

CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 12

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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NOTE - GEORGE RYLAND

This is the first Charlton Kings Local History Society Bulletin to appear without a contribution written and illustrated by George Ryland; and it is a great disappointment that his paper for Bulletin 12 was interrupted by an accident. We hope to have another of his delightful glimpses of Old Charlton for Bulletin 13, and congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Ryland on their Golden Wedding.

1. SIR THOMAS PHILLIPPS THE ANTIQUARIAN AND HIS LINK WITH CHARLTON KINGS

When I was a child, I often passed Thirlestaine House, which was then quite hidden from public view by a high stone wall and a solid wooden door in a forbidding gateway. Inside, I'd been told, was one of the biggest private collections of records ever brought together. It had been the life work of a single man, Thomas Phillipps of Middle Hill, Worcs., who had his private printing press in the tower above Broadway and who eventually bought Thirlestaine House as a home for his treasures. When the Church Congress visited Cheltenham in the late 20s, a few privileged visitors were allowed a peep inside the fortress; among other manuscripts, they were shown Cirencester Abbey Cartulary, with the entry about the consecration of a church at Charlton Kings by the Bishop of Hereford in the time of Abbot Richard. That was our St. Mary's.

I didn't know then that, after the bulk of the great collection had been dispersed in a series of sales, I'd be handling Phillipps manuscripts and become familiar with the peculiar enumeration which tells an archivist that a particular document once belonged to Sir Thomas Phillipps. They came out of the scruffiest cardboard boxes. It was typical of the man that he never spent a penny on containers or wrappings. And he wasn't over-scrupulous, I discovered, about returning documents lent to him to copy!

But I didn't know until very recently that Thomas Phillipps had a closer link with Charlton Kings and its church than his ownership of the Cirencester Cartulary. His first marriage took place here.

Thomas was the grandson of William Phillipps, a Broadway farmer, and illegitimate son of Thomas Phillipps, senior partner in a firm of calico printers in Manchester, who settled at Middle Hill in 1796. The father was deaf and irascible, and wanted to educate his only child on the model of Lord Chesterfield! The boy wasn't allowed any contact with his mother and this may in part explain his later awkwardness in dealing with women. Even as a student at Oxford, young Thomas couldn't keep within his allowance - he would go to auctions and buy books extravagantly, for already he was interested in genealogy and topography. He got a degree in 1815 (with the help of a crammer); and then, somehow or other, in 1817 he made the acquaintance of Harriett third daughter of Lieutenant-General Thomas Molyneux.

Their marriage was delayed by the opposition of Thomas Phillipps senior, who wanted his son to marry money. But as soon as the father died, Thomas renewed his engagement and the couple were married at Charlton Church on 23rd February 1819. It was the bride's parish. The Molyneux family was then renting Grove Cottage on the London Road. And it was the old church in which the marriage took place, a church without the north aisle and galleries added in 1824.

From Charlton Kings, the Molyneaux family moved into the town and then about 1828 back again to Charlton when they settled at The Glenfall. We don't know the exact date; it was after February 1827, when another of the girls, Maria, was married at Cheltenham parish church.

Sir Thomas Phillipps' eccentric career can be followed in the volumes of Phillipps Studies by A. N. Munby. Phillipps bought enormously and was never out of debt; he behaved with great mean-ness to assistants, and his three daughters were forced to work as unpaid cataloguers until two of them rebelled. He was quite unforgiving when he thought himself wronged. But he was generous towards his first wife's family, he made his collection available to scholars without restriction, and he hoped that his records would go intact to the British Museum. The price he asked, £1,000,000, seemed huge to the Museum's trustees but was not at all unreasonable considering the bulk and importance of the contents, which they were not able at that time to appreciate. They valued manuscripts chiefly as works of art and regarded dull-looking historical documents as comparatively worthless, yet it is very often these 'worthless' items that have been most useful to modern historians. I for one have reason to be grateful to Thomas Phillipps.

M. Paget

2. LIEUTENANT-GENERAL MOLYNEUX
AND HIS CIRCLE

"In the November following (1815) I removed with my family to Cheltenham, where I have ever since continued to reside and where, not being in any public situation, very few occurrences worth relating happened..."

This brief entry in the memoirs of Lieutenant-General Thomas Molyneux (later Sir Thomas Molyneux, Bart., of Castledillon, in County Armagh) dismisses the seventeen years of his retirement spent, while still a comparatively young man (not yet forty-nine) in Cheltenham. But it emerges that these years were among the happiest of his long and varied life, although the entry implies that the time he spent in Monmouth between 1803 and 1815 actively involved in the expansion and organisation of the Militia throughout South Wales during the Napoleonic period brought him the greatest personal satisfaction and contentment. It was during this time that he, his much-loved wife Elizabeth, and their expanding family, of whom eleven survived from the fourteen born, lived in the only home they ever actually owned, and established for themselves, on somewhat unstable foundations, the security and social standing essential for such a family at that time.



General Molyneux

Thomas Molyneux was born in Ireland on 27th December 1767, the elder son by his second marriage, of Sir Capel Molyneux, Bart., of Castledillon in County Armagh. His half-brother, the fourth baronet, was seventeen years older and remained childless from his marriage until his death. Consequently Thomas and his family lived in hope and expectation of the title and considerable inheritance that Castledillon promised from the date of his father's death on August 21st 1797, "...the cause of his dissolution was a violent complaint in his bowels, with which he was frequently attacked (and which I believe kept off all others)..." until his half-brother, with

whom he was in furious conflict for most of his adult life, followed their father on 1st December 1832, at the age of eighty-two.

They were a long-lived family - his father, Sir Capel (named after a cousin, Lady Elizabeth Capel, daughter of the Earl of Essex) lived to the age of 77, his half-brother, also Sir Capel, to 82, and Thomas, who himself survived to 73, must have looked forward to a long retirement in the luxury, comparative to their former life, of the estates and income afforded by the Castledillon inheritance, as he moved his large, expensively growing family around the rented houses they occupied in Cheltenham. He would have felt little sorrow at the eventual death of his brother - they had not met for many years although the rift was partly repaired through the good offices of Lady Molyneux in 1824 - but any pleasure in his inheritance just before his 65th birthday was sadly soured by the traumatic experiences that shattered his world in the first few months of that year. In a short sad spell he records:

"My dearest and adorable Wife departed this Life on the 24th of December 1831.

"My dear Brother John on the 22nd of March 1832.

"My dear Daughter Harriett (Lady Phillipps) on the 25th of March 1832.

"My dear daughter Emilia on the 24th of June 1832".

It must have been a lonely and unhappy old man who lived out his final nine years deprived in so short a time of his adored wife, after forty-three years together, and his only unmarried daughter, Emily, who, it seems, stricken with grief at the death of her mother, visited Bath to take the waters, contracted cholera which was rampant throughout Europe at the time, and died in London at the age of twenty-eight. She was buried in St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and a memorial tablet was erected in Prestbury Church where her mother and elder brother, Capel, were already interred.

The General's army career had followed an adventurous course. He embarked from Cork with the 6th Regiment in 1787, and sailed for Nova Scotia where he enjoyed the life of a popular young ensign involved in social pursuits and amateur dramatics, with occasional gentle excursions on frontier defence. While there he seduced the young wife of an illiterate tinsmith, Betty Price, who followed him, with their three children, when the regiment was moved to assist in the liberation of the West Indies from the French in 1793. Thomas Molyneux distinguished himself in this campaign, and describes much of it with delightful anecdotal detail, and his "wife" justified her presence by nursing him through the ravages of repeated attacks of the "plague" which decimated the force and killed so many of his colleagues. Once the French were vanquished Betty and her children returned to England and waited with her parents until Tom, using the influence of his family and service connections, wangled permission for a passage home in the summer of 1794. He had been in the New World for seven years, had survived two serious attacks of plague, had participated in dangerous active service, and had fathered two daughters and a son.

After their reunion in England the Molyneux family lived in Worcestershire for several years and increased their number with the addition of Harriet in April 1795, John in August 1797, and William on Christmas Day 1798, who were christened together on 23rd June 1799. Daniel was born on 15th February 1800, but was buried less than two months later. During these six years Thomas juggled his purchase of promotion rising to the rank of Major through service in the Royal Irish Dragoons, and the Rothesay and Caithness Fencibles, which took him all through the recurrent troubles in Ireland where his early connections and military experience proved of great

value. He led his regiment up and down the country and leaves the impression of a firm and fair commander, understanding and popular with all ranks, and tactful with the aristocracy whose land they covered. He got outstanding results from his troops, and used clever tactics to diffuse the characteristically tricky situations which have persisted in Ireland. The majority of incidents described revolved around religious differences. Strongly Protestant himself, Tom had an uncomplimentary view of the behaviour and activities of the Catholic clergy, relating scathing anecdotes of the evil influence they wielded. He paid frequent visits home, fathering more babies, listing the routes and timing of his journeys, and dropping in on his mother who was living in Bath, while her husband remained at Castledillon where he died unexpectedly in August 1797. Tom and his brother, John, were with her when the news reached them, and while the title and estates went automatically to Capel, there was compensation for Tom, who, clearly their father's favourite son and residuary legatee, was left the family plate and jewels. He promptly sold all the plate back to Capel considering it to be "an heirloom" and "much too large a service for my income". Although he owned minor properties in Armagh he had to help support his mother and other relatives, so, with the ever increasing brood of children, money, or the shortage of it, was, and perpetually remained, a constant source of worry and discussion. Every recorded waking thought, every topic of correspondence, was dominated by their own or other people's money problems, closely followed by the absorbing subject of their own, and everyone else's, ill health. Human nature changes very little.

In 1800, Betty was finally free, and the couple married on 12th April; they had been together for at least eleven years and had produced seven children. This satisfactory outcome is totally ignored in General Molyneux's memoirs and letters - nowhere is there any hint that their's was not a wholly conventional relationship, although it must have emerged later, and there are obtuse references to Harriet's illegitimacy after her marriage. By now his wife had learned to write, signing her name as "Elizabeth Price, widow". Her previous marriage certificate, when she was just sixteen, was signed with crosses by bride, groom and witness. The regularisation of their union prepared the way for the production of an heir, and they set to in good conscience but were dogged by daughters, the 8th, 9th and 10th children all being healthy girls - Katherine, Marie, and Emilia. After two-and-a-half years in a rented house at Whitchurch, Herefordshire, where they were joined by brother John and his new bride, Ella, they settled in Monmouth.

Soon after their arrival Thomas was unanimously elected Captain Commandant of the Town of Monmouth Volunteer Infantry, and the family's fortunes flourished for a time - he purchased "a very excellent house in Monmouth" (still standing, and now in process of restoration), also "an estate in the parish of Tregare...which I farmed myself for some time, but not finding it answer, I let it and took another nearer the town which I think repaid me very well for the trouble I had with it, and gave me a great deal of occupation which I otherwise would not have had..." He kept this long after he left Monmouth, the property ensuring the retention of his seat on the Council and the Bench to which he was appointed in 1804, becoming a Deputy Lieutenant of the County the following year. Honours and acclaim were heaped on him, including the Freedom of the Borough, the first recipient since Nelson in 1802. In 1807 he was appointed Inspecting Field Officer of the Volunteers of Monmouthshire and Herefordshire, followed by "the superintendance of all South Wales till the year 1812..." and in July 1810, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel. Meanwhile, reproduction was not neglected - Catherine, Maria, Emily, Capel, Arthur and Charlotte were all born in the Monmouth house, christened in St. Mary's church, and the last

two buried there. Capel, the first legitimate heir, was a great joy to his parents, but despite his splendid paternal record, the General was finally succeeded by his 14th child, and only legitimate surviving son, George King Adlercron who was born in Monmouth in 1814, in his mother's forty-fifth year. Six months later Thomas was promoted Major-General - "This was rather an interesting and fortunate year in my family...in the space of six months, I was elevated to the above rank, had two daughters most happily married and a son born..."

The daughters referred to were Eliza, the eldest, who had the commendable good fortune to capture Lord William Somerset, an engaging if irresponsible cleric, fifth brother of her father's patron, the 6th Duke of Beaufort, and a most acceptable, and continually useful, feather in the family's cap. Lord William had taken Holy Orders for want of any occupation other than hunting, and the couple inhabited various family livings, notably that of Llangattock, near Crickhowell. The second daughter, Marianne, married George Rous Keogh, of Kilbride, Co. Carlow, where they entertained their relatives for many years; by 1832 they were living at Pau in the Bas Pyrenees region of France.

With the ending of the Napoleonic Wars the General was taken off the staff on account of his promotion, and the Militia was disbanded. He missed his friends and position, let his house, and moved to Clifton, near Bristol. This move was not a success, and lasted only seven months "...which I shall always consider a CHASM IN MY LIFE, as I never enjoyed so bad a state of health, or was ever in so HORRID or so disagreeable a place - Barbados in the height of the fever was a Paradise to it!!!!"

By November of 1815 they had moved again, to Cheltenham, where, stepping around an ever-changing variety of rented accommodation, they remained until his succession to Castledillon in December 1832.

The third daughter to leave the parental nest, Harriet, did not enjoy the smooth passage of her elder sisters. She was already twenty-two when her courtship by the young Thomas Phillipps, of Middle Hill, ground to a halt under the implacable opposition of his father, who, in spite of the considerable wealth he had amassed during his lifetime, would not agree to any match bringing less than £10,000 in dowry to his son's estate. The General was offended by this condition, but could not meet it, and banned the young couple from communicating. While the continuing attentions of Mr. Phillipps encountered her father's displeasure, Harriet seems to have remained infatuated with her unwelcome suitor, and showed it; "...for you will know how violently attached she is to me, and love will lead us too often beyond the bounds of reason..." Clandestine meetings were arranged with the witless collusion of Lord William. Thomas Phillipps was humble and apologetic, the General stern and condemnatory, but they appear to have shared the expectation of a marriage as soon as the stumbling block of the senior Mr. Phillipps' disapproval was removed or overcome. They had to wait more than a year but their patience was rewarded by the old man's deteriorating health, and on 1st November 1818, he died at the age of seventy-six. The engagement followed, and Lady Molyneux sent her congratulations on "...this interesting subject..." ascribing their daughters' "...singular luck..." to "...the very judicious education..." which had "...contributed much to enhance their value in the mind of sensible men who looked for more than beauty in their domestic companion for Life - and found mind and person combined to make them happy in your Daughters, what excellent Wives and Mothers Lady William and dear Mrs. Keogh are? I doubt not that Mrs. Phillipps elect will follow their example". She tried vainly to link Mr. Phillipps with genteel sprigs of the family tree and hoped the marriage

would take place soon: "...I have a great dislike to procrastination on all occasions, particularly matrimony". Dispensing with procrastination they were married (by licence, not banns) by Lord William Somerset at Charlton Kings on 23rd February 1819, and settled at Middle Hill.

It is difficult to understand the attraction they felt for each other. Thomas Phillipps' idiosyncracies are fully recorded by A. N. L. Munby, and Harriet was not without imperfections. As a child of three she had been burned "...in a most shocking manner..." when her clothes caught fire. Her father recorded that a Worcester doctor made "...a most excellent cure of it, but she was very much marked and ever after suffered much from a violent oppression of her breath..." At the time of their marriage she was twenty-four; did Phillipps have no competition for her hand, or was it an enduring love match cemented by opposition? The admiration was initially mutual. "...She has almost every qualification which the world deems necessary to ensure happiness. Sense, beauty, birth, good temper and though she has not yet, she will have, fortune. She also understands housekeeping, which not one in a thousand of those who are brought up with the expectation of a large fortune, will ever attend to. She has no pride and no magnificent or luxurious ideas above her station, but is extremely affable and contented with her lot whatever it may be; having the power of accommodating her wishes to her means of gratifying them of which she has lately given an instance when her father reduced his style of living..." This eulogy failed to penetrate his father's opposition and may have been coloured by exaggeration - in the same letter he describes himself "...I flatter myself that I am generally liked by everyone who knows me..." but the stigma of being "put in competition with money" probably increased his stubbornness and determination to succeed in his own choice of bride. The General, although offended, upheld the father's principles and kept them apart. He was, however, anxious to dispose of his numerous, dowry-less daughters where possible, and succeeded most satisfactorily. They could never offer money, and never married any, but their personal attributes in looks and character which emerge from the letters overcame their questionable birth and secured husbands who were generally acceptable, and remarkably affectionate to the rest of the family. While Catherine, the eldest legitimate child, retired to Scotland on her marriage to William Nelson Clarke of Castle Douglas, and lamented her isolation, the others drew their husbands rapidly into the close family circle where their participation was greatly welcomed. Thomas Phillipps figures prominently in this participation. Whatever the problems of communication in other aspects of his personal life, to the father and mother of his first wife he appears a considerate, and even generous, son-in-law up to her death after thirteen years of marriage. The dependence was mutual, and a year after the marriage they were already in each other's debt. The General was lent £200 interest free, and sold him a bay mare for £64, and in exchange was able to make his greatest gesture to his ambitious son-in-law. He negotiated, through the influence and goodwill of his long-time friend and relation by marriage, the Duke of Beaufort, to secure the promise of a Baronetcy so greatly desired by the insecurely-based Phillipps. Respectability followed, but the Duke failed to make him a Justice of the Peace, and he had great difficulty joining the Atheneum, of which he was very critical.

Thomas Molyneux was undoubtedly a snob, his background and the frustration of his continuing poverty made it inevitable, but he combined that snobbery with an attractive personality that ensured friendship and remarkable loyalty from all the stratas of society with which he mingled throughout his varied life. Devotion to and from his personal servants and military colleagues remained unshaken through all his domestic and career moves, and he paid continuous visits to aristocratic homes in England and Ireland during the sporting seasons. His friendship with the Duke of York was quickly and easily established and he records a relationship of easy banter which was nevertheless usefully employed

in the purchase of commissions and promotions for each of his sons. It is curious, therefore, that of all his sons-in-law, Thomas Phillipps should have been the one for whom the delicate chain of influence resulting in the Baronetcy was set in motion. It could have backfired and caused embarrassment to The Circle. Was the risk offset by the loan of £200 required to buy John's lieutenantancy? Several of the General's own letters which have survived are concerned with advancing the affairs of Thomas Phillipps. His feelings are not recorded, just the bald announcement in the memoirs - "The 23rd of Feby., 1819. My daughter Harriet was married to Thomas Phillipps Esq., of Middle Hill in the County of Worcester". However, it is clear that his wife found her new son-in-law tiresome and intellectually heavy.

Harriet set about her duty promptly; nine months after the wedding, accompanied by her mother, and joined by an assortment of her sisters and brothers, she travelled from Middle Hill to a small rented house in Upper Brook Street for her first confinement. Their long journey took three days and was interrupted by stops for his antiquarian research in Oxford and Henley. There is veiled sharpness in the mother-in-law's niggling criticisms - they had little in common. Illiterate until her adulthood (she signed at her first marriage with a cross) Elizabeth Molyneux's few letters burst with bubbling goodnatured gossip, full of domestic details and rambling family anecdotes, preoccupied with her own economies, everybody else's health, and her obviously sincere and deep devotion to her husband. But she found Phillipps personally boring and selfish, although he showed signs of great kindness. The family were all entertained in great numbers at Middle Hill, even the General's brother and family; Phillipps visited Rugby which they thought "a comfort to Capel" who was at school there; he lent them his carriage, his home, the £200 interest free (this was an unexpected and unsolicited loan, counted among the "many favours I have received from you..."); he edited and printed the General's "Narrative" of his family's background ("...This is the original Manuscript, with the account of the Family, printed by Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bt."); he charged their purchases to his own account, and he invited seven of them to Salisbury, where he had rented a house in the Close, for the Christmas of 1820 and held a Ball to celebrate his father-in-law's 53rd birthday, "...Upwards of 200 sat down to supper, which was truly magnificent and did great credit to their butler and housekeeper, as the whole was prepared at home under their superintendance. The Sarumites declared that they had not seen such another entertainment in the city since one given about 40 years before by the Earl of Radnor. We remained there till the ninth of January, and then returned to Cheltenham...Altogether this is a miserable place, particularly in cold weather...I think nothing, under being appointed to the See, could induce me to make it my residence..." This was quite an achievement for poor Harriet who was heavily pregnant, her second daughter was born there on 14th March 1821, and her pregnancy had been difficult - six months earlier she had been confined to the sofa with some undiagnosed complaint and was taking castor oil daily.

In June 1822, the family suffered its first real tragedy, the death of the 17-year-old son and heir, Capel. His death was caused by a relapse, apparently from a chill, and again Thomas Phillipps showed remarkable kindness and consideration to the distraught parents. He offered to have the body interred in his family vault at Broadway until they inherited Castledillon and could move it there, and he offered them Middle Hill on indefinite loan, as he was considering going abroad for a spell. "...This event has decided me, it would be better for my dearest Harriet. I am consoled by seeing her convinced of the impropriety of grieving to excess...

I would shew my last sad regards for the poor dear fellow..." They went to London first, and then to Berne, where their third daughter, Katherine, was born in April 1823.

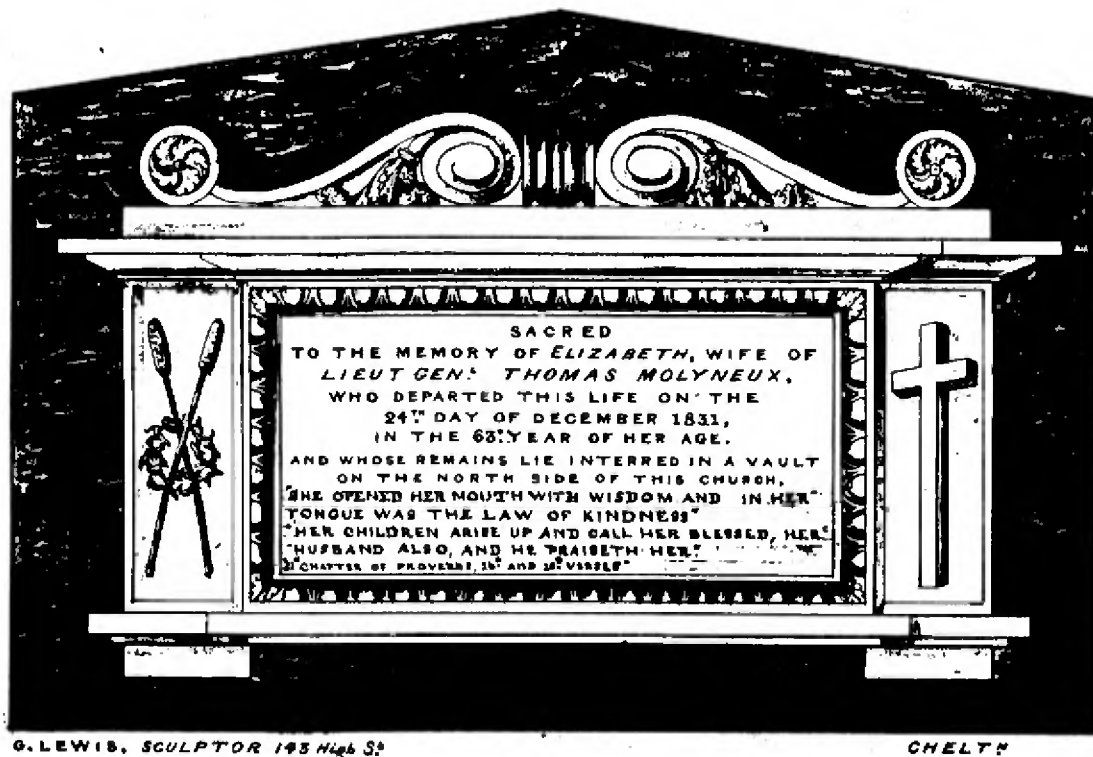
The General and his wife remained in Cheltenham; their address there at any specific time is difficult to list or date accurately as it generally appears as "General Molyneux, Cheltenham". However, the following houses were occupied by them at various times: 1 Bath Villas, Cheltenham; Grove Cottage, Charlton; Blucher Lodge, Cheltenham; 3 North Parade, Cheltenham; 4 Keynsham Bank, Cheltenham; Cambray Lodge/Place; The Glenfall.

They remained there, recounting delicious gossip about balls and social scandals, until 1832 when, Elizabeth having died unexpectedly, followed by Harriet and Emily, Thomas Molyneux made his lonely return to his birthplace at Castledillon. His memoirs had not been added to since 1821, and his letter books closed in 1824. It is difficult to find any clear reason for these deaths although details may be available from obituary notices in the local papers of the time. Elizabeth was buried beside her son, Capel, at Prestbury. The doctors, busily cupping and blistering, probably contributed, but Harriet's death was in no way mourned. In January she was confined to her room, but was confidently expected to get well soon, and reports of her condition were greeted with relief. She suffered greatly and her death was seen as a blessed relief to herself and everyone connected with her, her mental state deteriorated rapidly after her mother's death, and she lost the use of her legs. By 24th February she was slightly better "...I have the greatest pleasure in telling you... that Lady Phillipps' symptoms are all abated...things were going on favourably, that her senses were clearer, and that the doctors were satisfied..." By the 15th March they received "...a melancholy account of poor Harriet, under the delicate circumstances of her case, and the almost hopeless hope of the recovery of her faculties, one would almost consider her death a happy release should it be the Lord's will to take her..."; "...the state of poor Harriett is a sad addition to our afflictions, but we must be thankful that she does not suffer much pain, and that her DEAR AFFECTIONATE MOTHER is spared the anguish of seeing her in so lamentable, and indeed, I fear so hopeless a state..."; "I hardly know what to think or hope about Harriett, but from the accounts which I have had of her, I fear there is but little chance of her ultimate recovery..." This prediction was realised nine days later "...poor Harriett has had another attack and...it has proved fatal. The fit came on, on Friday night, but she lived until Sunday morning...Her remains go down to Middle Hill..." Contrary to general opinion, her husband was attentive until the end, accompanying her to her mother's deathbed, writing conventional but sincere condolences to several members of the family, "...I know Sir Thomas was VERY MUCH GRIEVED..." and offering help and consideration. Harriet herself died in London, at their house in Stratford Place, while he was at Middle Hill. Her fit occurred on Friday night, but she lingered until Sunday 25th March 1832, "...a happy release...", and her body was returned to Middle Hill for burial. Thomas Phillipps successfully shocked Lady William Somerset, "...Sir Thomas...does not seem to think he will be able to attend the funeral. He should do so!!..." She was also greatly concerned about the future of the three small girls in whom she continued to take a maternal interest, corresponding with their governess and watching over their welfare.

The General's manuscripts close with these sad reports of the deaths of his loved ones. He announced his intention of recalling all the letters of condolence written in praise of his wife and daughters, in order to enter them in a book, and did so, leaving, bound in rich purple velvet, a touching, illuminating, but unfortunately one-sided, record - as only the incoming letters are recorded, and these were full of unanswered questions as to the progress or symptoms of the afflictions leading up to the deaths - of a warm, intelligent, and deeply loving family circle.

My dearest & adorable wife departed this life on the 26th of December 1831
My dear Brother John on the 22^o of March 1832
My dear Daughter Harriett / Lady Phillippo / on the 25th of March 1832
My dear Daughter Emilia on the 24th of June 1832 —

The General's Handwriting



Memorial in Prestbury Church, by Lewis

"...A man of the name of Lewis, who knew you at Monmouth, said that his son could complete a monument of any description (in case you wished to erect one) as well as any person in London and fifty or a hundred per cent cheaper. In the church there was one by him which displayed much taste..."

Acknowledgements: Adapted from the unpublished manuscripts of Lt. General Sir Thomas Molyneux, Bart., with an extract from The Family Affairs of Sir Thomas Phillipps by A. N. L. Munby, C.U.P. (1952).

I am grateful to the Executors of the late Mrs. C. C. Molyneux for permission to quote from the manuscripts. All details have been checked from available records.

Kirstie Buckland

3. THE ORIGIN OF THE GLENFALL AND GLENFALL HOUSE

Our forebears were not romantic. They called this stream and waterfall the Gutter and the Gutterfall.

'Le Guther' is mentioned in the survey of 1617; and there were three closes of manorial demesne "lying next the place called the Gutterfall" in 1746 (D 855 M 7). These may eventually have become part of the estate. But the farmhouse called Gutterfall, later Glenfall, started as copyhold land held under the manor of Cheltenham.

The earliest tenant we can be sure of was John Holder, admitted (according to a reference in a later court book) on 4 May 1682. Unfortunately, this is just when a court book has been lost - we can't tell whether he inherited Gutterfall or bought it. We do know that he added a close of arable called the Log (on the east side of Greenway Lane) in 1717. By 23rd April 1733 John was dead and Mary Holder as eldest daughter and heir claimed all his customary messuages and lands as granted to him in 1682 and 1717. She was admitted but her fealty was respited "because she is not of full age". (D 855 M 14 pp 86, 337).

Mary Holder married John Tombs of Charlton, yeoman.

They had several children and so on 19th April 1754 they settled their property in such a way as to provide for all of them. (D 855 M 15 pp. 353, 356-7). They mortgaged 16 acres on Ham Hill and then surrendered to trustees all except The Log, the remainder to be to use of themselves for life, after to use of their eldest son John and his heirs, subject to John paying his brothers and sisters surviving at the time of the parents' deaths £40 apiece. In the event, however, it was not John but the next son William who claimed as heir on 15th February 1765. He immediately sold Furlong Orchard with an adjoining grove or coppice (3 acres) and two ridges of arable in Ham Furlong to Daniel Quarington, a Gloucester distiller, and on 19th April he sold the Log or Little Log to Charles Higgs. There is no suggestion of a house or buildings on this land at the date. (D 855 M 16 pp. 71-3, 77).

Quarington surrendered all his property to uses of his will on 4th March 1769. Just over a year later, on 26 October 1770, his widow Margaret produced the will in court and claimed her share, a life interest in a dwellinghouse and land rented by John Potter and in the adjoining groves which her husband had kept in his own hand. The heriot paid was £1.2.6 (D 855 M 16 pp. 306-7). So it appears from this that the first farmhouse on the site was erected by Daniel Quarington and may only have been a timber-frame structure.

On Margaret's death, her son Daniel Quarington of London, who had recently come to live in Charlton Kings, produced the Will and on 27th June 1772 claimed the house and land rented by Potter and the groves. Daniel and his wife Charlotte then surrendered to use of Charles Higgs of Charlton Kings, Gentleman. (D 855 M 16 pp. 356-7).

Charles Higgs the elder had five children, Jane (wife of Giles Greenaway Esq.), Charles, Samuel, Elizabeth (wife of Revd. William Reid Pickering) and Susanna. Gutterfall and the Log and some land in Mill furlong had been settled on Giles Greenaway and his wife in 1784; but all the children agreed to throw in their several interests at the final division of their father's estate in 1799. When they came to share it out, the Gutterfall and the Little Log were allotted to Charles the son. He acquired the messuage or farmhouse called Gutterfall, Broad Acre, a coppice taken out of it, Gutter Herne, Five Lands, Little Herne, and the Upper and Lower Gutterfall coppices. (D 855 M 18 p. 71).

Between 1799 and 1808, Charles Higgs rebuilt the farm in brick. All subsequent surrenders make the point that it is a brick house and so worth more. Charles Higgs mortgaged his new house to Mary Perry of Bilston for £2,000 in 1808 (she also held a mortgage for the same amount on another of his properties, Cowell House, likewise rebuilt in brick). The 1808 mortgage speaks of barns, stables, yards, garden, and the meadow or pasture adjoining the house called Home pasture, besides Broad Acre (13.3.17) coppice formerly pasture called Gutter Herne and meadow called Five Lands (2.1.20), Little Herne (2.2.14), Upper Gutterfall coppice (1.3.27) and Lower Gutterfall coppice which included part of Broad Acre (2.2.26). So the amount of woodland had been increased over the years. The tenant in 1808 was William Robinson (D 855 M21 p. 543). This is the ferme ornee we see in the engraving from Griffiths' 1826 Guide (which Ken Venus has redrawn for the cover of this Bulletin). It appears to have had the typical lay-out of the period, central door and passage, four rooms downstairs, four chambers above. No trace of this modest house with its gothick trimmings survives, it has been swallowed up by later additions. It is not even clear in which direction it faced. My guess is that it looked west and towards the waterfall; and the recent discovery of a well under this part of the building supports the hypothesis (most Charlton houses had wells in the kitchen). The farm and farmyard, concealed from view by trees, would then have been (as they still are) on the north side of the house.

Charles Cooke Higgs (son of Charles) succeeded as a minor and during his minority Glenfall (according to Griffiths) was the home of the Revd. Thomas Pruen. By 1819, Higgs had come of age and was able to pay off the mortgage. He then surrendered for £2,700 to Edward Iggulden of Deal "all that brick-built messuage and farm house called Gutterfall otherwise Glenfall" - it is the first use of the new name - with lands as in 1808 and also the close called Little Log. (D 855 M 26 p. 267).

Iggulden improved and landscaped his new estate. Griffiths writes estatically "At the turn of the London Road immediately beyond Cudnall, a private road leads to Hewletts Hill, on the declivity of which is a most romantic spot called the Glenfall, distant about a mile and a half from Cheltenham. Though not on an extensive scale, this truly fascinating retreat combines, within its precincts, the local charm of hill, vale, wood, and water. Nature seems to reign here in her primeval simplicity and beauty; and the soft sounds of the waters from the miniature cataract, formed by rude rocks, breaking upon the stillness of the solitude, has the most imposing and soothing effect. The views from the lawn in front of the tasteful cottage-residence are luxuriant beyond description. Glenfall, which was formerly the property of Charles Higgs Esq., has been lately purchased by Edward Iggulden Esq., whose tasteful mind has been successfully employed in improving the pleasing attractions of a place which even in its less cultivated state was extremely beautiful".

This description appeared in 1826. Not long afterwards, Iggulden left Glenfall and the house was taken over by the Molyneaux family. They may have rented it at first and later purchased it. From about 1828 to 1832 it was the home of Lieutenant General Molyneaux and afterwards of his son John and John's wife, Mary Elizabeth. In 1841, John had a son born there and his seven year old child died there (notices in the Cheltenham Examiner). Neither the baptism nor the burial appear in Charlton registers.

The next reference to the estate is in 1858, when the Rate Book shows owner and occupier to be Mary Elizabeth Molyneaux, John's widow. Gross estimated rental of the house was £45 and of the six acres of woodland, £35.4.3. Mrs. Molyneaux also owned Glenfall Farm (55 acres), let to Thomas Fry, g.e.r.

£122.18.6. The Molyneaux family still owned the place in 1868, for on the sale map of Sir William Russell's properties, land adjoining his farms in Ham is marked "Mrs. G. Molyneaux". (D 1224).

Presumably it was the Molyneaux family who created the carriage drive up to the house, replacing the footpath shown in 1826; if so, the "attractive polygonal lodge with its decorative wrought-iron fringe to its overhanging eaves" (to quote Verey) was part of their improvement. It is the sort of lodge that was being built c 1830-40. They must have enlarged the house too, when they decided to buy; four bedrooms would not have been adequate to their needs. Their additions appear to have been in a plain "Cheltenham post-Regency" style. (Mrs. Buckland says that Castle Dillon, as rebuilt c 1840, was "austere and undecorated").

I have not found a date for the sale of Glenfall by the Molyneaux family. By the early 20th century it had come into the possession of Captain Willis, and probably been updated again, though it was still not a very large house. I understand that the hall columns (then white, now marbled) were already there pre-1914.

The outline history of this family (summarised here) is told on the grave in St. Mary's churchyard. Emily Rachel, beloved wife of Captain H. G. Willis of The Glenfall died 5th July 1909 aged 60; Horace George Willis, late Royal Artillery, rejoined her 24th November 1922; Elizabeth Agnes, second wife, died 12th February 1958; Captain Horace James Willis, 29th Lancers, died 26th July 1910 aged 51; Captain Hugh D. Willis, R.A.M.C., killed in action near Ypres 12th August 1917; Major General C. W. Willis, D.S.O., born 26th February 1882, died in Portugal January 1967; The Rev. Eric Willis, died 11th October 1952 in Canada, aged 97; Agnes Evelyn Willis died 8th June 1934 aged 18 years and 5 months; Hilda Isabel Willis died 1972 aged 86; Theodora Elizabeth Willis, 1880-1978. So the Willis link with Charlton Kings was not severed till 1978.

After the death of Captain H. G. Willis in 1922, The Glenfall was bought by Arthur Mitchell (of Mitchell and Butler's) and was considerably enlarged. The drawing room, dining room and library were extended and a large ballroom-cum-meeting room with sprung floor was added. The architect was Sidney Barnsley, who designed panelling and bookcases for the library (of which there are drawings in Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum) - furniture included much by Peter Waals. In this phase, The Glenfall is remembered nostalgically by many who attended Mrs. Mitchell's Evangelistic Meetings and enjoyed the sumptuous teas which (I'm told) always followed the talk. Mrs. Mitchell was strongly teetotal, and there was a story in the village that she compelled the butler to pour all the wine in the house down the sink!

Glenfall House was sold in 1965, and Cheltenham Museum has an illustrated sale catalogue of the furniture sale on 24th and 25th November 1965. Then, or subsequently, the Museum has been able to acquire several of the Waals pieces, in particular two sideboards, a bookcase, a round table, a long-case clock, a dressing-table, and a coffer, all superb examples of the work of the Crafts Movement, and well worth a visit to see. The library panelling and a built-in bookcase are still in the house.

Again, Glenfall House was altered. The Mitchell's top storey was removed altogether, leaving just ground and first floors. Minor alterations included the substitution of a window for the door leading from ballroom to garden intended to connect with a marquee when there were big functions.

Four years ago, this house became the home of the Community of St. Peter The Apostle, and the ballroom was converted into a very beautiful chapel divided into three sections by marbled pillars supporting wrought-iron gates (from

Laleham) and an arch in front of the sanctuary. Otherwise the house is little changed. It is now a listed building, photographed here by kind permission of the Mother Superior.



The Lodge



Drive front and entrance



Terrace

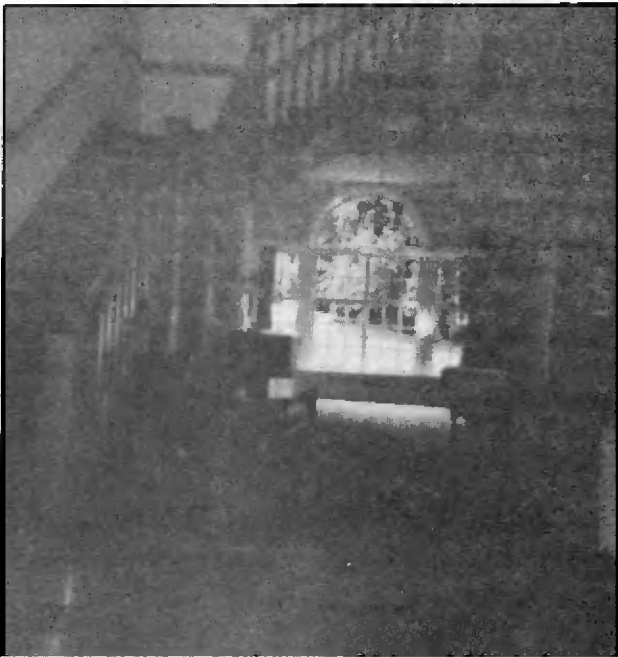


East side with conservatory
and ballroom extension

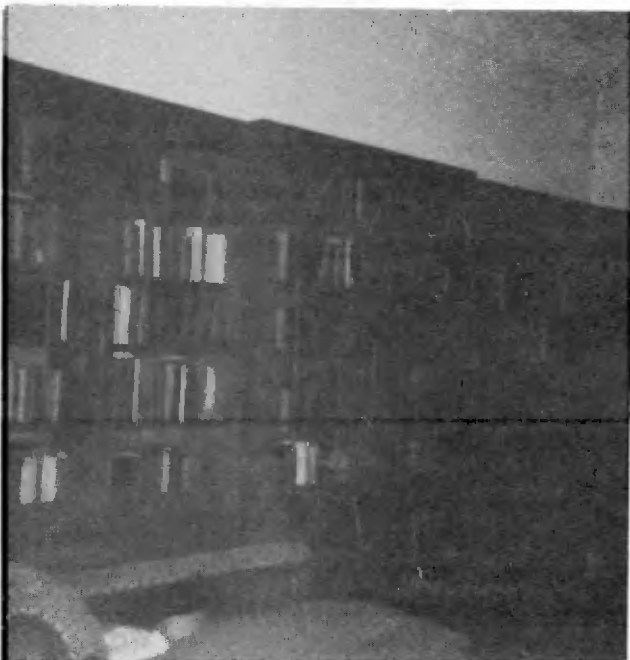


Farm behind the house

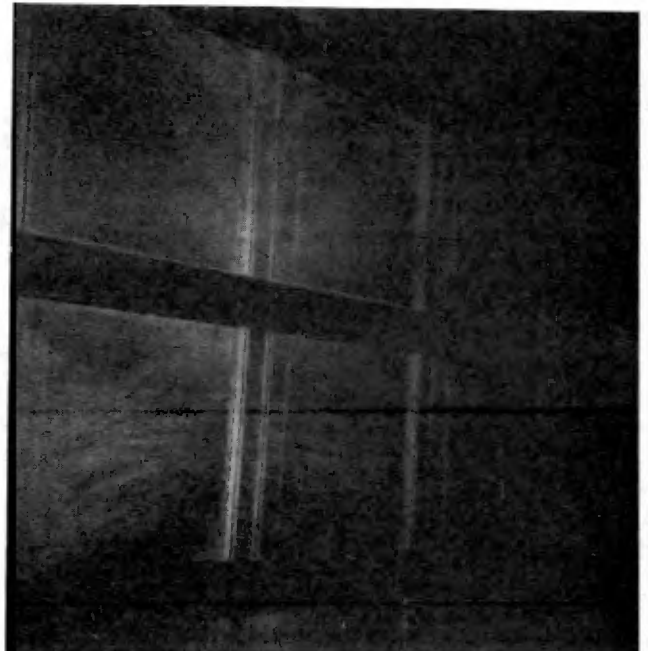
INTERIOR



Hall



Library - bookcases and panelling



M. Paget

4. RECOLLECTIONS OF GLENFALL HOUSE AND THE MITCHELLS

I started going to Glenfall House in about 1924 or 1925, when I shared lessons with the younger daughter of the house, who had been ill and was studying at home with a governess.

The house and garden had recently had a good deal of alterations and improvements done to it. I never saw the house in its original state.

It is a very nicely placed house on top of a hill, above the "glen" after which it was named.

The front door had pillars on either side, and a wide gravel sweep in front.

The hall was circular, and was tiled with black and white tiles. As you entered, there was a cloakroom on the left. The dining-room was first on the right followed by the drawing-room and library.

After the cloakroom on the left of the hall, there was a baize-covered door leading to the kitchens etc. The staircase to the upper floors faced the front door. Behind the staircase there was an open room with a large fireplace where we often sat at tea-time.

Further to the left was a passage up a few steps leading to newer rooms which were added in about 1928, including a large ballroom, which, in my time was used for games, and sometimes for meetings etc. I think it had a stage at one end.

The drawing-room was large, with two pillars half way down towards the windows. All these three rooms drawing-room, library and dining-room looked out towards Cheltenham over fields.

The library had beautiful light-oak panelling and furniture to match made by a Dutchman Peter Waals. Mr. Arthur Mitchell had a very fine collection of old sporting books and early copies of the Gentleman's Magazine etc. To the left of the windows was a door leading to a conservatory in which were kept a variety of hot-house plants, banked up on a circular staging, nearly to the roof. Over this glass roof hung climbing plants such as stephanotis, smilax, and various ferns used for decorating the dining table and vases.

One walked out of the french windows of these rooms on to a wide Cotswold stone terrace, which ran the length of the house. Steps led down from the terrace to a large lawn, and then down more steps to a lower terrace with a goldfish pool and fountain. To the left was a tennis court, and to the right a lovely rose-garden. This came to an end with a "ha-ha" wall and ditch, then to fields on which cattle and horses were turned out.

At the side of the front door on the left of the house, a short drive led past a small wood to garages and stables for about six horses, also dog-kennels and yards. Opposite was the back door to the kitchens etc.

There was also a building which housed machinery for the generating of electricity. I remember the lights always went out for a minute or so each evening, when they "changed over", sometimes at an awkward moment, such as when one was in the bath!

There was a large kitchen garden beyond, with glass houses and rows of cold frames in which grew beautiful Parma violets, every shade from dark purple to white.

I don't remember much about the upper floors of the house except that our schoolroom was on the third floor. The main bedrooms were over the dining, drawing rooms and library. Later, the girls had new rooms over the new part of the house on the side opposite the front door, which looked out over lawns and a herbaceous border. The gardens were beautifully kept by a rather dour Scottish head gardener, helped by two "boys". The head gardener lived in the lodge at the main gate; the others in new cottages near the home-farm. These cottages, built of Cotswold stone, and all the garden paths, terraces and walls were built from stone from a quarry up on the hills owned by Mr. Mitchell. A path led over the fields from the back of the garden to these cottages, the home farm and Ham Village.

The two photos show me with Lawrence Mitchell, the son of the house, near the goldfish pool, and in the rose-garden, in about 1925.



CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF MR. AND MRS. A. MITCHELL

My memories of these two great people are only good ones and stand out very much in my childhood days. Mrs. Mitchell was a member of the Regent Street Chapel and sometimes on a Sunday evening we would be invited to one of her many gatherings. There would be the big white tent, also a pedal organ, and many a lovely hymn would be sung. The Ham Rec. was given to the children to play in. Our bonfire nights were magnificent there, with Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell supplying most of the fireworks. Also the garden parties which they gave for the children, lovely strawberries and cream teas with plenty of cakes, all laid out on trestle tables with white tablecloths, on the terraces of The Glenfall House; and the good ladies of Ham waiting on us.

My father worked at The Glenfall House for many years, and most Sunday evenings I would go with him to close down the greenhouse lights and help do the watering of the plants. Also in those days, we were always allowed to walk or play in any of the fields of Ham.

I was one of the last children to be baptised at Ham Mission Church.

Yes, I still hold those lovely memories of Ham and these two people, and will do so for the rest of my life.

Mrs. Davis (nee Coombe)

5. CAREFUL FATHERS. A STUDY OF MATERIAL DRAWN FROM CHARLTON KINGS WILLS OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Most people in Charlton Kings in the 17th century seem to have made their wills only when close to death. This is shown by the short lapse of time between the dating of a will and the grant of probate. Quite apart from any superstitious fear, there were practical reasons for this. The testator did at least know the number of dependent relatives for whom he needed to provide. In one case, that of Theophilus Brereton (GRO 1686/47), where there is a gap of something over a year, another child, Charles, was born and a codicil had to be added to make provision for him. This was troublesome.

If a man's wife was expected to survive him, provision for her had to be made. She was entitled to her widow's bench. Normally, after the alteration of the custom of the manor in 1625, this was one third of her husband's estate; but many, indeed most, husbands wished to do something more. Roger Dowdeswell (1667/131) left "To Jane Dowdeswell my now wife all and singular the goods which she did possess and inioy before our marriage [these goods had been part of her dower] that are not now disposed of --- two lode of wood and two load of furses each year during the space of three years after my decease --- All cattle now in my possession that is to say all the coves sheep and pigges".

A widow's rights might need to be safeguarded in other ways. Robert Gale the elder (1673/123) wrote in his will "And my will is that my sayd sonne Robert Gale (according to his promise) shall permitt and suffer his mother in law [step-mother] to have Free ingress egress and regress into the barn for the housing and laying of her corn and also for the taking the same away at Convenient times the first harvest after my decease and shall lend her his wagon and plough tak to bring in the same".

Sometimes a legacy also contained an obligation. For instance, Francis Crump blacksmith (1670/35), so ill that he had to make a nuncupative will,

said in the presence of the witnesses "I doe give unto Alice my wife all I have and I desire my wife that she bind my son Thomas apprentice to learn the trade of blacksmith and that she allow him half the tools". There are other instances one of which is quoted below in another context.

There was, however, a difficulty inherent in legacies to wives. Until the Married Women's Property Acts of the late 19th century, all property of any kind whatsoever which a woman held at the time of her marriage became the property of her husband and he could dispose of it as he chose. Thus, if a widow married again, her new husband could leave what had been the property of the first husband, which had been willed to her, to the children of the second marriage or even to his own children by a previous marriage. In such a case, the children of the first marriage were losers and the careful father guarded against this in his will. This he did by making his legacy to his wife subject to terms. The most common - and it is very common - is to make the legacy for the term of her natural life only. Timothy Cartwright yeoman (1647/149) left "To my wellbeloved wife fower of my best Kyne and six of my Best sheep, twenty fower bushells of wheat, thirty bushells of barley, three of my biggest pigges and three of my lest sort of pigges". These are all expendable; but she had "use and occupation of all my household stuffs during her life". Daniel Ellis, maltster (1684/136) makes the distinction between expendable and non-expendable bequests even more clear. He leaves Anne his wife "All my corn in my house and all the crops growing upon my own land or any lands I rent and all my cattle of all sorts at her sole disposal". That is, she could do what she chose with these things. But she is to have "the use of all my implements and tackle of husbandry of all sorts --- for the term of her natural life, not making spoils thereof but keeping everything thereunto belonging in good order and repair". Here Mr. Ellis is also guarding against another way in which his children might be impoverished, by inheriting goods so worn out as to be useless. Francis Green (1693/296) in his will went further. He left Ann his wife "the use of my household goods for the term of her life upon condition she shall not imbezle and make havock and waste the same but shall leave it in as good condition as she shall find it, or others as good in its stead".

Occasionally the wife received a legacy upon condition that she did not marry again, which safeguarded the childrens' inheritance, and at the same time provided for her till her maintenance passed into other hands. This is not so common a condition as is sometimes suggested, at least not in this manor in the 17th century. But John Dean yeoman (1639/85) directed his son Devereaux to "give my wife sufficient surety for the sure payment of £10 yearly --- at the feast of St. Michael Archangel and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary --- by equal portions during the term of her natural lyfe if she shall so long live sole chaste and unmarried".

In some ways, the making of provision for his sons gave a conscientious father less worry. Most land in Charlton Kings was copyhold and therefore passed to the heir according to the custom of the manor. Thus in many cases, he received only a token remembrance in the will. For instance, Samuel Adams (1657/13a) wrote "Item I give my eldest sonne William Adams two shillings as a portion of my estate and goods", while the younger son John Adams and his heirs for ever are to have "the house, orchard and garden and backside with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging that is now in my tenure and occupation, Also I give unto my said sonne John Adams twelve pence in money". The house mentioned is freehold, since it can be left by will without reference to a surrender to uses. The extract makes it appear at first glance that John received far more than William, but this is not in fact the case.

Again, Richard Ruck (1645/65) left nothing except an obligation to his eldest son John. There are three younger sons, Thomas, Richard, and Robert. Thomas and Richard are left £5 each and Robert the youngest thirty shillings, but "my will is that my son John shall find my son Robert meat drink and apparell,

washing, and wringing, untill such time as a certain ground called by the name of Roose Comb cometh into the hands of the said Robert", which is one way of providing for a youngest son. It is only fair to note, however, that while no specific legacy is made to John, he is the residuary legatee.

Very often a father had been able to make provision for the elder children before his death, so that in his will he is able to concentrate on the needs of the younger members of the family. The will of Richard Davison (1641/103) demonstrates this clearly. He has already made provision for three sons and three daughters. Three sons, Richard, John and Thomas, are married and out in the world, either settled on holdings of their own or provided for in some other way. They are mentioned in the will only because their respective daughters receive a legacy of a shilling apiece. There are also three married daughters, who receive a shilling each. These young women would have received their portions on the occasion of their respective marriages. The will is really concerned with provision for the upbringing and endowment of three younger sons, Stephen, William and Francis.

"Item to my wife Francis, my dwelling house, all the lands, backsides, and all other things thereunto belonging lying in Charlton Kings, with the appurtenances, for the term of 21 years, in consideration to breed up my children and upon the said term of 21 years shall be expired, then my will is that my son Stephen and his heirs shall peaceably and quietly enjoy my said house and lands with all the said premises thereunto belonging with the appurtenances thereunto belonging for ever. And if so be my son Stephen shall happen to die before he is one and twenty, then I give and bequeath to my son William my said house with all my said lands". If Williams also should chance to die before he is one and twenty, the property was to pass to the third son Francis. But if Stephen lived to come of age, "then" writes his father, "I give unto my son William £10 to be payed out of my said house in Charlton Kings, to be payed by my son Stephen or his heirs or executors". Francis was to receive £10 on the same terms.

By far the most common bequest for a father to his children was in goods. Indeed, some of the poorer men had little else to leave, while the richer sort had much to bestow, and household and farm gear were a valuable legacy. Francis Green, whose will has already been quoted, left his son "two tester bedsteads, the chest, side cupboard, two hoggsheads, three sisterns, the malt mill, the second best brass pott, the table board in the hall with the frame, the furnace, the bed and bolster in the little chamber with the feather pillow, the stringing, piggs troughs". Again, in this area where there was not much woodland left by the 17th century, wood and timber were valuable commodities, both for firing and building. Richard Harnes (1630/22) left his son Richard "all my other free land which I bought in the parish of Charlton Kings, with all hedges and trees --- and all other profitts". A very useful legacy.

In many ways, daughters were a greater problem to their fathers than sons. There were few openings for a girl who had to earn her own living except domestic service, and the best way to ensure that she had a home and competence was to see she made a good marriage. But the chances of a girl without a dowry making a marriage suitable to her station was small. As Thomas Tusser had remarked in his Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry

"True wedlock is best, for avoiding of sinne,
the bed undefiled much honour doth winne;
Though love be in choosing farre better than gold,
Let love come with somewhat, the better to hold."

The wife's share in that "somewhat" was generally expected to be one third

of the joint estate; and if she were left a widow, the one third would be her "bench". It was therefore clearly the duty of a father with unmarried daughters to see they each had a dower.

This dower might be, and often was, in the form of goods. A wife with a good store of linen, furniture, pots, and other household stuff, was a valuable asset when it came to setting up a home. Some of these legacies of goods sound rather strange to our ears. James Randle husbandman (1670/255) left his daughter Alice "all the glass in the windows about my house in Charlton Kings where I do now live and dwell, together with all the benches in the hall and kitchen in the said house and all the doors and window lids [shutters] belonging to the said house". He had another daughter Elizabeth who was the residuary legatee. A married daughter Elenor was to receive £10. This may well be part of the dower promised with her at the time of her marriage. William Okey husbandman (1675/212) who does not seem to have been well off, leaves one unmarried daughter Elizabeth the best pewter platter and 5s. Her married sister Deborah gets a flock bed and bedding, and the third daughter Margaret "two kine, and a heyfer, and two sheep and a lambe, a pigg, and all the wood, corn, hay and all implements of husbandry, and all other things about the house unnamed". However, this was conditional on her paying her father's debts and funeral expenses, and she had the added task of acting as executor.

Ralph Abbots husbandman (1641/90) is another who gave his daughters goods for their dowries. Margaret was to receive "a press cubbord, the joynd bedsted that I do lye on, a flock bed and pillowe, my biggest coldron, a brass pott, a coffer, one piece of pewter, a little pottinger, and use of one peece of pewter of my son Richard untill he shall demand the same, and an old sheet". Elizabeth was to inherit "one little cupbord, one coffer, one flock bed, one flock bolster, one pillow, one payer of sheets, one blanket, a spice mortar of brass and pestle, three peeces of pewter, one little tunne of pewter, the next biggest kete, and a little posnet, and a tubbe in the sollar [?cellar], and a playne bedsted, and my biggest barrell, with one payle". Jane was to have "a truckle bedsted, a flock bed and bolster and pillow, one payer of sheets, one blanket, 3 dishes and one kanne of pewter, one brass candlestick, and the lest pott, one little pewter dish, the board and frame in the Hall, two coffers, one barrell, and one cushion and a payle". Anne the fourth daughter was legatee to "my feather bedde and bolster, a payer of blanketts, a coverlett, and a payer of sheets, my biggest brass pott, my great brass candlestick, 2 pieces of pewter and a salt, a little barrell and a dough skeel, and a little coffer".

No doubt these four girls were well endowed according to their station.

Often a girl was under age when her father died, and provision had to be made for her upbringing. Richard Ruck, who has been mentioned above, had a daughter Joan. Her father willed her £100 to be paid to her at the age of 21, on condition that she lived with her brother John. If she did not live with her brother, he was to pay her £4 a year till she was 21; presumably so that she could keep herself. If she happened to die before she was 21, she was to have £50 to dispose of as she chose. This odd sounding provision meant she could leave that £50 by will. If she married and died before she was 21, then any child or children she might have had would inherit the £100 at the date when the mother would have come of age.

Twenty-one is the normal age of inheritance; but Robert Alexander alias Mansell (1662/106) left his daughters Katherine and Mary £20 each which they were to receive when they attained the age of sixteen; whilst the maltster Daniel Ellis (1684/136) said that his daughter Anne was not to receive her very valuable inheritance till she was twenty-four. She was to have the goods and implements of household not already willed to his sons, to her own proper use. The inventory of his goods shows that that alone was a rich bequest. "My two

biggest and weightyest pieces of gold" [he collected gold coins of all sorts as a man now-a-days might collect Kruger Rands], and in addition £150 "and the interest in the meantime I do hereby appoint for the breeding of her up".

Lynett Pates gentleman (1683/337) left his eldest daughter Judeth one shilling and "I nominate and appoint my now wife Catherine to be guardian and have the tuition and breeding up of my said daughter Judeth --- until she shall atayne to the age of Fourteen years and to give her good education according to her qualyty".

One of the most ingenious ways of providing his daughters with dowries was found by Henry Collett, husbandman, who made his will on 3rd December 1641 (1642/37). He seems to have been comfortably off but in no way rich. He had two sons and five daughters, but besides land in this parish, he held land in Westcott, and it was from this that he proposed to endow the girls, and to do so without impoverishing his sons, his wife, or his estate. He wrote "Item, I give unto my daughter Elizabeth out of the rents and profitts of my lands in Westcott £20 a year for fyve years next ensewing the date hereof, if she shall so long live; And after the end of the said five years or after the determination of the estate, then I give --- to my daughter Joyce the like annuity of £20 per annum out of my said lands in Westcott for five years if she shall so long lyve, And after the deaths or determination of the estates of the said Elizabeth and Joyce, then I give unto my daughter Sara the like annuity of £20"; and so also his daughters Joane and Jane were to receive annuities of £20 for five years. In this way, each daughter in turn would receive a dowry of £100, although Jane would have to wait 25 years before she began to receive her legacy. However, the parish register shows that Joan was only four at her father's death. So Jane, perhaps only one or two then, would be 26 or 27 when she began to receive her portion. Young marriages do not seem to have been common, parish registers suggest that most brides were in their mid twenties; and in any case a man would probably be willing to marry a girl whom he knew expected to receive £100 sooner or later. In the case of the Collett family, it was sooner than might have been expected. The register shows that the eldest daughter died unmarried within two years of her father's death. But Henry Collett could not know that when he thought out the provision for his children.

J. Paget

6. THE SEWER STORY CONTINUED

In 1872 there appeared the draft of an agreement between the Commissioners and the Board of Health for "taking and disposal of the Sewage of the Charlton District by the Commissioners". This would seem to have been agreed and settled, subject to a few alterations. Charlton Kings even talked about affixing their seal to the document. But there were still deep-seated problems that wouldn't go away. In July Charlton Kings referred to the arbitration of Mr. Rawlinson the "terms and conditions of the proposed grant of an outfall for the sewers of this District into those of Cheltenham". The Board's Sewerage Committee was told to prepare a case with the help of the two surveyors, past and present. Mr. Sadler, the previous one, refused to sit on the committee because he was working for Cheltenham; instead he was asked for the plans he drew up in the past. He responded tardily by sending back only one plan. The Board insisted that this was not good enough and wanted all the plans he had made. Eventually they got a current report from the new surveyor and more plans. He was directed to write to Mr. Humphries (Cheltenham's surveyor) and to "ascertain --- the views of the Cheltenham Improvement Commissioners (C.I.C.) as to which Sewer, the Chelt or High Street Sewer" Charlton Kings would have to be connected to.

Meanwhile the Charlton Kings surveyor was asked to estimate the cost for the connection to the existing Cheltenham sewers, and also a plan to 'drain' the Ham district to a tank in arable land. All this was to be part of the "General Scheme". But it was November before the surveyor finally presented his overall plans and estimates. These were to be passed to the Local Government Board Office (L.G.B.O.) for consent, so that Charlton Kings could raise a loan on the general rate. The surveyor calculated this needed to be £4,300. The Cheltenham surveyor's estimate of £471 for the enlargement of the main sewer was treated with contempt by Charlton Kings. The Board wanted to know what were "the grounds of this calculation". In January 1873 the C.I.C.'s surveyor (perhaps prompted by Charlton Kings' scepticism) reported to his Committee on the work he thought would need to be carried out in order to connect Charlton Kings with the Cheltenham sewer system. He reckoned that the overall cost would be £1,000, but he recommended that the apportioning of this cost be left to Mr. Rawlinson. This gentleman had already been requested by Charlton Kings to hold the inquiry as a result of the Board's need to borrow £4,300. Mr. Rawlinson had agreed, but Cheltenham doesn't appear to have been notified, and the C.I.C. wrote to ask what Charlton Kings was doing about these negotiations. The following month the Sewerage and Drainage Committee just report that the sewerage question is "adjourned for further discussion". It appears to be adjourned for a long time. There is no further entry in the minutes on the subject until February '74.

Meanwhile the Charlton Kings Board appears to be waiting for a reply from Mr. Rawlinson. At the AGM in April the Board had elected a new Sewerage Committee, "their duties to be to consider and watch over the interests of the District in respect of sewerage matters". Perhaps prompted by this, the Clerk wrote to Mr. Rawlinson asking him to get on with the inquiry. But he got no reply. The residents, though, who lived near Cheltenham Sewage Farm had got wind of the impending merger and objected to "sewage from the District (Charlton Kings) being utilized on this farm". They were not the only ones complaining, people in East End reported that their waste water pipe was blocked. The Charlton Kings surveyor investigated and told them that this pipe was for road drainage only and until the sewers were laid a cesspool would have to be used. The Board had already received complaints about a new privy there too. Charlton Kings needed to get things moving again! Therefore the Sewerage Committee were told to see to the cleaning of cesspools in the "thickly built parts of the District".

In January 1874, the Board of Health had appointed a Medical Officer of Health, as was required by the new law. This seemed to jog the Board again and the Clerk was told to send off a letter to Mr. Rawlinson. This reminded him of the "Agreement" of July '72 between the two Districts, and the "Arbitration" that was to follow. Mr. Rawlinson replied promptly this time and said he would set a date for the "Arbitration", which he agreed to conduct. Meanwhile another draft under the name "Heads of Arrangement" was drawn up and discussed by the two Districts. The Charlton Kings Board emphasised that "everything that could be done has been done for accomplishing the purpose, and although delay has intervened, it has not been owing to inaction on the part of this Board". Cheltenham replied that there were many points to consider on both sides and they were no experts!

Charlton Kings' worries seem to stem from the amount they may be charged for doing work in Hales Road and the Old Bath Road, which they feel will benefit Cheltenham. They will connect all house drains from their own side as they think proper; but those in Cheltenham must be paid for by that authority and passed fit by the Charlton Kings surveyor. This new agreement reads to Charlton as if it has to pay all the money and do all the work. The Board also objects to claims for compensation raised by Cheltenham when their sewers receive Charlton sewage. They see no extra work necessary because "the foul

watercourse that is to be taken out of the sewers (that is, the culvetted stream in Hales Road) is far greater than what will be put in in the form of sewage from Charlton Kings". Out of 700 houses proposed to be connected, 542 have a very low rateable value and therefore "for many years we shall only be sending slop waters from the cottages and a modicum of sewage from the larger houses near the high roads". (This turned out to be a very false prediction). Mr. Gabb, the Charlton Kings Clerk, who was putting all these objections to the C.I.C. finally commented: "It is difficult to imagine how the Commissioners can be placed between 'Two Fires' (a reference to earlier exchanges), still having full control of the Sewage, they can easily Extinguish either".

Cheltenham for its part insisted that Charlton Kings had the responsibility of constructing the sewer from the London Road to Hales Road and Coltham Terrace, and all drains and sewers that had previously used the Hales Road watercourse were to be diverted to this new sewer. The 'purified' watercourse was then to be connected to the Chelt or any other suitable stream. (Charlton pointed out that there weren't any other 'suitable streams'). These connections and any new construction must be checked by the C.I.C.'s surveyor. Cheltenham's other main concern also surfaced during this exchange. They envisaged the possibility that because of an "action at law", they might have to put an end to the "Agreement" on giving six month's notice; or if the irrigation didn't work properly, the connection might have to be severed. Charlton Kings was outraged. The Board understood the connection to be a permanent arrangement. If it were not to be so, then Charlton Kings didn't want to incur all the expense proposed. Mr. Brydges, the C.I.C.'s Clerk, wrote a more conciliatory reply, pointing out that it was difficult with legal documents to provide for all contingencies. For instance, the relative costs to be borne by each party had not been touched on and he followed with some suggested figures. He proposed that Mr. Rawlinson should be asked to decide who the Hales Road sewer belonged to. Mr. Brydges saw these arrangements as lasting for a long time and there might not be another chance to discuss them. His parting comment was that Charlton Kings should not expect "to take the credit for the execution of the 'Works' rendered necessary by pollution from their own District".

By May 1874, Mr. Rawlinson had fixed a date to discuss the agreement, apologising for the delay. A month later we read in the Board of Health minutes that the enquiry had been held and Mr. Rawlinson was going to consider his verdict. At the September meeting, Mr. Rawlinson's version of what the Heads of Arrangement should be was set out as follows:

- (1) Cheltenham and Charlton Kings to be considered as one District for the purpose of town drainage and house sewage
- (2) Sewage from Cheltenham and Charlton Kings passing through sewage tanks and sewers was to be dealt with at Cheltenham Commissioners' expense and was not to be "a nuisance injurious to health"
- (3) If there were ever any action at law against Cheltenham for nuisance, the cost of proceedings would be paid, nine-tenths from Cheltenham and one-tenth from Charlton Kings. (This clause caused a lot of concern to Charlton and also highlighted one of Cheltenham's earlier worries about the responsibility the town might have to bear to put things right for both the Districts).
- (4) Cheltenham was to complete all sewers, drains, etc. as were necessary in their own District to receive sewage and storm water from Charlton Kings, and also to connect them with the existing tanks, sewers and the sewage farm.
- (5) Charlton Kings was to complete at its own cost all sewers and drains in its own area necessary to sewer and draining it. The junction was to

be made under the supervision of the Cheltenham surveyor. Charlton like Cheltenham was to be responsible for maintaining its own system in working order.

- (6) Sewerage and drainage work of the combined area was to be completed and paid for by each District up to the "divisional line" (presumably the Parish boundary about which there had already been discussion and perusal of old maps).
- (7) In the event of an enlarged sewerage system in Charlton Kings necessitating extensions in the future to the Cheltenham system, three months notice had to be given and then it was the duty of Cheltenham to provide what was needed.
- (8) If any dispute about the past or future cost of works was to arise, the Local Government Board in London would settle it and assess any payments to be made. The LGB's decision would be final. This would also apply to any subsequent arrangements between the two Districts if they could not mutually agree. Again, the decision was to be binding on both.
- (9) Charlton Kings was to pay a lump sum of £500 in full to Cheltenham to enable the C.I.C. to enlarge the system.
- (10) The Board of Health had also to pay £100 annually for the use of "outlet sewers and outlet works". This agreement was to remain in force for thirty years from 1st January 1875.

All this seems very comprehensive but looking at the past history of disagreements one is not surprised to find that the Board of Health did not get a very favourable reaction from its Sewerage Committee. Several points worried the Committee. The first was, why should Charlton Kings pay part of the cost of any action for nuisance when it had "no practical control in the matter?". The Committee also wanted defined more clearly "the works to be performed" by each District, particularly with reference to the Hales Road sewer, and disliked the idea of paying £500 to Cheltenham for "works" before any new claim could be made - it wanted more time before payment of the annual £100. The Board sent these comments off to Cheltenham and said members had further remarks they wanted Mr. Rawlinson to see but first they wanted to meet Cheltenham's Sewerage and Drainage Committee to discuss them. Cheltenham declined and said it would forward these remarks to Mr. Rawlinson from whom it was awaiting a letter anyway. For the remainder of this year, 1874, nothing further was settled. In December, even Mr. Rawlinson lost patience and wrote to the C.I.C. that the two parties must come to an agreement or he would "decline to act any further". Both parties seem to have put forward their own interpretations of his Heads of Arrangement and sent them back and forth to each other. Charlton Kings continued to disagree with the principle that it should pay any costs if the two Districts were "taken to law". The system should be built so that no nuisance was caused! It also objected to the clause saying Charlton Kings could be made to pay for "new work" that might be required to be put in hand by Cheltenham. As Charlton saw it, the Board of Health must be allowed to connect up all new houses it thought fit to the main sewer, and Cheltenham should pay for the work of enlarging their sewers to take these new streets. (Charlton seemed to be already looking to expansion with the coming of modern services, although it had earlier played down such an increase). The Board's other worry was the cost of £500 quoted to cover all works, it couldn't commit future Boards to such a sum. Therefore £500 should be the stated limit of expenditure before "any works are put forward". In order to borrow this sum, Charlton Kings would have to get authority and find a source. But above all, the Board pointed out that it could not possibly get its sewers completed by 1st January 1875. It would be impossible for Charlton Kings to apply to the LGBO, raise a loan, get estimates, and put out tenders, let alone build and construct the sewers in three months! (And neither Authority had shown much sense of urgency in the past).

Cheltenham rather loftily replied to all this, that as Mr. Rawlinson was in possession of all the facts, he would easily decide these "doubtful points". After all, the difficulties were all of Charlton Kings' making. The only point needed to be settled was how the cost was to be shared out, as regards the sewerage works in the Old Bath Road and Hales Road.

Then early in '75, a proposal came from Cheltenham that the Sewerage and Drainage Committees of the two Districts should get together. The result of this meeting was agreement between the two, except for clause (3) which dealt with costs and responsibility if there were ever any prosecution for "nuisance". Cheltenham was happy with it, as it stood, and wanted to keep it, but Charlton Kings wanted the LGBO to look at it and amend it. At the same time, the Board of Health also decided to send their amended sewerage plans and their application for a loan to this government body. But three months later, nothing seemed to have been done, for there is a note in the Board of Health's minutes, mentioning a letter from the LGBO asking Charlton Kings how they were getting on with their "Sewerage Plans".

The Sewerage Committee was reconvened to help the surveyor complete his plans. At the following month's meeting he reported that he was "making progress on his plans and estimates". By August he was able to report at length to his Committee. He recommended first, that application be made for a loan of £4,500, to be borrowed on the security of the rates, to pay for sewerage work and to include the £500 to be paid to Cheltenham for their extension work. This was to be paid with interest by thirty equal yearly payments.

The Board of Health suggested one amendment to the surveyor's plans, that cottages near the Duke of York should be sewered into the Detmore Branch instead of into the East End Branch sewer. So we see that these plans were quite detailed and perhaps with good reason the surveyor had needed several months of measuring, surveying, and calculating to draw them up. The Board did eventually vote him a cheque for £20 to pay his fees for plans and estimates for a "General System of Sewers". But the Board was still awaiting a decision from the LGBO on the disputed Clause (3).

At last a reply came from the London Office, but to Charlton Kings' annoyance Clause (3) was to be retained. The Clerk returned a letter of protest and asked when "a definite reply may be expected", which was rather cheeky considering how tardy the Board of Health had been! At this point, Mr. Rawlinson took a hand and poured oil on troubled waters. He considered that all costs and damages whether payable by the Commissioners or Charlton Kings' Board should be "apportioned and paid in the manner set forth in the said clause". The chief responsibility, he explained, would rest with the Cheltenham Commissioners, and the Board of Health would only formally be party to any proceedings. Therefore the whole conduct and control of "Legal Proceedings" either against the Commissioners or Charlton Kings would rest with Cheltenham. The LGBO requested that Charlton Kings should alter their amendment accordingly, and would postpone considering the Board's application for a loan until the "Agreement was executed". The LGBO followed this with a copy of the C.I.C.'s resolution agreeing to the division of costs for any action for "Nuisances" as approved in the disputed Clause (3), provided that control and conduct of all legal proceedings were in the hands of the Commissioners. The Charlton Kings Board finally gave in and agreed to this. Early in 1876 both Districts "engrossed and executed" the Agreement. At last, after fourteen years of discussions, suggestions, plans and counter-plans, and a lot of mistrust on either side, Charlton Kings could look forward to the amenities her neighbours had enjoyed for nearly half a century.

The surveyors from both sides drew up forms of tender and specifications in order to advertise the work needing to be done. The Charlton Clerk was

instructed to insert the advertisements in the Cheltenham Examiner, Birmingham Daily Post, and Bristol Mercury. Perhaps Cheltenham did not advertise so widely, for they had only one tender returned, from a Mr. William Ratcliffe for £305. By June '76, Charlton Kings had decided, after looking into his standing and abilities, to accept the tender of a Mr. P. Ward. They also adjourned to the "Weighing Office" at their monthly meeting to inspect specimen pipes sent by Messrs. Gibbs and Canning. The Board agreed to accept their tender to supply these. Meanwhile the financial position was sorted out. The LGBO sanctioned a loan of £4,500 at 3½%, the Board then received £500 from the Public Works Loan Committee (PWLC) and this was sent off to the C.I.C. so that they could get started on the "outfall works". In July the Board of Health convened a special meeting to discuss the best means of connecting "Private house drains with the Mains Sewers". The Sewerage Committee reported that it had looked into the problem, and made the following suggestion: that the pipe suppliers and contractors be asked to do the connections at a slightly increased price above the contract one to cover "haulage and superintendance". There followed a lot of discussion about this, and perhaps the surveyor took further advice. It was later reported that the Committee "came to the conclusion that it is not at present desirable for the Board to contract to do private drainage works for the owners". It was decided to suggest to householders that they would save money "by connecting their own drains while the main sewers are being laid". As the work progressed, this obviously caused problems. People connected house drains without letting the Sewerage and Drainage Committee know, and sometimes used the wrong materials. One particular case noted was that of Mr. Higgs who owned Charlton Lodge; he complained about the line of the sewer and then wanted to connect his "Brick Barrel Drain" with the Cudnall Street sewer. He was told that he would have to "lay down" proper pipes in order to make "an efficient connection". He obviously took no notice of this instruction because later in the year, Mr. Higgs was reported as having connected his existing brick drains with the new glazed pipes. The surveyor pointed out that it was impossible to form good joints between brick and glazed drains, and also that the bricks could get into the sewers and block them. These brick drains needed to be relaid, but the Board was not sure whether it had the power to compel this. The surveyor stressed too that the householder should inform him when he was about to connect, giving the surveyor at least forty-eight hours notice. (If they had gone ahead with their first suggestion of letting the contractor do all the work, it might have been cheaper and more satisfactory in the end).

The other big problem concerned rights of way for the sewers to be laid across private land. The Committee had drawn up a schedule of lands through which the main sewers would have to pass because they would not all be put along existing roads and streets. The owners needed to be notified. There were frequent complaints about the laying of sewers either in the wrong place, or as not wanted through the "Moor End Estate", or as causing damage to the elm trees at The Hermitage. The sewers were even blamed for a landslip behind the Girls and Infants Schools. The surveyor disagreed and retorted that the slip was due to the "inefficient way" in which the embankment forming the school playground had been constructed.

In September 1876 the C.I.C.'s surveyor reported that the new sewers were completed and ready for the "reception of the Sewage of the Charlton Kings District". The Board of Health was told that "the Commissioners are ready to receive the Sewage from the Main Sewer at Sandford Mead at the point marked B on the Plan". But not until the following year was the Charlton Kings surveyor able to report that their main sewers were completed, £816.9.10 being due to the contractors. The Account showed a large claim for "puddling the Sewers" where they passed through the water-bearing strata. This too had caused problems for the contractors. But at this point the Charlton Kings Board of Health proposed to take over from the contractors and themselves deal with the repair of the roads "where injured by the Sewers".

Here I almost closed the "Sewer Story" but I could not resist looking ahead to the last entry in Minute Book 3 of the Board of Health. It is dated March 1882. The Sewerage Committee is still in existence and suggesting "the System of Sewers constructed in 1876-7 were reasonably sufficient for the needs of the District but taking into consideration the increase of Buildings --- the Committee are now of the opinion that the time has arrived at which it would be justifiable to raise a further loan for the purpose of extending the Sewers". The story was a continuous one! There is a footnote to this; at the same meeting it was proposed that "Mr. Villar's Map of the Sewers of the District now produced be purchased for the Board at the price of £10". I hope they never lost it - as so many authorities did - they would need it in the future as Charlton Kings expanded far beyond its seven hundred houses.

B. Middleton

7. SAMUEL DEIGHTON OF CHARLTON CHIRURGEON

In the paper on Charlton House in Bulletin 10, there was a reference to Mr. Deighton who (in right of his wife Jane, widow of William Combe) was living at Charlton House in 1627. Now some more information about Deighton has come to light.

The first reference is in the will of Edward Dowdeswell, dated 20th December 1636, proved 1637 (GRO 1637/27). The testator says

"I give and devise unto Samuel Deighton of Charleton aforesaid Chirurgeon and to his heyres one ridge or half acre of arrable land lying in the field of Naunton in the parrish of Cheltenham aforesaid shootinge East and West upon the way that leadeth from Sandford to Naunton between the land of the said Samuel on the North side and the land now in the occupacion of Edith Pates widow on the south side, together with all writings thereunto belonging". This land was freehold and could be left by will. As it adjoined other land already Samuel's, it was a desirable acquisition, a graceful tribute by the patient to the skill of his doctor.

The next reference comes in a document dated 17th May (1643), attached to Deighton's will. It is difficult to follow because of the gaps in the text, but it seems that, fulfilling the executorship imposed on him by the will of his brother Nathaniell, Samuel was a trustee for tenements in Gosditch Street then occupied by John Franklin and --- Hopkins. This property he now passed on to John, second son of his late brother; should John die without heirs, his sisters Bridgett, Ann, and Jane, were to succeed. The four children were to be joint executors and Thomas Ashmeade of Cheltenham mercer was to act as overseer. John Lymericke, Daniell Sturmy and John Gregory (Cheltenham men) witnessed.

Deighton's own will is dated 12th September 1643. He left £2 to the church of Charlton Kings, £2 to the poor. To his late brother John's children, Dameris, Thomas and John, he left £20 each to the first two and 10s to the third. To his late brother Nathaniell's children, Bridgett, Anne, Jane and John, he left £30 apiece. To his servant Mary Yate he left £20, and all the money owing to the testator from his neighbour Robert Mansell alias Alexander, secured by mortgage. To Mrs. Katherine Wylkins of Mynety, if still alive, he left £10. This sum was to go to her children should she predecease him.

Finally he came to his niece Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Ashmeade. She was to have the testator's lease of the demesnes of the manor of Cheltenham for the remainder of the term. Her husband and his heirs were to have those lands after the expiration of that lease (presumably for a further term already granted to Samuel) and all the residue of the testator's goods,

while his niece was given the rest of his free lands. (This must have included the strips in Naunton field). Ashmeade was appointed executor; and friends Thomas Roberts and John Stubbe the overseers, with 40s apiece for their pains. John Stubbe, Samuel Mansell, Richard Wager, Francis Greville, and William Clyvely witnessed.

Two days later, on 14th September 1643, Deighton recollected other bequests he wanted to make. He left 10s to his nephew Nathaniell Deighton (presumably the elder son of his late brother Nathaniell). To cousin Richard Deighton Samuel left all his books and instruments of surgery (which suggests that Richard was also a surgeon). To his godchildren John Smyth and Mary Pates he gave £5 apiece, and to his landlord and good friend Giles Grevill 40s to buy him a ring. (Charlton House was copyhold of the manor of Ashley, of which Giles Grevill was lord). The same witnesses attested this codicil; will and codicil were proved on 4th November 1643, and the accompanying document concerning the trusteeship on 29th January 1643/4.

From these documents, a Deighton pedigree can be constructed. The parish register adds little. It shows that Samuel Deighton was buried here on 18th September 1643, and that Elizabeth wife of John Deighton was buried (probably in the same grave) on 25th September 1668. Samuel had had two nephews named John, Elizabeth might be the wife of either of them. None of Samuel's nephews or nieces, except perhaps Elizabeth Ashmeade, appears to have settled in Charlton.

H. Middleton

8. NOT THE HISTORY OF CHARLTON KINGS: THE CIVIL WAR

This note attempts, so far as available evidence permits, to trace the source of the belief, still current in Charlton and recorded in Dobell's book of 1898, that Oliver Cromwell visited Charlton during the Civil War. It complements my note on pages 43-5 of Bulletin 11.

Dobell himself seems to have thought that the Earl of Essex was more likely than Cromwell to have visited Charlton. Certainly his army passed through the area in September 1643, but I have found no evidence that he stayed in Charlton. It can, however, be shown that Lord Chandos stayed here.

In his Historicall Relation of the Military Government of Gloucester John Corbet states (page 69) that, late in 1643, "a party of horse and dragoones, commanded by Major Gray, fell that night into Charleton Kings and had surprized the Lord Chandos in his quarters had he not made a private escape, where the search after him caused the loss of seven or eight private soldiers; yet they slew some of the enemy, took 10 prisoners and some few horse".

This event must be, I think, the origin of the legend of a famous visitor to Charlton. It is the only visit I can document. The Cromwell connection may be accounted for as follows.

In Gloucestershire Notes and Queries, volume III pages 79-80, it is said that, in Carlyle's edition of Cromwell's Letters and Speeches (3rd Ed, 1850, vol. IV p.75) there is a note of the estates which the Lord Protector owned at his death. One such is "Chaulton", valued at £500 p.a. On the basis that other estates were in Gloucestershire, this unidentified Chaulton is equated with Charlton Kings, with the unsupported, but possibly correct, statement that many of "Charlton Kings residents died in the Civil War fighting on the king's side". Now we know that Cromwell did not own land to this value in our Charlton, despite his close friendship with Norwood, lord of the manor of Cheltenham¹, a fact which may have lent some support to the popular belief.

There were a number of Royalists in Charlton, certainly. Dobell refers to the fact that the Charlton residents Walter Higgs and Conway Whithorne were present at an alleged skirmish on Battledown. If there were a skirmish, I cannot trace any record of one. There is a tombstone in the churchyard recording the death on 15th January 1643/4 of Phillip Vaux gentleman, who was "slain" in Charlton Kings "pro Rege, Grege et Lege", for the king, the flock and the law (a formula used by Royalists). Vaux was not a Charlton man.

According to Goding in Norman's History of Cheltenham (1863), there were archaeological finds, notably in the St. James' area, which point to a battle in Cheltenham sometime in the Civil War. The date is unknown, but it was in 1643.

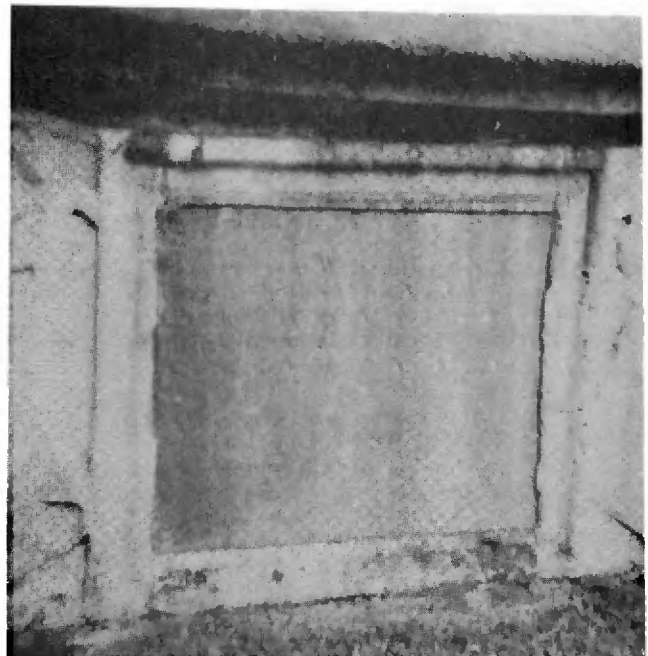
Other evidence for the Royalist sympathies of some in Charlton come from John Stubbe's statement that as Steward of the manor of Cheltenham, Charles wrote to him "our trusty and well-beloved" subject for a loan of £20, promising to repay "as soon as God shall enable". This, Bridgeman noted, proved to be never. In 1791, Bigland recorded that Conway Whithorne, a citizen of London, served Charles I in the garrison of Worcester. His son was a Lieutenant under Colonel Bairsbrigg at Aberystwyth Castle in 1645 and Captain of Foot in the king's service at the surrender of Worcester in 1646. He also served with Charles II at Worcester in 1651. Walter Higgs (who died in 1698) is recorded on his tombstone as Commissioned Officer of Charles I. Possible evidence of Royalist sympathies in Charlton at the period is the inscription on church bells of 1630 and also 1647 "Fear God, Honour the King". Further evidence is needed, however, to complete the picture: research continues.

(1) See G. Hart A History of Cheltenham (1965) pp.105-6.

M. G. Greet



Vaux' stone



Higgs' inscription

9. MEMORIES OF SANDY LANE

I lived in WOODEND, Sandy Lane, from 1917-1922, and then in WINDYBRAKE from 1922-1946.

Across the lane from Windybrake was a field of pasture, 13 acres, the site of the present Greatfield Drive. My father bought this land and erected the houses on the present frontage of Greenhills Road. The remainder he left as pasture, and 60 allotments rented by tenants. Through the land, dividing it, ran a right of way that led to Daisy Bank and Leckhampton Hill. The railway was crossed by an iron bridge. Beyond the bridge was a large cornfield. This land went out of cultivation when a light railway was driven through it to bring lime from the quarries on the hill. This railway joined the main line at Charlton Kings station, there being a level crossing across Sandy Lane just before the golf links, which were developed about this time. Later, when the quarry closed down, a firm making tarmac occupied a portion of the field. This did not last long and it became a sand and gravel pit. After this was worked out, the waste land became overgrown by shrubs and trees and deep hollows filled with water. There was a sizeable island, inhabited by coots and mallard ducks and an occasional swan. Sand martens built there and snipe visited it. The whole of Sandy Lane area was a good place for birds. I saw a red-backed shrike there, and woodpeckers were frequent. The first migrants usually appeared in a little withy bed by the level crossing. With the increasing number of houses in Sandy Lane, hedges disappeared and the birds retreated.

The greatest change, however, was caused by the sale of Bafford Farm and its four or five fields. Houses on the Bafford estate now cover these. The stream with its willows and early bluebells is still there but confined between garden banks; and the hedges where I once found a long-tailed tit's nest are replaced by fences round tidy gardens.

By the beginning of the 1939 war, the number of houses in the Lane had increased considerably and we were asked to form a fire-fighting team under the A.R.P. This was not easy, as most of the inhabitants were elderly, many of them widows, and there were no able-bodied men at all. However, we were spurred on by the warning that in case of incendiary bombs, we could not expect any help with fires, as the congested areas of Cheltenham would have first consideration!

I distributed gas masks in the Lane and the Road and helped to fit them in a Hall in the village. There were "Heavy Duty" masks for the A.R.P. Wardens, such as the Army wore; a lighter and presumably less efficient type for civilians; and "Micky Mouse" decorated ones for the children. At first, however, there was nothing for infants, greatly to the distress of their mothers. They were not interested in masks for themselves if "there was nothing for baby". Later, long box-like cases were provided to take infants with an air pump operated by the mother from outside. All this was a very serious matter as we fully expected that gas would be used.

Our gardener, before he joined up, belonged to the Home Guard. I remember him asking us for silk stockings to make "Molotoff Cocktails". He was on night duty guarding the railway viaduct opposite Dowdeswell Reservoir. (This was later pulled down when the railway line was closed).

There was a pill-box, a cement construction by the bridge in Sandy Lane. These could be seen on most of the approach roads to Cheltenham. The idea was that the large fields of the Cotswold country between Cheltenham and Oxford would make ideal landing-ground for parachute troops.

In our two acres of land round Windybrake, we grew some vegetables for the British Restaurants and at one time had 40 rabbits, bred for food and fur. To keep these,

it was necessary to belong to a "Rabbit Club", which gave permits to buy bran and produced leaflets with much good advice. They told you how to feed your rabbits on a variety of wild plants. Many of our allotment-holder tenants were members. They often came to me to help them identify what to them had hitherto been merely "weeds".

Life was not very comfortable in those days; but there were compensations. Letters were delivered - and collected - three times a day, even in Sandy Lane; and there was a Sunday postbox clearance too. No petrol for a private car, but an hourly bus from the corner which would take you to the centre of Cheltenham for 6d (2½ new pennies!).

Eileen Ivelaw-Chapman

10. MORE RECOLLECTIONS OF THE REVD. EDGAR NEALE

(1) From St.Clair Welch

I was extremely interested to read in Bulletin 10 various remembrances of Canon Neale by members of the choir and servers. Here are a couple of instances relative to his penetrating voice.

Although I was merely a Server at St. Mary's during the War years (1914-1918), my brother Charlie who was some three years older was a member of the Church Choir, and it would have been about 1909 or 1910 that the Vicar took the choir for a day's outing to Bournemouth, I think, for their summer treat. Most of the boys had a bathe, when suddenly Wilfred Fry, son of 'Carlo' Fry, seemed to get into difficulties and was in grave danger of drowning. At first no one seemed to take any positive steps and the Vicar, beside himself with anxiety, kept booming out "Hold on, Wilfey, help is coming". Eventually a local boatman rowed out and brought him to the shore. The Revd. Neale rewarded him with a golden sovereign.

Another snippet I well remember occurred in July 1908, an elaborate Gloucestershire Historical Pageant held at Pittville, and Marle Hill House was disguised as a medieval castle. My mother and I were roped in as Puritans. The Vicar was asked to take the part of the Bishop of Gloucester but he declined owing to pressure of work and my Father agreed to take his place. On the evening of the full dress rehearsal, he very self-consciously walked up from Pittville and on reaching the Lyefield Road/Cirencester Road crossroads, the Revd. Neale came down the steps of the Vicarage and seeing my Father boomed out "Good evening my Lord Bishop", which must have been heard in Ryeworth and Ham. My Father was not a flamboyant character; he had been subject to the stares of the people between Pittville and Charlton Kings; but this was the last straw, having occurred within a hundred yards of home.

(2) From J. Wilkins

At a mid-week choir practice when I was very young, the Vicar who was very proud of his voice said and proved that he could hold a note for 40 beats, and when he finished he said "I don't know of any other men in the country who could equal that" but Harry Sly who was a choirboy at the time said "I know who could", to which the Vicar said "Who is this person?" and Harry said "Ah, never mind, I know who could" - this went on for a little while until the Vicar became exasperated and said "I demand that you tell me", and eventually Harry said "Our cat". All the boys burst out laughing, but the Vicar nearly exploded. I thought he would have a fit. Eventually everything simmered down and choir practice continued.

I remember being at practice on another evening when we heard that some boys

had been mixed up in an explosion in that little lane that starts near the Lych Gate in the churchyard and joins Horsefair Street. This is the story. There was a family named Jones who lived in Lyefield Road East, there were three boys (I was friendly with the youngest one); anyway, the eldest one worked for Mr. Green, the gunsmith in Cheltenham High Street, from whom he acquired some 12 bore cartridges, which in turn were purloined by the second boy, who broke them open to extract the gunpowder, and with a few of his friends went down the lane I have mentioned where he built a little fire and sprinkled the gunpowder on it. It didn't blow up to his satisfaction, so he got down on his knees and blew it, whereupon the fire exploded in his face. (We didn't know any of this or we would probably have been there!). Anyway he wasn't hurt badly but I saw him taken to hospital with his face all bandaged up; it made me feel a bit queer at the time.

11. THE GIRL WITH THE BONNIE BROWN HAIR

I was born at Ham Cottage and my late father was coachman to the Revd. Lance at Ham House; indeed I spent many happy hours in the stables. I had tea with the Revd. Lance on many occasions. When I was four years old, I had waist-long hair which the Revd. greatly admired; and he took me into Cheltenham, in an open carriage drawn by two grey horses driven by my father, to his shop (which was next to Boots) and bought me a yard of every coloured ribbon in the shop, as he said "to tie up my Bonnie Brown Hair".

When I went to school at Charlton Kings, the Infants' Head was Mrs. Roberts who was very kind to us little ones and always made sure that we were well wrapped up in the winter. We had slates to write on and we had to have some rag pinned to our pinafores in case we made a mistake and could rub it out. When we were seven we went on to the big girls' school which was headed by Miss Lucy Daniels. She was very kind too.

Then there was Miss "Dinky" Ford who taught us history; and Canon Neale used to come in to hear our prayers. It was a very cosy school with open coal fires.

The missionary boxes were taken round by the Misses Brown who used to live in a detached house at the far end of Hearne Road facing the main London Road. I used to go with my grandmother to the little Mission Church in Ham Lane and about nine choir boys used to come every Sunday evening, weather permitting; and the Misses Brown would be there with the BOXES. I was allowed one penny to put in the Box and often wished I could keep it!

The Misses Brown were very kind and one Christmas they came with a pink doll's cot and baby doll for me and a blue one for my sister.

I wonder if anyone else remembers the Misses Hays that used to live in Cirencester Road. They were very good to the very poor people and they kept a "Baby Bag" which they used to loan to poor people when they had a new baby. It had to be returned after six weeks.

Then there was Miss Horne's drapery shop in Church Street which had three steps up to the door, with a bell on the door which was very loud! She had a scrubbed wooden counter, and when I was nine I bought a pinafore for my baby brother for 1s 11³/₄d and a packet of pins as change. It had lace on it and was threaded with red ribbon. That was 70 years ago!

There was a creche in Copt Elm Road close to the church which was run by two SRN and they minded babies for 6d a day. They took them in at nine and they had to be collected at half past four. They were indeed a great help to working mothers.

The Mitchell family (Mitchell and Butlers the brewers) who lived at The Glenfall

were very wealthy with, I believe, two or three daughters and one son. They had a huge Daimler car (about the only one to be seen in Ham) and it was used to take the daughters to the Ladies' College. They had a very big staff.

When I was small I used to go with my grandmother every Friday to collect her pension from the Post Office which was in London Road at the top of Overbury Street. She used to wear a long Black cape and a Black bonnet with white violets at the side, fastened with long Black satin Ribbon; and little Black Boots lined with scarlet felt. When I stayed with her in the winter, she used to get up early and bake a big potato to put in my muff to keep my hands warm to go to school. It was quite a long way for me to walk, down through Ledmores and round Hearne Road to the Infants School.

I well remember Mr. Attwood's shop in Church Street, he sold everything, boots and shoes, loose black treacle, baths and buckets, pins and needles, lucky bags, balloons, sherbet daps, pink and yellow kali, everlasting strip, all jumbled up together. It was a lovely shop!

One of the Hamletts kept a coal yard in Church Street, as well as being an undertaker; and another Hamlett kept a select laundry in Lyefield Road for the care of ladies' fine linen.

Marjorie Hamlett (formerly Herbert)

12. A CHARLTON CHILDHOOD

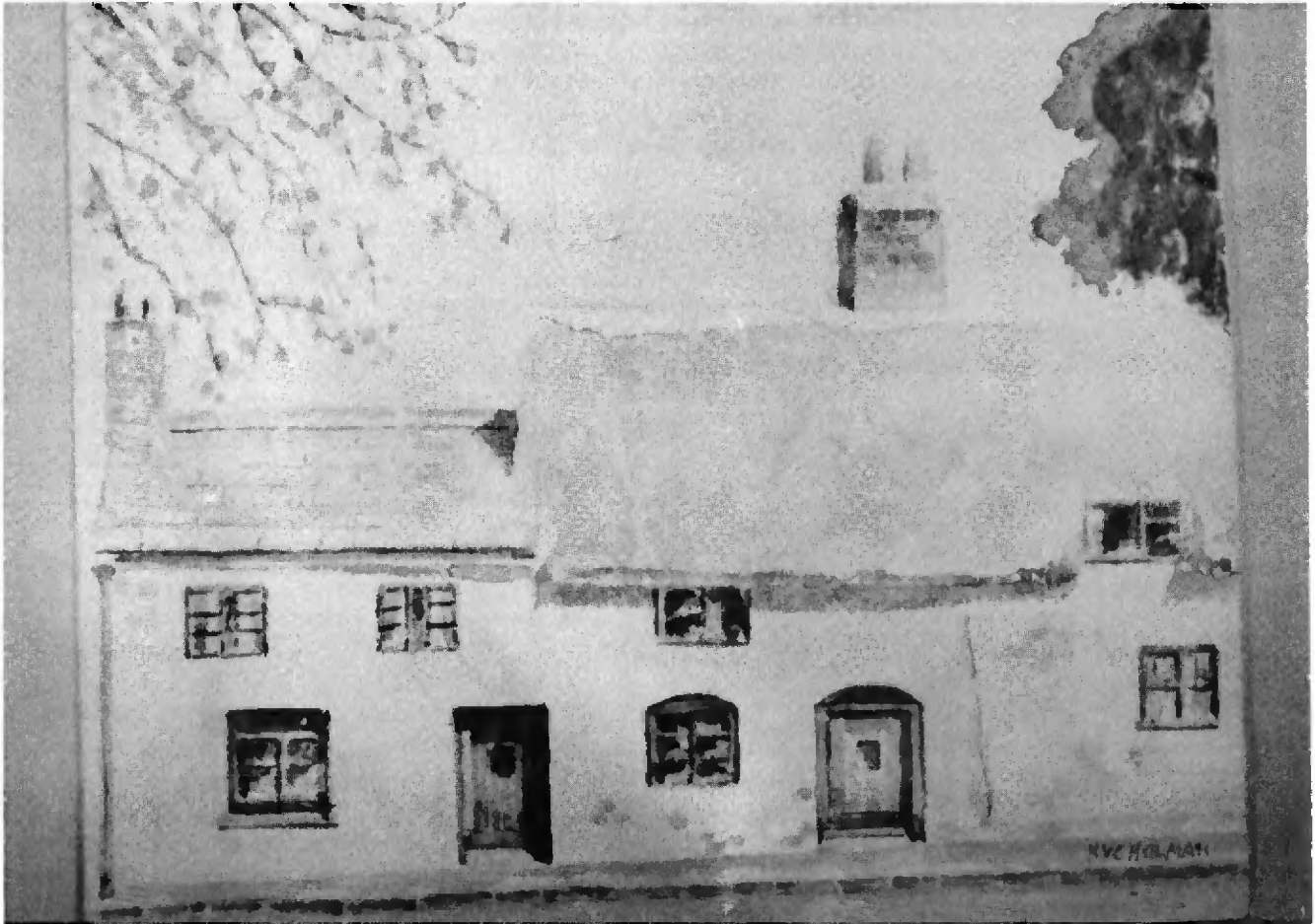
I was born in No.3 Hamletts Yard. My birth certificate says I was born on 1st October 1908 and so does the baptism register at St. Mary's where I was christened on 15th November 1908; but my mother and my aunts insist I was really born in 1907, only my birth wasn't registered for a year! So I just don't know how old I am!

Mother was a laundress and worked in a laundry where the Brotherhood Hall now stands - most of that land was the drying ground. She used to take me to the creche in Copt Elm Road and then go to work; and I went to school when I was three. Miss Roberts taught the Infants - she lived in one of the houses between the Co-op and the Police Station. My Aunt Bessie Palmer lived in Lyefield Terrace and had her own laundry behind the house, where she was helped by her sister Mrs. Handy who lived in Cudnall.

By the time I went to school, we had moved to the thatched cottage in School Road, opposite Lyefield Road East - we lived in the middle cottage, with Mrs. Penn on one side and the Neathers on the other. Our land went down to the stream and there was nothing between us and Murray Linder at The Knapp. Early one morning, Mother said "Come and see, there's a thrush breaking a snail outside"; but when we went out, it wasn't a thrush, it was the crackling of burning timbers! Murray Linder had just got all his apple crop in and a fire had broken out in the shed where he stored them. He lost the lot.

Our cottage had one big room, with windows front and back, a huge fireplace in the back wall nearly opposite the door and a huge oval cauldron hanging on chains over the fire. Mother would send my brother Frank with a shilling and tell him to ask Mr. Franklin the butcher in London Road for six pennyworth of pieces and a piece of suet to make dumplings, and then go next door to Walker's for two pennyworth of potherbs and a 2d. bag of flour, and that was dinner for the family and he'd bring home 2d change! There were seven of us, Maud, Edie, Frank, Florie, myself, Cyril and Clive; and that cottage only had two bedrooms. At the back, there was a bit of ground done criss-cross with hard black bricks; and beside the privies for our house and Mrs. Penn's there was a shed with a boiler and copper for the washing.

We got such a lot of maybugs in that cottage - our terrier used to sit on the sofa and snap them with his teeth! Once father found a wasps' nest in the bank going down to Spring Bottom - he killed the wasps with cyanide on a stick, and next day dug the nest out for us to take a piece to school for the "museum" (a glass case). But the cyanide hadn't killed the wasp grubs and presently they all hatched! This caused quite a bit of panic, as the "piece" held in fact the grubs of Queen wasps.



Next to Mrs. Penn, beyond the gap, lived Mr. Drew who had strawberries in his garden. Three of us, the youngest Neather girl, Marcella Penn and myself, got in and helped ourselves to such a lot, we were all in bed next day; and when Mr. Drew came round to each of the families concerned with a punnet of strawberries, we couldn't touch one! The policeman then was "Dapper" Day - I've had many a cut with his cane across my backside for scrumping, and he'd always say "Now go home and tell your father I gave you that cut and he'll give you another one!".

It was at that cottage that my father and uncle made the 22 foot replica of the Terra Nova for the Carnival procession on 4th August 1914 - I wrote about that in "The Day War Broke Out" in the Echo of 28th March.

Near the Merry Fellow lived two members of the local Fire Brigade, White and Evans. When Thirlestaine Hall, where John Player lived, was burnt down, the

Charlton Kings engine was called out as well as the town one, and we boys all went with it - we got there just in time to see the dome collapse.

The Salvation Army band used to play sometimes outside Attwood's shop. Mrs. White went into the Merry Fellow for beer while they were playing, and when she came out with her jug, one stout Salvation Army man caught her shoulder "Madam" he said "that's Devil's Drink! Throw it down the drain!" "Not so b....y likely" said Mrs. White "that cost me 4d! my old man'd kill me if I came back without his beer!"

Father worked for Brocks and did firework shows for them all round the country. He often brought home the extras for us! Out of season, when he was unemployed, he used to catch starlings and sell the wings to Ogdens in Winchcombe Street for 1d or 2d a pair - with the feathers they made flies for fishermen. Or he'd walk on stilts at the Lyddington Lake Galas. Father was one of the stalwarts of the Leckhampton Hill dispute. Mother thought she'd make some money by selling jam tarts to the crowds who went up the hill to see what was on, but the jam ran into the pastry and they all stuck together. So she cut them into slices, called them Klondyke Nuggets, and father sold the lot!

We used to enjoy watching the trams as they came down the pitch in Copt Elm Road and then put on speed up the hill to the Co-op, to swing round the corner into Lyefield Road; and many was the occasion when one jumped the rails and demolished the opposite wall.

There was a shop next door to the Co-op which sold special tops called Flying Dutchmen, painted round with red, white and green stripes - if you had one of those you were well away.

At the Chapel Sunday School, a farmer would lend a wagon, usually a hay tedder, for the smaller children, and we used to go to a meadow past the "clickclacks" by the Scout Hall in East End for games.

From School Road, we went on to live on Ham Pitch, next door to a boy called Tuke Taylor. There was a footpath from the top of Ham Pitch across the Ledmores to the London Road. Adams the dairyman lived at the bottom of Ham Pitch; and my grandparents Mr. and Mrs. G. Harris, lived on Ryeworth Bank, next door to the Hollands. From Ham, we moved into the town and I went to St. John's School, as we lived first at Woburn Lodge opposite Smith's woodyard, and then later in Fairview Road.

My brother Frank was apprentice "striker" at Addis's Forge off Bath Road. From there he went as apprentice into the Royal Flying Corps, I believe the first Charlton boy to go into the Corps. After the war, Father started as a scrap and general dealer in Fairview Road (only the third such dealer to be registered Government Scrap Merchant in Gloucestershire). He bought up Government scrap, including two "Caudron biplanes"; and Frank realised his idea of building a man-powered plane with them. He got a Lloyd pedal cycle, which had no chain, but worked with rollers meshed on to a shaft and the shaft meshed on to the back wheel - it was the back wheel which drove it. Frank turned the cycle backwards and fitted a racing sprocket in place of the rear roller unit and by chain on to a free wheel on the propellor shaft - then he could easily get 1,000 revolutions a minute, as the gearing was then 22 to 1. Harry Cox, Harry Towle, and an insurance agent named Underhill helped him. But the biplane wings weren't strong enough, not lifting their own weight. So for his third attempt, Frank built a cantilevered wing to form a monoplane. He tried his plane out on Cleeve Hill on Good Friday 1924. Some scouts gave him a tow and he felt the machine begin to lift. He threw off the tow rope and, pedalling hard, rose about nine feet from the ground.

He'd gone nearly 100 yards when he found he was heading for the quarry; and in trying to turn his machine, a gust of wind upset it and the wingtip was smashed on the ground. But that was the first man-powered plane to fly a distance of approximately 100 yards, as far as we know.

About 52 years ago, there was a rain of frogs, frogs as big as my finger nail or a little bigger, on the London Road by the Reservoir Inn. My wife and I were going to see an aunt who lived at Keeper's Lodge on the road above Dowdeswell viaduct. My wife had to keep brushing frogs off the pram hood and apron, and there were so many on the road that two cars skidded and went through the reservoir railings nearly into the water.

A. E. Palmer, Southampton

13. THE CRECHE

The Creche mentioned by Mrs. Hamlett and Mr. Palmer was started c.1905 in a house in Copt Elm Road. Mary Higgs (the last of the Higgs sisters) ran it in her own home. There was a Managing Committee - my mother Mrs. Trees was a member - and presumably the Creche was arranged and run by the parish. It was a great help to women who had to go out to work at the Charlton laundries. They paid a few pence a week. The babies were fed at midday and put down to sleep afterwards; and collected when the mothers finished work, perhaps about four.

Mother's connection with the Creche ceased when the family moved into the town to be nearer the College. But the institution continued at least until the end of the First War.

H. Bennett

14. A FAMILY OF CRAFTSMEN
THE CLEEVELYS OF CHARLTON KINGS, PART II

The story of the Cleevelys is taken up again with the children of JOHN, who died in 1628/9. I believe that he is the ancestor of all the Cleevelys now in Charlton.

/16/ JOHN presumably born about 1560, buried 23 February 1628/9 (aged about 69)
wife Joane, married 27 March 1585; buried 6 March 1630/1
son John, baptised 13 June 1585, buried 8 August 1587
son Henry, Baptised 14 November, buried 20 November 1586
daughter Joane, baptised 17 May 1588, buried 29 June 1596
son THOMAS, baptised 8 January 1591/2
daughter Margaret, baptised 13 December 1594

1553-7 are missing years, where folios have been torn out of the register. John's baptism may have been entered on them. But that would make him rather old to be the husbandman aged about 40 of Men and Armour; even if born in 1560, he must have been 48 in 1608. But he was tall and fit to be a pikeman, so perhaps his age was minimized by the compilers of the list or by himself. As a husbandman, he probably held land under Ashley manor, acquired either by his father after 1564, or by himself as a young man, or received with his wife Joane as her portion. This last seems the likeliest.

John and Joane were unlucky with children. Only one son and one daughter survived infancy.

/17/ THOMAS son of John and Joane

baptised 8 January 1591/2
wife Ann Jordan, married 7 March 1616/7, buried 29 August 1617
wife Jane Dowdeswell, married 21 October 1622, buried
13 August 1667
son Thomas, baptised 3 September 1623, buried 19 May 1673
son SAMUEL, baptised 30 October 1625, buried 23 January
1689/90
son NICHOLAS, baptised 7 September 1628, buried 11 January
1705/6
daughter Jane, baptised 23 January 1631/2, died spinster,
her brother Samuel's son Thomas was her heir in 1711
son John, baptised 24 October 1634, buried 2 December 1634

Thomas would have been 25 at the time of his first marriage and 30 at the time of his second. His wife Jane was the sister of Robert Dowdeswell who on 2 April 1638 granted a moiety of his customary lands held under Cheltenham manor to his wife Anne and then surrendered them to use of his daughter Jane and her heirs or in default to use of his sister Jane Cleevely and her heirs.¹ This remainder did not take effect.

Thomas Cleevely was in trouble in 1631 because he had taken two stray sheep valued at 6s out of the common pound for Cheltenham manor (in Horsefair Street). He was fined 8d.² Capture of strays was a privilege of Cheltenham which Ashley did not enjoy.

/18/ SAMUEL, 2nd son of Thomas and Jane

baptised 30 October 1625, buried 23 January 1689/90
wife Mary, buried 30 September 1655
wife Elizabeth Stock, married 5 March 1656/7, buried
28 December 1675
son SAMUEL, born 2 December 1657; (? married Judeth,
buried as Judeth Cleevely widow 19 April 1712); dead by 1711
son Robert, baptised 9 October 1659, buried 20 May 1678
daughter Mary, baptised 26 August 1663, buried 23 February
1689/90
daughter Elizabeth, baptised 1 July 1666, buried 12 February
1689/90
son THOMAS, baptised 19 March 1670/1, heir of aunt Jane 1711
daughter Sarah, baptised 7 December 1672

Samuel and his brother Nicholas were both excused hearth-tax in 1671, which shows that they were living in houses with only a kitchen fire to warm them.

/19/ NICHOLAS, 3rd son of Thomas and Jane

Nicholas was a Dowdeswell family name, and this may be why Nicholas Dowdeswell in his will of 16 November 1632 (GRO 1633/28) left 3 sheep to his namesake (? godson) Nicholas Cleevely. He was also "kinsman" to Robert Whithorne, buried 5 January 1680/1, who in his will of 1680 (GRO 1680/150) left 10s to Nicholas Cleevely senior and 20s to Nicholas Cleevely junior; I think the elder Nicholas must have married a Whithorne.

JOHN /16/ m. Joane 27 March 1585
 bur. 23 Feb 1628/9 bur 6 March 1630/1

John bp 13 June 1585 bur 8 Aug 1587	Henry bp 14 Nov, bur 20 Nov 1586	Joane bp 17 May 1589 bur 20 June 1586	THOMAS /17/ bp 9 Jan 1591/2 m(1) 7 Mch 1616/7 Ann Jordan bur 29 Aug 1617 m(2) 21 Oct 1617 Jane Dowdeswell bur 13 Aug 1667	Margaret bp 13 Dec 1594
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Thomas bp 3 Sept 1623 bur 19 May 1673 s.p.	SAMUEL /18/ bp 30 Oct 1625 bur 23 Jan 1689/90 m(1) Mary bur 30 Sept 1655 m(2) 5 March 1656/7 Elizabeth Stock bur 28 Dec 1675	NICHOLAS /19/ bp 7 Sept 1628 bur 11 Jan 1705/6 m Eleanor (Whithorne) bur 16 Sept 1680	Jane bp 23 Jan 1631/2 died c.1711 spinster Brother Samuel's son Thomas her heir
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Samuel born 2 Dec 1657 died bef 1711 s.p. (Judeth wo bur 19 April 1712)	Robert bp 9 Oct 1659 bur 20 May 1678	Mary bp 26 Aug 1663 bur 23 Feb 1689/90	Elizabeth bp 1 July 1668 bur 12 Feb 1689/90	THOMAS/23/ bp 19 March 1670/1 m C'ham 1701 Sarah Kent she m(2) Wm. Billings	Sarah bp 7 Dec 1672
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Elizabeth bp 9 Aug 1702, wo 1778; m -Lea	Sarah bp 5 Nov 1707	Thomas bp 21 Nov 1709 bur 14 Nov 1710	JOHN/40/ bp 30 Oct 1711 bur 25 March 1783 m. Mary, bur 5 Oct 1753	Judeth bp 1 Nov 1714	William bp 22 May, bur 1717	THOMAS/24/ bp 4 Sept 1718 bur 9 March 1798 m. 4 Apr 1783 Ann Lea, bur 15 March 1788	Edith bp 7 Feb 1720/1 bur 23 Aug 1770 m. 12 Feb 1744/5 Thos. Hall
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NICHOLAS /20/ born 5 Dec 1657 bur 17 Nov 1727 m(1) Grace bur 7 Sept 1671 m(2) 29 Dec 1683 Eliz. Potlugg bur 6 April 1708 m(3) 14 Aug 1715 Frances Thorn wo m(4)? 15 Sept 1723 Mary Acton	FRANCIS /21/ bp 3 March 1660/1 bur 22 March 1720/1 m 24 April 1688 Sarah Fisher	Hannah bp 20 Dec 1663	Elinor bp 17 Oct 1666	William & John /22/ bp 1 June 1669 Wm. bur 12 July 1670 John d c.1708
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Sarah bp 20 Feb 1688/9 ?bur sp 28 Dec 1733	Elizabeth & Hester bp 19 July 1691 Hester bur 2 Nov 1691
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NICHOLAS baptised 7 September 1628, buried 11 January 1705/6
(aged 78)
wife Eleanor, married - , buried 16 September 1680
son NICHOLAS born 5 December 1657, buried 17 November 1727
(aged 70)
son FRANCIS, baptised 3 March 1660/1, buried 22 March 1720/1
(aged 60)
daughter Hannah, baptised 20 December 1663
daughter Elinor, baptised 17 October 1666
sons William and JOHN, baptised 1 June 1669. William buried
12 July 1670

Nicholas Cleevely lived next door to John Jones with whom he had a dispute
in 1692 respecting the boundary of their gardens.³

/20/ NICHOLAS, eldest son of Nicholas and Eleanor

born 5 December 1657, buried 17 November 1727
wife Grace, married - , buried 7 September 1671
wife Elizabeth Potlugg, married 29 December 1683, buried
6 April 1708
wife Frances Thorn widow, married 14 August 1715
? wife Mary Acton, married 15 September 1723

The second Nicholas was married at least three, perhaps four times. He had
no child by any wife, and there does not seem to have been any other
Nicholas in Charlton who could have become the husband of Mary Acton in 1723
This is the Nicholas who received a 20s legacy from Robert Whithorne in 1680
He became a builder, head of the firm "Nicholas Cleevely and Brothers" who
was paid for work on the Church house⁴ in 1697, again in 1705, and yet again
in 1709 when his bill came to 14s. The brothers who worked with him must
have been Francis and John; his cousin Thomas /23/ son of Samuel /18/ and
his more distant connection William /13/ son of Henry may have worked under
him. In their day, most Charlton houses were still timber-framed (like
Church House), and alterations or rebuilding involved woodwork rather than
bricklaying. Only the wealthy like John Prinn could afford to cover their
timber-frame houses with a brick skin, as he was doing about this time at
New Court and Forden House.

Nicholas Cleevely had no children and his brother Francis only daughters,
while their brother John appears not to have married at all, so the family
firm was probably carried on after Nicholas's death in 1727 by the widow
and sons of Thomas /23/.

/21/ FRANCIS, second son of Nicholas and Eleanor

baptised 3 March 1660/1, buried 22 March 1720/1
wife Sarah Fisher, married 24 April 1688
daughter Sarah, baptised 20 February 1688/9; buried as
spinster 28 December 1733
daughters Elizabeth and Hester, baptised 19 July 1691;
Hester buried 2 November 1691

/22/ JOHN, twin son of Nicholas and Eleanor

baptised 1 June 1669; alive till 1708

He seems to be the John Cleevely who paid rent to the parish for a house
called "Griffins" in 1696, and continued to pay rent for a parish garden
till 1708.

/23/ THOMAS, son of Samuel and Elizabeth, carpenter

baptised 19 March 1670/1, buried 13 November 1725
inherited from aunt Jane 1711
wife Sarah Kent married in Cheltenham 1701; she married²
15 October 1728 William Billings of Gloucester
daughter Elizabeth, baptised 9 August 1702, married - Lea
daughter Sarah, baptised 5 November 1707
son Thomas, baptised 21 November 1709, buried 14 November 1710
son JOHN, baptised 30 October 1711, buried 25 March 1783
daughter Judeth, baptised 1 November 1714
son William, baptised 22 May, buried 24 May 1717
son THOMAS, baptised 4 September 1718
daughter Edith, baptised 7 February 1720/1, married 12 February
1744/5 Thomas Hall; buried 23 August 1770

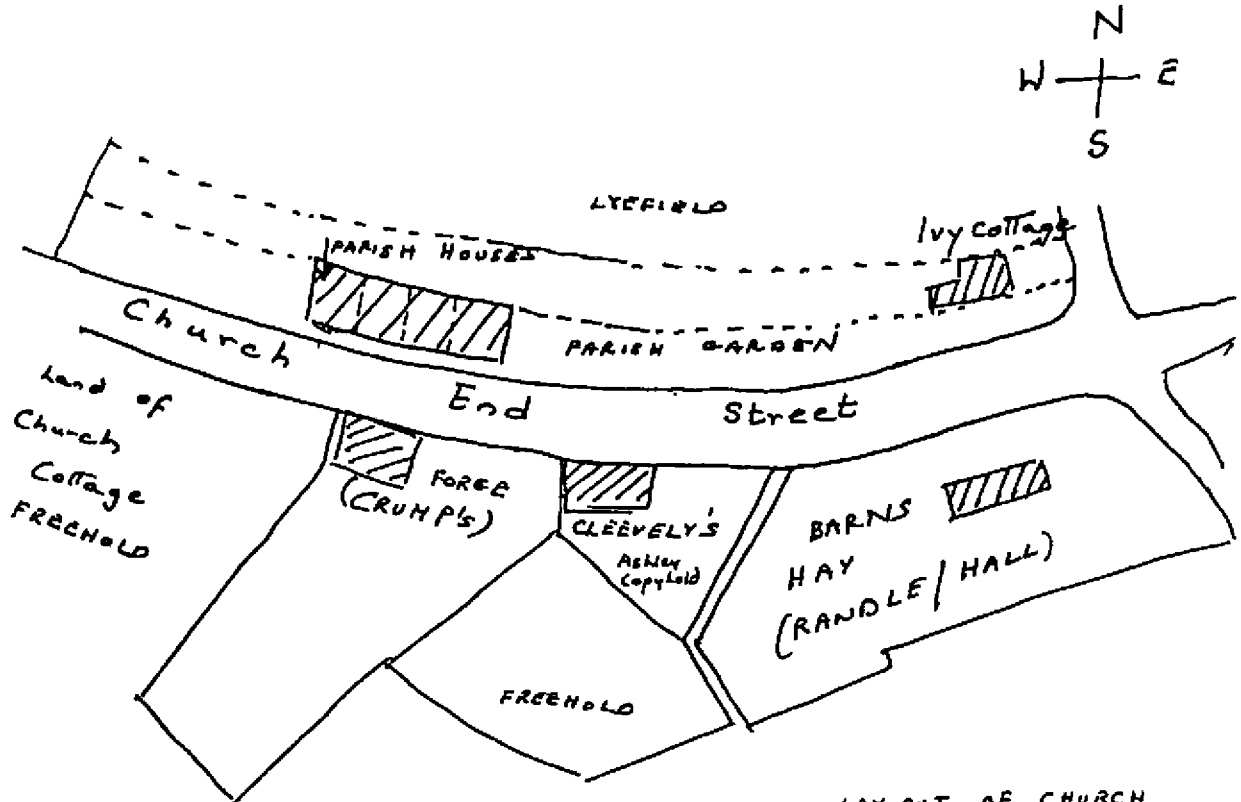
By trade, Thomas was a carpenter, as we know from his inventory. But he also had some land. As son and heir of Samuel Cleevely who was kinsman and heir of Jane Cleevely deceased, he inherited field land in Naunton and a parcel of garden near Hempcroft field in 1711.⁵ He may also have come into a little money. At all events, in the following year, he was able to put down cash to buy a home for himself and his wife Sarah.

He bought half an Ashley manor tenement in Church End Street (Church Street). The house had belonged to the Crump family who had the nearby forge in 1671. On 2 May 1712, Thomas paid £12 to Grace Crump, sole daughter and heir of Jane Crump widow deceased, for a moiety of the property.⁶ The other moiety was occupied by Mary Collins, who had the eastern part. The house stood about half way between the present day Forge Cottage and Baptist Church, just where the slope leads up to the Library.

We may guess that Thomas was not a robust man. He anticipated an early death. On 3 May 1723⁷ he surrendered the house to use of himself and his wife for their lives and after to the use of Thomas their younger son and his heirs - this would enable Sarah to bring up the boy (and at the same time bring up the still younger daughter Edith, though nothing was said about her). Thomas had already had to part with land. On 25 March 1724, he accepted £21 from John Prinn Esq. (of Forden House) for his parcel of land near Hencroft field, between a close of William Rook and the highway near the church (ie. Horsefair Street), and for all his field land in Naunton, the lands he had inherited from his aunt Jane in 1711.⁸ The same heriot, 2s 9d, was paid for them in 1711 and in 1724, so we may be sure he had sold everything. Perhaps he was already ill. He was buried on 13 November 1725, when his son Thomas was seven.

His goods were not appraised till 19 September 1726 (1726/77) - an unusually long interval between the death of a testator and valuation. As he had sold all his land, it is understandable that he had no implements of husbandry when he died.

"An Inventory of the Goods of Thomas Cleevely late of Charlton Regis in the County of Glouc: Carpenter decd Appraised the 19 day of September An 1726



LAY. OUT OF CHURCH STREET c. 1700-1750

	£	s	d
Imprimis his Purse and Wearing Apparrell	1	0	0
Item			
In the Kitchen two Kettles two potts and some other Small brass Vessels twelve dishes of pewter and some small pewter things a Skimmer & ladle	3	1	0
Item			
In the Hall a Table board & Frame six old chairs	-	8	0
In three Chambers three beds & bedsteads and Healing to them all	4	0	0
Three Chests three Coffers six Chairs	-	10	0
Six pairs of sheets some table linning & some other odd linning	2	10	0
Item			
In the Shop a parcell of Carpenters Tools	1	2	6
Item			
Without Doors a Parcell of wood a ladder & some other Lumber	-	15	0
Item			
All other goods unnamed with & without the house	-	12	0
	13	18	6
Appraised the Day & year above written			
Sam ¹¹ Cooper			
Sam ¹¹ Sloper"			

This was a comfortable home, according to the standards of the day - a hall or living room, a separate kitchen, and three bedrooms, all sufficiently furnished. The family did not brew at home - there was no brewhouse and no brewing equipment. In the yard was a workshop, where Thomas kept a quantity of tools worth the fairly high figure of £1.2s.6d., which did not include his ladder. He did not have as much wood on the premises as his distant kinsman Henry in 1733, but the totals of their trade items come out much the same, Henry £2. 15s. 0d. and Thomas £2. 9s. 6d. In general terms, however, Thomas was better off and was living in a more modern style.

There was one child younger than Thomas the heir. This was Edith, baptised in 1721, who on 12 February 1744/5 married Thomas Hall. The Halls were an old Charlton family, tenants under Ashley in the 16th century. A Thomas and Margaret Hall had a son Thomas baptised 28 November 1720, but if he is our man, then his age as given on his tombstone (56) is wrong. The grave of Thomas and Edith Hall is just by the west way into the church, facing the railings: she died on 26 August 1770 and her husband on 11 May 1782. Later Halls lived in Church Street in an ancient messuage on the site of the present Baptist church, and were plumbers and glaziers.

Across the road from Thomas Cleevely's house was a parish house occupied by several poor families. It was described in 1700 as "a long rainge of houses --- at the East end of which said house there is a garden about a quarter of an Acre more or less, which Garden is now in possession of one Jno Cleevely".⁴ The parish land ran right down Church Street to Frigmary Lane (School Road) and altogether there was half an acre of it. John Cleevely paid 4s the half year for his quarter acre till 1708 and after that Mary Collins paid the same sum from 1709-1714. At Michaelmas 1714 Thomas Cleevely took over the garden and at Ladyday 1715 "Thomas Clevly for the Parish Garden at Churchend" began to pay 7s 6d, indicating that he now rented the whole half acre. He continued to pay this rent till 1726, the year of his death; and Widow Cleevely continued the payments till 1730. In 1731 William Billings took over the 7s 6d "for the Widow Cleevely now his wife". In fact, they had been married some time - William Billings of Gloucester married Sarah Cleevely on 15 October 1728. In 1735 he persuaded the parish that the land was over-valued - his rent was fixed at 13s a year, instead of 7s 6d for the half year.

When Widow Cleevely remarried in 1728, she presumably wanted a man to help to manage the family business, since her elder son John was still only 17. Billings may have been connected with the building trade (as later Billings have been) - if so, it would explain a Gloucester man settling in Charlton Kings. John and later his brother Thomas must have worked with him. Thomas we know was a carpenter like his father.

In 1766, the parish had to help William Billings to the extent of 10s and in that year he gave up the parish garden which his stepson John took over. William Billings was getting elderly and past digging, but he was not buried till 6 February 1774. His wife had predeceased him - she was buried 6 September 1767.

As the house in Church End had been settled on Thomas the younger son, it seems best to deal with him and his descendants next. They were the builders whose work can still be seen in Charlton Kings, at the Baptist Church, the old schools, and various houses. Their story will be continued in Bulletin 13.

M. Paget

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| (1) D 855 M 10 f.167 | (5) D 855 M 13 p.189 |
| (2) <u>ibid</u> f.53 | (6) D 109 original surrenders |
| (3) D 855 M 12 p.49 | 18 |
| (4) P.76a CH 1/1; <u>Bulletin</u> 6 p.43 | (7) D 855 M 14 P.217 |

15. CHARLTON RESEARCH: INFORMATION CONTRIBUTED
BY M. J. GREET

(1) Evidence for the status of Cheltenham parish church c.1162-4

A reference in the Cirencester Abbey Cartulary (Vol.II p.371, charter 412/443), speaks of the priests stationed by the abbey at Cheltenham as a "Chapter". In writing about the dispute over Leckhampton and its priest (who hoped to become independent of the mother church), the Archbishop of Canterbury addressed himself to the Archdeacon of Gloucester "et capitulo de Chiltenham". This may mean no more than that Canons from Cirencester while taking duty here had regular Chapter meetings as they would have done at home; or it may imply a recognition that before the rectory was granted by Henry I to the abbey, there had been a group ministry at Cheltenham whose members acted together as in some sort a body corporate. Even though Leckhampton church had acquired parochial status by 1162-4, it was adjudged to be under the mother church so far as related to payment of dues.

(2) Date of a medieval deed

Additional work has confirmed the date of c.1300 suggested in Bulletin 7 p.48 for the deed GRO D1876/1. Comparison of this with deeds in the Cirencester Abbey Cartulary has produced floruit dates for two witnesses of 1288 and c.1301-4.

(3) Hearth Taxes

For comparison with the 1671-2 figures, it is worth printing the total number of hearths in Cheltenham in 1662 (815 hearths) and 1664 (731 hearths). There seems to have been a reduction in the number of houses substantial enough to be taxed. (P.R.O. E179/205/35 f.138 and f.163).

(4) Land Tax 1710 (GRO D1337 X 2), from Victoria County History Vol.II

	£	s	d	Acreage
Cheltenham	228	1	0	4301 acres
Charlton	208	11	3	3499 acres
Leckhampton	94	4	0	
Swindon	53	9	0	
Arle	77	4	4	
Alston	46	13	0	
Westhall, Naunton, Sandford	59	1	8	
	<u>767</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	

(5) Thomas Robins: a Detail

Further to Bulletin 2 pp.6-7, a Thomas Robins, almost certainly the well-known painter, was one of the overseers of the poor in Charlton between April 1751 and April 1752. This shows that he was resident in Charlton. One William Robins (the name of the father of Thomas the painter) had been an overseer in 1730. (Parish book GRO P76 VE 2/1).

(6) A Charlton-born Bibliophile - Ernest Hartland

Ernest Hartland was one of the children of Nathaniel Hartland of Oaklands, now Whitefriars' School (See Bulletin 7 pp.17-34). After his death, his widow presented 9124 books to the County Library, which in 1972 published a catalogue of them, with this note about the man who had collected them.

"He was born about the year 1843 and graduated from Merton College, Oxford, with third class honours in Natural Sciences in 1866. He later became associated with Martyns of Cheltenham, the architectural specialists. He travelled widely, and when he went to Mexico he bought books about the Mayan civilizations. Similarly, when he went to Egypt, he gathered book material about the temples and monuments that he visited. He surrounded himself with books about Oxford and Gloucestershire. All the important local standard works had a place in his library. He was also interested in historical bibliography and acquired some specimens of the books issued by early printers, Aldus and Elzevier among them. His collection of herbals is especially noteworthy. It contains examples of the major European herbals, including the Grete Herball, the first one to be printed in English". The note ends "These [books] are an inspiration to all who love the art of bookmaking and its history".

Ernest Hartland's later home was Hardwicke Court near Chepstow. But his interest in book collecting suggests something about the intellectual climate in which he had been brought up.

(7) Finally, a Compliment!

B.A.L.H. Field Officer's Report 9/1982-11/1983, page 20 says Charlton Kings Local History Society "in Gloucestershire (formed 1978) publishes an impressive twice a year Research Bulletin". He then refers to our Parish Register plans.

THE GENEALOGIST'S LAMENT, or An Old Song Resung

Oh dear, which John can this John be?
Dear, dear, which John can this John be?
Oh dear, which John can this John be?
There are too many Johns I declare.

Is this John the father, the son, or the brother,
The uncle, the nephew? He's one or the other.
He can't be old grandad if Edith's his mother.
There are too many Johns I declare.

Now this John had three sons; each married a Mary.
How's that for a trap to ensnare the unwary?
For which is the girl to inherit the dairy?
There are too many Marys round here.

Oh send me a Siegfried, a Stephen, a Freddy,
Not Thomas or Walter, I've got them already.
With Gileses and Williams, they're two for a penny,
And all are related, I fear.

I'm getting short tempered, cross-eyed, and quite weary,
My head it is aching, my sight has gone bleary,
And I am no nearer to finding, I fear me,
Which John is the right John round here.

J. Paget