your beasts out of the pound without paying was naturally unlawful, and seizing them from the bailiff as he tried to lead them there even more so. Roger Holder of (Cudnall) was fined for rescuing his horse from the bailiff's clutches (1631). Thomas Cleeveley who found two stray sheep and was tempted to keep them was fined 8d (1631).

(19) Sale of grain

It was illegal to sell grain outside the regular market and in measures not properly checked and sealed or stamped. Robert Whithorne (1634) was said to allow "wanderers" to measure his grain "with an unlawful Bushell to the hurt of many" and he paid 3s 4d for doing it. We don't know whether he was just lazy and trying to avoid the trouble of carting his grain to Cheltenham, or whether the strangers who bought up corn to "ingross" the market offered him a tempting price.

So there were rules in plenty in the 17th century. Only the power to enforce them was lacking. It was not the fines which might be incurred but the pressure of public opinion which made this system work. No one wanted to be held up to his neighbours' ridicule or contempt. The stocks symbolized the ultimate sanction, and we know that Charlton Kings had stocks - we have them still (though the ones we see now are a replacement of an earlier set). In the end, everyone did build chimneys to their houses, they did exercise care in the choice of sub-tenants, they did more or less conform. Where opinion generally condoned the offence, as over the erection of new cottages without land and the playing of unlawful games, no law or court order could prevail.

M. Paget

4. THE SEWER STORY - PART I

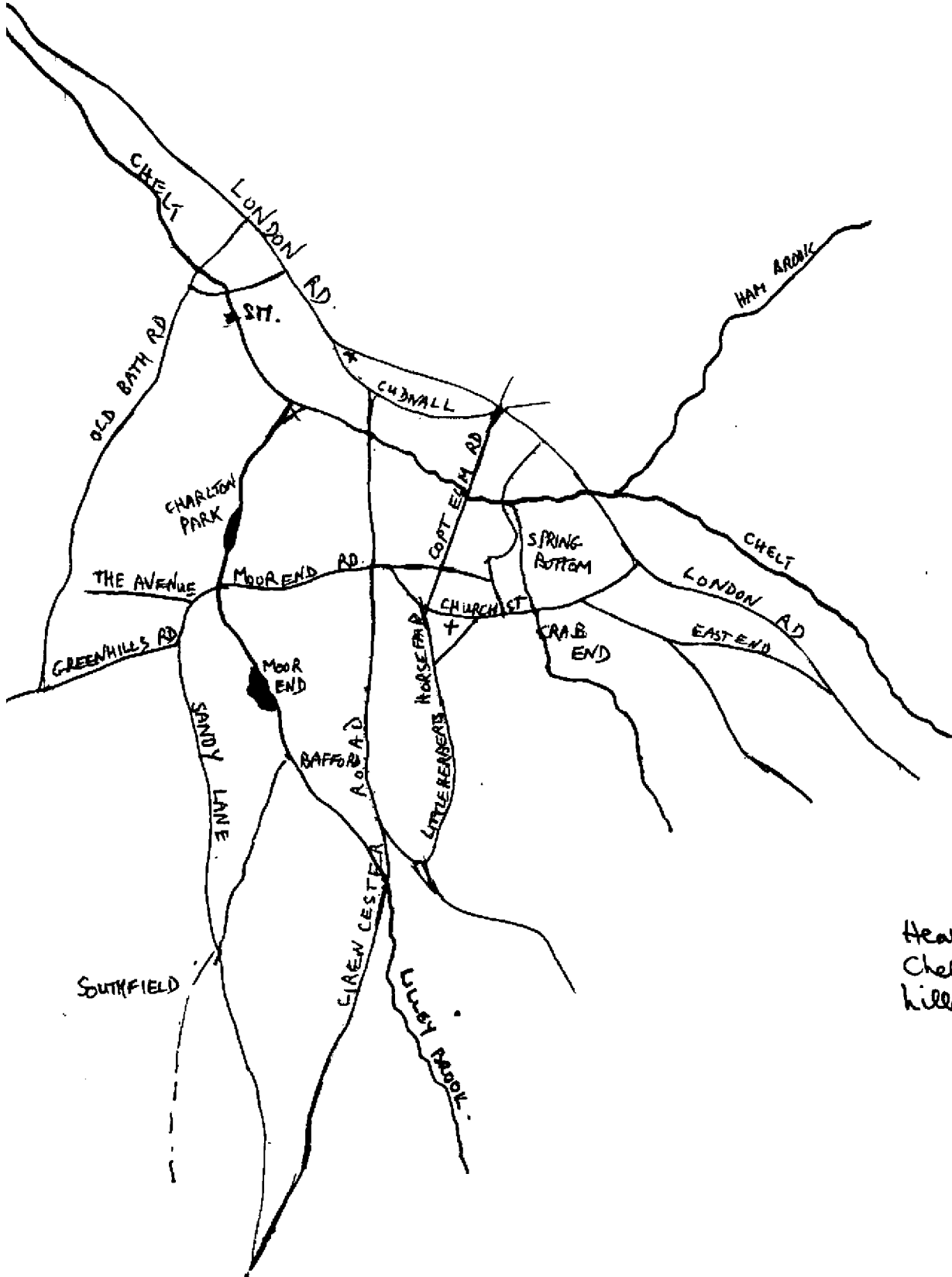
In 1848, the Public Health Act was passed by Parliament. This provided for the election of local Public Health Boards. The first meeting of the Charlton Kings Local Board of Health was held on 1 March 1862 under another Local Government act of 1858. The first meeting was held in the Vestry Hall and twelve men were elected to constitute the new Board. The Minute Book of this body - three of which I have searched and partly transcribed - was to record the monthly meetings and accounts and "all other Business, Proceedings, and Transactions of the Members of the Local Board of Health". It was this "Business and Transactions" that proved to be of the greatest interest to me, for the Board was soon dealing with a variety of problems such as the condition of the roads, street lighting, nuisances from pigsties and slaughter-houses; but more and more the overriding and desperate concern was with the "Sewaging of the District". On the sketch map of Charlton Kings, I have indicated where the streams run through and around the village. Up until about one hundred years ago, these were vital to the life of the village - that is,

before piped water was installed and underground sewers. They provided many people with water to drink, not only for themselves but for their animals; water for washing bodies and clothing; and a means of draining the land and carrying away the waste from dwellings. These streams were the open sewers of the village.

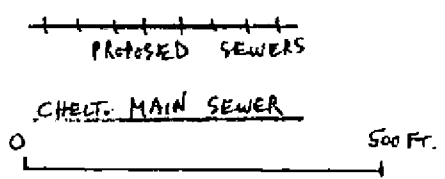
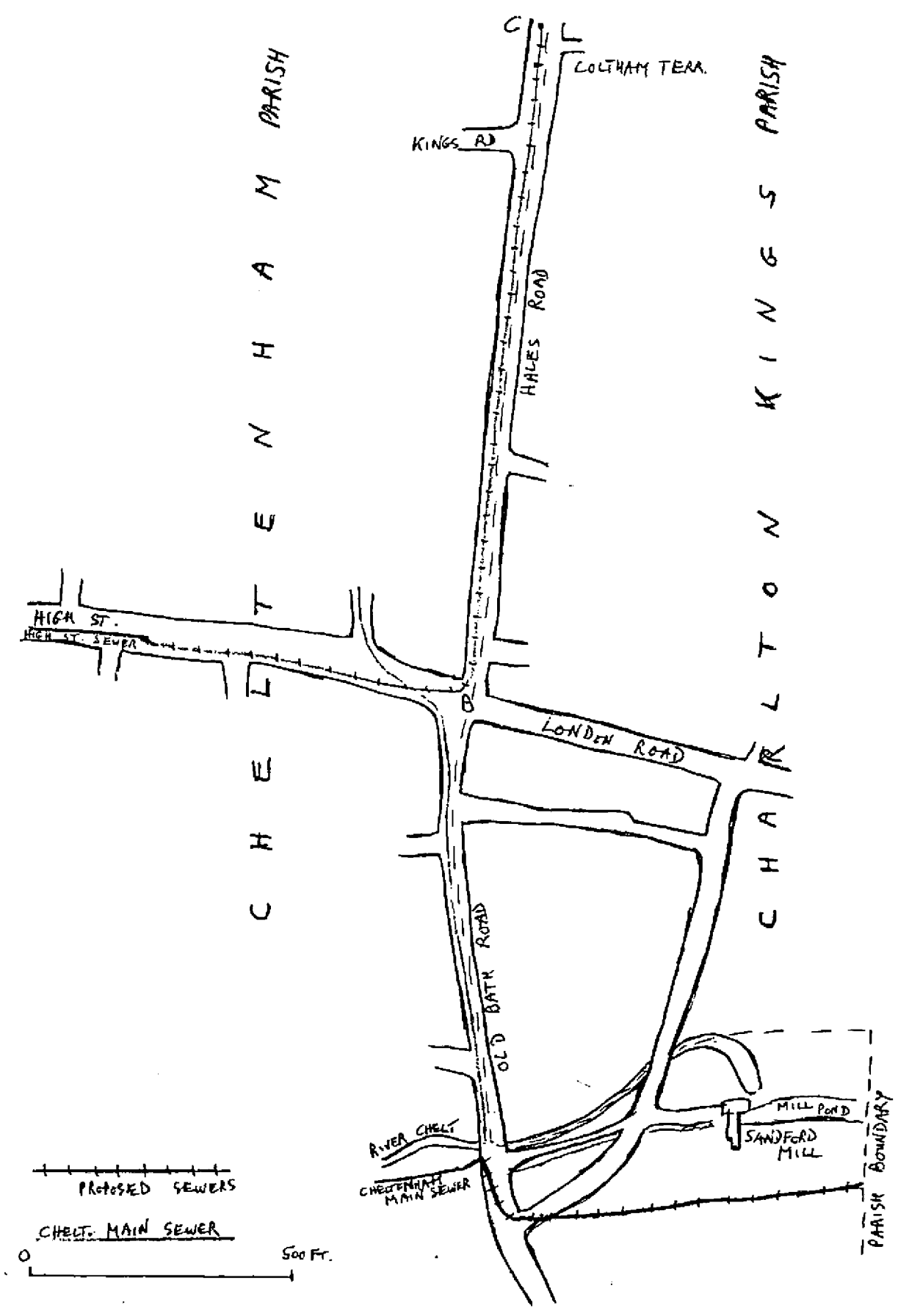
In June 1862, Charlton Kings made an appeal to the Cheltenham Improvement Commissioners (C.I.C.) for the use of their sewers, and in September they set up a Sewage sub-committee. These are the only two entries in the Minute Book on Sewers in 1862. But behind the scenes down in Cheltenham, they had already started to draw up their lines of battle. Right from the start, Cheltenham seems to have had two major worries. One was that Charlton would pollute the Chelt, and the other that Cheltenham's legal position would be challenged and they would be forced to sewer Charlton Kings, with all the worry and responsibility that entailed. In December, according to the minutes of the C.I.C.'s own Sewerage and Drainage Committee, Cheltenham turned down the suggestion that Charlton's sewage could be carried by their neighbours' sewers!

To clarify the position, in April of the following year, the Cheltenham surveyor listed the houses draining into the Cheltenham sewers in the Coltham area (that is, Hales Road, Rosehill Street, Park Street, and the south side of the London Road), and also those houses whose surface water only drained into the sewers, though they did have cesspools. Cheltenham then described the status quo and her Commissioners put forward some suggestions amongst themselves. As things stood, they didn't get any money for sewerage of the Coltham Fields area of Charlton Kings. Therefore their Sewerage Committee should discuss a rate on each house that they sewerage, but no more "extensive arrangements". If they agreed on a fixed rate, then Charlton Kings should accept this as a fact and not as a matter of law. But they were worried that if they did receive money for this service, then Cheltenham might be held responsible for fouling the streams running into the town, even though it was Charlton's pollution. Finally, there was a feeling amongst the C.I.C. that if Charlton Kings was ready to pay up, then Cheltenham "should be ready to receive". These deliberations led to an agreement between Charlton Kings and Cheltenham. There would be a charge of 2½d on the 1s rate on all premises draining into Cheltenham sewers. Charlton was to pay in half-yearly amounts - for the time being based on their Poor Rate as their rating system had not yet been worked out. The houses, with names of owners and occupiers were to be listed. Cheltenham finally emphasised that it was to be distinctly understood that this suggestion refers to "things as they exist and not to an extension or alteration of the Drainage being made without the consent of the C.I.C.". This last point is pressed home with a letter from the Commissioners, pointing out that any houses that get put on the Cheltenham Sewer needn't think they can immediately put in closets. The "Cheltenham Sewage must not be increased!"

The rest of the story for the year 1863 is contained in copies of letters and memos that the Commissioners circulated amongst themselves and some that were sent to Charlton Kings. There was a flurry of letters between the Commissioners and the Board of Health, the latter stating that they understood they were "at liberty to alter the water into sewage" (that is, where storm water was drained away, why not sewage as well?) They were obviously offended by Cheltenham's high and mighty attitude, as they saw it. The Commissioners tried to calm the Board down, they didn't intend to dictate to Charlton, but when they said they would take surface drainage, they didn't mean closet drainage! Meanwhile the Cheltenham Surveyor Mr. Dangerfield ran into diffi-



Heame Brook  
Chelt.  
Hillaybrook





culties because his opposite number in Charlton, Mr. Sadler, refused to give any more information on the Coltham houses that drained into the Chelt.

Cheltenham is beginning to feel uneasy. A private memo is circulated by the Chief Clerk to the Commissioners, Mr. Williams, stressing, amongst other things, that the "Sewerage of Cheltenham must be defended". Everyone seems to be at battle stations again! A newspaper report in the Chronicle describes a meeting of the Board of Health which accepted the C.I.C.'s terms for continuing to sewer the Coltham district. The Board agreed to the 2½d rate but thought it too high. Either party could terminate the agreement with six months notice, and no extension to the sewer was to be made without the consent of Cheltenham. This was agreed but not popular. Mr. Sadler was also told by his Board to co-operate with Mr. Dangerfield over listing the properties. Therefore a letter was sent to the C.I.C. informing them of this decision; but Charlton added an extra clause to this agreement. Any premises draining water into the Sewer may also drain "sewage matter" on extra payment and notice to Cheltenham. Another newspaper report describes Cheltenham's response. No more houses were to be allowed to drain into their sewers. "There were houses side by side in the London Road, one with a cesspool and the other with a sewer, and nothing could be done to remedy this situation" (at least, not whilst Cheltenham had the power to prevent it!) Mr. Dangerfield was satisfied with the situation as it was in Cheltenham. He wrote a report on the state of the streams in and around the town - since tanks had been installed "the streams are much improved". He says "I have walked frequently alongside the stream, before our Sewers were constructed, when the stench from the water was so great as to be unbearable."

Foreseeing more problems, about how far the parish of Charlton Kings extends, Cheltenham begins an inquiry into the true boundaries of Charlton, and sends to a member of the Lovesay family for the loan of an old parish map. Among a series of internal letters about the situation regarding Charlton Kings and their upstart attitude now they have a Board of Health, there is this barbed comment. "Our friend Sir William Russell (Chairman of the Charlton Board) seems to be making a sort of Municipal Borough of Charlton. What will the ratepayers say by and large?" For if they want benefits of sewerage with Cheltenham, they'll find that they have to pay! Even the newspaper makes a comment on the unfriendliness of the two Districts and quotes the Board's Clerk as saying that Cheltenham and Charlton seem to be proceeding along different tracks. Both parties appeared to be acting under different section of the Local Government Act. Cheltenham seemed to think that sewerage part of Charlton Kings gave them the right to rate it and have the last word on what parts should be drained and how. The Cheltenham Surveyor stands firm and tells Charlton that before closets are connected "they must be listed and handed to the Cheltenham Commissioners".

Charlton Kings looks to other alternatives to joining with Cheltenham. They consider "Tanks" and despositing sewage over the land. They appoint a committee to confer with Cheltenham again, but also send their surveyor to Croydon to look into their sewerage scheme. He was impressed and wanted Charlton Kings to utilize its sewage in the same way, for they could still manage things on their own. Mr. Williams, hearing about this visit, comments "We had better mind our own business and I would prefer that our neighbours censed themselves by their own means". Their neighbours seemed inclined to do just that. Mr. Pruen, the Board of Health Clerk, writes to Mr. Williams that he is convinced there would be much profit from utilizing sewage on the "lower lands below the Chelt". Mr. Williams' opinion privately to his surveyor is "Charlton

people seem to be such fools that one must be more careful of them than though they were rogues".

"All negotiations for accommodating the Charlton Sewers" having been refused by Cheltenham, as the Examiner reported, the Board again discussed alternative methods. Most favoured "raising" the sewage for distribution over the land. Mr. Higgs offered a site by his mill at Sandford for an outlet, and the Board could even buy his mill if they wished and use it for pumping power. Sewage, commented Mr. Higgs, could be a valuable commodity, so why should they let Cheltenham have it? The Clerk was instructed to write to the Secretary of State to send a surveyor to inspect their District with a view to laying down a sewage system. But back came the reply that he had no authority to send a surveyor, it was the duty of the Board "to lay down" its own system. Charlton Kings was now on its own. The Board discussed how it should go about it. They looked at sewerage the western part of Charlton as part of a system for sewerage the whole parish. The installation of tanks was suggested to receive sewers from the upper part of the parish and from the Coltham district, with the hope that they might connect with the main sewer in Cheltenham High Street at a later date. Cheltenham must have heard about these plans because Mr. Williams wrote to his surveyor pointing out that Sandford Mill buildings were in the Parish of Cheltenham, so Mr. Higgs had no right to offer its services to Charlton Kings. In March 1864, the Secretary of State sent a letter to the Charlton Board sanctioning a loan of £1182 for sewerage. But already there are more local objections to this scheme, now from some local residents. They say that the land chosen is not suitable for sewage works. But the Board go ahead and get a lease for 99 years from the owner, Mr. Higgs.

The question of payment for the sewerage of the Coltham area is raised again. Pruen, the Clerk of Charlton Kings Board, complains about not receiving receipts for payments to Cheltenham, and Mr. Williams demands to see the Charlton Poor Rate Assessment books. Mr. Pruen doesn't comply with these requests until finally Mr Williams explodes "Show me the Poor Rate Books or else I'll draw my own conclusions, you might be covering up misdeeds --- there really seems to be as much trouble in getting on with your Board as any red tapery office in the Government Departments in London". (He later had some real experience to go on). He also makes a private comment to a colleague "They seem to be a set of muddling and most unbusinesslike people, but we must get on with them as well as we can and bad as they may be, and trust that sooner or later they will take their own business into their own hands" (Mr Williams' hopes are realised, much to the horror of the C.I.C.)

In Charlton Kings Minute Book there is only one entry that deals with the Sewage Scheme in 1864, and it is this one for November, when the Board set up another committee to look into what the Secretary of State had sanctioned. One wonders what had happened to slow things down - perhaps it was partly due to increased activity in the C.I.C.'s Sewage and Drainage Committee. When they studied Charlton Kings' plans to go it alone, they appear to have been horrified. Not only was Charlton planning to make the outfall of their sewage into the Chelt but they had the consent of the Secretary of State to do this! Mr Williams starts up a spate of letters to the Secretary of State and his office. He is a gentleman called Sir George Gray and in his capacity as Secretary of State he heads the Local Government Act Office in London. The secretary in that office, who seemed to be fending off the attacks of Williams, was a Mr. Taylor.

In August 1864, Mr Williams wrote to the Local Government Board Office (L.G.B.O.) describing what Charlton Kings proposed to do and suggested that under their own Local Government Act, Cheltenham has the power to stop it. But they wanted the Secretary of State's veto behind them. Would he reconsider the sanction he gave Charlton Kings? Throughout August letters seem to go back and forth between the Cheltenham Commissioners and the L.G.B.O. in London. The latter took a firm stand and said they could only advise and couldn't interfere, therefore the engineers from each side had better get together and sort out the problem! Even Colonel Berkeley the local MP was recruited to write to Sir George Gray. Mr. Williams then tackled Charlton Kings again. He told them he was alarmed at the latter's plans for "fouling" the Chelt through Cheltenham and that it was illegal. He had been in touch with the Secretary of State who assured him that he did not and does not intend to give permission to Charlton Kings to go ahead with their scheme (information which we know was untrue but Williams must have been desperate!) Mr. Pruen, the Board's Clerk, replied that "the Board did not propose fouling the Chelt by any Sewage Works they might adopt". Even the surveyor for the C.I.C. tackled the Charlton surveyor and tried to get information about the proposed sewage tanks near Sandford Mill. The only answer he got was that the Board wanted their houses to be properly drained (not just surface and waste water, they wanted closets).

Colonel Berkeley was again urged to write to Sir George. Mr Williams pointed out that the Secretary of State probably didn't know what was going on, because it seemed to him that the L.G.B.O. was as given to "Red Tapery" as the Charity Commissioners! The Colonel got a negative letter back, so Williams pitched in again himself. He referred the Secretary of State's office to the Metropolitan Sewage Commissioners' Report. How could Mr Taylor reconcile what he said in his letter with what that report said - that any works would be bound to pollute streams? Mr. Taylor wriggled out of that accusation. He replied that he didn't write that letter, his clerk did on advice from the Home Office. Mr. Williams became even angrier, he quoted chapter and verse to prove that the Secretary of State did have the powers to intervene and stop Charlton Kings from going ahead with their plans. He wanted to know what this Home Office was and didn't they know anything about "Public Health?"

Not getting any further satisfaction out of Mr Taylor and his Local Government Office or the Home Office either, Mr Williams carried out his threat to send all the papers and letters about the sewage scheme to Lord Montagu, who headed the Parliamentary Commission on Sewers; he was also going to bring the matter to the notice of Parliament through the M.P. His letter was written in heartfelt terms over the threat to "our Stream". "We have here spent between twenty and thirty thousand pounds in cleansing and keeping cleansed the Stream called the Chelt which passes through the heart of the Town, and now our neighbours above, namely the Local Board of Charlton, propose to pollute it more or less. It is indeed true they say that they shall, by some disinfecting process, so contrive that their outfall shall take nothing but pure water, but if I rightly read the evidence taken by your Lordship, this is simply impracticable, and that the only way of not fouling the stream is by not going into it at all --- I cannot help observing that I think your Lordship will see in this Correspondence an example of the uncertain and confused way in which the Public business of our departmental system in London is, I fear, so frequently conducted."

The reply from Lord Montagu wasn't very helpful, but he did comment "The evil of river pollution --- is very common and most injurious. At present one town can poison the water which another town, lower down the river, is obliged

to drink; and this they can do with perfect impunity". "PS Disinfecting Processes are, every one of them, a total failure. They do not purify the water for drinking purposes". This was not very encouraging! There is nothing after this to tell us what exactly happened. But it does look as if the Secretary of State was persuaded to change his mind. The Charlton Kings Board did appoint yet another committee to look into the type of sewage schemes that were sanctioned by the government and investigate any objections to their own plans. Nearly a year later we get an entry in the Minutes suggesting that this Committee renew its labours and report back to the Board as soon as possible. Meanwhile the surveyor was to see that the "Watercourses are kept free from Nuisance and Annoyance".

The following February, in 1866, Charlton drew up a Resolution referring to the past history of negotiations since '62 with Cheltenham and sent it off to the C.I.C. It stated that in January 1863 after much discussion, the Commissioners had turned down the Board's proposals. Charlton then decided on an independent sewerage for the lower parts of the District at the only suitable spot, Sandford Mill. The Secretary of State had been asked for and given his sanction to raise a loan on the rates at this time. This was quickly followed by Cheltenham also petitioning the Secretary of State and obtaining a "virtual prohibition" on Charlton's plans. (So Cheltenham did succeed!) But the Board still felt, and probably in desperation now, that the best plan was to join with Cheltenham. So now they were asking again for the Commissioners' views, before they set out on another independent scheme. (Perhaps this was a threat!)

It was April before Charlton Kings got an answer to this "resolution", and then mostly in the form of attacks on their slackness in allowing streams to become polluted yet again. There was a report from the Cheltenham surveyor on houses and areas in Charlton that drained into the Chelt and other streams, causing them to carry sewage into the Chelt. He particularly mentioned the Hearne Brooke, "into this stream a most offensive ditch runs, besides many drains from the populous part of the village, through which it flows". Charlton, of course, refuted such accusations in a letter to the Commissioners. They pointed out that watercourses running into Sandford Mill pond "settle" there before they reach the Chelt, so "pollution must be comparatively trifling". Bafford Brook carried little pollution because it ran through the grounds of Charlton Park and settled in the pond there. And Ham Brook was used for drinking purposes, so the pollution would be inconsiderable. (This did not always follow!)

But Cheltenham was not satisfied and said "no" in no uncertain terms. "It doesn't matter whether the streams running into the Chelt contain sewage, what matters is if the Chelt is polluted and who is responsible. 'Trifling' is beside the point, water once polluted can't be cleansed". Therefore Charlton Kings must be able to prevent all this pollution by obtaining land, which will no doubt cost them a lot of money, but compared to the thirty thousand pounds Cheltenham has paid out, they must be prepared to incur expense. Charlton should sewer their District themselves, said Cheltenham. (This is just what the Board has been trying to do with every hindrance and criticism from its neighbour!)

Now Charlton really does have to tackle the problem on her own, and for the next four years, we see a variety of methods and solutions being tried. The major task seemed to be that they must find land for what is called an "out-fall", a place to put collecting tanks and possibly fields where the sewage can be "utilized". Then there is a call for a "night cart" to collect "night

soil". This seems particularly difficult to find, but eventually one is located with a suitable "bed" at a cost of £5.0.0. and an addition to turn it into a water cart for £6.10.0. Several attempts were made to install tanks and sewer pipes, which often had to be moved after they had been "dug in". The trouble seemed to be that the tenants of a suitable piece of land would give permission for installing this equipment, but when the land-owner got to hear of it, permission was refused and the pipes and tanks had to be hastily removed! Even Sir William Russell, the not very active Chairman of the Board of Health, was guilty of so hindering his own Sewerage Committee.

In June 1870, Cheltenham complains again that Charlton Kings had not cleared out their streams for three years. This must have been done at the time of the last complaint in 1866. There was therefore a big effort made to clean up all the streams, and the surveyor was able to report that the Chelt had been cleansed by hand up to Sandford Mill Floodgates, and at Sandford Mill pond a syphon sluice had been placed across the stream to "intercept the matter floating therein". The Upper portion of the Brook above Cirencester Bridge had been cleansed by hand. A gravel filter had been laid in the course of the Ham Brook. Nothing had been done to the Lilleybrook, this was being left to individual Householders to clean. Battledown and Oakland water was opened and the contents were intercepted and used on Mr Burgess's Nursery Land. Raymond Terrace Sewer was "intercepted" and the sewage was to be used on private land. It was proposed to clean up the Hearne Brook, a very difficult job, and a filter was eventually installed.

All this effort, the Board hoped, would answer the continuous criticism they had been having from Cheltenham. At least in this same year, the Sewage Committees of the two districts did manage to meet again and talk to each other about "Union". The C.I.C. came up with five main points.

- (1) All connections were to be made under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor.
- (2) Charlton Kings was to pay £80 annually to Cheltenham, according to the number of houses sewered and their rateable value. (There was a problem looming here - who was going to rate them?)
- (3) The sewers were to be constructed by Cheltenham and belong to the town. Charlton Kings was to pay an extra £20 annually for their use.
- (4) There was to be twelve months notice to end the agreement on either side.
- (5) All the main details were to be settled by each party's surveyor.

The Charlton board of Health discussed these terms at length and drew up their own "modifications", as they called them.

- (1) Charlton Kings was to have the decision as to which new house property should be sewered and the right to rate it
- (2) £20 for the use of the sewers was excessive, especially as they were to belong to Cheltenham
- (3) The Board certainly could not agree to the twelve months notice.

To show their independence, the Board of Health drew up yet another scheme of independent sewage works. But they did admit that joining with Cheltenham was the most efficient way because "Cheltenham lies lower than Charlton Kings and therefore no pumping would be needed". On the other hand, Charlton would thus lose between £70 and £80 worth of liquid sewage! This was the plan. Ryeworth, Ham, East End and Bafford would be "irrigated separately", with the land-owners in the outlying districts being asked to "utilize" the sewage. The sewage from the more thickly populated areas of Charlton Kings (Cudnall and Church Street) was to be conveyed to a pumping station in Spring Bottom. With the aid of steam pumps, the liquid could be lifted to a large area of arable and pasture land above Ryeworth and Greenway Lane. This land was used for dairying and good prices would therefore be forthcoming because there would be competition for it. Or so the Board of Health reasoned. They also considered the Coltham area not already sewered by Cheltenham. It could be served by a second "lift" to the land above Battledown, or else joined to the Cheltenham sewers for the time being.

This scheme was sent off to Cheltenham with an assurance that the Board "would preserve the Streams from Pollution". Letters went back and forth, questions and criticisms from Cheltenham, and answers and refutations from Charlton Kings. The C.I.C. did not look on the Board of Health's plans with any more favour than previous schemes, when Charlton had decided to "go it alone". But the latter got really enthusiastic once more and earmarked land for Tanks and pumping station. They sent a copy of their new plans to the Secretary of State with a request to raise £3000 this time on the rates. The Local Government Office came back with the suggestion that they send down to Charlton Kings a Mr Rawlinson, who was a Government Inspector, to look into this scheme, and also arbitrate between the Board and the Commissioners on a joint sewage scheme. Mr. Gabb, the Board's Clerk, informed Cheltenham that they would agree to Mr Rawlinson arranging the plans for the two districts to join sewers if Cheltenham was willing now for this to happen. "All terms and arrangements to be left to Mr Rawlinson". The C.I.C. agreed to this offer, providing they would not be liable for any "legal proceedings or damage resulting or arising out of such arrangements". Cheltenham was still very cautious. This is at the beginning of November 1871. By the end of the month, the Board received a letter from the L.G.O., which seems to indicate that Mr. Rawlinson had visited the area and studied the problems. At least he reported back to the L.G.O. that it was most desirable there should be a joint system of Sewerage for the two Districts of Charlton Kings and Cheltenham. Therefore they do not feel justified in authorising a loan of £3000 on the rates for Charlton to sewage their district independently. Charlton is told to come to an arrangement with its neighbour. (It appears the Secretary of State has had enough of this dispute!) Charlton's own plans are once again shelved; they will not be able to raise the money. The following year, in March, ten years after the Board of Health was set up and their first tentative suggestions made to join with Cheltenham's sewers, they received another letter from the C.L.C. "If we can obtain statutory powers to deal with Charlton Kings' Sewage, we will be happy to leave conditions and arbitration to Mr Rawlinson". Cheltenham is still worried about its legal position, or are they trying to stall yet again?

Another sewage committee is set up by the Board, and round they all go again with another chapter of the Sewage Story. (To be continued!)

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B. Middleton

5. A CHARLTON GIRL IN NEW MEXICO

I am now forty years old. I live in Clovis, New Mexico, the Great American Southwest, a beautiful, desolate, semi-arid area of the high plains. My late father-in-law (deceased in 1978) used to sit under his mesquite tree with me down in Laredo, Texas, and tell me tales of the old West, how it was when he was a boy, about the great cattle drives and the Spanish American wars, and I would tell him about life in Charlton Kings, another time and place to the people in this part of the world.

Some of my earliest memories would be of when I was about 4 or 5 years old (around 1948). We used to live in Ivy Cottage, behind "The Roses" in Church Street. My father was an Air Force man and always gone on some assignment. I recall the weekly trip I used to go on with Mr Stanley who owned the fish and chip shop on Church Street, to pick up huge blocks of Ice "downtown" to keep the fish nice and fresh. He was very "Modern". He had an automatic potato peeler and chip cutter. I recall how, when his "Modern" equipment broke down, my mother and other ladies in the village were called upon to peel and chip the potatoes, I'm sure for a price, but all us kids "chipped in" so to speak.

We moved from Ivy Cottage to a thatched cottage in School Road around 1949. I believe the address was No 10 School Road. It was the centre cottage in a row of three, overlooking Lyefield Road East. Mrs Lawrence lived one side and the Cottage on the other side was empty. This empty cottage was source of endless adventure for myself and two of my brothers who were old enough to explore and imagine. We spent hours - digging, dragging, poking, and telling each other awful tales about the place. To our great disappointment, we never did find a skeleton, a ghost, or a buried treasure there, but we sure did our best to unearth some kind of sensation. There was a large back garden which went all the way down to that little stream, that runs into Spring Bottom. Us kids used to paddle and catch crayfish all through summer. I believe there are senior citizen flats built on this site nowadays.

I was delighted to find on my visit this summer - Margie Morris and her store. Oh how we kids used to love Margies. Every day her little shop was full of kids, either coming or going to and from school, buying ha'penny chews, sherbert black jacks, aniseed balls, lemonade powder, swizzles, and the like. When I was a little girl, my mother would send me to her store to "ask Margie if she had anything for me?" This was right after World War 2. Well, sure enough, nine times out of ten, Margie would produce three or four cigarettes or some other unobtainable product, from under the counter, and make our parents happy. Her father used to have his cart in the back yard and he would fetch his horse, hitch it up, and go for the shop supplies. He and the baker, a Mr Tipper, also a man who delivered milk from the Balcarras area, all

had carts and horses. I remember how all the serious gardeners in the village used to watch for those horses and carts, buckets at the ready.

September was the highlight of the year for us kids. We went blackberrying - gangs of us, little wicker baskets all purple inside. Our parents would give us a load of bread, a can of baked beans, and a potato each. Each family took a push cart. We would leave early in the morning, spend each golden day picking berries, filling our carts with firewood, smoking "Honesty" (some kind of weed), swinging from the trees, roasting spuds, and generally having fun. All this was at Lilleybrook, Timbercombe, Dowdeswell and Ryeworth. Our mothers made pots and pots of jam from the "fruits" of our labour.

Well, as I said at the beginning, I am now forty years old. I enjoyed visiting my home once again. I was sad to see so many old friends gone, some dead, many forgotten. The old buildings - many gone. Church Street barely recognisable. But the old ways live on - daily shopping - the milkman - skittles - the local pub. modern now, but the feeling is the same. I hope all the new little members of the family keep up the old traditions. Maybe one day we will come home again. I hope so. Believe me, there is no heaven on earth as peaceful and beautiful as Charlton Kings.

Margaret A. Sandoval nee Axford

#### 6. EMIGRATING TO NEW ZEALAND IN 1848

I have been transcribing some letters from a family who left England in 1848 to settle in New Zealand, first at Dunedin and afterwards at Canterbury. Their experiences are typical of other emigrants of the period and so are of interest to us, though this particular family did not come from Gloucestershire. Here are some extracts.

- (1) Graves End, on Board the "Ajax", 6 August 1848, from Richard Sutcliffe sr.

"Dear Mother, I am happy to inform you that we are now about 30 miles on our journey and are very comfortable. The children have seen all the great shops in London during Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. We are at anchor today to take on Cows, Sheep, Calves, and Poultry for a gent. who has bought £1500 in land on the other side and is taking out servants and all sorts of implements. Our vessel is new and a finer one was never seen, the Captain's not to be surpassed in skill and judgement and expects to make a short voyage. We have on board parties who have been there before and they say we shall never repent the step we have taken, at any rate I do not fear. My family is in high spirits and hope through the helping of God they will be able to do well. I hope to get in for the Doctor's assistant over which will make me a few pounds. The girls are all (drawing for?) doing some other kind of work so that we are not idle. --- We are 200 Passengers on Board, 35 men, 41 children, the rest females, and all in good spirits".

- (2) George Street, Dunedin, 18 February 1849, from Richard Sutcliffe sr.

"Dear Matthew, I wrote you from the ship on the 30th October but had not an opportunity after as we did not call anywhere nor meet a ship for England. I wrote home on landing and therefore I have delayed till now, expecting you would hear through Rattenstall.



I can assure you a more pleasant voyage was never made of Seventeen thousand miles, we got on the coast here on the 5th January, exactly 4 months from London, in excellent health all, you would scarcely know Richard, he is so much grown! that everything is too small for him. The girls were all sick opposite the Bay of Biscay but as we only had its spent fury to contend with, we felt little of it being 1,000 miles from it and were very little nearer land all the way, only saw two small islands in the way, Trinidad and Tristan de Cuna. We thought to have called the Cape of Good Hope but were taken too far west for it. We were becalmed three weeks near the Equator within 5 degrees, had no breeze at all but floated like a chip in a milk basin, all the time half roasted, the boards of the ship were so hot that they burned the skin off my feet. I wore nothing but shirt and trousers. I and Richard were never sick at all --- I could eat fat pork all the way, breakfast, dinner and tea, which I could not touch in England. Our provisions were so plentiful on board that we saved 5 flour barrels full of biscuits, about 40 lbs of rice, 40 lbs sago, 40 lbs peas, tea, coffee that has served till now, in fact it has cost us nothing yet here and have plenty to spare yet.

We had only one drawback on board the ship, that was my wife, she was a bad sailor, frequently sick all the way, and before we left the ship she had a misfortune to fall down the stairs, this caused in about a week a miscarriage but after all thanks to kind providence she got out of the hospital well before we left the ship, and though we thought the boy would not live, he now thrives wonderfully and is one of the prettiest and finest babies in New Zealand. He is a very good child (we call him James) ----- On my landing I introduced Jane and Emma to the Governor's lady and three daughters, they were very glad to see them, their son was ----- of marriage, they were engaged to make wedding gowns and bonnets and other work for two months, there being no other regular dressmakers in the locum, upon enquiry they found these were charging double Manchester prices and more. Therefor Emma and Jane are doing the same, no dress is under 7/6 -- There is but one tailor he would give 3 per day for two men to sew for him and cannot get them. I wish I could persuade Burne to come and bring an apprentice with him. By bringing £50 in cotton goods with him, he could make £200 on them and might be independent in 5 years. He need not fear anything from the passage if he came in a large ship like our "Ajax". The greatest part of the way she was as steady as sitting in a room and he might sew all the way and earn more than his passage. Jane had 5/- per week at nursing, Emma as much at dressmaking as she could do all the way and what she pleased to charge, so that you will see (we) were not idle.

On getting here I found that pigs ran at large and required no feeding, but lived on fernroot, therefore I bought three sows 20/-, 30/-, 35/-, each, two have young ones now, one 4 and the other 8 pigs, and I have bought 4 others since --- R and I have been occupied in hewing the Garden ---- Our plot we have chosen is about 200 yards from the sea, a hill on three sides, two timber pines 100 feet high, evergreens about 50, to describe the woods is impossible, what have existed from the creation. The soil is 1 foot deep where we have delved, will grow anything. I cut down short grass close by last week, 10 ft high close by. We shall have a beautiful view from the house of the whole bay and being protected by the hills very warm at all times with a sea breeze from the East in front of us --- The 10 acre section is two miles off but is in a valley, a river runs through it so that cattle can go to --- when they want, on the back of this ing can pasture for 50 miles as many sheep or cows as we chose to turn out. The 50 acre we have not chosen yet, thankfully we shall sell it and apply for the money to trade. It will pay better as we have pasture enough without it -----"

(3) Dunedin 10 May 1851, from Richard jr

"Dear Grandmother ----- My Father is as hearty as a king, he can eat as much at one meal here as he could in England in three days, he had been I think merely a Jack of All Trades and Master of none since he came to New Zealand, first he was killing pigs and selling pork, then when his pigs were all killed he sold mutton for a short time, afterwards he commenced brewing which paid him very well for a time but he had to give over on account of not having a regular supply of malt and hops, after that he built a wooden house on his own ground and has let it for 12 months at 3/6 per week with 1/4 acre of ground attached to it. He has now gone to Canterbury Settlement which is to be I think a very flourishing place. He went about 4 months ago and is now doing what should you think? Driving a horse and cart, which is paying him best of all, as he can earn in fine weather about £5 per week. I expect he is putting up a house for us and so when it is finished which I expect will be in about two months we shall go to him. We have had letters from him and he likes the place very well, he states that they can put the plough in the ground at once there, which is more than they can do in most parts of this settlement as the land here is mostly covered by Flax and Fern or otherwise trees. Mrs S. has had another son called Charles, so that she has now 2 as pretty children as there are in Dunedin. The reason that we are leaving this place is because they are mostly Scotch people and there is only the Scotch Kirk here, there is no other church or chapel here so that is very unpleasant. We have had only one visit of the Bishop of New Zealand who preached in the Court House, the Scotchmen would not allow him even the Kirk for one Sunday. He is a very nice man and preached a very good sermon. The Canterbury Settlement is a Church of England Settlement, so it will be as equally as bad for a Scotsman to go there as it is for an Englishman here.

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There are but a very few natives so that there is no fear of them rebelling against us, they are a very curious kind of people, they have got an oval shaped hut with a hole to creep in on their hands and knees and if you go into them you will see them laying down lapped in a blanket, some sitting by the fire which is in the middle of the hut with a hole in the top to let the smoke out. They live chiefly on fish and potatoes and they are very fond of sugar. You would stare to see some of them going through the street with a blanket just thrown over their shoulders, and to see the women pulling on an oar in a boat the same as a man-----"

Working men get here from three to four shillings per day, at Canterbury from 4 to 5 . Meat here at present is from 4d to 5d per lb, Flour 27/- per 100 lbs, Tea 2/- per lb, Sugar 3½d per lb, cheese 1/-, Butter 1/4 to /6 per lb, Candles 7d -----"

D.Copson

7. THE CUDNALL BEEDLE MESSUAGES: COWELL ORCHARD: COWELL LANE: THE NEW CIRENCESTER ROAD

There were three Ashley manor tenements which were known as "beedle messuages" possibly because at one time the duty of serving as manorial beedle was shared among the tenants. By the 18th century, they were usually pubs. Two of these beedle messuages were in Cudnall, and to locate them involves discovering the whereabouts of Cowell Lane. Now Cowell lane is important. Reconsideration

of the evidence suggests that it was originally more than a lane, it was a secondary road; so that when documents speak of it as "lane or roadway" they are implying a decline in status. If so, Cirencester Pitch is a comparatively recent development, older but not much older than the new Cirencester Road of 1826-7.

This paper is to some extent an amendment to our Cudnall paper in Gloucestershire Historical Studies XI (1980).

(1) Cowell Orchard

This was a piece of freehold land along the north bank of the Chelt below the Cudnall houses. It belonged to the manor of Cheltenham. Originally it was meadow. This was part of the freehold of William Addames who on 31 March 1598 sold it, with other land, to William Baugham senior and his son William (1) They held it till 1615, and then William Baugham gentleman alienated the close to John Holder of Charlton, one of the Cudnall tenants, who was admitted on 13 March 1616. (2) The first John Holder had a son John who married Edith daughter of Lynnet Pates; a settlement for her benefit was made in 1652-3. (3) He also had a daughter who married a Lawrence and had a son John Lawrence a blacksmith at Deerhurst Walton. The second John Holder had a son John who married Mary Atkins, and they in turn a son John who claimed his late father's copyholds on 23 April 1697. Less than a month later, he was dead. (4) His will dated 14 April 1697 was proved on 23 April 1698, and in it he left his ground called Cowell to his mother Mary, now wife of John King, (5) for her life, with remainder to his distant cousin John Lawrence of Deerhurst and his children.

(2) Cowell House

This tenement belonged to Ashley manor. On 13 July 1714 Mary King widow surrendered to use of herself for life, after to use of Henry Attkins her brother and Judith his wife for their lives, after to use of Henry's daughter Judith Leech, "all that messuage wherein she now dwells known by the name of Cowell and is a beedle messuage belonging to this manor", with land. A total 15s heriot was paid. (6)

On 20 March 1717/8, Henry Attkins duly claimed as Mary's brother and heir, and immediately surrendered to use of Samuel Cooper and his heirs; but it was not till 1 October 1733 that Judith Leech widow surrendered her residual interest to Samuel Sloper (Cooper's cousin and heir) (7) Thus the beedle messuage was inherited, along with Charlton House, by Sloper, his son, his two daughters, Samuel Cooke, and Charles Higgs. Cooke died in 1804, but it was not till 30 August 1806 that Charles Higgs formally claimed and was admitted. He took down the old house and rebuilt it in brick, so that on 10 June 1808 he could mortgage it for £2000 to Mary Perry of Bilston, describing it as "all that new built brick messuage or tenement and farm house called Cowell House (being a beedle messuage), with all houses, gardens, orchards, and backsides" - the occupier was Edward Trotman. Again, the heriot paid was 15s.

A succession of mortgages followed, but by 1822 all had been paid off and Charles Cooke Higgs could claim this property. (8) There are no further references in the court books till 3 November 1885, when Higgs' devisees in trust under his will (proved 18 November 1884) claimed inter alia "all that brick built messuage and farm house formerly called Cowell House being a beedle messuage now for many years known as Ivy Cottage" at Cudnall. (9)

In 1890 they surrendered it to use of Charles Edward Gael and John Delabere Gael, on trusts established in the will of Samuel Higgs Gael deceased.

It is still known as Ivy Cottage, and is virtually unaltered since 1808. It stands back from Cudnall Street and is approached by a slanting drive which till lately appeared to lead into the garage, not to the front door.



Ivy Cottage in  
1979

(3) Mansell's beedle message

On 25 November 1730 <sup>(10)</sup> Thomas Mansell surrendered to use of himself for life, and after to use of Anne his wife and heirs, all his copyhold property held under Ashley manor. She was to hold in trust to sell part and pay off a mortgage to Cooper; the remainder was to go to grandson Edward Wills and granddaughter Mary, daughter of Beatrice Tanty, and their heirs. One of Mansell's copyholds was a beedle message. So on 20 July 1733 <sup>(11)</sup> Anne Mansell widow surrendered to use of William Sollis and his heirs the message in Cudnall "being a beedle message", with a lane or roadway on the south and east, land late of Robert Sollis, now of William Sollis, on the west, <sup>(12)</sup> and Cudnall Street on the north. No land went with this tenement. The heriot was only 1s 6d.

William Sollis must shortly afterwards have sold this message to another Cudnall man Thomas White; he lived in it for a while. Then on 20 January 1764, as Thomas White the elder widower, he surrendered to use of one Andrew White of Whittington a feltmaker. Andrew in turn surrendered to use of Stephen Cresser of Prestbury in 1768, and in 1771 Cresser with his wife sold it for £38 to John Newman of Cheltenham, a malster. On each surrender, a heriot of 1s 6d was paid; and this, with the low selling price, shows that it was a small house, probably very little improved over the years, with a small garden behind it. In 1764 and 1771, Thomas Fowler was the occupier, and he may have continued to live there till about 1780 when Newman and his wife surrendered to use of William and Betty Tombs "all that message or dwelling-house being a Beedle message with the garden and appurtenances --- having a lane called Cowell Lane on the south and east, Cudnall Street on the north, and a message in possession of Robert Sollis on the west".

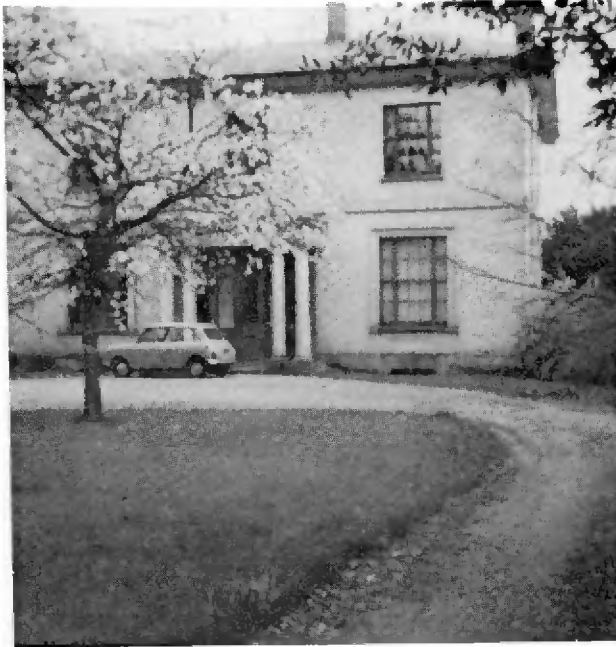
As a property suitable for development, this house attracted the attention of Thomas Billings, a Charlton bricklayer and surveyor. On 6 February 1795, William Tombs and his wife surrendered to Billings the bottom of their garden, the boundary to start only 10 feet from the back of the house and continue in a straight line eastward to "a lane called Cowell Lane". Sollis's land lay on the west side. For this portion of the tenement, a heriot of 6d became due, leaving 1s to be paid on the next surrender of the house. This happened two years later, when Billings, having begun to build his new house on the garden plot, persuaded the Tombs to surrender the rest of their holding. He at once demolished the old house, leaving a vacant space some 24ft deep between Cudnall Street and his fine new building, then called Raisey House, now No 6.



Raisey House

Raisey House was let to Samuel Harward a Cheltenham book-seller, who had a circulating library in the Colonade. Ruff's guide, the Beauties of Cheltenham (1806) speaks of it enthusiastically as a collection "which, for the number and value of the books, is seldom exceeded in a country town", though the author laments "the irregular method in which this valuable collection is arranged". At all events, Harward made enough from his library to be able to buy the house in 1808, when Thomas Billings had left Charlton and was describing himself as "now of Battersea gentleman". With the house, Harward bought part of a freehold garden lying to the south, which had "usually" been let with Raisey House but was not part of the beedle messuage site. That freehold garden was part of Cowell Orchard. I have not yet traced the stages by which it had passed from the Lawrences to the Sollises and from them to Billings.

The rest of Cowell Orchard went with a new house built c.1808-10 (perhaps by Billings) on the site of Sollis's old house. It was then called Charlotteville because of Colonel McCleod's devotion to the Princess Charlotte. It is now Langton Lodge.



(4) Cowell Lane

The first reference we have to this lane is in 1597, when it was presented at Cheltenham manor court that "Richard Keente and his family vex, cause to stink, and render unhealthy a highway in the lane called Cowell Lane, by throwing their decaying and sordid refuse there, to the vexation and disturbance of the queen's subjects". The Kents were fined 3s 4d, suggesting that this was a serious public nuisance. In 1599 there was an order for William Addams and William Combe to scour their ditches in Cowell lane from the upper part of the ditch to the upper yate of Nicholas Wells. (12) Combe and Adams were again ordered to scour their ditches here in 1608. (13) Then in 1633, after John Holder had acquired the freehold meadow Cowell Orchard, he was presented and fined 12d for not cutting his trees hanging over Cowell Lane, being harmful to those going by that way. (14)

These orders show that Lane and Orchard adjoined, that Cowell lane was a public road, and that it went down to the Chelt just below Charlton House, where William Combe probably lived. The "lane or roadway" ran south and east of Mansell's beedle messuage, so it emerged into Cudnall Street on the east of that tenement, that is, where the drive down to Ivy Cottage now runs. The drive is all we have left of a road described in 1597 as a "highway".

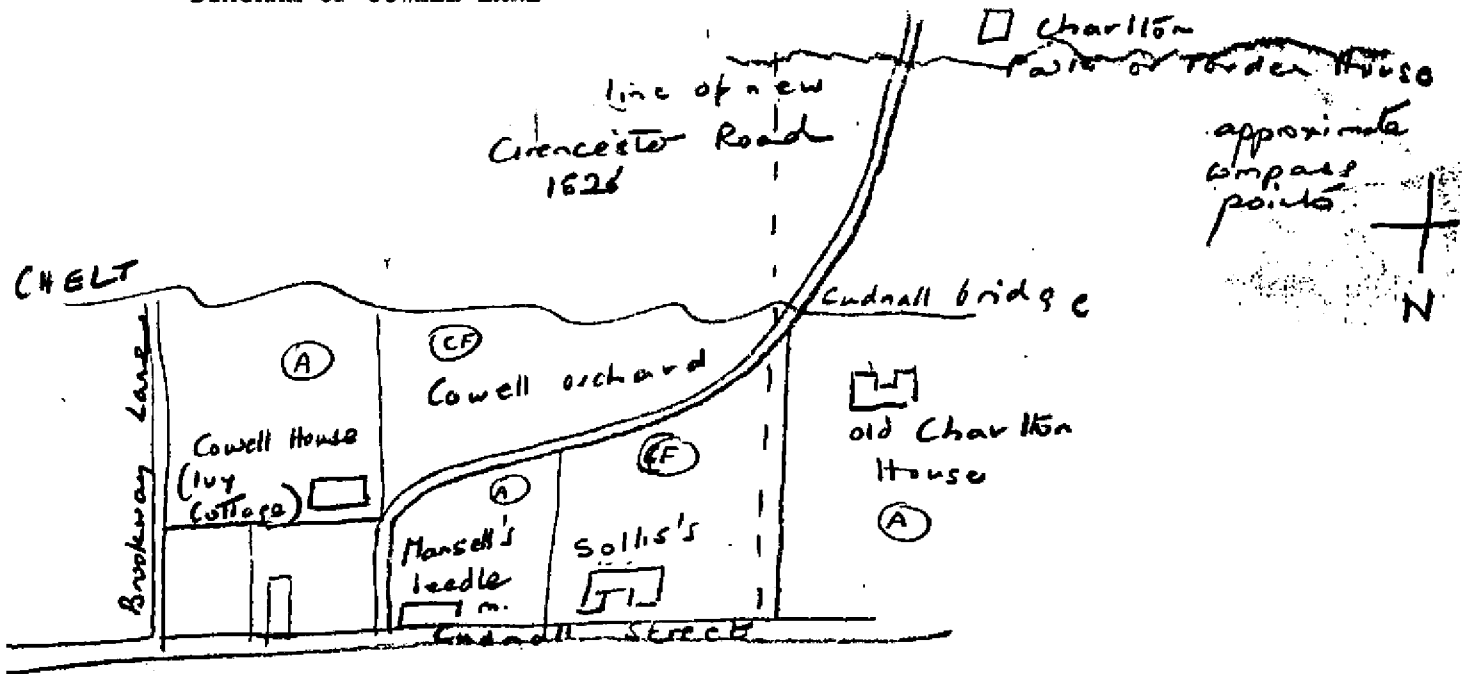
We have to postulate a lane down the drive of Ivy Cottage, running to the west of that house through the site of an addition to it (till recently a garage), and thus first east and then south of Mansell's beedle messuage, between it and Cowell Orchard. It slanted down the bank to link with the old public road then called Moorend Street, now the back drive of Charlton Park; we know from the deeds of that estate that the triangular lodge purchased in 1840 was built on a corner of Cowell Orchard, left over when the new Cirencester Road was cut in 1826. (18)

This means that Cirencester Pitch, the steep rise from the Chelt to Cudnall Street, which formed part of the highway before 1826, was a recent alteration. It is shown on Billing's map of the turnpike road out of Cheltenham in 1798 - there it is called the road to Birdlip. It cannot have existed much before

that. We may guess that it was part of the 1784-1787 development under the 1784 Turnpike Act, (16) when Dodington Hunt was allowed to close part of Sandy Lane and create a new road from Withyolt corner to New Court. There it joined an existing road past Charlton Park House and crossed the Chelt by the old bridge on the back drive. The 1811 map of Charlton Park calls this the road to Cheltenham. It would have been advantageous to shorten it by taking it straight up the pitch instead of letting it slant up Cowell Lane.

I had often wondered why Cirencester Pitch led into Cudnall Street just where there were no old houses. And why did anyone make the road so steep? Now I can guess the answer to the first part of the question - this was a new cut c.1787 to serve people going into the town. Road planners of that period liked short steep ascents better than gradual slopes. They did here exactly what they did in 1836 to the northern end of Mill Lane (our School Road) (17).

DIAGRAM OF COWELL LANE



To make Cirencester Pitch, the surveyors must have taken land from Charlton House to the west or from Robert Sollis's house to the east. This last seems likely; and in compensation Sollis and Billings were allowed to annex most of the site of the old road. The bit left is now the driveway down to Cowell House/Ivy Cottage.

(5) Cirencester Road

When the new Cirencester Road was cut in 1826-7, it made use of the existing road down the Pitch. But the turn at the top was very sharp indeed. On 21 December 1904 22 square yards of Charlton house ground were enfranchised (ahead of the rest of the property) so that it could be added to the road. The present easy curve was not created till 8 October 1948, when a strip of land measuring 1840 sq. yards on the south-west side of the road was dedicated as part of the highway. (18)

- (1) Gloucestershire Record Office D 855 M 7 f.79
- (2) D 855 M 9 pp 4,12
- (3) M 11 ff.90, 109

- (4) *ibid.* M 12 pp 267-8. He was buried 18 May 1697
- (5) Will 1689/66
- (6) GRO D 109/original surrenders C 22
- (7) *ibid.* C 16,17,139
- (8) D 109/1,2
- (9) D 109/
- (10) D 109 original surrenders C 131
- (11) *ibid.* C 157
- (12) D 855 M 7 ff.50,150
- (13) *ibid.* M 8 f.130
- (14) *ibid.* M 10 f.79v
- (15) D 1224. See Bulletin 8 pp 38-9  
The Rev. J. Harward was admitted to Raisey House, after his father's death, on 7 August 1818.
- (16) 25 Geo III c.125 - see Bulletin 10
- (17) Plan GRO Q SRL 1836 D (see Bulletin 3 p.56)
- (18) Charlton House title deeds.

M. Paget

8. A FAMILY OF CRAFTSMEN AND HUSBANDMEN - THE CLEEVELYS OF CHARLTON KINGS  
PART I

This is an attempt at a family reconstruction covering a period of nearly 500 years for the Cleevelys are one of our really old Charlton families, active here since the early 16th century. By the 1650s, there were already 5 family units in this parish, with others in Cheltenham, and that (in addition to the inevitable repetition of christian names) makes it difficult to be sure one's pedigree is accurate. Our earliest register starting in 1538 is not quite complete. Cheltenham's register starts in 1558 and must not be overlooked, since the town is so near and anyone holding land in Naunton was a Cheltenham parishioner. We have lists of Charlton tenants in 1557 and 1564, (1) and we know the names of all who contributed to the cost of the 1625 act to change our manorial custom (1). We should have a list of all able-bodied men in 1608 (2), but (unless some Cleevelys were physically unfit) it does not appear to be comprehensive. Cheltenham manor court books start in the late 16th century, and there is the invaluable survey of Cheltenham tenants in 1617; (3) but for Ashley manor we have nothing till 1696. However, the real problem is that the Cleevelys in the main were craftsmen and small husbandmen, seldom yeomen. When they held land, it was not their chief source of livelihood. This makes them particularly interesting to study.

Any lengthy family reconstruction can be of more than genealogical value. For the historian studying population trends, it provides a case history from which to deduce life expectancy, average age of marriage, tendency to marry within a close group of local families (in this case too within a close group of allied crafts), number and frequency of offspring (in the Cleevelys, the tendency to produce twins), child survival rate. For the economic historian, the study offers a simple gauge of prosperity in Charlton Kings, the narrow gap there was at times between making a living and having a struggle to overcome misfortune or sickness, the greater security that came with Cheltenham's increasing prosperity. We have an indication of crafts practised in the village - the swing in this particular family and presumably in others from weaving to gardening or the building trades - carpentering, plastering, plumbing, building generally, or to smithing - locksmith, whitesmith, blacksmith.



In the early 1700s, the simple homes of William, James, or Henry Cleevely, and the more up-to-date one of Thomas Cleevely (as evidenced in the hearth-tax roll or in wills and inventories) stand in marked contrast to the solid comforts and conveniences represented by Ivy Cottage in 1778, Thorntonville in 1849, and Hawthorne Villa in 1891.

The manorial historian may note that though the 1625 Act changed the custom of both manors to make the eldest son rather than the youngest the copyhold heir, Charlton families like the Cleevelys obstinately adhered to the old ways - down to the 19th century, it was nearly always the youngest son who was provided for and to whom the property descended. A father could ensure this by surrendering his copyhold to a trustee or to uses of his will during his lifetime - he could then dispose of both copyhold and freehold. There was commonsense as well as conservatism behind this, but it is typical of Charlton people who continued to keep their parish accounts old style till 1800 and have always been noted for a strong (not to say stubborn!) sense of their special identity.

In this paper and those that follow, I have had to guess at some links in the family chain, though there are only two points on which serious doubt remains. That we can study the family at all is thanks to the hard work already done by members of this Society in transcribing or abstracting parish registers, wills, inventories, and court books. Without that preliminary labour, none of this would have been possible.

A word of warning is necessary. One branch of the family now spells the name CLEEVELY and another CLEVELEY. But this is an accidental development and has no significance. In the past the name has come out as Cleevely, Cleeveley, Clevely, Clevelie, Cleavley, Clivly, Cleveley, Clevlay and other variations. It was not till the 19th century that consistency in spelling surnames was considered desirable.

We find our first generation of Cleevelys in Charlton during the 1540s. I have no evidence for any here before that date. References in Winchcombe Abbey Land-boc sive Registrum ed. Royce 1892 suggest that they came originally from the Oxfordshire hamlet of Cleveley in the parish of Enstone near Chipping Norton. Enstone belonged to Winchcombe, and this connection could have brought a family from Cleveley into this part of Gloucestershire in the early 16th century.

/1/ ROBERT daughter Margery baptised 7 February 1543/4, buried 11 March.  
wife Alice buried 27 February 1543/4

No need to comment on this double tragedy. Robert apparently left no offspring, but it is possible that JOHN /3/, with sons called Robert, was a brother.

/2/ RAYNOULD (REGINALD)

wife Margaret buried 19 October 1544  
wife Alice, married 15 July 1546, buried 14 June 1548  
daughter Annesbaptised 4 October 1546

Raynould was a Cheltenham manor tenant. In 1557 he held 10 acres, out of which he was permitted to inclose one acre "at his close end". By the time the next inclosure was authorized in 1564, Raynould's tenement had been taken over by a John Holder, who was to inclose one acre in the croft (ie the one at the close end) and one in Badleton. Presumably John had married the heiress Annes or Agnes, who would by then have been 17-18. John Holder with land in Battle-down probably lived in Cudnall (as other Holders did); Raynould may have done so too.

/3/     JOHN     daughter Margery baptised 25 February 1543/4  
                  daughter Alice buried 7 May 1546  
                  daughter Agnes baptised 3 May 1546

It looks as though John's first wife may have died in May 1546.

wife Joane, married 3 October 1547, buried Cheltenham 28 Sept  
1580  
daughter Jane baptised 16 February 1547/8  
  
son Robert buried 19 November 1550  
daughter Margery baptised 9 March 1550/1 married Nicholas  
Digason 21 Nov. 1573  
son ROBERT baptised 5 November 1552

No John Cleevely appears in the list of Charlton tenants for 1557, so he held no land here then, and there is no further reference in the register to him or his son Robert. A Robert Cleevely appears in Cheltenham 20 years later - his first wife Catherine was buried on 22 September 1573 and on 27 January 1579/80 he married Alice Wood. This couple had a son ROBERT baptised at Cheltenham on 19 June 1581.

I imagine that it was Robert the younger who got himself fined 5s in 1611 for supporting some players who were trying to stage a play in Cheltenham against the Bailiff's prohibition. And this tells us something about the Cleevelys we wouldn't otherwise know!

It was presumably the same Robert Cleevely who was fined on 10 April 1629 for playing shuffleboard in the house of Robert Gotheridge (4).

/4/     THOMAS     son THOMAS baptised 30 November 1544  
                  daughter Alise baptised 17 October 1546  
                  daughter Elizabeth baptised 13 March 1548/9  
                  daughter Joane baptised 12 September 1552, buried 18 March 1567  
                  daughter Agnes baptised Cheltenham 25 January 1557/8  
  
Thomas Cleevely senior buried Cheltenham 31 August 1581  
Agnes Cleevely widow buried Cheltenham 8 June 1588

In 1545 Thomas Cleevely owed 2s 3d to a Charlton testator Thomas Barne; and his daughter Alice may have been the Alys Cleevely to whom "a blacke frocke which (testator) did customarily wear upon Sundays" was left by Margery Taylor alias Ruggdale in 1557 (5). Thomas's daughter would have been 11 by then and the black Sunday frock, cut down, would have made her a mourning dress.

Thomas Cleevely held no land in Charlton in 1557, and may have moved into Cheltenham about that time, for a daughter Agnes was baptised there early in 1558.

Several Cleevely girls were married during this period:-

Jone married William Jones at Cheltenham, 6 July 1575  
Agnes married Robert Coxe at Cheltenham, 31 October 1576  
Agnes married Henrie West at Cheltenham, 4 June 1579  
Jone married Even Hewes at Cheltenham, 30 January 1579/80  
Jone married Gruffyn Jones, 17 January 1582/3  
Alise married Morgan Lewys at Cheltenham, 6 June 1583  
Jane married John Cox at Charlton Kings, 8 May 1592  
Agnes married Robert Ible at Cheltenham, 15 August 1597

Some of these may be the daughters of John or of Thomas. Cambridge Population studies have found that the marriage of girls in their late twenties was normal in this period; parents had to apprentice their sons and set them up in life before they could begin to save dowries for daughters.

THOMAS, baptised at Charlton on 30 November 1544 may be the Thomas who on 17 November 1581 married Agnes Miltone at Cheltenham, If so, he was waiting for his father's death to give him a home in to which to bring a bride. The children of this marriage were all baptised at Cheltenham.

son Frances, baptised 14 October 1582, married Cheltenham 1608  
Jone Hawkins  
son THOMAS, baptised 2 February 1583/4  
son John, baptised 18 April 1585  
son WALTER, baptised 13 June 1586  
daughter Agnes, baptised 14 January 1589/90

Walter, being the youngest son, was customary heir. The Miltons held land in Naunton and so did Walter Cleevely. In 1649 he fixed a jointure for his wife Alice and then surrendered the same lands, after his and his wife's deaths, to use of his son WALTER, described as his heir. Yet THOMAS is said to be his eldest son. Under the Act of 1625, Thomas inherited another messuage in the same tithing, late Nicholas Bradwayes'; (6) this messuage may have been Alice's inheritance. Walter Cleevely the second married a Sarah and Thomas an Elioner; so perhaps this is the Thomas who married Elinor Combe at Sevenhampton in 1651. The court books show that Walter son of Walter Cleevely had inherited both his father's and his uncle's messuages by 1660. (7). A later WALTER married Sarah Collens in Cheltenham in 1712.

/5/ WILLIAM

presumably born about 1570, perhaps a weaver (but not baptised in Charlton or Cheltenham)  
wife Margaret, buried 5 October 1617  
daughter Yeadith, baptised 26 May 1596  
son Richard, baptised 30 June 1601  
son John, baptised 10 November 1603

William may have been the William Clevelay fined 3s 4d for neglecting (with 9 others) to practise archery in 1597 - he would have been about 27 at the time. (8).

This William would be about 38 in 1608, and so may be the William Cleevely weaver listed without any age or description in Men and Armour. William /9/ son of Henry and Sibill would have been 19 in 1608 and old enough to be enlisted, and he could have learnt weaving from his half-brother John. /7/ On the other hand, William was heir to all his father's land, and more likely to have worked the holding for him.

William /5/ called one of his sons Richard, an unusual name for a Cleevely. After his wife's death, William seems to have left the parish, with his family. His sons would have been 16 and 14, of an age to be or have been apprenticed.

/6/ HENRY

Henry Cleevely, an Ashley manor tenant, was presumably born before our register starts, perhaps about 1535, for he was of age before 1557 when he held a 5 acre tenement. He was probably living in Cudnall, since he had half an acre

in the Sladd, the little valley north of Cudnall Bank. He was allowed to inclose this half acre in 1557 and in 1564 a further quarter acre, giving him "three little closes" in the Sladd. A five acre small-holding would hardly keep a family, so we may assume that Henry had a trade as well. He may have been a weaver.

I take the Ashley tenant of 1557 and 1564 to be the Henry Cleevely of the register.

HENRY born c. 1535, buried 27 October 1614  
wife Katherin Brevell, married 28 June 1568, buried 4 Sept. 1586  
daughter Alice, baptised 15 November 1569, buried 4 Jan 1587/8  
son JOHN, baptised 14 March 1571/2  
daughter Elinor baptised 26 July 1575 married John Robines 22 October 1602  
son Thomas, baptised 23 March 1577/8  
  
wife Sible Reignould, married 26 May 1587  
son WILLIAM, baptised 15 May 1588, buried 15 Jan 1669/70  
servant Alice Tuffley buried 18 December 1600

Henry's first wife came from an old Charlton family, here before the mid 15th century rental of Cheltenham manor. There were several Brevells active in the 16th century, particularly John, son and executor of Jone Brevell widow under her will of 1537 (9). John was buried on 19 May 1548. He left a daughter Katherin, baptised on 11 April 1543, so she was 25 when she married Henry Cleevely in 1568. Her groom must have been about 33; with so little land, he could hardly have afforded to marry sooner. His wife's portion (in money or land) enabled Henry to add to his holding under Ashley manor.

Henry's second wife Sibill Reignould or Reynoldes was also an heiress. She was the only child of Thomas Reginoldes or Reynoldes a Cheltenham tenant, and his wife Katherin. In 1557 William Reynolds held an eleven acre tenement out of which he was allowed to inclose one acre in Caner Croft. He was presumably the William Raynould who married Alice on 6 February 1543/4; they had an only child Thomas who died young; and Alice herself was buried on 7 November 1560. There is no record of William's death; but by 1564 his 11 acre tenement had passed to one Richard Reynolds (perhaps a brother), who inclosed one acre of it in Reynoldesmeade. From Richard the holding passed to Thomas. He was not married in Charlton or Cheltenham and his daughter was not baptised here, so he may have been nephew rather than son to Richard. However, he was here by 1587, when his daughter found a husband in Charlton, and he was buried here on 25 May 1591. His widow was buried here too, on 27 June 1594. Under the custom of the manor, they could each of them have charged their holding by grants for 12 years from their deaths, but they had not done this and by 1598 the way was clear for Henry Cleevely to claim as husband of Sibill and to be admitted to his father-in-law's messuage and land. A rent of 2s 4d was payable to the lord. (10)

Thus Henry now held land under both manors; and according to custom, his youngest son William was heir to the whole.

If Henry Cleevely were born about 1535, he will have been 52 at the time of his second marriage (which produced only one child) and about 79 when he died in 1614.

HENRY CLEEVELEY /8/ m (1) Katherine Brevell 28 June 1568 (2) Sibill Reginoldes 26 May 1587  
 bur. 27 Oct 1614 bur 4 Sept 1586 not bur. CK

Alice bp 15 Nov 1569 bur 4 Jan 1587/8	JOHN /7/, weaver bp 14 March 1571/2 bur 30 Nov 1649 will proved 2 Feb 1649/50; m Anne Goodericbe 2 Sept 1601; bur 27 Sept 1641	Elinor bp 26 July 1575; m John Robines 22 Oct 1601	THOMAS /8/ bp 23 March 1577/8 ? Henry of Prestbury d. by 1649  Anne	WILLIAM /9/ bp 15 May 1589, bur 15 Jan 1669/70 m 29 Sept 1608 Jane Alexander alias Mauncell bur 14 Jan 1663/4
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Henrie bp 8 Feb 1601/2 d by 1649 m Jane Dickerson 12 June 1630	Ann bp 3 June 1613 m Wm Okely bur 20 Sept 1674	WILLIAM /10/ weaver bp 1 Jan 1611/12 bur 8 Nov 1667; will 26 Oct 1667 proved 20 Ap 1668; m 28 Ap 1627 Margaret Holder, bur 28 Jan 1637/8	Edith bp 28 Aug 1614; m John Howlder 4 Feb 1638/9	Elizabeth bp 7 Sept 1617, bur 23 Oct John 1637	ROBERT bp 10 Dec 1620, d by 1669; m Mary	Deborah bp 3 Sept 1623	Jane bp 30 July 1626, m Walt -er Alex- ander als 1668 Mansell 5 m July 1662	WILLIAM bp 20 March 1627/8, bur 8 Dec Mary	John bp 2 May 1629 bur 28 Aug 1629	Henry /12/ bp 21 Feb 1630/1, bur 16 March 1667/8 m 1653 Mary Ashmeade bur 7 July 1689
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Henry m at Edge- worth 1665 Elizabeth Robinson	Jane 1636	Eliz 1639	William 1643	Deborah 1646	Margaret 1654	WILLIAM James bur 1 Oct 1734; m Sarah Green bur 24 Ap 1730	JAMES/11/ bp 24 Aug 1634	Jane Jan 1631/2 m - Broade	Margery bp 2 Sept 1632, m John Maisie bur 11 May 1693	Deborah born 30 Sept 1654, ex.of Wm/9/ bur 4 Ap 1673	Mary born 9 Feb 1655/6 bur 7 Sept 1682	WILLIAM born - in Glos 1669	HENRY /13/ born c.1658/60 inherits house will 5 Nov 1732, proved 1733; bur 15 March 1732/3; m 23 Jan 1685/8 Susannah Goodrich will 16 May 1740, proved 25 March 1742 not bur CK
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Jane bur 9 Ap 1686	WILLIAM bp 8 Dec 1686, bur 10 Sept 1739 m 3 Oct 1709 Anne Underwood	Mary bp 24 May 1689	Edith bp 6 Ap 1694, m - Edwards Editb	Sarah bp 27 Nov 1698, m at Nether Swell 1729 John Arkell	Susannah bp 4 Dec 1708 m 1728 at Rendcomb Robert Ratcliff
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Mary bp 30 Aug 1710 ?bur sp 26 March 1768	Anne bp 23 Feb 1711/12 bur 7 June 1717	Elizabeth bp 2 Oct 1713, bur 25 Oct 1738	WILLIAM bp 4 Nov 1715	Anne bp 25 Oct 1717 bur sp 29 July 1734	Rebecca bp 4 Aug 1719; m Wm Evans 10 Nov 1740	JOHN (?) of Woodruff, bp 18 Ap 1721, bur 6 Nov 1787; m Mary bur 17 Ap 1780   Mary bp 24 Aug 1762	Susannah bp 28 Aug 1724, bur 14 Sept 1727	Judeth bp 20 May 1726	Susannah bp 20 June 1728
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/7/ JOHN, eldest son of Henry and Katherin

baptised 14 March 1571/2, buried 30 November 1649  
wife Anne Goodriche, married 2 September 1601, buried 27 Sept 1641  
son Henrie baptised 6 February 1601/2,  
daughter Ann baptised 3 June 1613

There were two John Cleevelys fit to serve in 1608, according to Men and Armour. One was a husbandman, aged about 40, tall and suitable for a pikeman. The other also about 40, was a weaver, short of stature and only fit "to handle a calyver". This second John seems likely to be Henry's eldest son, who as eldest son could not inherit any of his land and would therefore be put to learn a craft. He was born early in 1572 and would in fact have been 36 in 1608. Was he the John Cliveley in trouble for playing unlawful games in 1609? (11)

John made a nuncupative or verbal will in 1649 (GRO 1650/32). In it he mentioned his brother William Cleevely the elder (ie his half-brother William) and William Cleevely the younger (his half-nephew). They were to oversee his will. His daughter Anne had married William Okely of Charlton and had 5 children by him who were to receive from their grandfather £5 apiece at the age of 24 or marriage. We know from our second parish register that these children were Jane (baptised 19 June 1636); Elizabeth (22 September 1639); William (12 June 1643), Deborah (14 May 1646) and Margaret (born 17 October 1654, buried 17 November 1688) - William Okely the father was buried on 20 September 1674.

John's will also speaks of a Henry Cleevely of Prestbury who had made the testator a trustee for £16.13.4 intended for Henry's daughter Anne. This trust money is covered by a legacy of £21.13.4 to her, by which she would receive her own with interest. All the remainder of John's goods were left to Henry Cleevely the testator's grandson, who must be a son of Henry born 1602. That Henry married Jane Dickerson on 12 June 1630, and seems to have died before his father. His son Henry, John's grandson and residuary legatee, may be the Henry Cleevely who married Elizabeth Robinson at Edgeworth in 1665.

A Henry Cleevely was assaulted on 9 March 1622/3 by Robert Dowdeswell of Charlton Kings, who at the next court on 1 April 1623 found himself fined 12d for an affray (12). It could have been and probably was Henry son of John, who would have been 20 in that year; it might have been Henry Cleevely of Prestbury, whoever he was.

/8/ THOMAS, second son of Henry and Katherin, baptised 1578.

If John the eldest son carried on his father's trade as a weaver, and William the youngest son took over all his father's land (as according to the custom he must have done), then there was no place in Charlton for the middle son Thomas. Did he move to Prestbury and become the father of that Henry Cleevely of Prestbury mentioned in John's will?

I feel that this Thomas cannot be the man who married in Charlton and brought up a family here (see /17/ in Part II).

/9/ WILLIAM, youngest son of Henry, and only child of his second wife Sibill

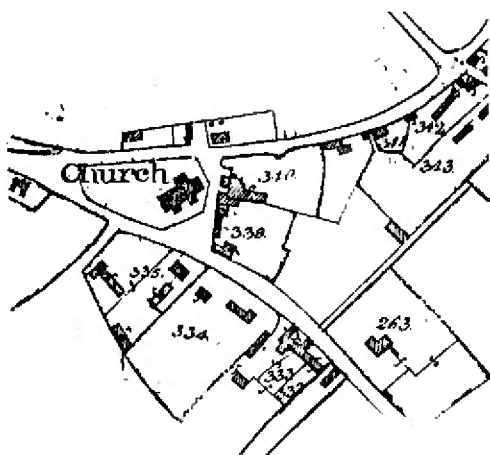
William baptised 15 May 1588, buried 15 January 1669/70  
wife Jane Alexander alias Mauncell, married 29 September 1608,  
buried 14 January 1663/4  
son WILLIAM, baptised 1 January 1611/12 buried 8 Nov 1667

daughter Edith, baptised 28 August 1614, married John Howlder  
4 February 1638/9 (aged 24)  
daughter Elizabeth, baptised 7 September 1617, buried 23 Oct  
1635  
son ROBERT, baptised 10 December 1620, dead by 1669  
daughter Deborah, baptised 14 September 1623  
daughter Jane, baptised 30 July 1626, married Walter Alexander  
alias Mansell 5 July 1662  
son William baptised 20 March 1627/8  
son John, baptised 2 May 1629, buried 28 August 1629  
son HENRY, baptised 21 February 1630/1, buried 16 March 1667/8;  
married Mary, buried 7 July 1689

On 22 April 1608, Henry and Sibill surrendered the Reginoldes messuage to use of their son William as Henry's youngest son and customary heir, and paid 33s 4d in lieu of heriot. William then surrendered a moiety to their use for life (13) All this was to pave the way for the marriage of William Cleevely junior to Jane Alexander alias Mauncell, a member of another established Charlton family.

William's father died in 1614 and so when the 1617 survey of the manor of Cheltenham was drawn up, William Cleevely was base tenant of the whole of a messuage in Charlton, consisting of a house, barn, garden, backside, ie Homestead (2 acres); closes of pasture called Bacons Combe and Reynolds Grove (together 8 acres) the same presumably as the 1564 Reynoldesmeade; pasture at Wynyards Bushes and a selion arable (together 2 acres). This gave him a total of 14 acres (3 more than the Reynolds held in 1564). The house was known as Churchend Meese and was somewhere in Hollow Lane (now Horsefair Street). We know from other references that William Cleevely or Clylie's house stood on the north side of one built by Roger Holder about 1625, and that William shared a boundary with Richard Rooke - viewers were appointed in 1631 to fix the exact line between Cleevely's homestead and Rooke's close called Veysons (14). That puts William's house on the west side of Hollow Lane; and as it was known as Churchend Meese, it was an ancient tenement, not a new house. This identifies it, in all probability, with the timber-framed and thatched cottage opposite The Grange occupied in the 1920s by Mrs Summers and pulled down about 1929.

From tithe map 1848



Churchend  
House or  
The Grange

Churchend  
Meese

The cottage  
was tithe  
free by 1848



William Cleevely also inherited his father's land held under Ashley. We don't know where this was, but clearly it was more than the 5 acre tenement Henry Cleevely had held in 1557. When Charlton tenants taxed themselves to pay for the new Act in 1625, William paid 5s 10d for his Cheltenham tenement, but 7s 6d for his Ashley one.

In 1631, William Cleevely acted as churchwarden of St Mary's, with Robert Mansell. William outlived all his sons and for this reason it seems better to deal with them and their children before discussing the provisions of his will.

/10/ WILLIAM, eldest son of William and Jane

baptised 1 January 1611/12, buried 8 November 1667

wife Margaret Holder, married 28 April 1627, buried 28 January 1637/8

daughter Jane, baptised 26 February 1629/30 married - Broade

daughter Margery, baptised 2 September 1632, married John Maisie

son William (mentioned in father's will)

son JAMES, baptised 24 August 1634

For their eldest son WILLIAM (who under the new act would have been the heir, had he been born after 1625 instead of in 1612), William and Jane arranged a marriage with Margaret Holder, an heiress.

Back in 1557, Nicholas Holder of Cudnall had been one of the largest landholders in Charlton. He had 100 acres under Cheltenham and 5 under Ashley. By 1564 he had divided this so that he cultivated 65 acres himself and another member of the clan, John Holder senior, cultivated the other 40 as his sub-tenant. Together they were allowed to inclose 9 3/4 acres and 6 acres, including a close in Cudnall called Nine Lands.

This Holder tenement did not include the 10 acres previously Raynould Cleevely's, which by 1564 were held by a different John Holder.

By 1617, Roger Holder was in possession of the main house, Cudnalls Meese, and also 3 messuages in Bafford. He had 3 daughters by his wife Joane, buried 7 April 1603; the girls were Margaret, Yedith (baptised 1 March 1600/1) and Joane (baptised 7 April 1603, the day of her mother's funeral). Roger married again, but had no children by his second wife Margaret. So to provide fairly for his eldest daughter, Roger on 29 July 1625 surrendered to use of William Hugill a messuage with garden, and backside (1/2 acre), a close called les Nine Landes (1 1/2 acres), 2 butts of meadow adjoining land of Walter Martin (the miller), le Litle Hill (1/4 acre), an acre on le Bancke in Cuddenhillfeild, an acre of arable and a parcel of meadow called a Sladd adjoining it in Mill furlong (somewhere near the present Beaufort Arms). All these had been parts of his tenement in 1617. This share was to pay 6s heriot, 17d in lieu of work services and 4d common fine (17d and 4d being the full amount under these heads payable on the old messuage, so it looks as though the eldest daughter's share was to include the Cudnall home). By surrendering in this way, Roger gave himself the power to divide his property; otherwise, the customary heir would have inherited the whole, and in 1625 this would have been Joan the youngest daughter. The surrender was in anticipation of Margaret's marriage to William Cleevely, which took place on 28 April 1627. In consideration of the forthcoming wedding, William Hugill the trustee and his wife on 28 March 1627 surrendered to use of William and his intended wife Margaret and their heirs a messuage with garden and yard (1/2 acre) and land formerly parcel of a messuage of Roger Holder called Cuddenhills Meese. (15).



It was this William known as William Cleevely the younger who acted with his father as overseer of his uncle John's will in 1649-50.

If we have rightly identified the Men and Armour list, John was a weaver, and so was his nephew William, according to his own will dated 26 October 1667 (GRO 1668/244). To his sons William and James, the testator left 12d apiece and to his daughter Jane Broade 20s; but it was to his daughter Margery Maisie that his thoughts turned when he was disposing of his goods. Each of Margery's children, Margery, Jane, and Ann, were to receive some of the household gear - Margerie two dishes of pewter, Jane one great brass kettle, Ann two dishes of pewter and a brass candlestick. The residue of the testator's goods were left to his son-in-law John Maisie as sole executor, the sons being stript of furniture altogether - presumably they had already been set up in life. This will was proved on 20 April 1668.

It would seem that the Maisies were not well off and that was why William Cleevely wanted to help his three granddaughters. John Maisey was buried on 11 May 1693, leaving his youngest daughter Ann in such need that the parish gave her 5s; she continued to be a burden on the parish for years, clothes being made for her regularly and her spinning wheel having to be repaired for her in 1727. With this help she just managed to keep her head above water (16).

/11/ William, the son mentioned in his father's will, does not appear again. JAMES had the messuage in Cudnall inherited from the Holders; a surrender during his father's lifetime would have ensured that it came to him instead of William, and there was still a feeling that the younger son had a special claim. We have no record of this, for the Cheltenham court books for 1660-1691 are lost. In the 1671-2 hearth-tax, James Cleevely was among those householders discharged from paying any tax and he paid no parish lewn in 1696. By then he would have been 62.

There is a problem about James Cleevely at present unresolved. The only James baptised in Charlton is this son of William and Margaret in 1634, and the only James Cleevely buried in Charlton was not buried till 1 October 1734. This makes him 100, an improbable age. A James born in 1634 could have married during the 1650s when the registers are imperfect or before a parish registrar rather than in church and could have had a son James who was not baptised and whose birth was not recorded in the register. But then one would expect the older James and his wife to be buried here. The James who lived in Cudnall at the end of the 17th and the beginning of the 18th century has to be either James born 1634 or a son James or possibly a nephew born elsewhere, for he held part of the land which had been Margaret Holder's portion, and in particular the close called Nine Lands.

A James Cleevely married Sarah, one of the two surviving daughters of Robert Green. In 1685 Robert settled his house and garden on his daughter Mary and heirs of her body, or in default on his daughter Sarah. Mary married Cole Hall on 26 September 1687 and they had a son Robert baptised on 21 September 1690. Mary was buried on 4 October 1725 and her son claimed the Green property in due course (17). So Sarah Green did not in fact inherit anything from her father. She must have married James Cleevely after 1685 but not in Charlton or any parish included in the marriage index.

James' dwelling had only one fire, but it was large enough for him to take an official lodger. From c.1696 James and Sarah were paid £1.5.0 a year by the parish for housing a certain Thomas Rucke, probably a cobbler by trade since the parish gave him 5s worth of leather. (Rucke may have been a distant relation through the Holders). Payments for Rucke continued till his death; he was buried on 3 August 1701 (16).

About the turn of the century, James and Sarah began to dispose of their property. They do not appear to have had any children to leave it to. First, on 16 October 1699, they surrendered the close at Nine Lands (part of the Holder tenement since 1557) to Daniel Ellis of Cudnall (18). Then on 16 April 1709 they surrendered all their Cheltenham manor copyhold to use of themselves for their lives, heirs of their bodies, or James' heirs. On this surrender they paid 5s½d (less than the full 6s heriot paid in 1627 because they had sold Nine Lands). On 21 October in the same year they surrendered to use of John Hall a dwellinghouse and garden, with land of Henry Cleevely on the west and the highway east. This time the heriot was only 1s 10d, so James and Sarah were not parting with their ancient messuage, only an extra house built on their land elsewhere (19) James was still able to present at Cheltenham manor court as a tenant in 1725 (20). Actually, John Hall predeceased James and Sarah, and on 15 October 1729 Thomas his son and heir was claiming the dwellinghouse surrendered to his father in 1709 and paying the 1s 10d heriot (21).

Sarah wife of James Cleevely was buried on 24 April 1730. So on 29 April 1732, James now a widower, in consideration of £10 down and 25s to be paid to him on 24 December and 24 March during his life, surrendered to use of Thomas Halling all his customary messuages and lands in Charlton Kings, Thomas promising to repair the premises and deduct cost from James' allowance if the latter were not able to do the work himself. (22) There would be timber available for repairs. As things turned out, the half yearly payments did not have to be paid for long. James Cleevely was buried on 1 October 1734. This means that there are no descendants, so far as we can tell, from William Cleevely the weaver, eldest son of William and Jane.

/12/ HENRY, youngest son of William and Jane

baptised 21 Feb 1630/1, buried 16 March 1667/8  
wife Mary Ashmeade married 1653, buried 7 July 1689  
daughter Deborah, born 30 Sept 1654, buried 4 April 1673  
daughter Mary, born 9 Feb 1655/6,  
son William, birth not recorded (prob c. 1657-8); in Gloucester  
1669  
son Henry, birth not recorded (prob c. 1659-60), youngest  
son who inherits

On 25 April 1653, William Cleevely the elder /8/ limited a jointure for his wife Jane for her life and then granted the same property to two trustees for his own life and 6 years after, for his own benefit. Finally he surrendered his messuage called the Churchend Meese and lands to use of Henry Cleevely his youngest son and Henry's wife Mary and their heirs. This suggests that in 1653 Henry the son had just married, (23), so he must be the Henry who married Mary Ashmeade at Cheltenham in that year.

Trouble struck the Cleevely family in 1667-9. The 4 sons of William Cleevely senior all died within those two years; and William the elder was himself buried on 15 January 1669/70, having outlived them all. Describing himself as a yeoman, he made his will on 25 August 1669. In it he refers to his brother-in-law Richard Mansell; his sons-in-law John Holder and Walter Alexander alias Mansell who were to be overseers; no less than three daughters-in-law named Mary and widowed, one living in Charlton Kings, one in Gloucester, and one in Churcham. The Gloucester widow will be Mary, widow of Henry, whose son William is said by his grandfather to be living in the City of Gloucester (we may guess as an apprentice or even perhaps a schoolboy).

From some source not disclosed, William had acquired an interest in a house in Churcham, at his disposal for a term of 6 years. It consisted of house, close, garden, and backside. The house was divided, part already in occupation of a Mary Cleevely widow "living at Churcham in the said Message" - she was to have one sufficient load of wood yearly during the 6 years out of the part of the premises not in her possession. Mary Cleevely widow, of Charlton, was to have the 6 years interest in the part of the house occupied by her sister-in-law. Mary Cleevely of Gloucester was to receive 40s a year out of it. Her son William Cleevely of Gloucester was going to inherit at the end of the term (this must already have been settled on him).

So various pieces of furniture were to be left in the house as "standards" for his eventual use - the table-board in the hall, the frame, forms and benches, the cistern, oast, malt-mill, horse racks, manger, beast racks, and stalls. But the testator's son Henry had left debts, and £10 "if it may be rayseed" was to be paid to the creditor Robert Brassenton.

The executrix was to be the testator's granddaughter Deborah "that liveth with me"; she was to have £10 for herself and all the residue of his goods and chattels.

There is no reference in the will to William's Charlton tenement because that had been settled by the surrender of 1653. The testator was buried on 15 January 1669/70 and the will proved in 1670 (GRO 1670/217). Mary Cleevely of Charlton widow, mentioned in the will, must be the Mary Cleevely excused Hearth Tax on her one hearth in the following year.

/13/ HENRY, husbandman

probably born c.1659-60, inherited 1670, buried 15 March 1732/3

wife Sussanah Goodrich, married 23 January 1685/6

daughter Jane, buried 9 April 1686

son WILLIAM, baptised 8 December 1686

daughter Mary baptised 24 May 1689

daughter Edith, baptised 6 April 1694, married - Edwards

daughter Sarah, baptised 27 November 1698, married at Nether Swell 1729 John Arkell

daughter Susannah, baptised 4 December 1706, married at Rendcomb 1728 Robert Ratcliff

Susannah Goodrich's people came from Ham and were among the better-most Charlton folk.

Henry had inherited his grandfather's Ashley manor land as well as his Cheltenham manor tenement. So we find him (with William Robins) receiving an out-of-court surrender in 1712 (24), and he was a member of the homage at courts in May 1718 and June 1722. He gradually sold it all, one transaction taking place on 26 January 1732/3 when for £10 Henry and Susannah surrendered to use of Samuel Cooper (of Charlton House) and his nephew and heir Samuel Sloper, 2 ridges of arable on Cudnall Bank north of the highway. (25)

He kept his Cheltenham manor lands intact, except for the exchange of a selion with John Prinn of Forden House in 1709 (26). However, when he was about 70, Henry decided to give up husbandry. So on 15 December 1732, he and his wife surrendered to use of John Prinn the greater part of the land which had always belonged to the ancient Reynolds tenement, Churchend Meese. For £80 they

surrendered Bacon-comb with a grove or wood in Charlton, a selions in Gon or Gong furlong in Naunton, and the land in Charlton Lower field. (27). That left them with the old house, the garden, orchard, and the adjoining close of 1½ acres. They surrendered this residue on 5 March 1732/3 to use of themselves and their heirs, paying a heriot of 4s 6d (28). It was land enough to justify Henry in still calling himself a husbandman.

Henry had made his will on 5 November 1732, just before the sale and settlement. It is very simple; two shillings and six pence to each of his children "if they will accept of it" and everything else to his wife (GRO 1733/128). His inventory shows that he owned no stock or implements of husbandry when he died. Presumably he had sold them or given them to his children.

The inventory of his goods as taken on 18 April 1733, their total value being only £9.16.0

	£	s	d
Imprimis his Purse and Wearing Apparell	1	1	-
Item			
In the Lower Roome 1 Table Board & frame			
1 other table & frame			
3 joint stooles, five chairs & coffer	-	6	-
A Bed & Bedstead & Bolster a little Pillow & Healing	1	2	6
3 pr of sheets, 5 Pillow Bears & some odd lining	-	18	-
A Warming pan & a Spinning Wheele	-	2	-
Item			
In the Buttery, a Brass pan, 2 kettles, a mettle pot a small Brass pott, 2 skilletts 2 cowles			
3 half hogsheds, 2 Barrells, 3 Cowles	2	16	-
A Brewing fatt and a parcel of --- and other Vessells			
Item			
In the Chamber An ordinary Bed & Bedstead a Chest a Coverlid Bolster & two Pillowes a pair of Scales	-	15	6
a parcell of Wood	1	10	-
Item			
In the Backside & Outhouse a parcell Wood a ladder and some other lumber unnamed	1	5	-

The house was quite big but still an old fashioned hall-house, with the best bed in the main room. At the back was a buttery for brewing with a good deal of equipment, so highly valued in relation to the total as to suggest brewing on a large scale. The wood, both inside and outside the house, may have been firewood, the ladder an ordinary household ladder for fruit-picking, and the lumber old furniture - but the value of these items is high enough to make one wonder whether Henry did any carpentry as a side-line. There was just one chamber, probably downstairs, and in it "an ordinary bed and bedstead" - that is, one without a tester. This would have been son William's room but he doesn't seem to have lived at home any longer - there were only 3 pairs of sheets in the house and the scales were kept in the chamber. Henry and Susannah made their bed comfortable on cold nights with their warming-pan.

On Henry's death, Susannah claimed and was admitted. Then on 26 October 1734, in consideration of £100, a very good price, she surrendered to use of Ann Gardner widow and her brother William Robins and their heirs "all that messuage or tenement wherein Henry Russell now dwells, commonly known by the name of Church End Messuage" with the garden, orchard, and close. (29). This explains where Susannah got the money she was able to leave in her will of 16 May 1740 (GRO 1742/42). Her brother Richard Goodrich was to be executor, with discretion to act "as he shall think most convenient and proper" in case "Misfortune or Death" should remove any of her legatees. To her son William and her daughter Sarah Arkell she left £10 apiece, to her grand-daughter Edith Edwards £5, and the residue to her daughter Susanna Ratcliffe. The will was proved on 25 March 1742. Susannah Cleevely was not buried here and it seems likely that she ended her days with daughter Susanna at Rendcomb.

/14/ WILLIAM son of Henry and Susannah, perhaps a carpenter and builder

baptised 8 December 1686, buried 10 September 1739  
wife Anne Underwood, married 3 October 1709  
daughter Mary, baptised 30 August 1710, perhaps Mary sp.  
buried 26 March 1768  
daughter Anne, baptised 23 February 1711/12 buried 7 June 1717  
daughter Elizabeth, baptised 2 Oct 1713, buried 25 Oct 1738  
son WILLIAM, baptised 4 November 1715  
daughter Anne, baptised 25 Oct 1717, buried sp. 29 July 1734  
daughter Rebecca, baptised 4 August 1719, married William Evans  
10 Nov 1740  
son JOHN, baptised 18 April 1721  
daughter Suannah, baptised 28 August 1724, buried 14 Sept 1727  
daughter Judeth, baptised 20 May 1726  
daughter Susannah, baptised 20 June 1728

William (baptised 8 December 1686) may be the William Cleevely who did building repairs for the parish in the 1720s (16) and supplied the parish poor with coffins. In August 1723 William did several days work on the Church House, supplying a door, ironwork, lock, and nails. The following year when his family was smitten with sickness, the parish allowed him 5s. He made a coffin for Hannah Ponfrey in 1736 at a cost of 6s. Then in 1739 we have another entry for work done at the Church House - William Cleevely 9½ days 11s 1d, his son 9½ days at 7d a day 5s 4½d, William's son 3 days more 1s 9d and then another 2 days 1s 2d, and William himself 3 days 3s 6d. His younger son John would have been 18 in 1739 and very well able to be father's assistant. William the elder son had probably left Charlton.

/15/ JOHN son of William and Anne (of Woodruffe?)

baptised 18 April 1721, buried 6 November 1787  
wife Mary, prob Mary Jackson, married 1748, buried 17 April 1780  
daughter Mary, baptised 24 August 1762

There were two John Cleevelys in Charlton in the 18th century, one baptised in 1711 and the other in 1721, and as both married Marys it is difficult to distinguish them. To the parish, one of them (possibly John son of William) was known as John Cleevely of Woodruff, for he lived in a house on Church Walk that stood exactly where Lyefield Road East now cuts across it (30) John Cleevely, Woodruff, had a daughter, Mary baptised 24 August 1762. Her mother Mary Cleevely of 'Woolroof' was being helped by the parish with money to buy fuel every year from 1773 to 1778, and in April 1779 received 5s "her Husband being ill" (31). She may be the Mary Cleevely buried on 17 April

1780 and her husband the John Cleevely buried 6 November 1787. They had no son. So it seems that the line from Henry Cleevely /6/ of 1557 and 1564 came to an end (at least in Charlton) with the death of John /15/ son of William and Anne. This means that to find the ancestors of the modern Cleevelys and Cleevelys we have to go back to the 16th century again, to trace the descendants of a JOHN, born about 1560, buried in 1629. The trail will be taken up in Part 2 (Bulletin 12) and Part 3 (Bulletin 13).

- (1) GRO D 855 M 68
- (2) Bulletin CKLHS I pp 8-11
- (3) D 855 M 7
- (4) Bulletin CKLHS 10 p.49; (GRO D 855 M10 f 15v)
- (5) ibid. 4 p.13 and 6 p.28
- (6) D 855 M 11 ff 37v-38v
- (7) ibid. pp 180,210,214,218
- (8) D 855 M 7 f 49
- (9) Bulletin CKLHS 4 p.9
- (10) D 855 M 7 f.83
- (11) D 855 M 8 f 50v
- (12) D 855 M 9 p.236
- (13) D 855 M 8 f.13
- (14) D 855 M 9 part 2 p.139; M 10 f.50
- (15) D 855 M 9 part 2 pp 132-3, 271
- (16) P 76a CH 1/1
- (17) D 855 M 14 p.210
- (18) D 855 M 13 pp 22-3
- (19) D 855 M 13 pp 158,168
- (20) D 855 M 14 p 215
- (21) ibid. p.296
- (22) ibid. p.329
- (23) D 855 M 11 ff 112-112v
- (24) D 109/, Ashley manor original surrenders 113
- (25) Ashley manor original surrenders C 143
- (26) D 855 M 13 pp 151-2
- (27) D 855 M 14 p.334
- (28) ibid. p.326
- (29) ibid. p.357
- (30) Bulletin CKLHS 7 pp 38-40
- (31) P 76 CH 1/2

M. Paget

## 9 NOT THE HISTORY OF CHARLTON KINGS? A CAUTIONARY NOTE

"History is a distillation of rumour" said Thomas Carlyle. He was wrong, for certainly anyone who is interested in the history of Charlton will have come across a number of rumours and legends alleged to form part of the village's past. Some of these are hearsay, others have found their way into written accounts of Charlton's history. While not all such assertions about the past are untrue, may be; and some other stories may or may not be true - it is just that there is no known evidence to prove the matter one way or the other.

For example, one such story was that horses and fodder had been supplied from Ham to Prince Rupert's troops. The source of this has not yet been found (Bulletin 3 p.10).

Again, there is the story that priests serving Charlton church stayed at Ham while doing so. It seems rather far from the church. We know little of

mediaeval Ham: there were 2 murders there in 1221; and there was a 1963 find of a medieval stone conduit at SO 979212. Neither fact is relevant, and the legend is unproven.

Now oral tradition can have value for historians. For example, the tradition related by Dobell that Romans had occupied the Vineyards was discounted by Welch. Talking of Charlton Kings he said "there is nothing Roman in it". The tradition has now been substantiated by Bernard and Barbara Rawes (see Bulletin 7 pp 10-11) after the discovery of a villa site.

This instance shows it is folly to dismiss any story without full, careful consideration, and indeed, periodic re-examination. A historian must, above all, have no pre-conceptions or scorn any source. Nevertheless, work over the last 6 years by Society members and earlier by Mr. Welch (1) on Charlton's history enables some stories to be disproved, or such doubt to be expressed as to render them unworthy of regard. In particular we can refute some assertions in Dobell. (2).

Two notes have already been issued to explain

(a) that William Prynne the pamphleteer (1600-1669) was not steward of Cheltenham manor and did not have manorial rights in Charlton (Bulletin 4 p.40)

(b) that there is no precise date for the dedication of Charlton church. In Bulletin 8 p 56 the date is shown to be either 1190-1 or 1193.

There are, however, other stories

(a) that there was a royal hunting lodge in 11th century Charlton

(b) that Admiral Wager was born at Wager Court

(c) that Sandy Lane has a Roman origin

(d) that there was a Saxon church here

The facts are:-

(a) the statement in Domesday that Cheltenham manor had previously supplied bread for the king's hounds (Edward the Confessor's, not William's) is responsible for the legend that Charlton Park was once a royal hunting lodge (Welch p.146). There is no foundation for the legend. Charlton Park did not exist until the late 18th century (see Bulletin 8 p.33)

(b) Sir Charles Wager, a fairly distinguished admiral of the 17th century (1666-1743) is said to have been born at Wager Court. There was a family of that name in Charlton but no evidence yet to connect them with Sir Charles whose immediate family came from the South East of England. Fosbrooke was responsible for this statement (Welch p. 160). There is some ground, however, for thinking that the admiral's grandfather was a Gloucestershire man.

(c) The "Roman" origin of Sandy lane was "an article of faith locally" but Welch said this was most unlikely (p.145). While the line of Sandy Lane is very old, there is no evidence of it being "Roman", ie a road laid down by the Romans, it could in fact be earlier (see Bulletin I p.18)

(d) There is no known evidence of a church in Charlton before 1190. The size of the community here in that period renders it most unlikely. Evidence (in Bulletin 9 p.32) suggests that the 12th century was the time when chapels were constructed in the Cheltenham area - as was the case throughout England.

Notes

- (1) F.B. Welch "The Manor of Charlton Kings, later Ashley" TBGAS vol 54 (1932) pp 145-165.  
Welch was mistaken, however, in thinking that the manor was not called Ashley before 1625 - see Bulletin 8 p.21
- (2) C.M. Dobell Memoirs of Old Charlton Kings  
Lacking any other general printed summary of Charlton Kings history, this work tends to be consulted, faute de mieux. It needs to be used critically and with great care.

M.J. Greet

10. AS WE WERE - REMINDERS OF OUR YOUNGER DAYS

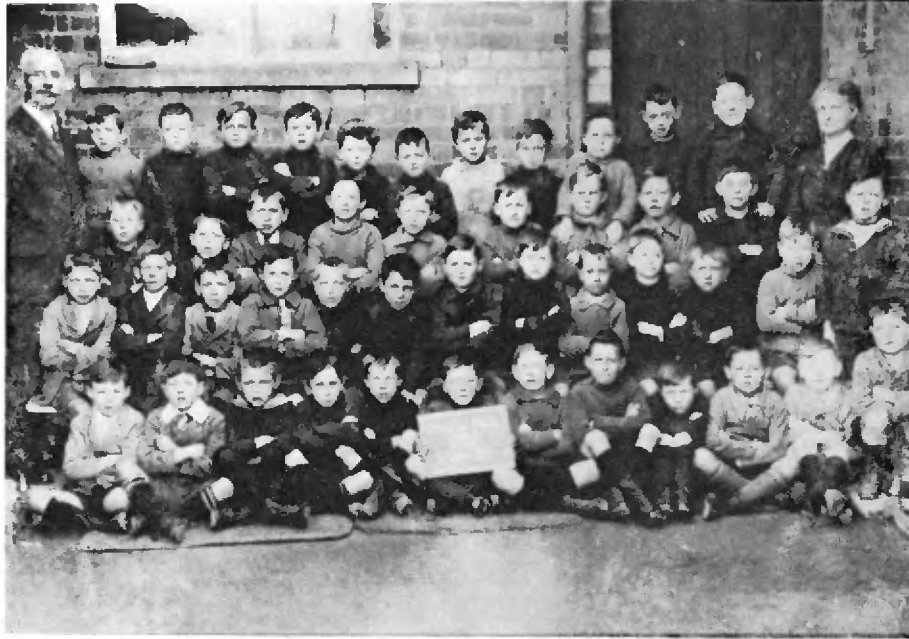
- (1) St Mary's Young Mens' Bible Class, possibly 1912-14, photograph lent by Miss F. Dyer

Front row	1.Larner	2. Hopkins	3. H.Dyer	4. F.Phipps	5. Williams	
	6. Horace Cleevely	7. Smith	8. Drake			
2nd row	1. Phipps	2.F. Dyer	3 -	4.Harper	5.Roberts	6.Wilson
	7. Attwood	8.F.Bush				
3rd row	1. Harding	2. Bloxham	3. -	4. Neather	5. Butler	
	6. Strickland	7.Bent				





- (2) Boys' School under "Boss" Fry  
The boy holding the slate is thought to be Ted Wilce



- (3) Boys' School under Mr Thorn



(4) Girls' School 1926-7

Front row - 1. Nancy Williams 2. Amy Woodward 3. Mary Woodward 4. Irene Hamling  
2nd row - 1. Josephine Lawrence 2. Evaline Mason 3. Hilda Roberts  
4. Kitty Neather 5. Joy Hannis 6. Edna Tester 7. Mary Stubbs  
8. Elsie Drake  
3rd row - 1. Molly Monger 2. Lily Protherough 3. Mary Bridgman  
4. Dorothy Williams 5. Frances Kilby 6. Eva Peacey 7. Edith Drake  
Back row - 1. Margery Morris 2. Doris Bloodworth 3. Freda Tasker  
4. Mary Paine 5. Mary Davis 6. Joyce



Photographs lent by Dorothy Williams now Mrs. Bannister

- (5) Going on a picnic to the woods, Easter Holidays 1927 - full school uniform worn!  
Note the Charlton Kings Station direction board - Photograph lent by E. Stuart



- (6) Nos 1 and 2 Field Cottages (now nos 1.3.5 Church Street) c.1940  
Photograph lent by E. Mason



11. NOTES AND COMMENTS

(1) The Old London Road and the Public Spring in Spring Bottom

Here is an extract from Minute Book 3 of Charlton Kings Board of Health, September 1877.

Spring Bottom Proposed and Seconded

"That the Surveyor be directed to remove the fences recently erected on the waste land forming part of the side of the old London Road in Spring Bottom which restrict the approach to the public Spring in the Parish Property: and to make a 12 ft Cut road to the Spring, and a proper Bridge over the Hearne Brook".

Carried Unanimously.

The spring is still used by the occupier of the last of the parish cottages (which now belongs to the Borough); the other two have been pulled down. Here is the road to the spring, which is just out of sight round the corner. The waste land had been known as Hawthorn's Green.



B. Middleton

(2) Addendum to Bulletin 10 p.35 M.J. Greet

To the right of each line under the general heading APPROXIMATE POPULATION, add in order from top to bottom "1548, 1551, 1563, 1603, 1608, 1650, 1676"

(3) Bulletin 10 p.34

Penultimate line - for Ebrington read Elrington.

(4) The Local Historian

The Local Historian vol 15 no 8, November 1983 pp 491-2, contains an article by Mary Paget on "Running a Local History Society". This was written in response to a request by the Editor, who had heard of our work.

It follows the appearance, in the August 1982 edition, of Mary's article on Cheltenham Manor custom, and also a review of our Bulletins 1-3. This is good publicity for the Society - we are becoming quite well known!

M.J. Greet

(5) PARISH REGISTER I

Some errors have crept into this transcript during typing. These are mainly slight variants in spelling, but the following must be corrected and the index amended accordingly.

p 1	14 Sept 1539 Horseman 29 (not 20) Oct 1539	p 16	24 (not 21 ) Jan 1574 17 Aug 1575 Joice
p 2	6 Nov 1540 Izabell Hues wid.	p 17	30 June 1576 Digason (not Wager) 20 Nov 1576 Goodinge 24 Nov 1577 Delues
p 3	8 May 1542 Dodbrige	p 18	24 March 1578 Coocke
p 4	29 Nov 1542 Percivalle 17 March 1542 Burton 12 Nov 1543 Sperwinke 7 (not 2) December 1543 6 Feb 1543 Stravord	p 19	1 (not 2) June 1581
p 5	27 (not 25) Feb 1543, Alice 5 (not 3) June 1544 10 July 1544 Lawghton 3 Oct 1545 Whiller	p 20	28 Ap 1583 Lewen
p 6	3 March 1546 Croppe 16 Oct 1547 (1548) Robertes	p 21	9 Sept 1588 (1584) Joane (not Jane)
p 7	25 (not 23) March 1551(1548) 11 July 1552(1548) Bleke	p 22	25 Feb 1585 Wm Synny 25 March 1586 Lewen 1 Nov 1586 George (not Henry)
p 8	11 Aug 1554(1550) Joyce 25 (not 23) Aug 1554(1550)	p 23	5 (not 3) Ap 1587
p 9	9 March 1554(1550) insert name Margret 11 July 1555 (1551) Bleke 6 Feb 1556(1552) John Hale Dec 1558, first entry "same day"	p 24	15 (not 16) May 1589(1588) 15 Nov 1589(1588) Ralfe (not Robt)
p 10	5 (not 6) Sept 1559 16 (not 10) April 1562 10 May 1562 Whiller 4 May 1563 Thos Muchell	p 25	20 Ap 1491 Sheene 29 Sept 1591 Michaell (not Nicholas) 29 Jan 1591 Edward (not Rich)
p 11	15 (not 13) Sept 1567	p 26	22 Oct 1593 Huckes
p 13	29 Jan 1569 Jane (not Joane) 30 Oct 1570 Thos Hulls 25 (not 23) Nov 1570 15 (not 23) Jan 1570 28 Jan 1570 Brassenton	p 27	27 June 1594 Katherin (not Walter) 19 Jan 1594 delete (nger) 6 (not 5) June 1595
p 14	3 May 1571 Bipine 18 (not 8) July 1571 10 Nov 1571 Wm Maus	p 28	24 (not 2) Nov 1596 Reignould 2 (not 4) Jan 1596
p 15	29 Jan 1572 Alis a Parke 25 (not 23) March 1573 Reygnould 18 (not 8) April 1574	p 29	24 Ap 1598 Blokely 5 June 1598 Shille 7 Jan 1598 Margaret (not Wm) 4 Aug 1599 Halle (not Galle) 19 Aug 1599 Mr Rich Pattes
		p 30	6 Ap 1600 Shelfoxe 25 May 1601 Henrie Baulden, N Sarney
		p 31	5 (not 20) March 1602
		p 32	11 (not 6) Aug 1604 7 (not 6) Oct 1604 8 April 1605 A Bowene 8 (not 13) June 1605

- p 33 25 May 1606 Roger (not Rafe)  
Jeffe, add of Standish  
23 June 1606 Josias  
23 July 1606 add p St Nicholas  
19 Aug 1606 Eynesam  
18 Jan 1606 Merry
- p 34 20 Feb 1607 prob Balld house  
29 (not 24) Sept 1608
- p 35 4 (not 3) June 1609  
2 Dec 1609 Yedith (not Judith)  
6 Feb 1609 Edmund (not Edw)
- p 36 5 Jan 1610 Flucke  
1 July 1611 Elonore Pue  
28 Oct 1611 Mower
- p 37 14 Aug 1612 Thomas (not Sml)  
Gotheridge  
15 Nov 1612 Margerie (not Margt)  
16 (not 10) Nov 1612 Annes (not Anne)  
19 Jan 1612 John (not Wm)  
24 Feb 1612 Amie (not Annie) d.  
Gracian Gale (not Yate)  
8 July 1613 Thos Whiller  
17 July 1613 Powenferie  
7 Sept 1613 Yedith (not Judith)  
6 Dec 1613 Annie (not Anne)
- p 38 28 Ap 1614 add of Ham  
1 June 1614 add gent  
14 June 1615 Tysso (not Tysse)  
and 9 Oct
- p 39 26 Sept 1617 Hanington  
11 Nov 1617 Arpine
- p 40 28 (not 20) Nov 1618  
29 Nov 1618 Runeck  
18 (not 9) Dec 1618 Gyles  
27 Jan 1619 Eliz. (not Elin)  
18 March 1619 Yates (not Pates)  
16 (not 10) April 1620  
17 April 1620 Margerie (not Margt)
- p 41 4 Aug 1622 prob Brighter  
5 Aug 1622 Coppen  
1 Nov 1622 Thomas (not Chas)
- p 42 24 Feb 1622 Margt Ivory widow  
21 March 1623 Nicholas (not  
Rich) s. Nicholas  
9 May 1624 Elin (not Ann)  
26 July 1624 Pewters
- p 43 24 June 1625 Harris  
5 Sept 1625 add esq  
28 Jan 1625 Frances (not  
Alexander)  
28 May 1626 Walter (not  
Alexander)  
18 June 1626 Coppen
- p 44 16 June 1627 Barow  
12 Aug 1627 Wm Lee als  
Mason (not Wager)  
3 May 1628 Collet (not  
Collens)
- p 45 31 Dec 1629 John (not Jayne)  
20 Feb 1629 Ann Slater
- p 46 4 July 1630 Mary (not Margt)  
28 Aug 1630 Marny  
3 Oct 1630 Huccombe  
9 Feb 1630 Huccomb  
18 Jan 1631 Wm s Wm (not  
Rich) Weight
- p 47 25 (not 23) April 1632  
7 Jan 1632 Wm (not Mary)  
6 April 1633 Coppen  
31 (not 6) May 1633  
22 Nov 1633 Baynam
- p 48 15 Dec 1633 Susanah (not  
Margery)  
4 Feb 1633 Coppen