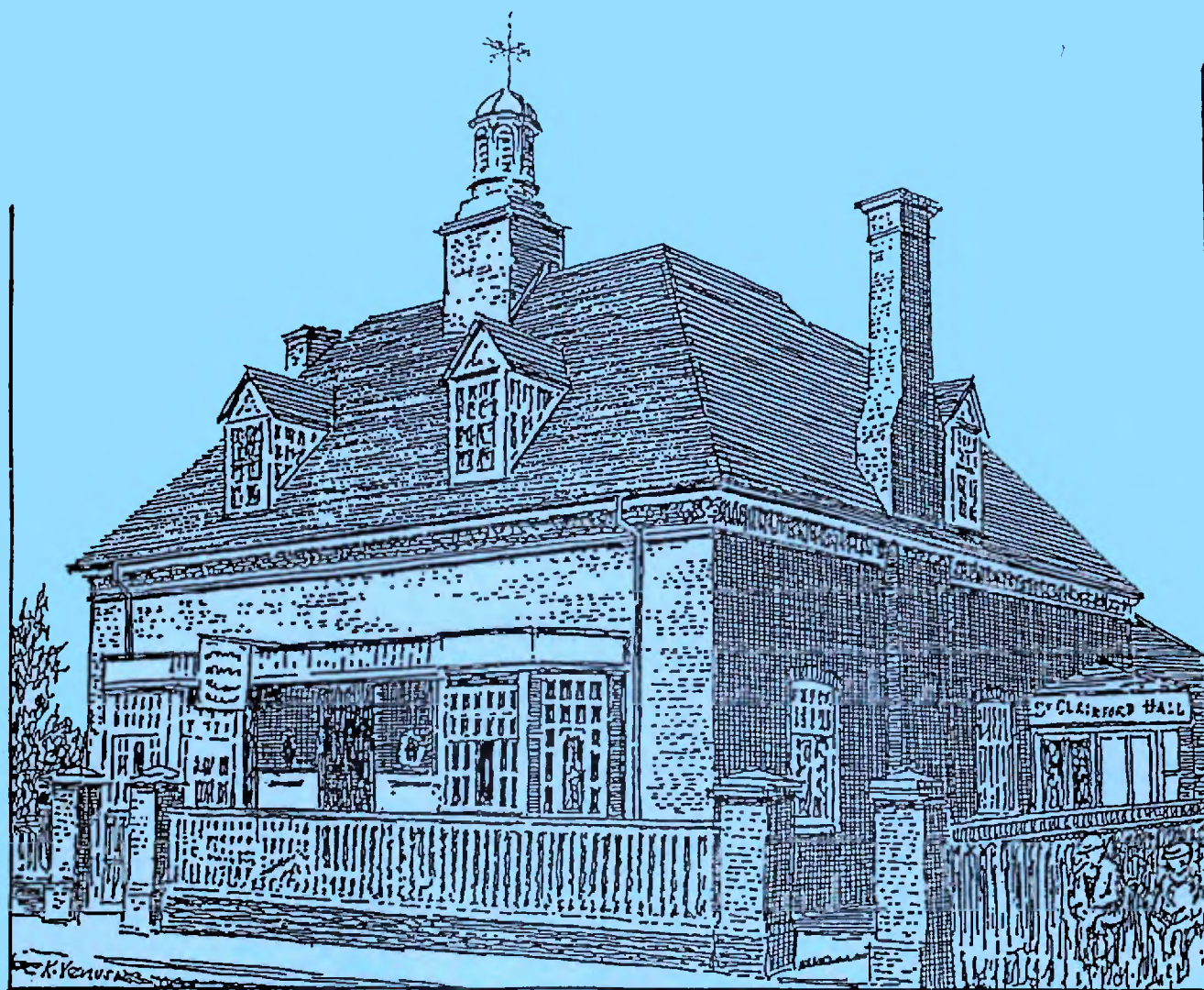


CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 19

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Membership of this Society

Membership forms are available from officers. Annual subscription £1, or £1.50 for a couple.

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

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Parish Register I 1538-1643 price £2; and Parish Register II 1634-1700 price £3 are available.

History of Charlton Kings, published by the County Library, post publication price £9.50, will be ready Easter 1988.

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redrawn by K. Venus

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1. CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



Please do not think that I have lost all sense of modesty if you read this story. I certainly do encroach into the script more often than I care, but what was I to do? Anyway, judge for yourself.

It really centres round a correspondence school I once ran in the village. It is not believable, really, is it? It wasn't widely advertised, the length of the course was short, and the number of students left much to be desired. I think it lasted about six months and the total of students on the roll was one! But what a student!

His name was a household word in much of the Anglo-Saxon speaking world. He was a black-and-white artist - a humorous artist of a high degree. His work was very popular and if I mention the caption of one of his drawings, you would know him instantly - "The Guardsman who dropped his Rifle on Parade". Yes, of course, it was H.M.BATEMAN. Now how did I become acquainted with H.M.B.?

At LILLEYBROOK we played a bit of golf with MR & MRS G.TYRER. GEORGE was on staff of the bank my wife used and we became quite friendly. After the war, George got a move into Devonshire and eventually was given the managership of NORTH TAWTON. They had a flat over the bank and occasionally I was invited down for a few day's golf.

During the war it had often been difficult to buy presents for one's friends, so one year I had given Marjorie an oil sketch I had done of the SLAD VALLEY. They liked it and it was hung above the mantelpiece in the dining room.

When George got to NORTH TAWTON, he discovered that H.M.B. was one of his customers. He lived in a village a few miles away and when he came into the bank, George often asked him up for a glass of sherry.

Once when I was down on a short holiday, I came in to lunch and I was surprised to hear George call out "I have had someone in here asking for you". I said "Never. Whoever could possibly have wanted me?" I knew no one in Devonshire except the friends I was staying with. So when he said it was H.M.Bateman, my curiosity deepened. What could he need of me? And then George explained. Bateman had always been interested in my oil sketch. George said he was drawn to it everytime he came into the dining room, and when George said that I was in North Tawton at the moment, he expressed a desire that we should meet. The result was that the next time H.M.B. came over to the bank, he was not only asked up for a glass of sherry but he was invited by Marjorie to lunch.

That was really how I met H.M.Bateman, a man whose draughtmanship I had admired for a long time.

Conversation at lunch was to me very interesting. We discussed art and more particularly humorous art. He professed a particular admiration for the draughtmanship of the early Punch artists, SAMBOURNE, RAVEN HILL, LEECH, PARTRIDGE, GREAVES, REYNOLDS, ROUNDTREE, and others. I agreed with the beauty of their draughtmanship but as humorous drawings I considered them inferior to his own. Theirs were captions with an illustration attached. With his, on the other hand, his drawings were a part of the joke. They could not be separated. This seemed to be a new point of view to him. I said I thought he was one of the vanguard of a new style in humorous art.

At the end of lunch, in thanking Marjorie for her hospitality, he invited us all over to his place for a glass of sherry, and that was decided. We set off the next Sunday for STAMFORD COURTNEY. It was a pleasant small Devonshire village. In a road pretty well in the centre was Bateman's cottage. Next to that was a pleasantly-built village 'Local' and next to that the rectory. I was surprised to find that the rector was the Revd. BURNABY, father of DAVE BURNABY of "CoOptimist" fame. I was the only one there who knew that Dave's wife had been my first model! She was then a small girl with hair down to her waist.

We drew up at Bateman's cottage and he came out to meet us.

It was a nice cottage standing back from the road with a small lawn in front. The cottage was what struck me most. To me it was an Aladdin's Cave of pictures. I remember it as one room only on the ground-floor and stairs leading up to a gallery. But it was the walls that fascinated me. They appeared to be completely clothed in pictures, originals in oil and water-colours. Nearly all the living painters that I knew of were represented - these pictures had been collected by a method of swapping. I remember

one, placed by the door, by CHARLES GUNNER, a Punch black-and-white artist. His pen drawings were valued as much as the works of many of the painters. My memory is now too short to recall all those numerous and interesting works, but I do remember that there was a portrait by TONKS and a local sketch by DUNLOP who had been commissioned to do some work down there.

I was getting so much entertainment from the gallery that my sherry was suffering and H.M.B. suggested that we finish our drinks in the garden. It was a pleasant little lawn cut off from the highway and as we sat around he asked me if I had heard of the "Wednesday Club"? Indeed I had, and he said that the black-and-white illustrators of the day met regularly on a Wednesday evening and drew, worked, and generally encouraged each other and in general enjoyed and improved their own work. When I asked "Well, what kind of work?" he disappeared to the back of the cottage and returned with an armful of passe-partout drawings, about quarter imperial in size. They were a joy to handle. Mostly his contributions had been caricatures of his fellow-members, and not always too kind, either!

It was then, I believe, that we began to talk of retirement. He said he was doing less and less professional work. I said that in a couple of terms I should finish teaching. Then he had a bright idea. He very much wished to paint in oils but he didn't know how to start it. If only we could take a painting holiday together! He suggested travelling down the west coast of FRANCE, south of BORDEAU, and as far south as the Pyrenees. It had much to recommend it, but when I returned there were a number of things I had planned to do, one of which was to take up a part-time secretaryship at Lilley Brook. On his part, he had no ties. He had no wife and a family that was grown up. He might just as easily live on the west coast of France as in a cottage in Devonshire.

No, that idea was not on but he still was very keen to try his hand with oils.

Eventually he had a solution. If he sent me some of his attempts in oils, would I be good enough to look over them. Make any criticisms and suggestions concerning them and then let him have my decision. Well, I didn't feel capable of criticising or appraising his work but to me he seemed so pitifully keen that I felt I must do what I could.

And that is how the correspondence course came about. I am never sure what he got out of it. I felt completely inadequate. But the collecting, packing, and posting became, I am sure on each side, rather a bore and gradually the motivation died away. The Art Correspondence Course faded out.

I never heard of Bateman doing the trip down Western France, but he seemed to have an itch to get out of England. Later he went to MALTA and eventually settled as so many English did in the island to the north of MALTA, GOZA. I never heard from him again. Eventually he died in GOZA and there he is buried.

G. Ryland

2. CHARLTON KINGS WORKING MEN'S CLUB AND INSTITUTE: 1885 - 1908

Note on Sources, Cut-off Date and Terminology.

Because the Institute's early records appear not to have survived, press has had to be used as the prime source of information for this study. A trawl through mainly the Cheltenham Free Press of the period produced some 140 items. Those dealing with major events, such as the opening of the club-house and its various extensions, were clearly written by journalists; but

the vast majority were contributed by the Institute's own officers. In deciding what to submit, they gave preference to subjects they considered most likely to put the Institute in a good light and attract new members. As a result there is very uneven coverage of the Institute's activities: many detailed programmes of concerts and fetes, for example, but scarcely a word on how the Institute was run and how its membership fluctuated. It would have taken up too much space to quote the reference of every press item used, but transcripts or summaries of all this material are available on index cards, which can be consulted on application to the Author.

Some information has been obtained from a surviving copy of an illustrated brochure on the Institute, written by Horace Edwards, its first Secretary. The booklet is undated but, from internal evidence, must have been issued between the opening of the rifle range (October 1904) and Mr. Edwards' resignation as Secretary (February 1908). It was a revision of an earlier document, copies of which were distributed to a concert audience in March 1899. The omission of the date was probably deliberate, it being the intention, as with town guides, to use up one complete print-run before ordering another. Information derived from this source is either specifically identified or attributed to "the mid-1900s".

A few facts from Kelly's Directories of Gloucestershire have also been included and are identified. Like the bulk of the press items, they too would have been contributed by officers of the Institute.

"The First Century" by George Tremlett (1962) is the source of background information on the Working Men's Club movement.

For convenience, the early history of the Institute has been taken up to 1908, when Horace Edwards retired as Secretary, but the amount of information obtainable from press sources tails off badly from about 1900.

Whenever, as in this note, the full title is not quoted, "Institute" has been used rather than "Club" in accordance with the usual practice of the time.

I. Founding and Acquisition of Permanent Building

Founding

During 1885 the working men of Charlton Kings somehow let it be known that they would like to have a place where they could meet together for social and recreational purposes as well as for instruction. They may well have found the existing British Workman Club (described in Bulletin 15) too restricting. Their aspirations brought a sympathetic response from the local gentry and businessmen, who offered to help with fund-raising and advice but insisted that the responsibility for management should eventually be assumed by the working men themselves. In December 1885, at a public meeting called by the Vicar, Rev. T. Moore, a Working Men's Club and Institute was formed, and at a General Meeting held shortly afterwards the following officers were elected: as President, Mr. R.V. Vassar-Smith, tenant of Charlton Park and Conservative Mayor of Gloucester; as Treasurer, Capt. H.G. Willis JP; and, as Secretary, Horace Edwards, who ran a newsagent's and bookseller's business in Cheltenham but who lived in Charlton Kings and was already prominent in parish affairs. A substantial number of men enrolled as members, and part of Ruby House, Cudnall Street, was rented as temporary headquarters. Nothing is known of the facilities provided there, but the accommodation was described at various times as unsuitable, inadequate and inconvenient.

Fund-raising

An intensive programme of year-round fund-raising was immediately instituted to finance the building of a clubhouse. During the winters of 1885/6 and 1886/7 series of well-attended popular entertainments were held in the Lyefield schoolroom, and during the summers fetes and garden parties were arranged at different venues at roughly monthly intervals. Receipts were often disappointingly small; a fete at the Grange in July 1886, for example, realised less than £8, despite an attendance of around 500 people. Even the well-advertised "Monstre Fete and Athletic Sports", held at Ryeworth Farm on Whit Monday 1887, had to compete with similar events in Cheltenham, and the cost of providing "seven hours of fun and amusement for 6d", including a marionette show and dancing to a quadrille band, precluded the making of a substantial profit.

These local fund-raising efforts may have been useful in keeping the Institute project in the forefront of the villagers' minds, but they had little impact on the Building Fund, which grew only very slowly. In fact, when the opportunity arose in 1887 to buy the Institute's present site opposite the Church from the Trustees of Cooper's Charity, the balance-in-hand was barely enough to cover the purchase price (variously given as £120 and £150).

During the early part of 1887 it was hoped that some of money being raised locally to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee would be allocated to the Building Fund. But in the event Capt. Willis decided that it would not be right to press for this, because a Working Men's Club did not meet the Jubilee Committee's criterion that the selected projects should benefit all the parishioners.

At this critical juncture Capt. St.Clair St.Clair-Ford came to the rescue. Although a native of Charlton Kings, he was now living in Cheltenham after an Army career as an administrator in India, where he is credited with having transformed the town of Larkhana into a "pleasure garden". After taking early retirement on health grounds, he had devoted his energies and resources to philanthropy and had, in particular, become the local expert in organising what the Cheltenham Free Press called "that fertile source of revenue to the flagging cause - the bazaar. To secure his co-operation means certain success". How his co-operation was obtained in the present case is now known, but he immediately made two proposals, which the Committee were only too grateful to accept. First he made it clear that he was not impressed by the plans for a "plain, substantial" clubhouse, which the Committee had put on display at the 1886 August Bank Holiday Fete in Charlton Park. He had plans for a more elaborate building drawn up by the Cheltenham architects Middleton, Prothero and Phillott and offered to pay the difference in cost between the two schemes. Second, and more important, he volunteered to take over the task of fund-raising. His main money-spinners were two costume bazaars, held in the Montpellier Rotunda.

The first, held on 8, 9 and 10 November 1887, was advertised as "A Grand International Peasants' Fair", and the Looker-On described it as the "Event of the Week in the upper tiers of Cheltenham Society". The official opening was performed by Mr. J.T. Agg-Gardner MP and the Mayors of Cheltenham and Gloucester attended with their Mace and Sword Bearers. The dozen stalls of goods for sale were presided over by ladies dressed in different national costumes. To entertain, there were Pollock's Band, a theatre company, tableaux vivants and a representation of the discovery of Cheltenham Waters. 1,200 people attended on the third (cheapest) day, and the reported profit was £500. The second bazaar must have raised £400, for Captain St. Clair-Ford handed over £900 in all. This staggering amount enabled the building of the clubhouse to be put in hand at once.

Building of Clubhouse

On 19 May 1888 the foundation stone of Capt. St.Clair-Ford's "grander" building was laid, "with all the pomp and circumstance of flags and bunting, awnings and Venetian poles, evergreen festoons and the ringing of bells". A collection from the company of preponderantly military and naval gentlemen present brought the total of the Captain's fund-raising efforts to date to £1,000. A grateful Institute presented him with an illuminated address and a marble inkstand. He reciprocated with a portrait of himself, which still hangs in the vestibule of the clubhouse.

Building operations (by Messrs. William Jones of Gloucester, who had built Dean Close School in 1886) lasted some six months, and the clubhouse was officially opened on 1 December 1888. It was constructed of brick, and the rather fussy exterior included "gables, dormer lights and turret, ornamented eaves cove and bow windows of many panes". The Cheltenham monumental mason H.H. Martyn, who later founded the famous firm of architectural sculptors and decorators that bore his name, donated the (still remaining) "composition ornament around the cove" and a marble panel inscribed "United We Stand" for one side of the main entrance. Of working class origins himself, he had lodged for a time during his apprenticeship (c.1857) at a Working Men's Institute in Worcester and, after moving to Cheltenham, had been a co-founder of the local Working Men's College. According to the Treasurer, the cost of the building, fittings and furnishings (but excluding the site) was £1,530. A debt of £200 remained, and once again Capt. St. Clair-Ford organised a collection from those attending the opening ceremony, saying that, "if the (Training College) band would play a merry tune, he was quite sure the sovereigns would be seen dancing on the plate".

II. Original Aims, Facilities and Functions

Aims

The declared aim of the Institute was "to afford members the means of social intercourse, mutual helpfulness, mental and moral improvement, rational recreation and good fellowship". This high-flown language was clearly taken from a model constitution, for the Cheltenham Working Men's Club, founded in 1902, used as its "motto" the same formulation, except that "mental and moral improvement" and "good fellowship" were omitted. Horace Edwards fervently believed that, "in this age of advancement and competition", "it is the duty of every man to use every means at his command to improve his social position, increase his knowledge and cultivate his mind". He saw the Institute as the provider of some of these means of advancement.

Although the facilities offered by the Institute were expected to be of most benefit to the artisan class, and despite the term "working men" in the title, the invitation to join was addressed to men over 18 "of all classes". Although the extent to which the various classes responded cannot be gauged, the illustration of the reading room/library in Horace Edwards' brochure shows three distinct types of dress. It was also the intention from the outset to involve members' families and indeed the whole community in the Institute's activities.

The Institute was declared to be unsectarian and non-political. But in the early years doubts were expressed in the village as to whether the Institute was genuinely non-political. In February 1890, Lieut.General Sir Henry Norman CB, when acting as Chairman at a Saturday concert, referred to allegations that it was a political club - "and what was worse, a Liberal Club". He suggested that the fact that he, "a good old Tory", was in the chair

ought to be enough "to remove the erroneous impression which had got abroad". It is possible that Capt. St.Clair-Ford's well-known "earnest Liberalism" had given offence to some, but the Institute bore no resemblance to the avowedly political Working Men's Clubs, whose chief raison d'etre was to propagate the party line.

Affiliation

It seems always to have been the intention of the founders that the Institute should be affiliated to a national organisation. The main benefits of this would have been financial (by way of grants) and advisory (especially on administrative and legal matters). There is some confusion, however, about which national body was involved. In February 1887 a Mr. J. Corbett of Manchester had visited to lecture on "The Home Influence of Working Men's Clubs" and to outline the history of the movement. He was described in the press account of the meeting as "the chief secretary of the Working Men's Club Society". At the opening of the new clubhouse in December 1888 Capt. Willis announced that the Institute had affiliated to the Working Men's Club Association, whose rules it had adopted. (It had also been registered under the Friendly Societies Act, and its property vested in Trustees appointed according to the Act.) The validity of the titles "Society" and "Association" has not been established. By 1916, however, the Institute was affiliated to the Working Men's Club and Institute Union and has remained so ever since.

Management and Finance

Management of the Institute was in the hands of a Committee of 16, elected from the membership. Continuity was achieved by electing 8 at each half-yearly General Meeting - a common practice with Working Men's Clubs. Throughout the period covered by this study, however, the officers of the Institute continued to be prominent residents, and although they could theoretically have been outvoted on any issue, their advice seems rarely to have been questioned.

Subscriptions were set at 6d per month or 5/- per year for ordinary members and 10/6 per year for honorary members, and these rates remained unchanged until at least the mid 1900s. It is not known how large the membership was at the outset, and in fact the only total quoted in the press over the entire period was 160 in July 1899. Apart from subscriptions, revenue came from takings at social events and letting rooms in the clubhouse to both public organisations and private individuals, although it appears that some "worthy causes" were not charged.

Facilities

The accommodation provided in the new clubhouse comprised three rooms (now one) on the ground floor: a large games and smoking room (supplied with table games and decorated with pictures painted by Capt. St.Clair-Ford's youngest daughter, Ada), a reading room and library, and a comfortable bar (with attached kitchen); and on the upper floor a large assembly room, known as the St. Clair-Ford Hall. (The Cheltenham Free Press, while acknowledging the justness of honouring Capt. St.Clair-Ford in this way, found it "pretentious" to describe as a "hall" a "room, all angles, in the roof.")

Reading Room

The material provided in the reading room is known only from Horace Edward's brochure, but there is no reason to think that the situation would have been very different in 1888 from that in the mid-1900s. At the later date the provision consisted of 5 London dailies, the Birmingham Post, two evening and one weekly local papers and at least a dozen weekly or monthly magazines.

The reading room was reserved for women on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Members' wives and daughters (over 18) were admitted, and single members were allowed to lend their tickets to lady friends.

Library

At the ceremony of laying the foundation stone in May 1888 Horace Edwards had expressed the hope of "bringing together, in time, a library of, say, 2000 volumes, and so provide the parish with means of intellectual improvement which hitherto have been wholly lacking". By the time the Institute opened this aim had been achieved, mostly through gifts, and Mr. Edwards took pride in announcing that there were no "commentaries, meditations, sermons or school books" on the shelves. Fiction predominated, although there was also a reference section, which included a set of Brewster's Encyclopaedia given by Capt. St.Clair-Ford. At the opening ceremony, the new Vicar, Rev. W.J. Mayne, urged the working men of the parish "to endeavour to cultivate in themselves and foster in their children a love of books". For many years the Institute is believed to have provided the only library service in the village. Residents of Charlton Kings, as of other villages around Cheltenham, were not eligible to use the town's Public Library, which had opened in 1884, and the County Library Service did not begin to circulate boxes of books around the villages until 1917. Unfortunately, none of the press reports of the Institute's activities after 1888 mentions the library. Horace Edwards' brochure adds only that use of the library was free to members and that the Librarian in the mid-1900s was Mr. Palmer.

That it received a kind of official recognition is suggested by the fact that in July 1914 copies of pamphlets on the uses of gas in the home were distributed to the public through the Public Library in Cheltenham, the Leckhampton Free Reading Room and the "St.Clair-Ford Institute".

Sale of Beer

When the Institute opened, the "comfortable bar" was reported to provide "light refreshments". These were prepared by Mrs. Pearce, who was still in post in the mid-1900s, when her food was described in Mr. Edward's brochure as both good and cheap. By this time beer, though not spirits, was being sold in the bar. There is, unfortunately, no mention of beer in any press reports, and it is therefore impossible to establish whether it was sold from 1888 or some later date. Clubs affiliated to the Working Men's Club and Institute Union had been authorised to sell beer since 1865, but by no means all had taken advantage of this dispensation. Capt. St.Clair-Ford was well known as one of the founders of the Coffee Tavern Company and "a firm believer in total abstinence principles", and it might be considered unlikely that the sale of beer would have been sanctioned during his life-time (ie before 1896). Moreover, the Charlton Kings Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society met regularly at the Institute until at least 1897, and one of its staunchest supporters was General William Smith, who was also an Institute officer. But even if beer had been sold in the clubhouse for some time before Horace Edwards produced his revised brochure in the mid-1900s, he still found it expedient to treat the subject very defensively, claiming that consumption did not amount on average to a pint per member per week and that the Institute had never had any trouble connected with drink. He no doubt appreciated that public opinion in the provinces had still not caught up with Lord Rosebery's 1875 dictum that to restrict the sale of intoxicating drinks in Working Men's Clubs was to treat them as "moral nurseries". He would also have known that a Working Men's Club in Cheltenham's Lower High Street had gained a reputation as a drinking club and that during the 1900s several of its members - including its Chairman - had been arrested and fined for drunkenness. The Institute management salved its corporate conscience by not taking any profit from the sale of beer.

Social Events

Two elements of the early fund-raising activities were taken over as part of the Institute's regular programme of social events for the whole village.

During the autumn and winter months penny concerts were held in the St. Clair-Ford Hall on Saturday evenings. At first they were weekly, but by 1892 they had become fortnightly and by about 1900 probably monthly. The reduction in frequency is more likely to have stemmed from a desire to reduce the strain on the organisers than from any diminution of public interest. Leading residents of the district took turns to act as chairman, and audiences of 400 were commonplace. Capt. St. Clair-Ford was prominent in this activity up to his death in 1896, he counted a large number of amateur artistes among his friends, and they were always ready to take part in his productions. A concert in January 1891, for example, was described as "a feast of song such as, probably, only Capt. St. Clair-Ford could have provided". Through his many contacts in Cheltenham he was also able to arrange for organisations to provide complete programmes. The Cheltenham Dramatic Society put on at least two shows, and in March 1893 the Highbury Literary Society staged a mock House of Commons debate, "with a Speaker in wig and gown and one member admirably made up as Mr. Gladstone". Most winters the Lyefield School was invited either to provide a complete show or take part in Tableaux Vivants. Edison's American Phonograph was first used at a concert in February 1902. Another show in the same month was advertised as a "Ping Pong Popular Concert", but in the event the exhibition game planned for the intermission was squeezed out by encores. Special concerts (presumably with increased admission charges) were occasionally arranged, for example on consecutive Saturdays in February 1899, when the All Saints' Court Minstrel Troupe entertained to raise funds to enable a vestibule to be added to the clubhouse. During the Boer War ladies with collecting boxes were allowed into the performance to solicit aid for the "Widows and Orphans of our Soldiers at the Front". Little is known about the physical arrangements for staging these shows, although "footlights and other illuminants" were mentioned for the first time in January 1899.

The other event that became an established part of the Institute's calendar was the annual fete and sports. Mr. Vassar-Smith made the grounds of Charlton Park available for this purpose on August Bank Holiday Mondays from 1886 until at least 1913. The main feature was always the athletics meeting, but fringe events regularly included dancing to music provided by the Cheltenham Rifle Band and fairground-type attractions and sometimes also pony and dog races, fireworks (1890), parachute descents from a balloon (1901) and comic football (1905). These fetes were regarded primarily as social occasions, but it was hoped that they would also boost the Institute's funds. But, although the members themselves provided all the labour involved, it was not always possible to make a profit. The 1901 fete was a big success but, in reporting this, the rueful gloss was added that in 3 of the 4 previous years bad weather had made it "difficult for the Committee to meet their expenses." Unfortunately, details of receipts and expenditure are not quoted in any of the press reports.

III. New Ventures

The Charlton Kings Chess Club

A distinctive feature of the Institute's policy over the first 20 years was to put the interests of the village as a whole at least equal to the interests of the members, and the pattern was set with the founding of a chess club in July 1890. Called the Charlton Kings Chess Club, membership

was open to all the villagers, women as well as men. The Institute acted as sponsor, making a room in the clubhouse available for matches one afternoon and one evening a week throughout the winter months. In 1892 it also provided a silver Challenge Cup, costing £10, for an annual internal tournament.

The Secretary of the Chess Club for the first 9 years was Mr. J.S. Garrard, a prominent member of the Institute, who provided publicity for the new club in 1891 by staging a "chess tourney in costume by living pieces" at the August Bank Holiday fete at Charlton Park. The club seems to have found favour particularly with the more affluent residents, who took turns to host "chess on the lawn" meetings at their homes during the summer months, when the chess tended to be overshadowed by tennis and strawberry teas.

The Chess Club made spectacular progress in its first decade: by 1895 it had ousted the Cheltenham Working Men's College from its position as second ranking club in the area; in January 1898 it gained its first "glorious victory" over the top club, the Cheltenham Chess Club; and by 1900 it was seeking opponents further afield, eg in Cirencester and Gloucester. Then its fortunes began to change. By March 1903 it was reduced to playing Cheltenham's second team, and by May 1907 it was mentioned in the press as one of five teams in the Cheltenham area that had disappeared.

However, what was described as "this formerly strong club" was revived, with 30 members, in March 1908, apparently along similar lines. Once again it met at the Institute during the winter season and at members' homes in the summer, and General William Smith, the Institute's current President, became its President also. In November 1908 it played its "first important match since re-starting" at Stroud, and it had a fixture list which extended into 1909.

But the revival appears to have been short-lived. No press references to the Club have been found after November 1908; no winners' names were inscribed on the Challenge Cup (which remains in the Institute's possession) after 1907; and by September 1911 the Cheltenham Chess Club was bemoaning the fact that most of its local opposition, including specifically the Charlton Kings Club, was "extinct".

The Charlton Kings Art Class

From the early planning stage it had been intended that the Institute should have an educational role, and at the December 1888 opening of the clubhouse Capt. St. Clair-Ford had announced that "it was hoped, after a time, to start classes in drawing and other subjects". In 1892 the Charlton Kings Art Class was formed. Once again the Institute provided premises, but membership was open to the entire village, women as well as men. Miss Dobell, of "Detmore", became the Class's patron and Mr. Edwards its "energetic Secretary".

Courses were offered in the various branches of drawing and painting recognised by the Science and Art Department, and students took the Department's annual examinations. Mr. C. Capps was the principal teacher. The Class proved quite popular; rolls of between 30 and 40 were commonplace, while nearly 50 joined in 1897/8. At the end of each season Miss Dobell gave a tea at the Institute for students, teachers and organisers, and this was followed by the distribution of prizes and certificates, talks from distinguished visitors, a concert and dancing. In 1899, exceptionally, a joint prize-giving was held for the Art Class and the scholars attending the Higgs' Night School.

By 1895 Cheltenham Town Council was making the Art Class an annual grant of £30 from the Technical Education budget it received from the County Council. But in 1900 the County Education Committee decided to concentrate its aid on

a smaller number of larger establishments. The £30 grant to Charlton Kings ceased; the Art Class collapsed; and only two or three of the 40 students currently enrolled were prepared to transfer to Cheltenham. A plea from the Charlton Kings District Council for the grant to be restored was rejected. Mr. Vassar-Smith, Chairman of the District Council, thought it would not be difficult to raise an equivalent sum through voluntary subscriptions. But once the Art Class had been disbanded, it proved impossible to work up the necessary momentum to revive it.

Recreation Ground

In 1893 the Institute acquired a 2-acre plot of land behind the clubhouse, which had originally formed part of the Lyefield estate and had latterly been used as allotments. Institute members provided the labour to level, turf and fence the ground, plant more than 300 trees and shrubs around the perimeter and establish a play area with parallel bars, climbing ladders and swings. The total cost of the recreation ground was £380, the whole of which was raised on mortgage.

The opening ceremony was performed in June 1893 by the MP for Cheltenham, Mr. J.T. Agg-Gardner. Within a month of its opening the ground was used to entertain 1,000 local children to tea and games as part of the village's celebration of the wedding of the Duke of York, and there was a similar function in June 1897 on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. In June 1902 the recreation ground was the venue for a "patriotic concert", which the Institute organised as the village's means of celebrating the end of the Boer War. By the mid-1900s the ground was being used for cricket and other games, while its seats and swings were said to make it an attractive and safe resort for those members' wives who had young children.

The Charlton Kings Choral and Orchestral Society

When Mr. Corbett had visited in February 1887 to give advice on founding and running the Institute, he had particularly stressed the importance of introducing good music. Perhaps as a result of this a Charlton Kings Choral and Orchestral Society was formed in 1895. Once again the Institute made its hall available for weekly practices; Mr. Edwards became honorary secretary and treasurer; and membership was open to the whole village. The conductor was Mr. W.H. Brasher, F.G.C.M., organist at the Parish Church, who had helped in arranging the Saturday evening entertainments since 1892. The Society's inaugural concert was given in the St.Clair-Ford Hall in April 1896 to a packed audience. In subsequent years concerts were given also in the Lyefield School and the Parish Church. The chorus normally consisted of between 50 and 80 voices, "most thoroughly trained by Mr. Brasher". Works performed included Gail's Ruth, Cowen's Rose Maiden Cantata and Part I of The Messiah. The concert season normally lasted from November to April, and in May the Society held a "Reunion", at which a more light-hearted concert was given to invited guests. On these occasions the St.Clair-Ford Hall was decorated with palms, ferns and flowers.

Gymnasium and Baths

During 1897 the Victoria Jubilee Gymnasium and three baths were built on to the rear of the Institute. The new complex was the brainchild of General Norman, the current President. Messrs. Malvern & Son erected the building; the firm which had fitted out the gymnasium at the Ladies' College carried out the installation; and the Cheltenham Gas-light Company provided the lighting for the building and the hot-water system for the baths. According to Kelly's Directory for 1910, the total cost was £300. The villagers were invited to an "open day" on 12 March 1898 and showed considerable interest. Sgt. Major Arnold was engaged as instructor, and a good number of members enrolled for his initial class. In November 1898 the Board School was offered the use of the gymnasium in the daytime, but it is not known whether the offer

was accepted. Subsequent references to the gymnasium in 1901 and 1902, are to its use as an occasional overflow public room. The gymnasium is not mentioned at all in Horace Edwards' brochure, and it is therefore assumed that it had undergone a change of use by the mid-1900s. But the baths remained available, at a small charge, to both members and visitors, and were described by Mr. Edwards as "a boon to a parish having no facilities for bathing in river or otherwise".

Whist and Draughts Clubs

Mr. Edwards' brochure mentions the existence of separate whist and draughts clubs, each with its own secretary. Both clubs are first mentioned in the press during the 1898/9 season. During that winter both played matches against several Cheltenham clubs, but the fact that Mr. W.H. Peacey, Secretary of the Draughts Club, was still seeking offers of local fixtures at the beginning of the next season suggests that the Club was still very new. Unlike the Chess Club, the Whist and Draughts Clubs drew their membership entirely from within the Institute.

"Members Only" and Family Entertainments

In addition to the Saturday evening entertainments, which were open to the general public, a number of social events were organised either for members only or for members and their families.

In November 1901 a series of smoking concerts for members only was started in the Victoria Jubilee Gymnasium. The first concert consisted of performances by the Corinthia Orchestra, a number of solo singers and the St. Mary's Parish Church hand-bell ringers. By the mid-1900s the "smokers" had been switched to the games room, where members provided their own entertainment on Thursday evenings.

An annual Christmas Tea Party for members and their families was first mentioned in the press in January 1901. After tea at 6 pm, the children were entertained with conjuring and a magic lantern show in the gymnasium, while their parents danced to Maisey's Band in the St. Clair-Ford Hall. The evening concluded with Auld Lang Syne, the National Anthem and "cheers for the new century". In January 1902 the children's entertainment was arranged by a ladies' committee, and several local worthies "contributed oranges, bon-bons and apples for the little ones."

Mr. Edwards' brochure mentions that an annual midsummer tea was also held for members and their families, but no example of this has been found in press reports.

Charlton Kings Rifle Club

During 1904 a miniature rifle range was built at the rear of the clubhouse. Four years earlier a commentator in the Cheltenham Free Press, noting that a Rifle Club had been started in a private garden in the town, had doubted whether the idea would catch on in England; it was better suited to the Swiss! There had clearly been some doubters in Charlton Kings too, for the subject was reported to have been "long debated" before the decision to build had been taken. Once again Horace Edwards' "enthusiasm and perseverance" had triumphed.

The structure, described as a Morris Tube 70ft long by 20ft wide, was chiefly of wood and corrugated iron. Initially only a fixed target was provided, but it was planned to add a moving and disappearing target as soon as funds allowed. The total cost of the range was £130. Of this, £60 had been raised by public

appeal, and the Institute provided the remainder, using up "practically all its reserves" in the process.

The range was officially opened on 22 October 1904 by Mr. Vassar-Smith, Chairman of Charlton Kings Urban District Council and the Institute's first President. His daughter fired the first shot. Among the guests were Cheltenham's MP, Mayor and Superintendent of Police as well as several officers of the Volunteers. Major-General Smith, the Institute's current President, said that "the use of the modern weapon should be understood by every class of citizen" and that "rifle shooting should become as widespread as archery had once been". The range was open to inspection - and trial - by the general public after the ceremony and again on 3 December at the end of a concert arranged by Miss B. Agg to raise funds for the Rifle Club.

The Charlton Kings Rifle Club was open to all parishioners, and separate times were allocated at the range for men's and women's sections. Institute members were charged 1/- per season, non-members (including women) 2/6.

Charlton Kings was an early participant in the rifle club movement, whose success eventually confounded the Cheltenham Free Press's 1900 prediction. When in 1905 Lord Roberts made a national appeal for £100,000 to set up village rifle clubs and wrote to every council on the subject, Mr. Vassar-Smith was able to reply that Charlton Kings had already financed and opened its own range. Even the Cheltenham Volunteers, who had an open range at Seven Springs, did not acquire an indoor range until their new Drill Hall was opened in May 1906.

Very little is recorded of the fortunes of the Rifle Club. In May 1906 it competed against the Cheltenham Liberal Club, and "the villagers left the politicians far behind". In April 1908 the Charlton Ladies met the Cheltenham Ladies and lost by 15 points.

By December 1908 the Club had affiliated to the North Gloucestershire Association of Miniature Rifle Clubs and was doing rather badly in its Winter Challenge Cup Competition.

The existence of a miniature range in the village probably led to the decision, in 1906, to reform the Charlton Kings Company of the 1st Gloucestershire Royal Engineer Volunteers. (The previous unit, formed 15 years earlier, had disbanded because of the difficulty of getting into Cheltenham for training). The weekly "orders" for the new "E" Company show that it used the Morris Tube (now with a "running man" target) on Wednesday evenings and also held "smoking concerts" in the St. Clair-Ford Hall. Unfortunately, the Company survived for only two years before being disbanded again, this time because the Volunteers were being abolished to make way for the new Territorial Army. At a farewell dinner at the Institute in April 1908 Horace Edwards was singled out for thanks for the support he had given to the Company.

The rifle range also provided useful additional accommodation. When the Charlton Kings Horticultural and Cottage Garden Society staged its first autumn show in November 1905, it hired both the St. Clair-Ford Hall and the rifle range.

Billiards

Horace Edwards' brochure mentions the existence of a billiard room with two tables, for the use of which there was a small hiring charge. As this document makes no mention of a gymnasium, and as no press reference has been found to the building of a billiard room, it is assumed that the gymnasium had been converted into a billiard room by the mid-1900s.

IV. End of an Era

At the Annual Meeting in February 1908 Horace Edwards, now retired from business, resigned as Secretary of the Institute because of increased pressure from his other public duties (connected with the Church, the Urban District Council etc.) His 23 years' devoted service to the Institute was recognised by the members' gift of a solid silver rose bowl, suitably inscribed. General William Smith, the current President, made the presentation, and Mr. Vassar-Smith praised particularly the educational work which Mr. Edwards had promoted. The Cheltenham Free Press had already commented very aptly that Mr. Edwards' energies were "ever at the service of any scheme for the brightening and bettering of village life".

This resignation makes an appropriate finale to the first phase of the Institute's history. Two men had dominated its early years: Horace Edwards, with his talent for imaginative and dynamic leadership, and Capt. St.Clair-Ford, with his genius for fund-raising and his ability to put together sparkling amateur entertainments. These men, with help from Mr. Vassar-Smith and the generals, appear to have decided at a very early stage to create a cultural and recreational centre for the entire village by sponsoring a whole range of mixed activities "in connection with the Institute". But, while this was undoubtedly good for the village, it was not necessarily in the best interest of the Institute itself. The working men's wishes - which are unlikely to have included eg a chess club or a choral society - were either ignored or overruled. And, because the objective could not be achieved quickly, the "prominent residents" had to renege on their original commitment to hand over control of the Institute to the working men as soon as the clubhouse was built. There was also an element of condescension in this decision. Mr. Edwards, who had started out with the popular Victorian belief in human perfectability, became gradually disillusioned with the local working men. He was saddened by their general apathy and took them specifically to task for failing to protest at the withdrawal of the Art Class grant and taking no interest whatever in the management of the Higgs' Night School, which was run for their and their families' benefit. In hanging on to power there was a feeling that good had to be done to the working men in their own despite.

But there were already signs of change. By 1906 art was again being taught in Charlton Kings, this time as part of the evening classes run by Cheltenham Grammar School. This was a more appropriate arrangement; though probably less enjoyable to the participants. And from about 1904 the position of Chairman of the (elected) Committee was steadily growing in importance. It is a fair guess that in the post-Edwards era the Institute was to become far less exciting but more responsive to its members' wishes.

Owen Stinchcombe

3. BYGONE DAYS (3) - THE WATER PIPE

Hawthorne House was the home of Mr. and Mrs. East, Hawthorne Cottage the home of old man Bloxsome and then later on it became Nobby's home. To the west of that cottage, my father built Hawthorne Villa which was the home of my parents. A little to the north of our home stood The Hawthornes (now called King's House), then the home of Samuel Healing, better known as Sammy, architect and a bachelor. None of the above dwellings had mains water, the nearest main being the other side of Woodmeade in School Road, and another main being in Church Walk down towards the bridge. This main fed the houses which a Mr. Davey built, and also the three red brick villas next to The Hawthornes.

Often Sammy would give a party in the eventide to young people from Cheltenham. Now this would be from somewhere around 1919 onward. There was one thing he liked to play and that was the piano, sometimes a saxophone and cornet would be heard as well, so we boys would 'pitch tent' not far away in the orchard and listen to all the hits of those days. Later on when the dancing on the lawn was over, they would all go inside for a good sing-song. All this of course we boys enjoyed, for instead of going to sleep we joined in the singing as well.

There was one thing, however, that did upset Sammy and that was water or rather the lack of it, for every drop that was used had to be pumped up out of the well. He had the same type of pump as my father; this pump had a dual purpose for it would lift water to a sink or send water up to a tank or tanks in the top room of the house. So it was with The Hawthornes and with Hawthorne Villa. It was when he had these parties that the tanks were not 'man' enough and ran dry, so then it was a case of 'all hands to the pump'.

This is what made him pay a visit to my father and ask if he could lay a lead main along the bottom of our orchard, that is from Church Walk, a distance of well over 200/250 yards. (This was in 1920, I was then a boy of 14 years and still at school, therefore the length of pipe is only guesswork, it could well have been much longer). Nobby Hall did the work. During the time the trench was dug, a well was found that father didn't know he had, this was about the half-way mark. So the pipe was taken round the well and then straight to The Hawthornes. Mr. Stroud was Water Inspector and there were two things he liked to see, the trench just 2 feet deep and a straight pipe. Still, he passed the job. Just before he left, Nobby had a dig at him, saying "Well Mr, since when don't your b --- water go round corners?"

Not far from the well was three pig sties, behind those sties was a lean-to shed. The roof of the sties and that long shed was covered in Cotswold tiles, the rafters all elm roughly 4" x 4". In that shed stood an old chaff cutter, the wooden handle eaten away and so was a lot of rafters as well. Down the other end was the remains of a copper, no doubt used for boiling up the pig food; and about 2 yards away was the remains of an earth toilet, the seat still being there. These sties were some 100 yards or so from the SW wall of The Hawthornes. I may add, the base was stone up to about 2 ft 6 ins high, after that timber, once again, elm. All this was pulled down around 1924 and a paint and carpenter's shop built.

John Purnell is one of four nephews of mine, so it was around 1930 when he was about seven years old. He was walking past Nobby's cottage when he saw him in the fowls pen chasing the fowls around and in his hand he had an axe. Well, he caught one and done no more but chopped the head off the poor fowl. One for the pot, as he would say. Three more went the same way over the next few weeks, leaving him two. John had seen enough, he didn't go that way again! So I must take up the story. Nobby had a pal he called 'Arry. Now Harry had one son who had emigrated to Canada. He married while there and over the years made Harry a Grandfather. So it was, that Grandad was invited over, passage paid, and he could stop for three months or more. Well, he was delighted, but there was one thing that troubled him for he had six fowls, he just had to find someone to look after them. Who better than Nobby? Well now, Nobby having eaten four fowls that didn't belong to him, had to do something about it, so he acquired by some foul means or other six day old chicks. Having put them, three in each pocket, he made his way home, and now he had to keep them warm, so in front of the fire in a box they went - that was all right in the daytime, night-time's another story, for just before going to bed he would

rake the fire out and pop the lot into the oven, leaving the door open a little! Those chicks soon grew, so he had to find a 3 ply tea chest and a small run and put the lot in the garden, with the intention of putting them with the two old ones later on. But Harry came back sooner than expected and came down to see Nobby and no doubt his pet hens. Well, Nobby had to tell Harry the tale about his hens and how he was trying to replace them with the pullets. "Oh" said he "that's alright Nobby, I came down to tell you that you can keep them as I'm going back to Canada to stop there. Anyway the hens was getting on a bit." "Getting on a bit!" said Nobby "the last one I tried to eat was like leather, so I gave it away to that old pedlar that came every Monday - funny thing about that, he never came again - must have killed him, trying to eat it!"

Eric Cleevely

4. COTTAGE INTERIORS - WHAT WE LEARN FROM INVENTORIES 1660-1760

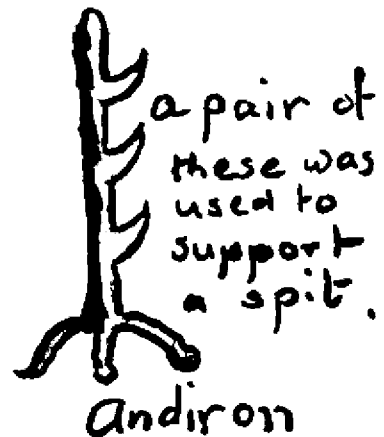
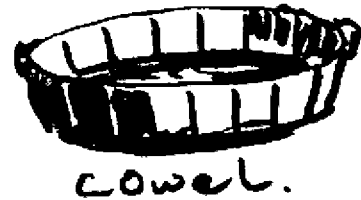
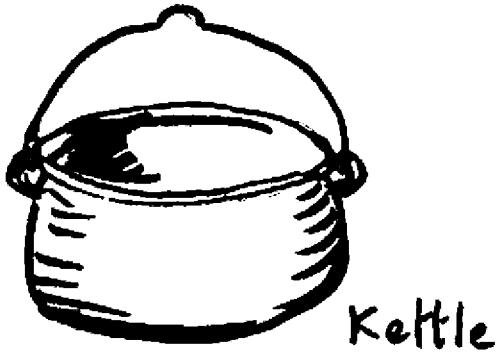
An Inventory is a valuation made by neighbours of all moveables owned by a person at the time of his or her death. Moveables include clothes, ready money in the house, furniture, tools, farm stock, crops growing or harvested, and implements of husbandry, as well as leases, bonds and mortgages made to the deceased. They do not give an exact record of any person's wealth or poverty, since they were made by amateurs, and do not include any land or buildings.

Inventories were made because it was necessary to produce one when applying for probate in the bishop's court (where nearly all wills had to be proved until the legal reforms of 1858). Their purpose was to determine what fees could be charged. Below £5 no fee was due; above that figure the fee increased for each £5 worth of goods shown.

The aim of this article is to see, if possible, what the homes of some of the less well-off members of the community were like; and to that end, only inventories of £25 and under have been considered. Even so, the picture can never be complete, we have no evidence about the homes of the really poor.

Before turning to the inventories in detail, it seems a good idea to say something about homes of the period. In Charlton Kings practically all houses were detached; they were timber-framed on stone foundations. The chief, and in some cases the only, room was the hall. Where it was the only room, it served for cooking, eating, sitting (though no one had much chance to sit unless it was the housewife at her spinning) and sleeping. The hall had the fireplace, which might be the only one in the house, in which case it was used for cooking - when a kitchen is mentioned, the disposition of goods suggests that the main part of the cooking was still done in the hall. Some inventories list goods room by room which is helpful. Humphrey King in 1728 (GRO 1728/18) has a kitchen, a hall, (where he probably cooked for the roasting jack is there), a chamber over the hall, and another chamber, as well as a buttery and a dayhouse (dairy); but his goods are valued at only £5.17.6. The number of rooms is not an indication of wealth.

All cooking (except in the few larger houses where there was an oven) was done over an open fire of logs which were supported by fire dogs or andirons. Large pots (kettles, cisterns, and furnaces) were suspended over the fire from hooks or on chains; smaller pots (posnets, skillets, poringers) stood in the hot ashes; frying pans were either held over the ashes, in which case they had long handles, or were suspended over the fire from a hook. Meat, when it was roasted (not often in a poor household) was roasted before the fire on a spit or hung before it on a jack, or for that matter from a twisted string.



The fat was collected in a dripping pan set under the joint, which was basted with a long handled ladle. After 1620 Cheltenham manor court brought no prosecutions against people who had no chimneys (though there were some against people whose chimneys were "insufficient"); so rooms were less smokey than they might have been earlier.

Often the hall seems very short of chairs, stools, or benches, but it was common practice for only the master and mistress of the house to sit to eat, while the rest of the household stood. There is a charming seventeenth century woodcut showing a household at meat with the youngest child standing on a stool to reach the board.

Knives and spoons are rarely mentioned. People used their own knives for all purposes and often their own spoons. The only spoons mentioned were silver, for serving, not eating. Wooden or horn spoons had a short life and might be included in "other lumber" as their value was minimal.

Beds and bedsteads are always listed separately. The 'bed' is the mattress, stuffed with feathers or flock - feathers were best - or in some very poor houses with chaff or straw. The bedstead was a wooden frame. In some cases it had a solid plank base on which the bed was placed but was more commonly laced across and across with bed cords. The base was covered with a bed mat of woven or plaited straw; on top of that came the bed. There is no reason to suppose that these beds were not comfortable. The 'tester bed' was a four poster with a wooden or cloth ceiling and a frame from which curtains could be hung, giving a little privacy and protection from draughts. The 'half headed bed' had a canopy and curtains only at the head end. The 'truckle bed' had no curtains or frame and could be pushed under another bedstead when not in use.

In Gloucestershire Record Office, the Charlton inventory with the lowest valuation is that of Walter Mansell senior (GRO 688 1688/68), which shows him owning goods and chattels worth only £4.18.0. In fact, no inventory need have been produced but it was, presumably, a border-line case and his heir decided to be on the safe side. It reads as follows:-

<u>Imprimis</u>	his wearing apparell and purse	£1	0	0
<u>Item</u>	One old feather bed one old flock bed one feather bolster 3 flock bolsters 3 old blanquetts 3 pillowes 2 coverletts one rugge 5 pairs of old sheets and one odd sheet	£1	8	0
<u>Item</u>	One old tester bedstead one halfe headed bedstead one old truckle bedstead one shelf 2 cofers 2 little boxes and one sett of old curtains	£0	12	6
<u>Item</u>	Two little table boards 2 chairs half a dozen old joynt stooles high and low 2 barrells one firkin one skeel one old cowle one little brewing fate and one paile	£0	8	8
<u>Item</u>	One little old furnace 2 little kettles 2 old potts one warming pan one small skillett one brass candlestick 2 skimmers 6 dishes of pewter great and small 4 saucers 2 porringer 2 salt sellers one gridiron one spit one fire shovill one pair of tongues one pair of iron dogges	£0	16	10
<u>Item</u>	Six pair of shoes made for sale leather and working tools and other lumber unnamed	£0	12	6

This is an interesting inventory in several ways. Valuations are low, for most things are old and very well worn. Nevertheless, the house - no particulars of rooms are given but the plenishings or furnishings suggest one room up, one down, and a small shop - has everything necessary for comfortable living according to the standard of the time. The most notable lack is a stand for the table board, leaving the reader to wonder if Mr Mansell and his wife balanced the board on the two barrels or on two of the high stools, or for that matter if "other lumber" included the trestles. He must have had one working surface in his shop. Another point to which this inventory draws

attention is that Mr. Mansell has no farm stock, and farm stock in all inventories so far discovered, is the most valuable possession except bonds and mortgages. The deceased is described in his will as a cordwainer, a craftsman, and craftsmen normally fall into the lower valuation bracket. Thomas Cleevely (GRO 1726/77), a carpenter living in a house shown as having a kitchen, hall, 3 chambers, and a shop with all his tools, in fact a largish dwelling, is appraised at only £13.18.6. It is not irrelevant to add that Ashley surrenders show Thomas Cleevely on 3 May 1723 (nearly three years before his death), surrendering his house and garden in Church End Street to his wife and son "for the better enabling the said Sarah to breed up the said Thomas" their son (original surrenders C 122). This strongly suggests that he had been in ill health for some time, so the condition of his home may have deteriorated when he could no longer work.

The inventory of Nicholas Dowdeswell labourer (GRO 1701/205) illustrates the difference in valuation made by the possession of a few farm beasts. His appraisers add up the value of his moveables to £19.14.6., as follows:-

Two beds and Bedsteds	£1	00	00
One pair of Blanketts and Coverlids	£00	10	6
Two Bolsters and one little Pillow	£00	2	6
One Table Clouth	£00	2	6
Two little settells	£00	5	0
One littell Furnace	£00	10	0
One littell Pott	£00	05	0
Six Dishes of Pewter	£00	12	0
One Pewter Candlestick and Potinger dishes	£00	01	06
One spice Morter	£00	01	00
One Table Board	£00	04	00
Four Barrells	£00	10	00
One littel table one Box one coffer	£00	04	00
Two Cowells one skeell one paile	£00	07	00
Cheese and one flitch of Bacon	£01	00	00
One Churne one Spitt one Drippin pan	£00	06	00
One pair of Handirons	£00	01	00
One shovell one stockin axe one Hatchett	£00	02	00
Wearing cloathes	£00	10	00
3 calves and two yearling calves, all small	£10	00	00
Two sheep	£00	14	00
Hay for the cows	£02	00	00

This home is certainly not more comfortable than that of Walter Mansell senior. There are fewer cooking utensils and seats, although some of the objects may be less worn. Altogether the household stuff, including the cheese and bacon, is valued at little over £7, while the beasts and hay are valued at £12.14.0. Hay is always a valuable commodity.

Some of the inventories are low in value because the deceased person was not living independently. This seems a justified presumption where no means of cooking are shown. Jane Gregory widow (GRO 1714/32) died with moveables worth £30.2.6, in fact above the value limit of this article, but she has furniture only for one room and a few treasures namely a silver bowl and four silver spoons. Apart from that, she had 2 beds and one bedstead, one chair and one stool, two coffers, and unexpectedly two spits. There are no bedclothes mentioned and no cooking pot or fire irons, so almost certainly she was living with a married child. Her real wealth was £20, lent upon bond, the most usual way of investing ready money in the days before banks. Again, Sarah Danford widow (GRO 1723/48) has only clothes worth £1.0.10 and £12 in money owing, so she must have been living with some member of her family.

Susannah Cleevely widow (GRO 1742/1) is an interesting example because more is known about her. She is appraised as having only wearing apparell and money in purse to the value of £19.10.0, but Cheltenham manor court book (GRO D 855 M 13) shows that in 1734 she had sold her house for £100. At the time of her death she was probably living with a married daughter and she may have divided the money between her two girls. Those three cases are all widows. William Robins (GRO 1771/29) is a different case. He died with only £5.16.8, viz wearing apparel and money in purse £2.10.6, personal estate and effects £3.6.2; but he had recently been in prison for debt, and must have been living with a member of his family.

In the normal way only spinsters and widows left wills and therefore have inventories. The goods of a married woman belonged to her husband, unless they had been specially reserved to her use prior to her marriage. But two inventories are exceptions, those of Amy Lea (GRO 1737/64) and Elizabeth Russell (GRO 1779/8), both of whom had legacies secured to them. Mrs Lea had a legacy under the will of Thomas Ashmead deceased, in value £19.10.0; and Mrs Russell £6 "charged on the estate in the manor of Charlton Kings" (ie Ashley manor).

In general the proportion of low valued inventories tends to increase with time, being higher after 1709. This may reflect a declining standard of living, it may equally well be the result of mere chance survival. There was a bad outbreak of smallpox in these years. There were wars and consequent rising prices. But there is no clear evidence of how much any or all of these factors are to blame. By and large, the picture given by the inventories shows a tolerable degree of comfort and close family bonds.

J. Paget

5. ELBOROUGH COTTAGE - TAIL-PIECE TO BULLETIN 17

I am now 83. When I was 17 or 18, father went to buy furniture from the Cottage where an old lady had died. Her son was there, drunk. He said to father "Give me £10 and take the lot!"

We furnished Mother's sitting-room out of it!

I still have some of the furniture - a mahogany writing table, a lady's sewing chair of carved walnut, 3 pictures ---

Under the old lady's bed there was a beautiful mahogany case bound in brass. It had a trick lock, at first we couldn't open it, but eventually I found out how it worked. Inside was a double barrel game rifle with bullet moulds and all complete.

A. Mitchell

6. ANOTHER WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

Here are some more reminiscences about Charlton by someone who left the parish in the early 1920s! a continuation of "A Walk down the Road" in Bulletin 13. Allan Thomas's grandfather Frederick Thomas worked for 48 years as gardener to Miss Mott at Detmore, but when he died his daughter and her 3 children were forced to leave their tied cottage as Miss Mott wanted it for another tenant. Fred and Allan were sent to a home at Bristol, then to Barnado's Garden City at Woodford Bridge, and finally in Barnado's parties to Canada. The 3rd boy Bert was probably sent from Bristol to Australia but his brothers lost track of him.

I recall as a boy when Miss Statham was my Sunday School teacher, at Christmas time we all got gifts from our teachers, having my name called out and walking up to the front of the church and receiving a book all about monkeys. I was so thrilled to get it. I went to Miss Statham's home one time to take a message, she lived at /Charlton/Park. I also remember that park was where we had our church picnic and the word was passed around that the Vicar Edgar Neale was going to go up in a balloon, but it was just a small balloon that went up! There was a little brook that ran through the park, maybe it was the Chelt/Lilleybrook/. Another time King Edward visited some soldiers camped out just south of the park and I remember seeing him being driven into the camp site. Across from the park was a huge sandpit and there were cross roads, one went to the church, one to the Co-Op, one down to Cudnall and one to Cirencester.---- I was very interested in the write-up of the old buildings near the Baptist church. I went to a Punch and Judy show in the room to the west of the church one Christmas (probably the schoolroom). The store next to it I used to get sweets or candies there sometimes /Bond's then Kilminsters, now hair dresser's/. The next two buildings were stores of some sort but I can't remember, then came an alley or footpath /Bobby's alley/, then the grocery store /Dale's/. Many times I've been in it.

I used to go with Bill Mathews to the station and pick up the goods or freight and deliver to the stores and this was the one we delivered the broken carton to, which had the Irish Twist chewing tobacco in, and I thought it was licorice and took a good bite until I tasted it and I soon learned what it was! Going west a little farther is where Mr Sweeney Oran had his little shop, I used to get my hair cut after school or on Saturdays.

On the corner of School Road across from Bond's store and some kind of feed store /Attwood's corn chandler's shop/ was Attwood's pub /the Merry Fellow, run by "Doc" Attwood/. There was a grate over the well, it was taken out when they put the beerbarrels down in the basement. I saw change dropped down there by patrons of the pub and we used to put gum on a stick and try and retrieve some of it. Next to the pub, a family by the name of Slies, maybe I don't spell it right, lived there and the one son they called China and he used to race pigeons. Farther on there were houses back by the Chelt /Hearne brook/ and their gardens were in front of the house /Charlton Cottage then 3 dwellings/. A couple more houses, then the Girls' School where I went to Sunday School for a while, why I don't remember. Between the Girls' School and Kindergarten there was an archway and a path that led down over the Chelt /Hearne brook/ and up a steep hill that led to a house /The Hearne/, I went up to it once with someone. Sometimes when I was in the kindergarten /Infant School/, playing ball in the school yard, the ball would go over the fence and roll down to the brook and I would go after it.

I read how Horace Mathews drew slates off a building and took them to the station to be shipped to Oxford. The Mathews brothers did a lot of hauling with their wagons, I used to go with Bill around the big estates in Cheltenham, pick up big hampers of washing, I should say dirty laundry, and bring it out to people to wash by hand, some we took to Clifford's laundry in East End, then we'd pick up the clean laundry and take it back.

The big white house with the thatched roof near Spring Bottom /Yew Tree Cottage/ was something I could never forget, you see postcards of England with these old houses on them and it brings back memories.

As for the tram car that travelled up the London Road, turned and went down to the Co-Op, turned out to Cirencester Road and swayed down on its merry way to the Charlton King's station - I used to walk down to where it turned on to

the London Road /Six Ways/ and ride down to Cambray and get medicine from a Dr Cardew for my grandad. I'd be given money for the fare and sometimes I'd walk all the way back and use the money for candies. I've been paddled a few times for that trick! One time a class from the school went down to the swimming pool in Cheltenham, on the way home we were upon the top deck and as we got near our destination, Miss Higgins was riding her bicycle home from school. We were always taught to tip our hats but one of the boys didn't tip his and the next morning in school he was reprimanded by Miss Higgins!----"

When I first started school, Mrs Roberts was head mistress in the kindergarden, Miss Joblin taught too. When I went over to the Big Boys School, Mr Fry was the headmaster, when he retired /Christmas 1924/ Mr. J. Thorn took over, Standard 1 was Miss Higgins, 2 was Miss Weaver, 3 was Mr Owl(?), 4 Mr. Thorn, 5 Mr Frampton. Mr Marten was the art teacher and, by the way, Mr Mason was the janitor. -----

In regard to Miss Roche's school, there were two girls who went there I remember, one was Gladys and another was Mary Thomas, that was Ralph Thomas's daughter who was a cousin of ours who lived at Colgate Farm by Dowsell wood. She rode her bicycle down to our house and left it there and walked on down to school, a short distance -----

One time coming from a cricket match which we held south of the old allotments, a boy from East End and a boy from the village got in a fight and landed up in a patch of stinging nettles - having short pants they were a sad sight with those blotches on them! The boy from the village, I didn't know his name, had something wrong with his nose, it was flat on his face and he breathed through his mouth - I don't know if it was hereditary or if he'd had some operation on his nose. ---

I remember at Easter, parading round the church behind the choir, carrying palms, we'd go up and down each aisle --- Referring back to Vicar Neale, one winter he got sick and he held choir rehearsal in his bedroom! he sure had a powerful voice!

My Grandad was buried in the SE corner of the churchyard. One Sunday afternoon waiting to get into church I was leaning against an old tombstone and I guess it was rotten as it fell over and the boys said I would go to jail for doing it, so I ran home as fast as I could so the police wouldn't get me!

Allan Thomas, Wellandport, Ontario

7. CHAMPIONS OF YESTERYEAR - CHARLTON ST. MARY'S TEAM

In the 1920s, Mrs Fry, "Auntie Carrie", wife of "Boss" Fry, ran a Bible class one night a week which met in the parish room. This was the little tin hut which is now the Nursery School in Church Street. In connection with her class, Mrs Fry then started a football team called Charlton St. Mary's, which played and took on other local teams. Mr Frederick Cox became a member of Charlton St. Mary's when he was about 18 and these photographs came originally from Mr. Cox via Mr Frank Fisher. The first probably dates from c.1923 and the second is dated 1925 when there was "a real local Derby" between Charlton St. Mary's and Ryeworth for Cheltenham Hospital Cup. The replay on 20 October 1925 was again a draw, 5 goals each.

(1) The Team c 1923



Back row - Mr Wakefield (father of Maurice and Wilf)
- Bliss, the referee (a Cheltenham man)
Reg Mobley
C. Johnson, goalkeeper
Wilf Wakefield (the younger son)
Harry Attwood (for whom see Bulletin 3 pp.2-4; he worked on
Borough's farm at East End)
Harry Sly (Croft Road)

Middle row - Frank Denley
Percy Mills (Cirencester Road)
Cecil Woodman (Lyefield Road)
"Cub" Harris

Front row - Fred Cox (Lyefield Road)
Frank Drake (Croft Avenue)
Maurice Wakefield (elder son of Mr Wakefield)
Vic Hemming (Croft Parade, brother of Mrs Johnson)



Back row - Vic Hughes (Croft Parade)
Vic Hemming
- -
- Slee (non-playing supporter)
Jack Wright
Sid Daniels
Tom Mobley (younger brother of Reg)
Wilf Wakefield
Reg Mobley
Percy Mills

Front row - F. Cox
George Francis
"Cub" Harris
Walt Denley (younger brother of Frank)
George Page (of Cheltenham)
Cecil Mills

Mr Cox himself stopped playing in 1928.

F. Cox

8. SAMUEL ELLIS - WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM?

An excerpt from William Baghott's Farm Accounts (D1637.E1) reads as follows:-

1734/35

Feb.4 I gave Saml.Ellis 5s in Earnest for purchase of his 10 Lands &
1 pick in Coltham Field at £35.0.0
Then he came to work for me at 6d per week

6d per week was a very low wage, even for those days - was he just a young boy? No, Cheltenham Manor Court Rolls show that he was admitted as tenant of this land in 1717, on the death of his father Charles Ellis.

Further entries in the Farm Accounts show that shoes, breeches, shirts and other items of clothing were bought on his behalf, and debited against his wages and the land purchase money. A balance was drawn up in October 1735, showing that his wages for 37 weeks had amounted to 18s6d, and he had a balance in hand of £27.2.10d. These purchases continued to be made for him throughout 1735. Was he perhaps a 'village idiot', unable to look after himself?

Then a surprise -

1735

Feb. 12 Pd. Saml.Ellis when going to Marry 2.2.0

Somebody did not consider him too bad! From this time on he no longer had purchases made for him, but received small sums of cash from time to time. The final settlement of his running account with William Baghott came on 31st July 1736, when he received the balance of £5.16.0 in cash.

The mystery remains - had he just come out of prison?, survived a fire?, lost his 'all' gambling? Was William Baghott being kind to him, or taking advantage of him? I would love to know.

Jane Sale

9. THE FRAMPTON FLORA AND CHARLTON KINGS

Richard Mabey's book 'The Frampton Flora' tells how eight lady members of the Clifford family contributed towards this wonderful collection of flower paintings. One of them, Marianne Phelps, married Henry John Clifford at Charlton Kings on 19th July 1838. She was the daughter of the Rev. James Phelps, Rector of Brimpsfield.

One of the well-known references books of the period was William Baxter's 'British Flowering Plants', and a set of copies of a monthly serialised version of this book survives from the remnants of Marianne's library. It is annotated in her own hand, starting before her marriage, and it is clear from this, that she was already taking part in the family flower hunting trips. Frequent visits to the steep woods around Alderley and Wotton-under-Edge are mentioned as well as to the Stroud Canal and Cambridge Brook.

Only two paintings can definitely be ascribed to Marianne; one is of a Pelargonium signed M.A. Phelps 1837; the other of a bunch of bluebells and one whitebell, signed Mrs. H. Clifford.

The 1851 census showed Henry and Marianne to be living at Frampton Lodge, with their six children. There is a photograph in the book, showing Marianne in her 'widow's weeds' dated 30th January 1864.

Jane Sale

10. SOME CHARLTON EXTRACTS FROM THE GLOUCESTER JOURNAL, 1749-1782

(1) A Run-away wife

"Anne wife of Richard King of Charlton Kings Cordwainer eloped from her husband on 23rd December 1749 -- do not trust her -- pay no debts."

(2) Repudiating a wife's debts - 17 May 1771

"Whereas Eleanor the wife of me Thomas Bastin of Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire, yeoman, hath without my Privity, contracted several debts and sold and otherwise disposed of my goods and effects. This therefore is to caution all persons not to trust her with anything whatsoever as I will pay no debts she may contract after the publication hereof; and I do hereby require all those who have any of my property in their possession forthwith to return the same to me, or they will be sued without further notice, as witness my hand this 17th day of May. Thomas Bastin".

The Bastins had a customary tenement at Up End, somewhere in the area of The New Inn, now the Little Owl.

(3) A humble apology, 7 September 1782, published on 9 September

"Whereas I have wrongly charged Mr. William Lawrence of Charlton Kings, with stealing my tithe wheat, and he has been kind enough to forgive me on acknowledging my fault. Now I do hereby declare that the above charge is false, and the words spoken of him by me were said when I was in a Passion, and in Liquor, and without the least foundation. I am sorry for my offence, and beg his pardon. John Bastin Sept 7 1782.

Witness hereto John Whithorne Jun."

(4) Selling or letting property

13 November 1759

"To be sold a freehold estate situate in the parish of Charlton Kings in the county of Gloucester, consisting of a complete dwelling house having four rooms on a floor with a good brewhouse a barn stable and other offices, also two gardens and a close of arable land containing about four acres thereunto adjoining, the whole never let to any tenant. For particulars enquire of Mr John Gale of Charlton Kings aforesaid"

This house sounds like Cops Elm (on the site of Charlton Lawn) which John Gale certainly held in 1759 - the brewhouse, barn, and stable would account for the extra buildings shown on Mitchell's map in 1806. See Bulletin 15 pp 36-8. If this identification is correct, Gale found no purchaser for the house in 1759 and his son inherited in 1771.

16 May 1774

"To be sold, a copyhold estate in Charlton Kings near Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester, at the annual Rent of 38£ 15s, chiefly consisting of orchards, Meadow, and Pasture ground, and now in the occupation of Tho. Bee, as tenant thereof, who will shew the premises"

January 1782

"To be sold at Charlton Kings near Cheltenham, a dwelling house barn stable and mill house with between twenty and thirty acres of land. Enquire of Edward Greenward (sic) of Charlton Kings, who will shew the premises; or of Robert Arkell of Upton St Leonards'.

11. CORN GROWING IN CHARLTON 1380

We have evidence of extensive medieval corn growing in the ridge and furrow on Bull Hill and Lucas Hill, on land so steep that only dire need or a very good market would justify the labour. The answer to this riddle is to be found in R.H.Hilton's book The English Peasantry in the Middle Ages p 89. There was a good market for our corn, at Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, and Gloucester. "The judicial records of the mid-1380s show Tewkesbury as a market town with wide connections. It appears to have been, among other things, a centre of the grain trade, connected by river with the big Bristol market. The presentment of thirteen Tewkesbury cornmongers on charges of false measurement shows that during a three-year period they were handling in Tewkesbury market at least 3,340 quarters of malt and other grains together with 600 quarters of bought up in various villages of the neighbourhood, such as Staverton, Deerhurst, Oxenton, and Haw by the Severn river crossing in Tirley. Cheltenham, too, was evidently a minor centre, seven dealers being presented during the same period for deals totalling 540 quarters. A good deal of the Severn-Avon valley grain must have gone south to Bristol, some possibly for export. The volume of the trade can hardly be calculated from the prosecutions but it does seem that it reflected to some extent the size and importance of the towns from which the merchants came. During the same period merchants in Gloucester were dealing illegally in 11,000 quarters in the town market and a further 2,000 quarters in the villages." If that was the extent of the corn merchants' fraudulent dealing, how great must have been their legitimate trade! (PRO KB9. 32 mm 16,20,21).

M.J. Greet

12. AN EARLY EMIGRANT TO AMERICA -

Cleevely or Cleverly Family History

John Cleverly born in Charlton Kings, England 1635, son of Thomas and Jane Dowdswell. This was a second marriage for Thomas, as his first wife died. They had two sons named John. The first died in infancy and a second John baptised October 1635.

Taken from the original register book in the County Record Office at Gloucester, England.

He emigrated to this country. Year not known. He married 13 January 1664 Sarah Stevens, daughter of Robert and Mary Stevens. He was a Lieutenant in the militia and resided on the Robert Stevens grant which his wife inherited. He was a blacksmith by trade and assessor in Braintree 1694, and I guess fairly prosperous, as when he died 5 May 1703 he had a very ornate peacock gravestone, where he was buried in Hancock Cemetery, Quincy, Mass. This stone is still standing and was described and is the frontispiece of "Gravestones of Early New England 1653-1800" by Harriette Merrifield Forbes.

His son John born 8 October 1667. Married Hannah Savil born 13 July 1674 Died 1 August 1727. Blacksmith. He was elected surveyor of highways 1695-1698, Constable 1703. Fence viewer 1701 and 1706. Selectman 1709-1714. He died 23 September 1725. John married Hannah 24, June 1695.

His son Stephen born 25 January 1697, married Hannah Penniman born about 1710. Daughter of James Penniman and Abigail Thayer. Stephen elected tithing-man 1728, 1732, 1741. Fence viewer 1734. Surveyor of highways 1736, 1742, and 1746. Constable 1738. Died 10 November 1748.

Taken from North Parish Church Records.

His son John Cleverly, a Physician, was born in Braintree, Mass. 27 December 1728 and died Lancaster, Mass. 1801. Lived also in Concord, Mass. and Harvard Mass. Married first Huldah, daughter of Nathaniel and Abigail Blood Whittemore, born Concord August 25, 1734. Died before May 21, 1765. Had by her Stephen, born Concord 26 October 1760, died Lancaster 29, December 1832. Also Nathaniel. Dr. Cleverly married, second at Milton, Mass. November 27, 1767 Lydia, daughter of Peletiah and Hannah Rawson, born Milton June 24, 1736. Dr. Cleverly married third, Rachel Binney of Hull. Died Harvard October 3, 1780. Dr. Cleverly married fourth, Sarah, daughter of Ephraim and Hannah (Blanchard) Rollins, born Harvard May 23, 1746. Died at Lancaster Aug. 10, 1807.

Stephen Cleverly first son of Dr. John, married about 1806, Sarah Dixon, a niece of his father's fourth wife. Stephen was an accomplished but erratic man, among the least of whose eccentricities was intermittently styling himself Stephen Cleverly Jr. for no apparent reason. His squabbles with his stepmothers executor over possession of the paternal residence were of a farcical character.

From a newspaper clipping - Boston Transcript #2255.

Stephen's son Joseph born 25 March 1816 Leominster, Mass. Married Mary Jane Woodbury daughter of William and Sarah Mann Woodbury, 8 Oct. 1848. He died September 1870.

His son William Stephen Cleverly born 11 September 1849 Lancaster, Mass. He was a carpenter and married 20 December 1880 Nancy Maria Gibson born 1850. She was a daughter of George and Lydia Symonds Gibson. He died 31 March, 1920.

His son Clayton Gibson Cleverly born 15 September 1882 in Fitchburg, Mass. He was a clothing merchant and married 21 September 1911 Ethel Lavers daughter of Francis and Agnes Smith Lavers, born 10 April 1883 in Avondale, Nova Scotia. He died 2 January 1955 in Fitchburg, Mass.

His daughter is Shirley Cleverly born 20 January 1918 in Fitchburg, Mass. She is a retired registered nurse, married to Donald Firmin Pethybridge and living in Wallingford, Conn.

This family history is submitted by Shirley Cleverly Pethybridge.

13. THE LAST OF THE PLLARD WILLOWS

This January Mr Coates has been obliged to fell the last of the pollard willows by the Hearne Brook - there used to be a line of them on the west bank opposite the former allotment. I believe they were planted by a basketmaker who worked here many years ago, perhaps 150 years back, when the nurseries and my garden were all part of Brevels Hay. The surviving tree had a huge trunk and a mass of ivy, much beloved by birds; but it was quite dead.

M. Paget

14. LITTLE HERBERTS IDENTIFIED - part I

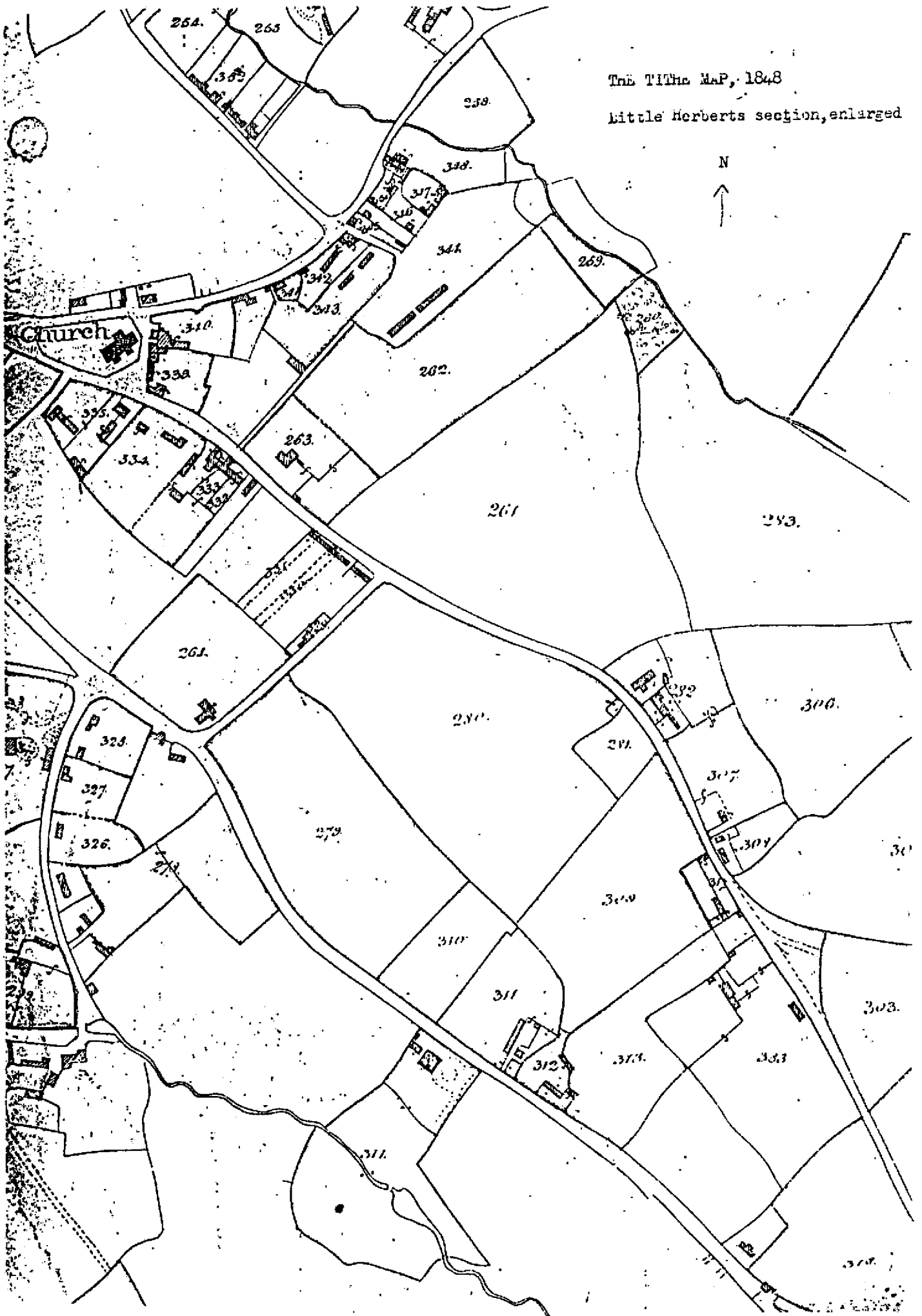
When I was working on Little Herberts for Bulletin 6, I found some difficulty in identifying positively any properties there except the farm (Ashley copyhold) which is remembered as the Home Farm for Lilleybrook. Originally it had been Cherrington's (see Bulletin 6 pp 16-19).

Now as a result of more research on Cheltenham and Ashley court books and the helpful information contributed by Mr. A. Mitchell of 49 Little Herberts Road, by Mrs. Young the last occupier of Orchard House, by Mrs. Baldwin, and others, the history of this area is made clearer and some of our conjectures confirmed.

The Tithe Map, 1848

Little Herberts section, enlarged

N



(1) The road itself

Up to the foot of the hill, all land to the east of Little Herberts road, alias Hollow Lane, belonged to Cheltenham manor, all land to the west to Ashley. This indicates that the road is older than the 12th century division when Walter of Ashley received his allocation out of the royal manor of Cheltenham.

(2) The name

This seems to have been originally Little Harbour or Harbord, presumably from the ME herberge, a shelter. Perhaps the first building was a temporary lodging for men who cleared the escarpment of trees. Mick Aston of Birmingham Extra Mural Department noticed what appears to be a house platform under the big oak in the boundary between Catshay and Penny Breaches - and that division dates back to 1564.

To start with the Ashley side of the road

(3) Footpaths

Originally there were two long strips of arable between Little Herbert's Road and the footpath from the corner of Blind Lane/Croft Road. A short length of path led and leads into it at the back of No 45. Mr. Mitchell says (and the OS maps bear him out) that till 1927 the main path did not turn west opposite No 51 but continued up to the Home Farm, only swinging west there. These paths were intended to give access to unfenced strips in the field called The Croft. But by the 16-17th century, with the demand for cottages, tenants began to build houses on their strips, even when those new buildings had no direct access to a road. This may be why No 49 and possibly even its neighbours face on to the path and turn their backs to the road. But why was Home Farm set right back, so that when the footpath continued, it arrived at the east side of the house? Were there once more houses against the roadside? It seems very likely.

(4) No 45 and No 49, Little Herberts Road (formerly nos 1,2, and 4)

Of these two buildings, No 49 is certainly the older. Though it does not look old outside, inside it is a timber-framed house of c.1600 with a stone chimney and a wooden chimney beam over a wide hearth. No 45 (originally one house, then two cottages, now again one but added to three times since 1900) was there by 1700. Its development since 1900 was illustrated by photographs in Bulletin 18. However, the inter-related history of the two properties has become clear since, thanks to a deed of 1927 lent by Mr Mitchell - a very good example of the way a modern deed can help to tie-up previously unrelated bits of evidence.

Though Ashley manor court books don't start till 1742, there are some surviving surrenders from 1696 (GRO D 109) and two of them relate to No 45. The Cheringtons (of Home Farm) had built this house at the north end of their strip against Little Herberts Road.

On 8 May 1718 John Cherington (of Home Farm) in consideration of £30 paid by Robert Dowman of Leckhampton yeoman surrendered to his use a customary message in "little Harford", with a garden, the yard on the west side of the house as far as the barn, a parcel of ground on the north-east side of the message "convenient for a defence of the windows of the said message to preserve them from being annoyed by cattle", and the right to take carts through Cherington's yard. The extra land on the north-east side identifies the house. This must be the extra 6 foot between the building and the footpath or cart track (GRO D 109/original surrender C 18).

Dowman on 7 February 1722/3 surrendered the messuage to use of himself and Mary his wife for their lives and after to use of his daughters Elizabeth and Rebecca (GRO D 109/original surrender C 73). Probably he had bought the house as provision for the girls. He himself continued to live at Leckhampton and died there. But his widow Mary was buried at Charlton on 14 October 1727, so by then she and the daughters had moved here. Rebecca married Thomas Ballinger, her first child Rebecca was baptised on 18 September 1736. Another daughter Hester (baptised 18 December 1739) and then a son Thomas (baptised 4 June 1743) followed. Elizabeth Dowman must have been sharing the house with her sister, for on 4 June 1738 she married their neighbour John Lawrence, living at No 49.

On 28 May 1742 John Lawrence and Elizabeth his wife acquired from John Cherington "a parcel of land in Little Harbord with a barn, at the south end of a tenement of Thomas Ballinger's". In spite of this reference to the barn (presumably the one which had bordered Dowman's land in 1718), it had already tumbled down or was about to do so, for the division between Ballinger's tenement and the land sold to Lawrence was marked by mearstones (ie boundary stones) "lately set up". Nothing more solid was needed to divide the properties of such close relations. In later entries describing the land, only the "site of a barn" was surrendered. The division between Lawrence's plot and the rest of Cherington's land was marked in 1742 by a ditch.

John Lawrence mortgaged his cottage (No 49) in 1798 and again in 1810. But he was not living in it, the occupier was John Ashop. So it may be that Lawrence wanted the money to build himself a new house to the south of the old one, the front or west part of the house (now Nos 51 and 53) which Mr Mitchell calls "the farm". (It was divided and added to during this century).

At all events, in 1810 the old cottage (No 49) came into the possession of Lawrence's relations next door.

Thomas son of Thomas and Rebecca was born in 1743 and married about 1769. He and his wife Sarah had a son Thomas baptised 29 July 1770, to be followed by Mary (1773) Robert (1775), John (1780) and Samuel (1787). At first the Ballinger home had been divided to make a separate dwelling for the young couple. On 4 march 1772 the manor court heard that Thomas and Rebecca were then living in the eastern part, with a room, a chamber, and two pantries. These had been added to the house, for to reach them you had to go out of the back door. With this moiety went half the garden on the south and east sides. Rebecca was buried on 1 January 1773, only 9 months later, and Thomas the father on 26 August 1789; after that both halves of the cottage were let.

Thomas the son with his growing family had moved elsewhere. When he died he owned both freehold and copyhold property and liked to call himself (without any good reason) "gentleman". He did not bother to claim his father's half of the house till 1810, when he had taken over No 49 as well, and was about to make his will. Then he left all his property to trustees to use of his wife Sarah for life, and after to his children living at the time of his death and heirs of their bodies. (Ashley Wills, book 1). The day following, Sarah, exercising a power given to her in the will, made her own will, leaving to her eldest son Thomas three cottages and gardens occupied by William Churches tailor, Thomas Garn senior, and Thomas Garn junior. So Churches had No 49 and the Garns shared 45.

By 1835 this Thomas Ballinger a farmer, was surrendering to his own son Thomas and his daughter-in-law Mary Ann the same three cottages. Ten years later they mortgaged them to raise £300, with the additional security of a bond from Ballinger and Samuel Carter of Withington farmer, probably some connexion. The tithe apportionment in 1848 shows Thomas Ballinger as owning and occupying

cottages and gardens, 21 perches (TM 317) - from the map the Ballinger home and also a block apparently nos 49, 51, and 53; but as the cottages are not particularised, it is hard to be sure.

Carter died on 1 January 1848. His executor took over the mortgage and so without any formal surrender the 3 cottages became vested in the Carter family whose members gradually paid off the money due. Finally on 11 October 1904 Ellen Gertrude Carter was admitted to 3 cottages and land part of OS 657 (1903 ed.), the northern boundary being 6 feet from the frontage line of Nos 1 and 2 (ie No 45), that is the 6 feet between the building and the footpath. By the same description, Ellen's three cottages were enfranchised on 10 July 1918.

In Powell's 1824 sketch book, next to his sketch of Little Herberts farm, is a view of a lane with part of a cottage and stile, a double lean-to on the end of the cottage, a small building beyond (shed, privy, pig-sty?). It is marked "At Charlton", and a corner of Charlton hill can be glimpsed through trees. I feel confident that this is the Ballinger cottage with the two pantries and the door into them from the back of the house.

The Register of Electors in 1895, after the franchise had been widely extended lists cottages at Little Herberts occupied by William Summers, Henry Gardner, and William Pincher - presumably nos 45 divided and 49, then in division 2, tied houses, William Morris and Henry Herbert - 51 and 53 not divided and the old farmhouse?

In 1927 No 49 was bought for £230 by Frank John Balfour of Brietton House. The plan explains what he then acquired - the cottage, a small garden on the west, a larger garden on the east and a small building, probably a privy. The plan colours blue a path which (though we are not told so) served and still serves both 49 and 47. No 45 is drawn as still two cottages, perhaps because the draughtsman was copying an old plan, but an extension is shown on both ends. For the same reason, No 51 and 53 are indicated as still one house, though divided earlier in the century. Mrs Baldwin remembers them as two dwellings when her grandfather Weston lived in No 53, and says that the main room on the west of each house had a flagged floor and was very damp! Two rooms have been added successively to each on the east side. No 3, now No 47, is also shown on the 1927 plan, but smaller than it is now; I have found nothing so far about the building and development of this property, perhaps c. 1900.

The extension on the east side of No 49 is very modern.

No. 4 LAWRENCE'S CIRCA 1600-1810

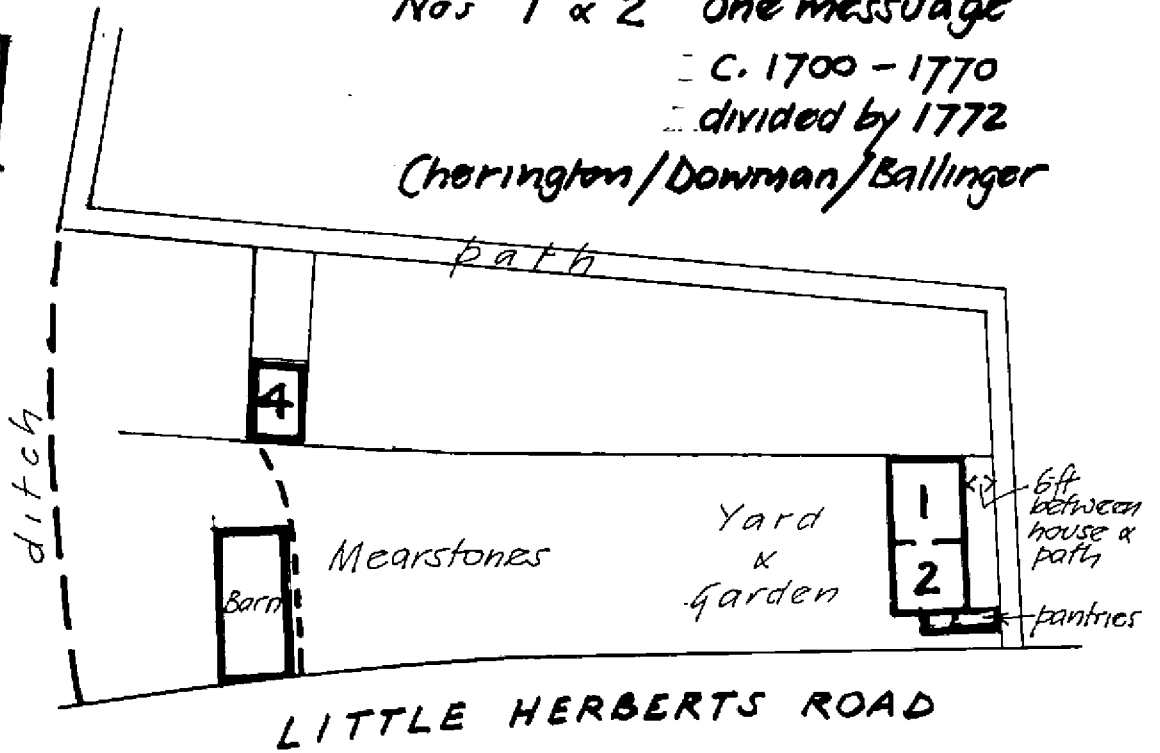
No's 1 & 2 one messuage

— C. 1700 - 1770

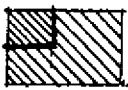
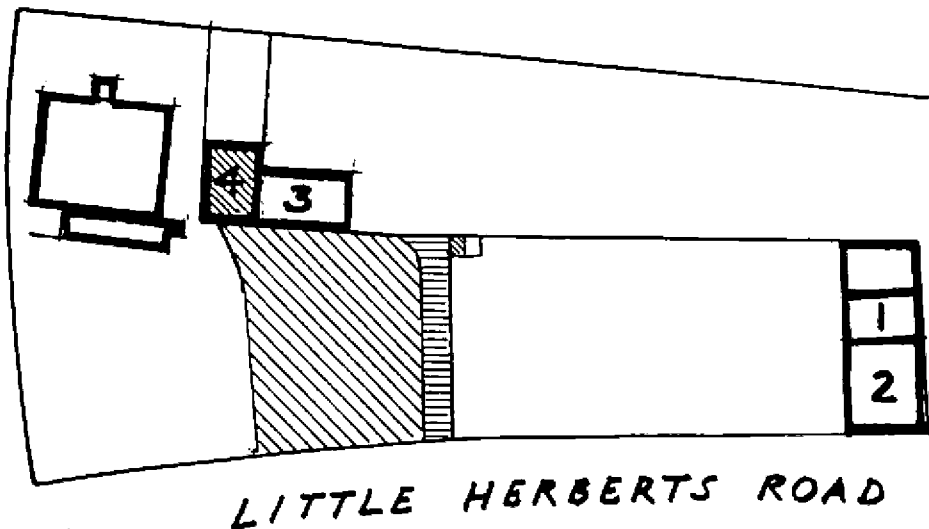
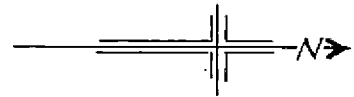
— divided by 1772

Cherington/Downman/Ballinger

Cherington's Farm



DIAGRAM

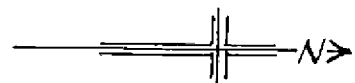


Buildings/Land belonging to No. 4 now No. 49



Blue on deed plan, path used jointly by Nos. 3 & 4

Scale: 1/500



PLAN FROM DEED 1927

No.45



Powell's sketch 1824 - note double extension eastward for the pantries;
and the stile



limit of the old cottage

The north side of No.45 now - a change in the brickwork shows where the
house has been extended right up to the footpath.



East side of No.49 (from Little
Herberts Road)
The chimney has been raised (top
section brick)

A corner of No.51 on the left and
47 on the right can be seen.



West side of No.49 from path



West side of Nos. 51, 53.



No 43 (no.3 on plan) from west

M. Paget
A. Mitchell

15. FIELD COTTAGES TRANSFORMED

Nos 1 and 3 Church Street, formerly known as Field Cottages (because they stand on a strip of the Lyefield) have recently received a much needed face-lift. No 1 was for over 50 years the home of Miss Ethel Mason, but No 3 had been empty for a long time and was in a very sad state.

The sale particulars described these as 18th century, but they don't show on the 1806 map. So the name of No 5, Waterloo Cottage, is a more accurate indication of date. The builder was probably Conway Whithorne Lovesy of Coxhorne House.

In his will dated 3 February 1838, codicil 7 April 1845, he left them to his daughter Fanny Margaret Lovesy. They were then occupied by Elisha Bowyer, Richard Staite and I. Peart at a total rent of £20. Conway died in November 1846; and the 1858 Rate book shows his daughter as owner of the 3 cottages in Church Street, then occupied by Thomas Pates, Isaac Peart and Ann Paynter. The rateable values are given as £7 for the first two (Waterloo cottage and No 3) and £6.10.0 for No 1, which probably had not received the addition, the part shown in the sale particular photograph as slated while the rest was tiled.

In 1924, the Directory shows these three cottages as occupied by W. Peacey at Waterloo cottage, A.F.Bowen, and R.Bond plasterer at 2 and 1 Field Cottages. Then on 18 January 1929 1 and 2 Field Cottages were bought by Thomas Frederick Mason. A photograph showing them about 1940 was published in Bulletin 11 p.48.

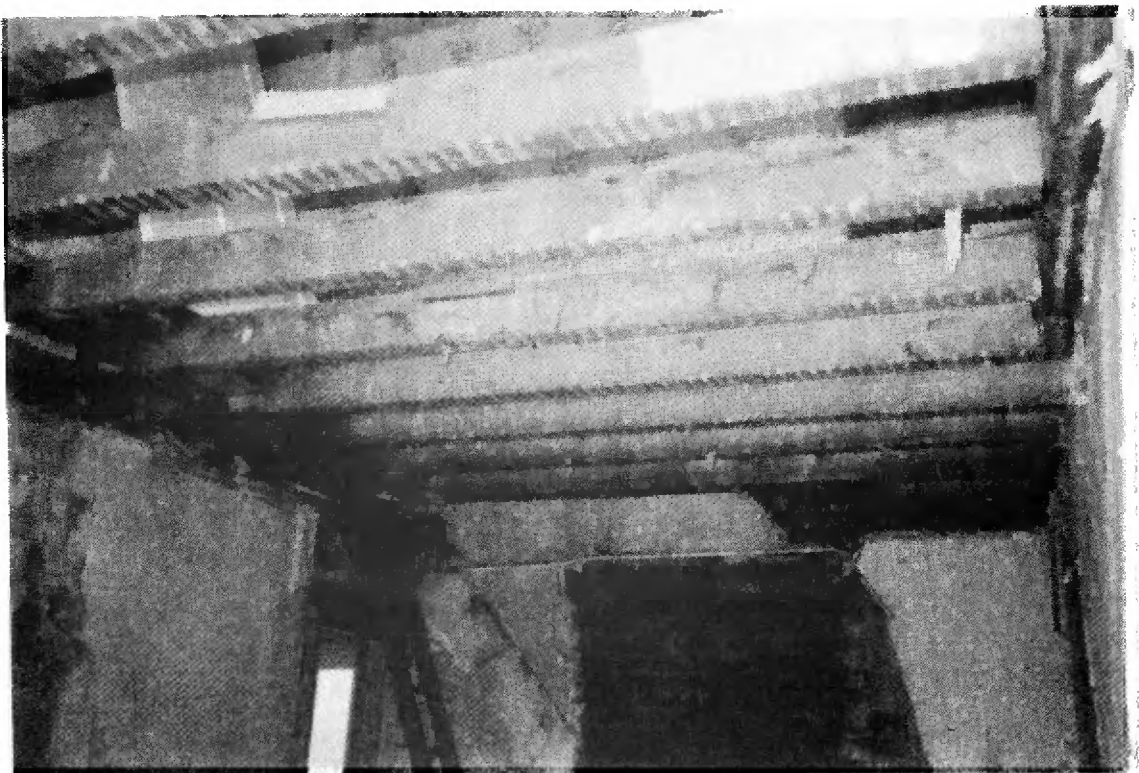
Alterations in 1987 included raising and re-roofing the extension to No 1 (so that the roof line of all the cottages is now the same), removal of extensions at the back and rebuilding kitchens and bathrooms, porches at the front, new windows and doors.



As they were - photograph from Sale particulars 8 July 1987



Alterations - a chimney has been removed and the roof raised at the west side



Inside No.3 during repairs



Building work at the back



As they are - new windows, doors, and porches

M. Paget

16. ANOTHER MEDIEVAL DEED -- LAND CALLED "HOLEBECHÉ" IN 1459 GRO D 444 T 82 (14)

In a deed "given at Cherleton" on 12 June 1459, John Hale and John Lonyer of Charlton Kings gave and confirmed to William Hyckes, also of Charlton, all that land called Holebeche in Charlton between Bretteshull, Newbreche and Truchebreche. This was somewhere on the slope of Ham Hill below Dowdeswell Wood, and the deed is proof that the escarpment had been cleared of scrub and was in cultivation by the mid 15th century. The document is a "find" because it names so many Charltonians, for besides the three cited above, witnesses were Thomas Frensh, William More, William Goderych, Thomas Cole and John Alisaundir, all of Charlton.

M. Paget

17. OVER HOUSE AND NETHER HOUSE, EAST END GRO D 444 T 9

In Bulletin 13 we published all available information about two freehold tenements at East End, one on the site of East Court and one called over House (standing east of Steel's Alley). The name "Over House" suggested that there was also a "Nether House" not far away.

Now we can attach the name Nether House or Pellyns to the message which stood very much where the back of East Court is now. In the mid 16th century it was occupied by the Rogers family and even after they had left, the land going with the house was called Rogeresland. By 1580 Over House (which in 1564 was held by Rouland Goodrich) was theirs as well. We don't know what induced them, soon after that, to dispose of their Charlton property.

On 21 March 1588 John Rogers for £100 sold closes called Peny Howbach and Colsyate to a relation, William son of Nicholas Rogers, yeoman - the transaction was confirmed by a final concord entered into by John Rogers and Leticia his wife. The rest of the property passed to Gyles Rogers - John may have died but if so he was not buried at St Marys. On 26 May 1590 Gyles conveyed to Reignold Nycholas (of Northfield farm) and to Thomas Rogers two messages in Charlton Kings, one called Pellyns otherwise Nether House and the other Over House, and all his property within the Hundred of Cheltenham.

Nicholas and Rogers were either trustees to sell or had a lien on the estate. They conveyed 4 acres of land on the hill, a close known as Oken churchyard, to Nicholas's son Thomas, "Reynold Nicholas in consideration of the fatherly affection he bereth to Thomas his son" and Rogers for a certain sum not disclosed. This close was "parcel of the lands and hereditaments which Reignold Nicolas and Thomas Rogers have purchased of Giles Rogers" and was to be held by Thomas the son from William Grevill gentleman lord of the manor of Charlton Kings for a chief rent of 2d, this indicating that the close was Ashley freehold. The name Oken Churchyard of Oken Church hey had nothing to do with an ecclesiastical tenure. It had presumably been 'heyed' or fenced by a member of the Church family, and was recognised by an oak tree or trees. The land came back to the Rogers family and on 20 November 1636 was part of the land conveyed by William Rogers of Sandywell to his brother Richard. However, Richard's widow Anne sold it 4 June 1658 to Paule Dodwell of Sandywell, an act which led to "a long and tedious suite" in Chancery not relevant here.

Nether House was sold to William Grevill and Ann (Moore) his wife about 1590. Over House was also sold, though we don't yet know to whom. However, it was rebuilt. We have been lucky enough to be given a xerox from an old photograph of the house taken early in the 20s (when it had become known as one of Wood's Cottages) and this has been redrawn for the Bulletin by Ken Venus since the original was too dark to reproduce. It shows the house as having had close studding on the lower storey and regular box framing on the upper storey, though

the close studding had been cut through when a window was inserted, perhaps in the mid 19th century. A stone house was then built between the side of the timber-framed house and the road, and a brick cottage added at the far end.

Inside the timber-framed house, I am told there was still one large room, with a narrow slit of a room on the right as you entered. So it was still basically the hall house of c.1600, with the addition of bedrooms above.

The three cottages were demolished by theUBC to make way for East End flats sometime in the 1950's.

M. Paget



Over House, redrawn from snap.

Stone cottage added
at the South (East
End Road) end.



Brick cottage
added at north end.



Photographs lent by Mrs. Petts, 8 Okus Road.