

CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY



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CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Membership of this Society

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

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

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Cover picture

The porch of The Hearne, drawn by K. Venus

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1.

A LITTLE LAMB

Mary had a little lamb,
His fleece was white as snow.
But that's not all there is to it
As I will try to show.

This little lamb that Mary had
I think was pretty fly,
He followed her to school one day
And learned to multiply.

That was the start of his success,
Flocks spread o'er hill and vale;
The benefit it brought to man
Is quite a wond'rous tale.

Its value went from strength to strength,
'Twas used by man and maid,
Till wool became the currency
Of Church and State and Trade.

Some fleeces were exchanged for stone
And in the masons' hand
Cathedrals, castles, city walls
Were built and some still stand.

So if we stare with open mouth
Or just with rustic pride,
Let's not forget that fleecy Lamb
That walked by Mary's side.

G. Ryland

2. FIRST NIGHT IN FRANCE



There were many experiences round the back end of 1914 that were common to many young men. They have been so interestingly and accurately recorded that it could prove tedious if just for the purposes of this story I should recount them again. I think this can be avoided.

War broke out in 1914 and for a while many of us went voluntarily through a nationally perfected sieve designed to make us similar, single, units that could be expected to think and act in unison when necessity presented itself. In other words, KITCHENER pointed his finger at us from the billboards and many of us went straight and joined His Majesty's forces. This meant military training. Many of the young men of this village joined the Gloucestershire regiment and most of those - the 9th Gloucestershire Regiment.

We did the usual training, some in Wiltshire, some on top of the Cotswolds, but late in the Spring of 1915 we found ourselves in the hands of the R.T.O. and before you could say "Here we come", we found ourselves one late afternoon in Southampton and with one great hop, on the next night we were across the Channel and in CHERBOURG. The R.T.O. again took us under his wing and decanted us in a little Normandy village - FERRIER.

Here we were to get the four regiments of our Brigade together and I suppose learn to act together. This, of course, meant billeting the regiments, for a while, quite a new experience for us.

To have any idea of the French billeting system, one must know that each house has a fixed billeting quota, rather like we have a fixed rateable value. I suppose it is fixed by the Local Authority and comes directly under the Garde Champetre, who corresponds somewhat to our mayor.

The 9th GLOSTERS were distributed early and it soon got round that the Machine Gun Sergeant had been a teacher, so they were certain that he could speak French. Actually, I couldn't, but I had enough to be of some use to the billeting officer.

Our own section we had parked up on the lawn in front of the Chateau. We had two limbers and four mules to be responsible for. My officer decided to billet the men near the Chateau, while my Lance Sergeant and I would sleep under the limbers. When we had finished, I went round with the billeting officer and the Garde and they considered I was of considerable help.

It was then my job to get back up to the Chateau. We were rather careful with those guns. At the time they were a bit special.

We were a platoon set aside as the Machine Gun Section. One Officer, a Sergeant and one Lance Sergeant. We had four Lewis Guns, fired from Vicars tripods. Strictly speaking, they were not 'guns'. They were automatic rifles but they were new and had not yet been fired in France. So it is now plain why I was a bit anxious.

Well, I went round, saw that everything was in order, and had a look to see that the men were as comfortable as possible and then I felt like a drink.

Meak, my Lance Sergeant said "There's a cafe open down the road. I don't know of another". So I thought we might stroll down and have a look at the cafe. When we arrived, I would not say there was pandemonium but something rather like it. Most of the Section were diving for the bar to get drinks. Those who had drinks were trying to back out in the yard. The cafe was full and Madame and her two daughters were trying to carry on business from the other side of the zinc counter.

But Madame was worried. Here was a little fortune waiting for her on the other side of the counter. But she didn't know the customers' language, neither could she manipulate the customers' money.

This was where Meak and I stepped in. "Can we help, Madame?". Then with a quiet sigh of relief she said "Ah! Monsieur parle francais". It was more a statement than a question. It meant that at last some of Madame's troubles were over. It was accompanied by a great sigh of relief. I told her that my Lance Sergeant could easily check the money - and he was quite reliable - and I would do my best to do what interpretation was necessary.

After that, "all went merry as a wedding bell". Madame and her two daughters, when the strain was lifted, turned out to be very pleasant people.

While assisting in the cafe, I heard the last Battalion of our Brigade marching into the village. The sound of their pipes was not readily recognised by the other side of the zinc counter, so I said to Madam, "Les Eccosais". "Les Eccosais?" said Madame, "Je n'ai jamais vue les Eccosais". "Then come down the bottom of the garden and see them march into billets" So down the garden we went. And as the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders came swinging down the road, kilts swinging and pipes playing, I must say I was pretty proud of them myself. I switched to Madame and said, "Eh, bien, comment ca, Madame? C'est bon, ca?" She was open eyed and open mouthed. "Ca, c'est manifique -- c'est manifique" and a long pause, and then "Mais ce n'est pas propres!"

When the cafe was closing because our men were returning for their evening meal, Madame insisted that Meak and I stayed on there for supper. We did, and she did us very well. "Langue d'ourse", I think she called it - bear's tongue - actually her name for some particular piece of bacon.

It was a merry little party. I enjoyed it no end. Then in the middle entered Monsieur. He had come straight from work and Madame informed me that he was the Garde Champetre of the village. Like most of these Normans he was shaved once a week by his wife, and a rougher looking workman it would be difficult to imagine. Meak said "Who did he say he was?". I said "The Mayor". "Blimey" said Meak, "If that's the Mayor, I'm the Prince of Wales!".

During the meal the Mayor told me that he was responsible for all billets and billeting. He asked me where Meak and I were billeted. I said "On the lawn under the limbers in front of the Chateau". "Oh, you can't do that" said the Mayor. He then told me certain billets came directly under his control. He could place them or withhold them. Such a one was the new bungalow. It belonged to an Officer serving in the south of France and the letting of it was in the hands of the Mayor. He would be glad for us to have it during our stay, in return for our kindness to his wife.

I was not for immediate acceptance. He said it was the best billet he had. Suppose one of the officers found that we were using it and it had not been offered to them? Worse than that, I felt there was something sinister about the whole thing, but I could not for the life of me make out what it was.

Anyway, he insisted on us having a look at it. It was only just down the road.

My hopes of turning down an offer like this, with Meak present, were few. On the outside, it was just a nice bungalow for two. Inside it was completely furnished for normal week-end occupation. In fact, that was what I thought it was, a week-end bungalow and quite a nice one. The temptation was growing for me. You can imagine Meak's reactions. But that sinister feeling was still with me. Anyway, my job was with the section, up at the Chateau. I told the old man, much as we appreciated his offer, I must have the men out by 6.30 am.

"That's all right" said he "I'll wake you at 6 o'clock and you can easily be up there at half past six". I didn't like it, it was all too easy, but I was eventually talked into it. Meak was to bring down our gear and the old man promised to wake us at six.

Well, when he had gone, we had a good look round and one could certainly make oneself comfortable there. Quite a nice kitchen and an adequate dining room, a bedroom and two beds - all one could ask. But the unpleasant sinister atmosphere would not leave me. The girls had made up the beds, and I had a final look round. Yes, all was locked. The windows were safe. I said "Meak, you have your rifle. Sleep with it, loaded, on your bed. I shall with mine. I wonder if it might be wiser to have one of us awake all night?". "No" said Meak "and throw a cushie billet away!" I gave in and we got into bed. But I couldn't sleep. I still had that feeling something dreadful might happen. I felt we had walked into a trap.

I tossed and turned, I couldn't sleep. The night seemed to get blacker and blacker. I was certain something dreadful would happen.

And - was that it? There was a scratching at the door - then shouts and a banging. It had happened, just as I thought. Meak was awake by now and grasped his rifle.

The noise increased. Together, with our 303's, we went to the door. I shouted "Qui est la? - qui est la?"

"Moi! C'est moi" --- "Qui? I asked, and it replied "Moi, Moi, C'est Monsieur le Maire! Vous avez dit -- Six heures! Vous avez dit six heures du matin! C'est moi!"

G. Ryland

3. THE HEARNE - THE SITE AND ITS OWNERS (BALL, SPERRINGE, MOULDER, BRADSHAW, NICHOLSON, MERCER)

The present house is entirely 19th century. But there had been more than one dwelling on this site before.

This land was originally part of Castle field. The strip next to Church Street belonged to Ashley Manor, the rest of the site was customary or copyhold land of Cheltenham Manor, so tenants had to do suit to both. About the time that Charlton was prosperous because it grew so much corn, 1380-1410, two cottages were erected here, held about 1450 by Agnes Balle. In the 16th century the cottages were replaced by a substantial messuage called Balls House. It was a well-known landmark, so that a Cheltenham court in 1628 could order the repair of the lane from Dowdeswell Mill to "Ballhowse" - that is, the original Dowdeswell road, coming along side the Chelt, up the bank past the mill and the two enclosures called Rungebournes, round the south side of a small close called Coxhorne (site of Coxhorne House) down the lane we call Balcarras, and so into East End Road. At this point, field track through Middlefield led up to Colegate, then just a cartway across the field, now the rest of East End Road. This explains another court order of 1630 that ditches should be scoured and hedges cut on both sides of the lane "from Middlefeildes Gate to Ballhowse" (GRO D 855 M 10 ff.7v. 38v)

Ball's name survives in distorted form in Arle Grove, a clump of trees on Ham Hill, which according to the 1617 survey of Cheltenham manor ought to be Bawle Grove. In 1624 William Bawle was named at Cheltenham Hundred court as tithing man for Ashley (GRO M 9 pt 2 pp 47, 63). William was the last of his name to live at Balls House and must have moved away before his death, for he is not buried here though his wife Jane is. From the Balls, the house passed to the Sperringes.

They too were an old Charlton family, first mentioned in the parish

registers in 1543. The one who interests us is Richard, who seems to have married three times, first to Joane (buried 17 March 1636/7), then to Margaret (buried 28 November 1648, and finally to Elizabeth who outlived him and was clearly much younger than her husband.

Ball, Balle, Bawle

PARISH REGISTER I 1538-1634

Maude Balle widow buried 2 July 1559

Henry Balle m Isabell Smith 27 June 1580
buried 6 January 1629/30

Walter Balle m Ellinore Abowene
8 April 1605

Dorothie
bp 20 Oct 1580
m John Reynolds

John
bp 22 Apl 1581
bur 13 May 1581

Thomas
bp 12 Apl 1583

Jane
bp 17 Aug 1586

WILLIAM
bp 22 Feb 1591/2
bur 27 June 1629

William
bp 22 Feb 1620/1

Samuel
bp 1 Jan 1623/4
bur 4 June 1624

Thomas
bp 9 June 1625
bur 17 May 1626

James
bp 10 Nov 1626

NO BALLS IN PARISH REGISTER II 1634-1700

Sperrinke, Spirwinke, Sperings, Spiring

PARISH REGISTERS I AND II 1538-1700

William Sperwinke, bur 12 November 1543

Richard Sperrinke

Ralph, bp 10 June 1551

William

Elizabeth
bp 16 March 1567/8
bur 5 Aug 1568

Thomas
bp 23 Nov 1569

Joane
bp 8 March 1572

Richard m (1) Joane
bur 17 March 1636/7

(2) Margaret
bur 28 Nov 1648

JOHN
bp 2 Nov 1635

THOMAS
bp 14 Mar 1637/8

Edeth
bp 27 May 1651

Margerie
bp 1 Sep 1643
bur 30 Dec 1643

Susanna
bp 24 Sep 1647

RICHARD
bp 17 Nov 1648

m (3) ELIZABETH who m (2) JOHN MOULDER c. April 1660

WILLIAM
born
10 June 1650

ELIZABETH
born 27 Apl 1652
m Thomas Surman
of Bishop's Cleeve
1 Feb 1695/6

By his first wife, Richard Sperringe had a son John baptised 2 November 1635; by his second wife two sons Thomas baptised 14 March 1637/8 and Richard baptised 17 November 1648; and by his third wife yet one more son William born 20 June 1650. He also had three daughters to provide for.

On 25 April 1653, Richard Sperringe surrendered to use of himself for life and to use of Elizabeth his wife for life as jointure, after that to use of John Sperringe, Richard's son, and his heirs, a part of his house and land called Balls House in Charlton Kings. What Richard was actually doing was to divide house and land between his two elder sons. Richard and Elizabeth would enjoy for their lives "the hall, the buttery, chamber over the hall, little chamber over the buttery, the cockloft over the sayd chamber, all the west end of the stable as it is now divided, the moiety of the cow house, together with the use of the threshing roome in the barne at needfull and necessary tymes, also all that garden lying over against the Hall window, the moiety of the yard or court lying next the highway there, the moiety of the close called Ballhey, the moiety of the ground called Red Woods Brooke and the two grounds called Footshill ---". The yard "lying next the highway" was probably very much on the same site as the stable yard at The Hearne, the highway being the old London Road running on the north side of the house, between The Hearne and The Knapp.

For all this, Richard and his wife paid a 20s heriot to the lord. After Richard's death, this land (but not the rooms in the house) were to be held by William Mason of Whittington and William Stone of Northleach for 12 years on trust to use the rents for the maintenance and preferment of his younger children and to raise portions for them. This meant that either of the elder sons could pay the trustees an economic rent and farm the land for themselves if they wished. (GRO D 855 M 11 ff 106v, 107)

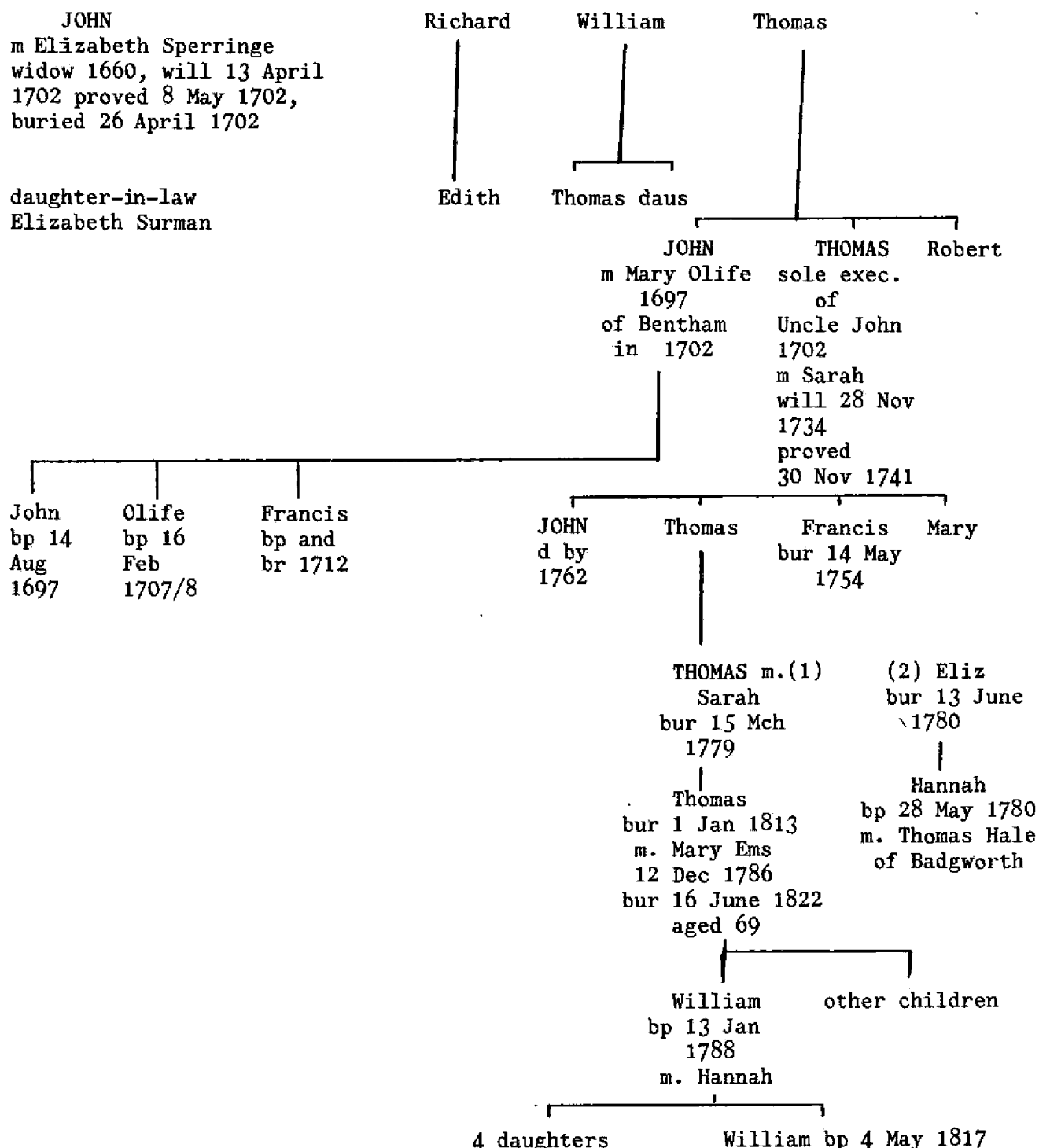
On 1 October 1658 it was presented in court that Richard Sperringe had died, so that a total heriot of £3 was due for the whole property - in other words, Richard had settled a third of the house and lands on his widow and John. The other two-thirds went to the second son Thomas, who claimed the messuage and land "saving the right of all others". (GRO D 855 M 11 p 212). Thomas was not the customary heir, either under the pre 1625 custom nor under the Act; so it looks as though Richard Sperringe had acquired Balls House through his second wife, perhaps by inheritance but more probably by investing her dower in the purchase.

Thomas was not a very wise manager of his share. He surrendered an acre in Castlefield (six lands with a plot of meadow at the west end "shooting on Castlewell Greene") to Joseph Danford on 30 September 1659; and six months later mortgaged several rooms in the house (not particularized) and some land to his step-mother. (GRO D 855 M 11 p 215). It would have been helpful to have been told more about Thomas's share of the house but one may guess that it comprised a parlour, kitchen, two chambers over them, and another cockloft, besides pantry, larder, dairy and out offices, with the other half of the cowhouse, stable, and threshing room. Elizabeth had no kitchen so she must have cooked in the hall, which she did not share; that implies a kitchen for Thomas's use as well as the parlour, two principal rooms on the ground floor to her one.

However, Elizabeth did not remain a widow for long. On 14 April 1660, John Moulder and Elizabeth his wife surrendered to use of themselves for life and after to John's heirs, all the rooms in Balls House and the lands settled on her (GRO D 855 M 11 p 216). There is a break in the court book series at this point, but it seems certain that within a few years the Moulders had come into possession of the whole messuage.

It is not easy to make out a pedigree for the Moulders, but from the court books, parish registers, and information kindly supplied by Mr David Moulder of Waltham Abbey Essex, a descendant, we can see how the Charlton line ran.

Moulder from court books, registers and wills

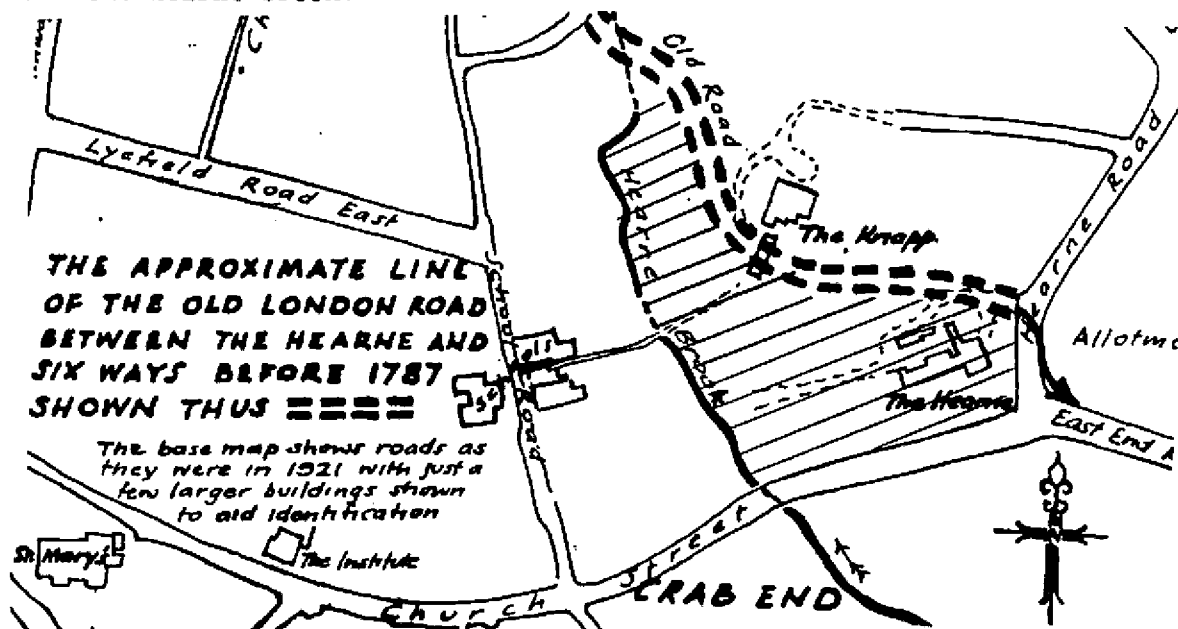


John Moulder, who married Elizabeth Sperringe in 1660, left a will dated 13 April 1702, proved 8 May 1702; he was buried here on 26 April. He must once have had a son, since he gives a legacy to a daughter-in-law, but had no grand-children. He mentioned his three brothers, Richard, William, and Thomas; and John's heirs were his nephews, the sons of Thomas, principally Thomas (his uncle's executor) and John who in 1697 had married Mary Olife and upon whom his

uncle settled part of his lands (GRO D 855 M 12 pp 165-6). But between that marriage in 1697 and the date of the will, nephew John, then of Bentham, had run into debt and his uncle had to forgive him what he owed and instruct him to divide that money among his children at his death. One wonders if they ever got anything! Another of the testator's nephews Robert, lost his promised legacy "he having lately disoblged me". So the principal beneficiary was nephew Thomas, young John's brother, to whom were devised the messuage and the rest of the land. So anxious was John Moulder of Balls House that this clause should take effect, that on 7 March 1701/2 he surrendered all that lands and tenements that the said Thomas might receive under the will, to his immediate use. (GRO D 855 M 13 pp 69-70)

During the years 1702 to 1765, the Moulders sold various small pieces of their land, without apparently acquiring any. They may have been turning from farming to trading and crafts. In 1705 Thomas Moulder surrendered to use of Robert Gale and Mary his wife (of what is now Balcarras House) six selions of arable lying intermixed with Gale's land "in the field of Charlton Regis called le Hitching" - $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres in all. In the following year the Moulders mortgaged land near Colegate, and then in 1711 sold it to Thomas Gardiner and Anne his wife (GRO D 855 M 13 pp 120-1, 190). In 1707/8 they surrendered to use of Samuel Cooper gentleman and Jane his wife nee Wager their 8 selions (2 acres) in Bareland field (GRO 855 M 13 p 202). Further mortgages and sales followed - the wealthier land holders were trying to consolidate their field strips and acquire adjoining lands, there was strong pressure on the smaller men to sell. Further mortgages and sales followed, until on 30 August 1765 John Trye the mortgagee, with consent of Thomas Moulder and Sarah his wife, surrendered to use of Hugh Bradshaw of Charlton Kings yeoman, his heirs and assigns, all that messuage or tenement in Charlton Kings with garden and orchard and a parcel of ground adjoining called Ballhey. The heriot die. which in 1653 had been £3, was by 1765 reduced to 6s 2d (GRO D 855 M 16 pp 109-110)

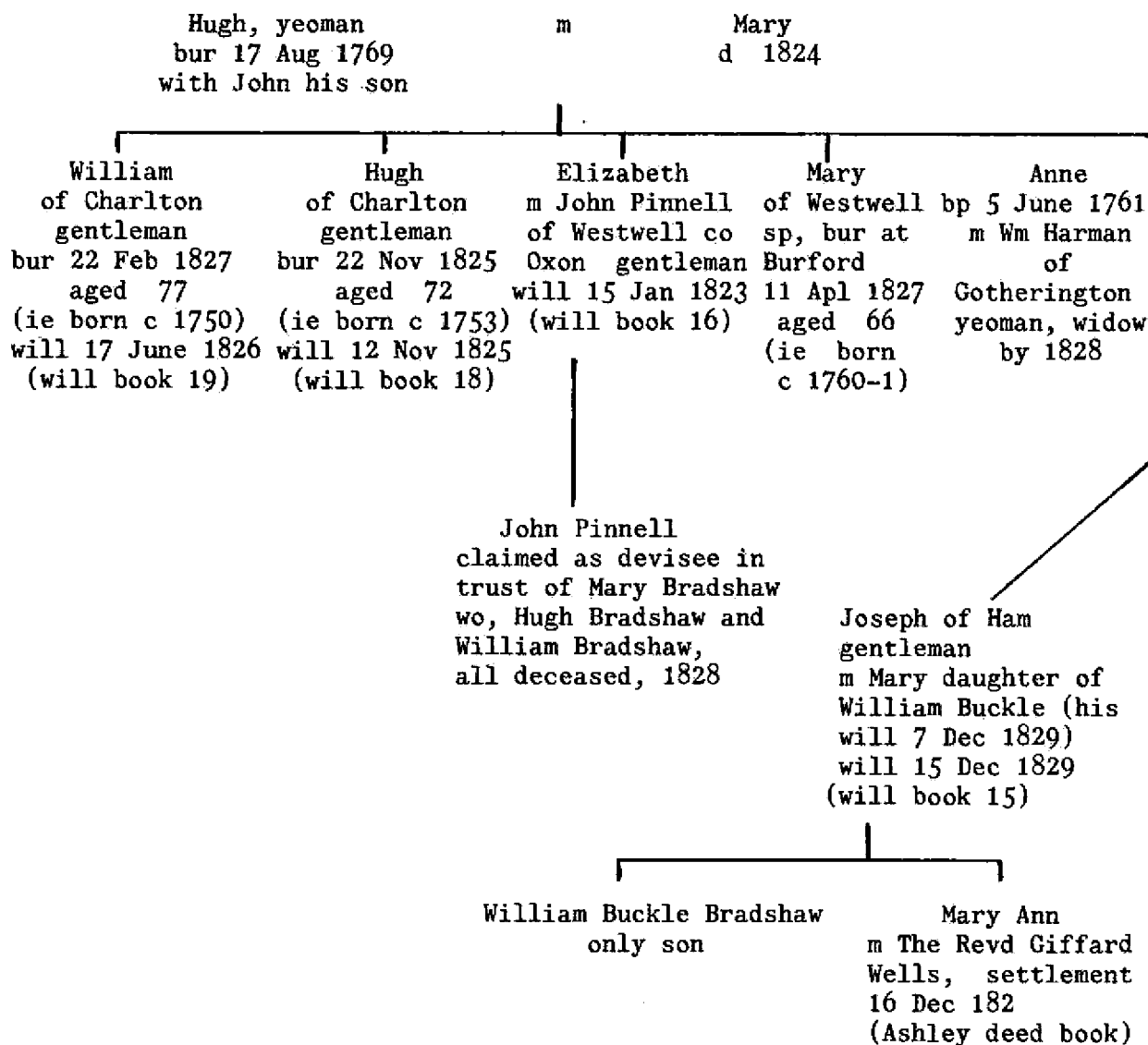
On the same day, 30 August 1765, Thomas Moulder the nephew and his mortgagees surrendered to use of Hugh Bradshaw yeoman the Ashley part of the house site, a parcel of arable called The Hurne ($1\frac{1}{2}$ acres) lying in Castlefield, having the highway there on the south (GRO D 109/1). This highway on the south must be Church Street (we have to remember that in 1765 the old London Road was still in use; Hearne Road and the A40 were not cut till 1787). This is the first written reference to the name Hurne or Hearne, though it had probably been in use all along. It means a horn-shaped piece of land, especially one in a river-bend, and here refers to the very pronounced 'horn' between the Old London Road, Church Street and the Hearne brook.



Hugh Bradshaw the elder, who bought Balls House, lived at Ham as occupier of a tenement originally Edmund Goodrich's (which had passed via the Windes and Richard Rice to William Pope). Hugh owned several parcels of land but not the house in which he lived. He may have intended to move to Balls House but never did so. In 1768 he surrendered all his own property to uses of his will, and in 1769 his widow Mary produced the will dated 14 August 1768 and was admitted for life (GRO D 855 M 16 pp 146-7, 280-1; Ashley manor willbook I, will 13). William Bradshaw the eldest son probably did live at East End. After Mary's death, all the property was divided in equal shares among the six children, five of them acting together. The 6th, Joseph Bradshaw, received as part of his share the Ashley land. (GRO D 855 acc 2198/1 pp 387-9; 2198/5 pp 405-9)

Bradshaw

ASHLEY MANOR WILL BOOK I, REGISTERS



Hugh Bradshaw the younger died in 1825, his brother William and sister Mary in 1827 - she had not married. The way was clear for a sale to Alexander Nicholson of East Court, who did not want to see an undesirable development so near his own house. A man like William Fletcher would have split the old building into three or four dwellings (as he did at Hawthornes and Joyces) and put up cottages along the road, perhaps a row like Chestnut Terrace, erected about

that time.

It is not clear how dilapidated the old house was (perhaps not as decayed as I supposed when I wrote the History of Charlton Kings) but certainly not worth modernising according to the ideas of 1828.

On 8 September 1828, John Pinnell as devisee in trust of his grandmother Mary Bradshaw widow and of his uncles William and Hugh, with his mother Elizabeth and aunt Anne, in consideration of £2000 paid by Alexander Nicholson of East Court, surrendered to his use "all that messuage, garden, stable, coachhouse, cyder mill, barn and premises at Charlton Kings, with the orchard below the messuage running down to and along side the brook which separates the same from a garden and premises of Conway Whithorne Lovesy esq (The Knapp) and premises of Mr William Flatcher (Joyce's or Charlton Cottage), also all that other parcel of pasture ground adjoining the messuage and lying on the upper and back side thereof, all which were formerly in possession of Hugh Bradshaw and afterwards of William Bradshaw deceased", the whole being 3 acres 27 perches. The heriot was still 6s 2d, as in 1765, so the amount of land had not been increased or reduced, (GRO D 855 acc 2198/5 pp 405-9). Nearly a year later, on 7 August 1829, William Buckle Bradshaw as only son of Joseph Bradshaw and now of age confirmed the surrender of 8 September 1828 and also surrendered to Nicholson the land (1½ acres) "commonly called The Herne" (GRO D 855 acc 2198/6 pp 148-152; D 109/2).

The old house had been rebuilt by the end of 1832, if not before. For on 15 February 1833 Nicholson mortgaged the property (described exactly as before) "together with all erections and buildings lately erected and built by the said Alexander Nicholson on the said land and premises" (GRO D 855 acc 2198/8 pp 200-1). We know nothing of the architect or builder employed.

The first tenant of the new house, now called The Hearne, was William Baylis, whose daughter married the Vicar, the Revd James Frederick Secretan Gabb, in 1836. Baylis was followed by the Mercers. The inscription dated 1866, on Mrs Mercer's tombstone in the churchyard says she had been a resident at the Hearne for 27 years, that is, since about 1839. The Mercers came from India; the same tombstone describes Hugh Smyth Mercer as late of the Bengal Medical Service who died in 1870.

Alexander Nicholson left East Court for Suffolk about 1836. It is not clear why he left Charlton, for he had played a prominent part in the affairs of the parish and had been a great benefactor to the church in 1823-24, giving panelling and rails for the sanctuary, chairs, and a silver flagon. But Nicholson did not sell The Hearne outright till 3 January 1843, when he also sold Mercer his land on the south side of Church Street which John Humphris gardener was occupying as Nicholson's tenant. This is now Coates' Nursery, and has been used as a garden or nursery ever since. (GRO D 109/2). Owing this land secured occupiers of The Hearne from development just across the road.

By his will dated 5 April 1870, Hugh Smyth Mercer left his messuage or tenement with lawns, garden and pleasure grounds called the Hearn and that piece of land lying near but on the other side of the highway now in occupation of Benjamin Wood to Katherine Julie Elizabeth Mercer, widow of the late Captain William Mercer, now residing with him for her life and after to her son William Hugh Welch Mercer and his heirs (GRO D 109/ Ashley manor will book 2). In fact, the Mercers continued to own, but not to occupy, The Hearne till 1919. By that time, the customary land had been enfranchised, the Cheltenham manor part in 1888 and the Ashley part in 1890. In the 1880s and 1890s the tenants were Lieut-General Sir Henry Radford Norman (formerly of the 10th North Lincoln Regiment, Honorary Colonel Manchester regiment) and his wife Dame Alice Clara Norman. She used to tell amazing

stories of her escape during the Indian Mutiny - unfortunately one of her hearers William Keen (1860-1953) couldn't recollect any details to pass on. According to his son Bill Keen, it was the Normans who put a restrictive covenant on the Nursery so that it should never be built on. He remembered Lady Norman looking out of her bedroom window and shaking her fist at boys larking about on the allotments, but more by way of caution than threat. Elsie and Bill Keen told me that one Sunday General Norman and Colonel Holmes of Whithorne were walking home from church together, when they began disputing about something and the argument became so heated that just outside The Hearne, Colonel Holmes (well known for his hot temper) struck General Norman, his superior in rank! After that, the General would never speak to the Colonel again or recognise him in any way.

When her husband died on 16 December 1899 Lady Norman gave the window in St David's Chapel in his memory. Dame Alice Clara Norman died on 8 June 1914 aged 89. The Martyns had moved in as tenants by 1918 when their names appear on the Ward Roll.

William Hugh Welch Mercer of Secunderabad in the Madras Presidency, a Lieutenant in the 1st Middlesex Regiment, by will dated 29 August 1889 appointed his wife Marguerite sole executrix. This will, with a codicil of 1915, was the one proved after his death on 14 June 1918, and Marguerite Mercer sold The Hearne to Alfred Willie Martyn on 9 October 1919 for £2000, exactly what Nicholson paid in 1828, an indication of the economic stability of the 19th century.

When A.W. Martyn sold to Laura Botsford (wife of Archibald Gladstone Botsford a retired stockbroker) on 28 May 1942, the price was £6350; and by 1949, when she in turn sold to William Edwin Ilchester-Cope accountant, it had risen to £11200! After that, building plots were sold off and no further comparison of prices can usefully be made.

The only part of Balls House that remains is its well, underneath the kitchen of the present house. Jack Barnfield says that a gasmeter reader once opened the door over the well by mistake and fell in - a tree root had grown right through from one side to the other, and that saved him! Overflow water from the well is taken by a brick barrel drain into Balcarras brook.

One of the architectural curiosities of The Hearne is a drain which takes rainwater from the valley in the roof and runs right under a bedroom floor. Jack Barnfield was often employed to sweep this drain clear of leaves in the autumn. There was a theory among architects about the time this house was built that rainwater pipes disfigured a house and should be avoided wherever possible!

For improvements to The Hearne by A.W. Martyn, we must now turn to his grandson's description of the house as he remembers it.

I am very grateful to the present owner of The Hearne, Mr H. Kaveh and to Mr and Mrs Wall, for allowing me to see their title deeds; and also to Eric Armitage for his abstracts of the Ashley manor will and deed books.

The Hearne from sale particulars
of 24 November 1987
reproduced by kind permission



The Hearne - south side

Drawing room - plaster ceiling by
H.H. Martyn & Co



Study
added by A.W. Martyn



4. SKETCH OF THE CAREER OF MR A.W. MARTYN (1870-1847)

born at 32 Keynsham Street, Cheltenham,
educated probably at St Johns School

Public Work

County Councillor from May 1928

Member of Charlton Kings Urban District Council 1927

Chairman, Cheltenham Guardians Committee

Chairman of Childrens' Hospital Committee

Chairman of North Gloucestershire Technical College Governors

Commissioner for Inland Revenue 1931

Business Work

Managing Director and later Chairman too of
H.H. Martyn & Co., Architectural Craftsmen

Founder, Chairman and Managing Director
of Gloucestershire Aircraft Company Ltd.
(later renamed Gloster Aircraft) 1917-1927

Chairman of Downtys from 1937 to 1947 (source of financial backing)

Other

President of Cheltenham Rotary Club

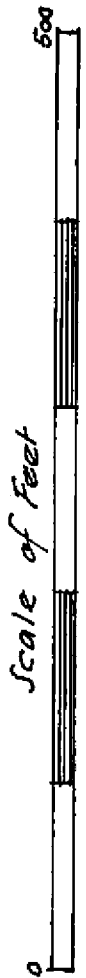
Sport

Golf (Cleeve Hill Golf Club), Shooting, Curling (at Engleburg),
Tennis at home.

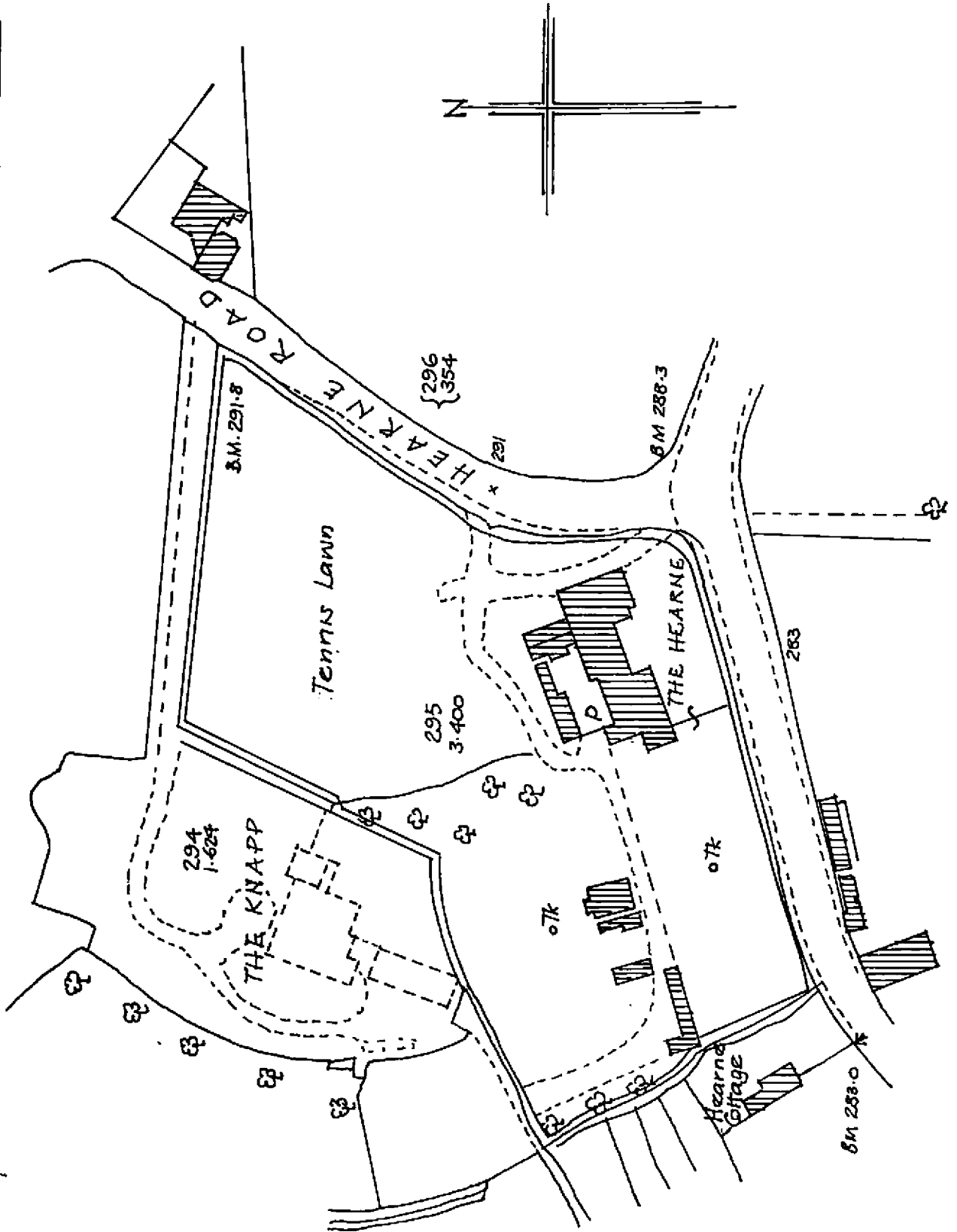
John Whitaker



The Broken Limber
model produced by
H.H. Martyn & Co



PLAN from ABSTRACT 1919



5. THE MARTYNS AND THE HEARNE - RECOLLECTIONS OF A GRANDSON

Mr A.W. Martyn, son of H.H. Martyn, bought The Hearne in 1919.

His wife was the daughter of basket-maker Steven Newman of Maisemore near Gloucester and she was brought up in a cottage in Maisemore. Then she worked as a seamstress in Bath and at Cavendish House in Cheltenham. Consequently she was well aware of the employer-employee relationship and tried to set a kindly balance in her own household. When the Martyns were living at York Lodge, St George's Road, and beginning to entertain on a large scale, Della a cook aged only 19 applied for the job but admitted that she had had no experience except cooking for her own family at home. Grandmother took her on, taught her the skills, and when she had cooked for her first big dinner party one Boxing Day (Grandfather's birthday) both Mr and Mrs Martyn came together arm in arm into her kitchen after the meal was over and thanked her for her work in preparing the fare. Not so long ago, the cook told me how she and the parlour maid stood on the pavement outside York Lodge and cried because they had to leave, both had been so happy there. The Martyns were moving from York Lodge into a rented cottage, Dareth Cottage at Maisemore, for a year or two and there would be no room for staff - however, work at the H.H. Martyn premises in Grafton Street, London W1, was offered to the departing cook and maid. Later that cook named her daughter Ida after my mother.

During the first world war, the daughters Madeline and Ida worked in army hospitals, first cycling from Maisemore to Gloucester, and then going to a temporary hospital in the Central School by the Cheltenham gasworks. Their work was hard and menial, scrubbing floors, cleaning bathrooms and toilets, making beds, serving teas and sandwiches to those able to eat. Many men were very ill from burns and gas and serious wounds. The girls were not allowed to talk to the men, but on one occasion Ida remembers being told to sit with a soldier who could not be left, he was very sick and dying. Some who were recovering were brought home for tea and if fine to sit in the garden.

When A.W. Martyn bought it, The Hearne had only one bathroom on the half landing, and that had been put in by the tenant, a "county" lady who rode to hounds and offered to show Martyn's two young daughters, Madeline 20 and Ida 19, how to tie the stock. Grandfather added two more bathrooms, one en suite to the main bedroom. He put in panelling and plaster decorations executed by H.H. Martyn & Co; the dining room plaster was a copy of a design at Hampton Court. He built the study on and modernized the kitchen, including an Aga cooker of four hot-plates.

The Hearne was furnished in either Hepplewhite, Chippendale or Sheraton throughout the ground floor, with some H.H. Martyn pieces in keeping. The bedroom furnishings were mainly H.H. Martyn furniture. The carpeting was hand-made, very thick and heavy.

The dining room colouring was blue and gold with a touch of pink. The curtains were blue heavy brocade. The dining table could seat 18 and was always laid with solid silver bead-pattern service, Victorian cut stemmed glasses, Indian silver finger bowls (a present from a Maharajah).

The sitting room had a rose carpet and gold heavy brocade curtains. There was a Broadwood grand piano round which singing with the family often took place on Sunday evening. The house had many fine art works, pictures, bronze pieces, and china. Some of the chandeliers and wall

brackets were Waterford glass - there were two chandeliers and two wall brackets in the sitting room and one chandelier in the dining room.

The indoor staff consisted of cook, parlour maid, chamber maid, and kitchen maid. The maids wore dark dresses with lace trimmed aprons and a lace trimmed high-fronted cap. Mrs Martyn always saw that the staff were well dressed. Stiff starched cuffs, detachable, were worn at the wrists when serving and clearing. Mr Martyn would normally carve the joint and there was formal table service. But all the staff had time off together on Sunday evenings, so the practice then was for the family to fetch cold dishes from the larder where the cook would have prepared a variety of meats, salads and sweets, and take them to the dining room where a less formal meal would be had.

There were three gardeners. The head gardener was first Mr Payne, followed by Mr Minchin. Other gardeners were Mr Denley who lived in Ryeworth Road and Charlie. Cottages across the brook from The Hearne garden were occupied by two of the gardeners - Mr Minchin was certainly one.

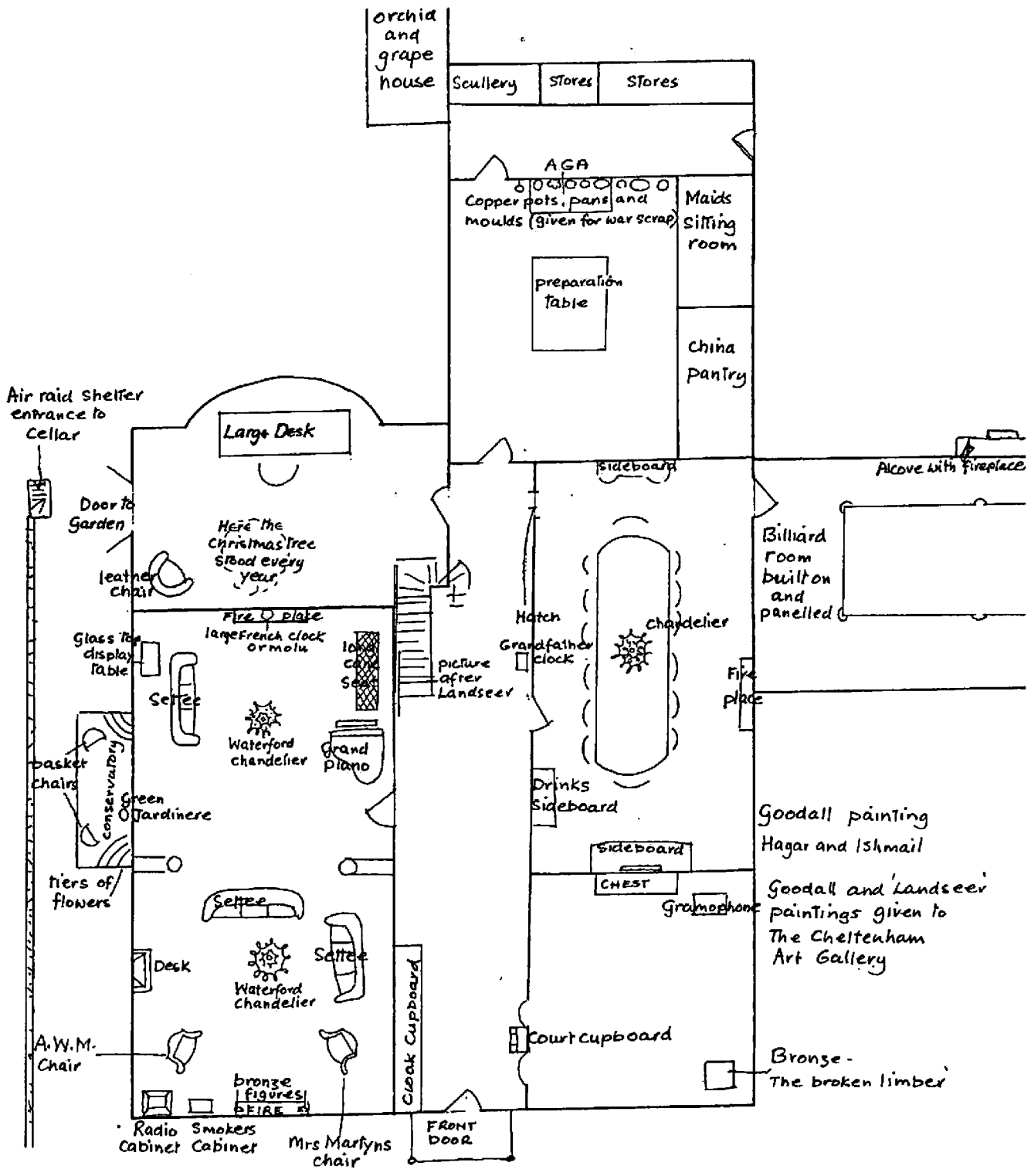
The garden was a feature of the house and extended to three or more acres. It consisted of the large lawn to the north with a cedar tree of enormous proportions as central feature, with other conifers and large trees. Two life-sized marble statues of draped female figures stood at the corners of the lawn - they are believed to be now in a park at Leckhampton. A tennis court existed to the west of the lawn until a hard court was constructed just beyond. The south lawn as it was known is the only part of the garden that still exists (the rest having been built on). It was a secluded area with a bird bath as a feature. Grandmother always fed the birds and would call them regularly for food when they would flock to her. To the west of the lawn was a box hedge of large proportions, into which it was possible for children to climb and hide, which they often did. To the west of the tennis court was a large vegetable garden containing soft fruit bushes and some fruit trees. The garden supplied all the vegetables for the house and was supplemented by the allotments which were bought to protect from building on the south side. The allotments were also used by the gardeners for their own use - it has been said by several ex-employees that the Martyns were kind employers and considerate to their staff.

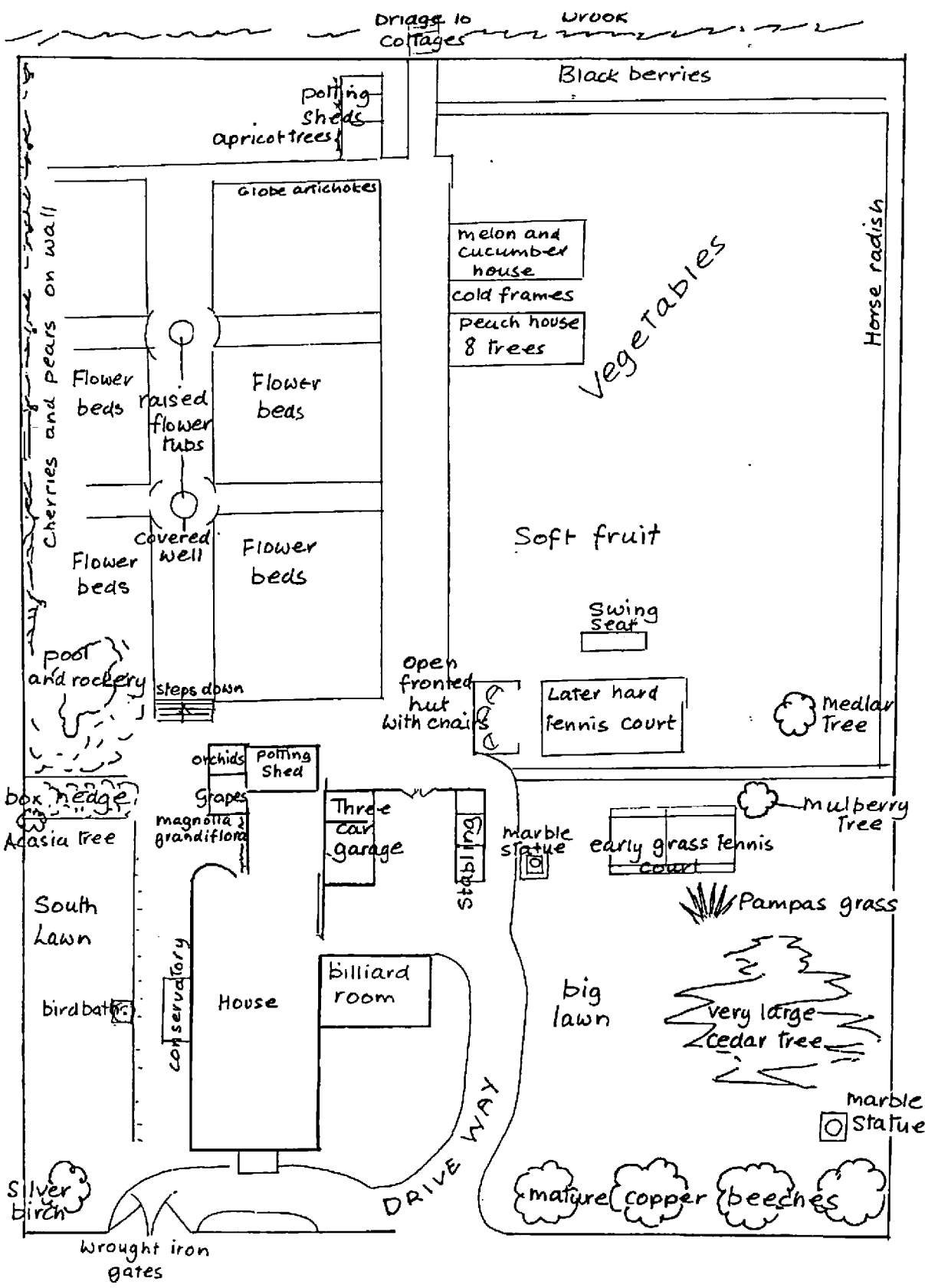
A considerable part of the garden was set aside for flowers, another great love of Grandmother's, she always filled the house with them. The south-west corner consisted of flower beds with a wide walk between them and several arches of flowers and tubs overflowing with colour at the intersections with other paths.

Several heated greenhouses were situated in parts of the garden. Two were in the west sector backing to the vegetable garden and were used for growing peaches, melons, and cucumbers; one was against a wall to the southwest of the house with grape vines, and flowers such as calceolarias and orchids on staging.

A two acre field to the north, adjoining the London Road, was used for a Guernsey house cow milked by the gardener Charlie, who also looked after the horse kept in the same field and regularly ridden by Ida side saddle. The stables were situated to the rear of the house across a courtyard from the garages (probably originally coach houses).

The garages housed, first the Daimler 45, a Wolsley Straight Eight, and then a Hillman and last the Vauxhall 25.





Usually two cars were available. The main car had as its motif a bi-plane because of the owner's Aircraft Company and its fame in being the first to break the 200 mph barrier.

The second car was bought because Grandfather decided to learn to drive. He did not take to it or like it, but the second car was kept for use by others, family or friends as the chauffeur.

Chauffeurs were Mr Taylor, Mr Abbot, Mr Fred Winter and (after the Martyns left The Hearne) Mr Dollin. Mr Abbot left when the Daimler 45 was sold in about 1938 and a Vauxhall 25 with a special body purchased. He said he would only drive a Rolls Royce or a Daimler! Fred Winter was taken on but volunteered for the forces at the outbreak of war - due to the special respect he and A.W.M. had for each other, he was promised his job back at the war's end. Mr Dollin was taken on, knowing of this condition. Mr Fred Winter returned and drove Mr Martyn for the rest of his life, and also drove the hearse at his funeral in 1947.

Between the Wars, The Hearne was a home of great happiness for the entire family. Both the Martyn daughters were married from it. Ida married Leslie Whitaker son of T.E. Whitaker of Swindon Hall, proprietor of the Cheltine Food Company of Cheltenham. Madeline married Rex Watson from South Wales, who was with Spillers. Receptions in both instances were held in marquees set on the large lawn near the cedar tree. Ida was married at Swindon Village church and Madeline at Holy Apostles; Charlton Kings church at that time was felt to be too 'High Church'! Grandmother had been interested in Christian Science, a church without ceremonial, from about 1920. Cavendish House supplied the bridal gowns for both weddings, and Georges of Cheltenham were the caterers, they were considered to be "of the best in the land". Wedding presents were displayed on the covered billiard table (of full size) and many wonderful presents were given by business friends, Sir Richard Malinson whose company supplied rare timbers for Martyns, Walter Jenkins of Torquay, marble suppliers, and Herbert Triggs, architect of Indian palaces, to name a few. It was a hot cloudless day when Ida married on 6 June 1922. The newly weds left by train for Lynmouth, Devon, to stay at the Tors Hotel. The second week of the honeymoon was interrupted when Mr Whitaker asked his son to go to London for business. The couple arrived at the weekend after the shops had closed, to find the railway staff had failed to put their luggage aboard - they booked into a hotel and spent the whole weekend without anything except what they stood up in!

A great deal of entertaining was done at The Hearne by the Martyn family, much of it business, Maharajahs of Indore and Rutlaam, the President of the Royal Academy, Robert Lindsey Clark A.R.B.S. sculptor; and many local friends, George Dowty (later Sir George Dowty), Nina Scot Langley artist, David Longdon, Bences (builders merchants), Steels (shoe shops), Beetham and Clarke (chemists), Nixons (china merchant), Sidaway (College teacher), Perrins (music teacher at College), Walter Jenkins, and many others. Tennis (grass court in the earlier days, afterwards hard court), billiards, snooker, and bridge were the main pastimes.

Many garden parties were given in aid of Charities. Mrs A.W. Martyn was a member of the Primrose League and League of Friends, and was awarded the Order of Mercy medal by King George VI in 1943. She was embarrassed by the award and felt unworthy, as so many others had worked as hard. She was also a member of the Inner Wheel.

Two young Russian children, a boy and girl, frequently visited The Hearne. They were nicknamed Kissy and Maby, as their Russian names

were too difficult to pronounce. They had escaped from Russia with their English governess who came from Maisemore Court. She was given jewelry from the Tzar in order to aid their escape, which began in a coal cart across Russia. In France they ran out of jewelry and the governess took work on a farm to feed them, and prepare them for the rest of the journey to England. The childrens' father was Secretary to the Russian Ambassador in London, and possibly related to the Tzar. 'Barbette' Lawrence, daughter of the architect Bernard Trigg who was 'adopted' by the Martyns for many years during school holidays while her parents were in India, remembers the children visiting The Hearne. One was dark and the other very fair, they were about 7 and 8 years of age, and had been in great danger because of their connection with the Tzar.

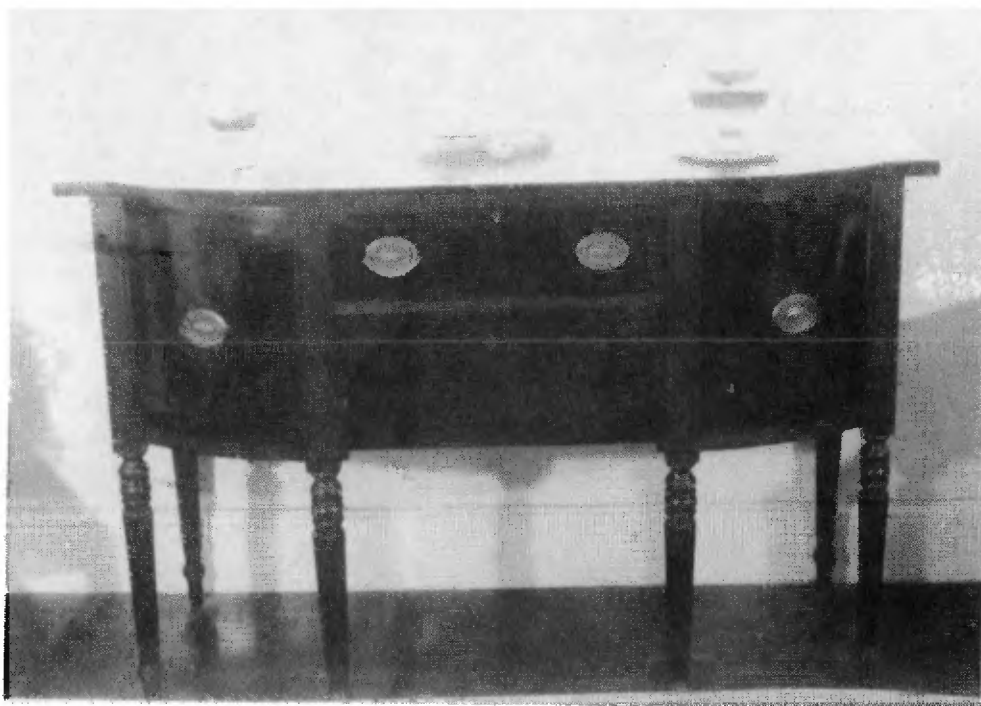
Weddings were followed by the birth in the house of the first granddaughter, Barbara Whitaker and grandson David Watson, and the regular visits of the family with, in time, four grandchildren to enjoy the large garden and beautifully appointed house. Thursdays are well remembered as Grandparents' Day. The bus would be caught after school to the Stores, and then my cousin and I walked through the village, where village boys often confronted us. I was then about eight, tall and thin, he was short and stocky, but he was much more alarmed by this - I had been used to playing with the Southam boys. We used to look at the brick wall of The Hearne to avoid looking at the Charlton boys and on one occasion a boy taunted us "What you staring at, a piece of bacon-rind?", which has always stuck in my memory. At The Hearne there was tea in the sitting-room with thin triangular bread and butter first, and then cake with chocolate piping laid across and fine white sugar dusted on (a favourite), cucumber sandwiches, scones, and much more beside. Always a treat to stay there too, with the beds covered in soft blue pile blanket. Another favourite was a special soup which the cook made to perfection (wine in it for sure). The round tin covered in material on Grandmother's desk in the sitting room always contained boiled sweets, popped into willing mouths on right occasions. At Christmas it was family time all together. A tree stood, floor to ceiling, in the study, Ida always decorated it standing on a step ladder. All the staff had presents too, and the festive tables throughout had crackers, often as a feature in the table centre in a galleon or in the form of a round-about. The grandchildren would draw names from a hat to see who had the decoration after the crackers had been pulled.

In the second World War, The Hearne was requisitioned for use by the Government, who were due to move to Cheltenham in 1939. It was rumoured that Churchill was to reside at the house! Then the plan was altered, and fourteen evacuee boys were to come to be settled in the billiard room as a dormitory. The family returned from holiday at Woolacombe, Devon, to receive them. None arrived. In the end, the house was used for displaced families and three families occupied The Hearne for the duration. A lot of damage was done to china and glass and other breakables, though much had been put into store in a farm barn at Coombe Hill. A.W. Martyn sold The Hearne when he saw its state, he was so upset. Throughout the war, he, his wife, and son had lived with his daughter Ida at Southam; but after the sale of The Hearne he bought Mellington, London Road.

The Martyn son Cyril was never fit from his early childhood after suffering an illness, and was handicapped for much of his life. His illness was a great sadness to both parents as he was born a fine boy with potential to follow into the great businesses founded by his father and grandfather. Later he was happily married to Miss Dangerfield.



A place setting with the Martyn's lace tablecloth,
silver, finger bowl, china and glass.



The sideboard.



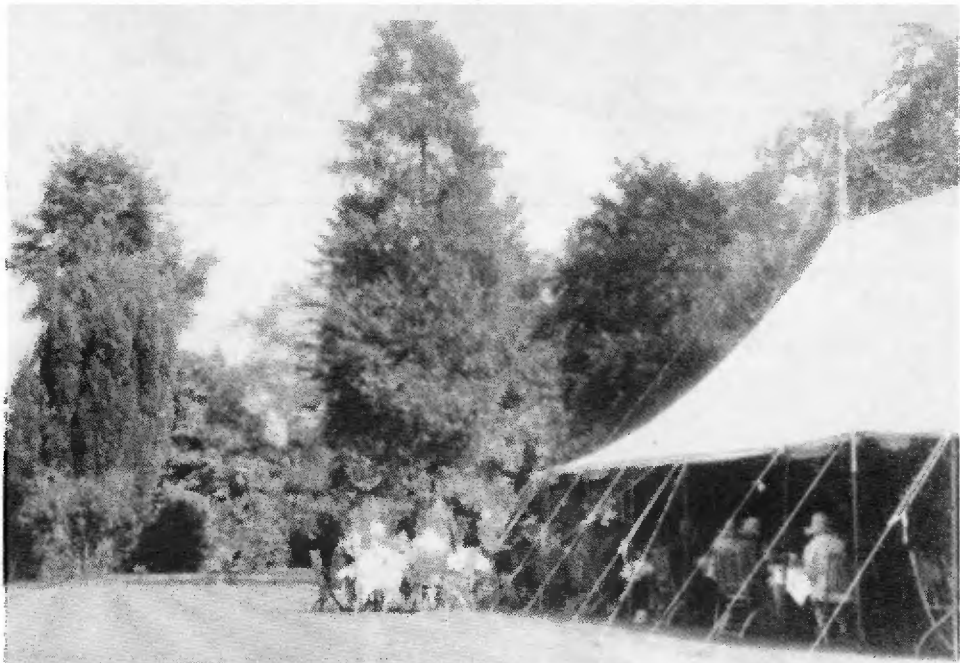
Dressing Table with
Mrs Martyn's tortoiseshell brushes.



Cabinet of
flame walnut,
and bronze figure,
both made by
H.H. Martyn & Co.



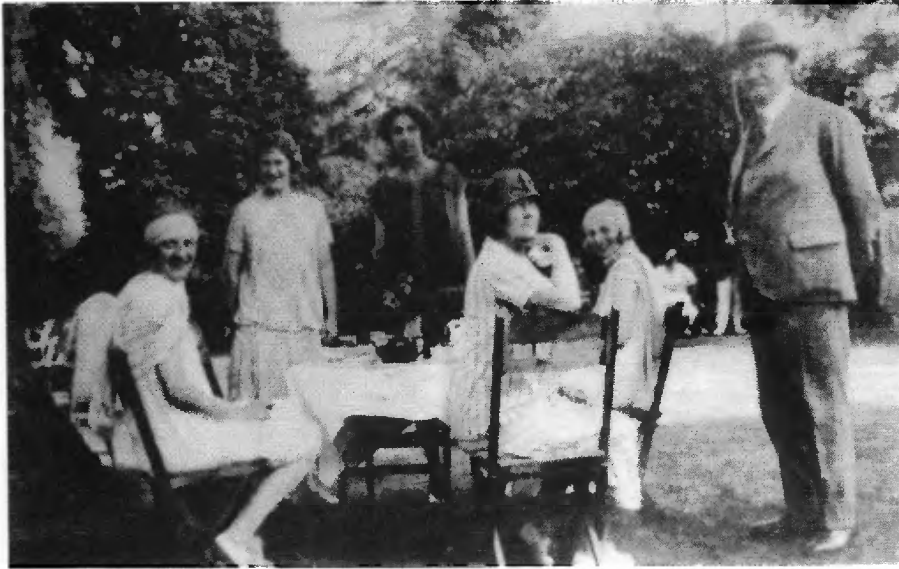
The garden in Winter



Summer - Marque on lawn



A.W. Martyn by the hard court



A Tennis party

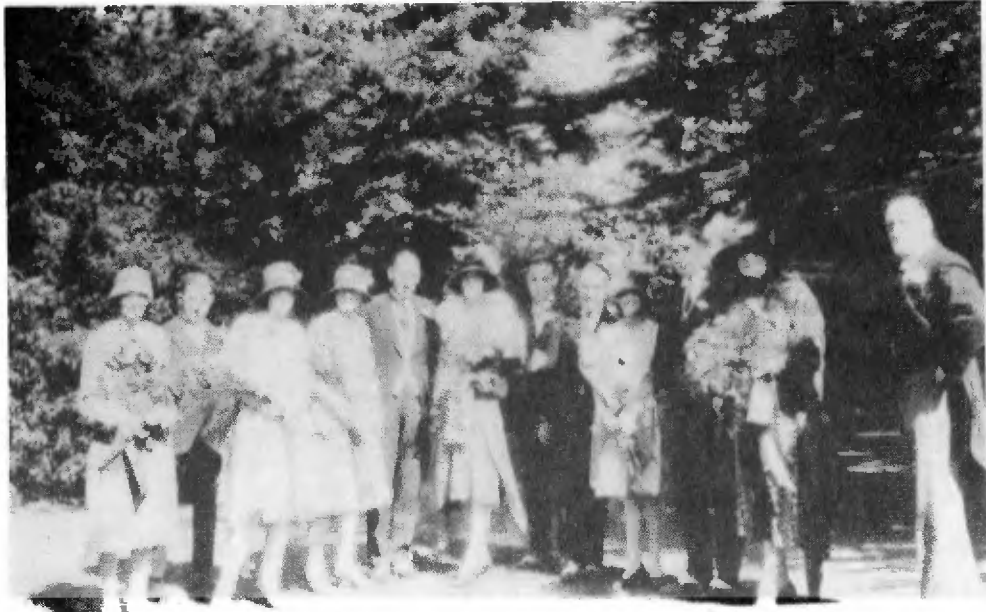


Ida's wedding
6 June 1922

Madeline's
Wedding 1929

Cedar tree in
background

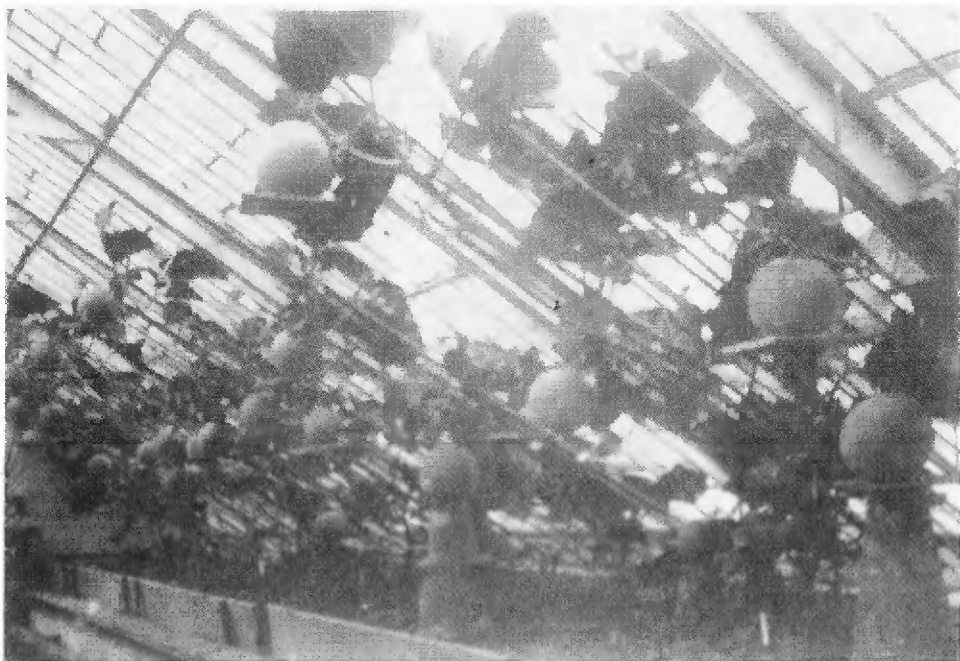




The wedding party 1929



The Twenties



The melon house - each melon has its own stand to support it.

6. BYEGONE CHARLTON

(1) STRONG MEDICINE

Charlie Holder at Ashgrove Farm boasted he never ailed anything - but suddenly he was struck with rheumatism and lay in bed, moaning and groaning, sure his two sons and two daughters couldn't manage the farm without him! (1) Mo Davis heard of it and went to see him. Up in the bedroom he pulled a small bottle out of his pocket and said "I've brought this for you to rub on your leg, but you must use it very carefully and only a small amount at a time". Well, Charlie was a blundering slap-dash fellow - he unscrewed the top and slapped a whole lot on his leg. A few minutes later, he was cursing and shouting for his daughter - his leg was on fire! She came up and put cold water on but that did no good - the stuff took all the skin off!

However, next day Charlie was down in the farmyard with the help of a stick, declaring "If that ----- comes back, I'll throw him out" - but Mo was a big strong man and Charlie was small; it would have been the other way round!

Mo came to see how he was $\frac{2}{3}$ and after a bit, the two men went into the house for a drink and came out laughing. Charlie wanted to know what was in that bottle. "Well" said Mo "Old Starlight's getting a bit stiff in his hind quarters and the Vet gave me something for him - you had a bit of that! But I did tell you to use it sparingly".

I heard all this because I was on the spot, I was working up at Ashgrove at the time.

Ashgrove was a nice farm but drinking water was the trouble - they had a courtyard outside, roughly paved, with two openings, and in between them was a long stone trough. A pipe came out of the floor of the courtyard and supplied water to the trough - that was all the water they had - the cows must have gone thirsty many a time. The spring was not a strong one and certain times of the year it was touch and go.

My father happened to say something about this water trouble to old Daniels who had worked at Ashgrove but fallen out with Holder about something. The old fellow said it was Charlie Holder's own fault, "Years ago I told him where he could find water and he didn't take no notice of me". Father got interested and said to the chap "If you'll take me up there and can find this water, it'll be well worth your while". So he appeared up there and after a few hours on the bank at the back of the farm he found all the water Charlie Holder wanted and more. Father piped it all the way down and into the cow sheds - the cows never had such drinks in all their lives! They'd had no water for cooling the milk till the new spring was found - it wasn't a big milk round - the elder son Arthur or more often a daughter used to drive the milk float with a couple of churns.

I believe the farm belonged to Mitchell and Butler's and they paid for the work - it must have cost them a lot of money they never saw back, the rent was so low.

After all the work was done to bring the water down, the men went in and had some of Charlie Holder's cider. There was an orchard of perry pears just this side of the bridge over the railway where the private road went up to the farm. Charlie told Father that in a good year he used to make two hogsheads of cider from those perry trees, and that used to pay the rent of the farm!

(1) For Mo Davis and Starlight, see Bulletins 5 and 6

(2) THAT SHOP IN CHURCH STREET

My father, Albert Cleveley built the shop (recently Dale's) in Church Street that's now being altered. Father didn't like taking the job on, there was no margin, the price was so tight, because it was being built for the Small Holders' Association so that members could get seeds wholesale - that must have been about the beginning of the 1914 War. Somehow the schemed didn't catch on. Afterwards half became Oram the hair-dresser's and later on half a shoe-repairer's; and now it's being divided again into two, as it was at first.

Oram was a cheerful sort of fellow and a good barber but he used to drink. I was cycling up Church Street one day and his lordship was stood out at the door, so I stopped and said "If you hurry up, you can cut mine, I'm supposed to be at work". He cut about half and then said "I won't be a jiffy" and out through the door he went. Five minutes went by and the door opened again but it wasn't him, it was another fellow who said "Where's Sweeney Todd?". "I don't know - here I am supposed to be at work, and he's buzzed off". The fellow said "I think I know where he's gone to, I'll go and get him out", so he went up to the Workingmen's Club and found him tipping it back. He told me this and said "I'm going to have a shave" and he found some hot water and shaved himself". I sat there in the chair looking at him. Then he turned round to me and said "You can't stop like that!" "No, I can't". "Well, I'll finish cutting your hair for you".

I don't know whether my looks proclaimed my thoughts, they probably did. He said "That's all right, don't worry, I used to be in this trade but found myself a better paid job". So in the end, he finished cutting my hair and it was perfectly all right. I said "Who's going to pay who?" He said "Well, I'm going to put 2d on the table for the shave I've had; you put 4½d and give me the other 4½ (it was 9d a haircut in those days) and we'll call it quits".

I never had the chance of speaking to Mr Oram again, he died that same night. The fellow used to joke with me, that it was the shock of finding 11d on the table that did it!

Eric Cleveley

7. CHARLTON KINGS ENGINEER VOLUNTEERS

Charlton Kings had its own volunteer sub-unit, H. Company of the 1st Gloucestershire Royal Engineers Volunteers, from 1891. Details of an early social function were found by Mr Bridgman (1) and set out as follows in his "Records of Old Charlton Kings" (Vol. III p 62)

"The first annual dinner of the H. Company Gloucestershire Volunteers, Royal Engineers, of which Company Lieut. S. Clutterbuck is the Commander, was celebrated in right royal fashion on Wednesday evening, at the London Inn, of which worthy John Dyer is the genial host. The Corps has been in existence but comparatively a brief period, but thanks to the energy displayed by Lieut. Clutterbuck and Lieut. Brydges, it has already developed into a fine body of men, a credit to "Early Charlton". Altogether there were about 80 guests present. After the dinner, Mr. H.M. Burney proposed the "Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces", and in doing so, he observed that when a village like Charlton Kings could produce so fine a body of scientific soldiers, it spoke well for the patriotic feeling of the country. Mr. O.J. Williams next gave "Success to H. Company", hoping that before the end of the year it would have reached the full complement of 100 men".

It was stated in Bulletin 19 (page 13) by Mr Stinchcombe that the Company was later disbanded because of the difficulty in "getting into Cheltenham for training", and that E Company, formed in 1906, was disbanded two years later, making way for the Territorials.

Volunteer units were more often found in towns than in country areas. They had social as well as military significance. Engineer volunteers took part in the celebrations marking the opening of Cheltenham Public Library. (2)

- (1) Cheltenham Mercury 11 February 1893
- (2) C. Hart History of Cheltenham p 316

M.J. Greet

8. CHARLTON KINGS CHORAL AND ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY (1904/5, 1920)

The formation of Charlton Kings Choral and Orchestral Society in 1895 and some information about its early history was given in Mr Stinchcombe's article in Bulletin 19 page 11.

A little more information concerning the Society's performances in 1904-5 and 1920 has been found since then in Mr Bridgman's "Records of Old Charlton Kings", Volume III pages 85-6, based in part on a report in the Gloucestershire Echo, and in a concert programme for "Merry England" respectively. Both these sources are held in Cheltenham Library's Local History Collection.

1904-5 The reports of the work in the Season is given in full. "The Society has met for practices and rehearsals twenty-nine times during the past season. The Orchestral Section has also met on the same evenings previous to the Choral Class, combining afterwards for a joint rehearsal. The very fact that so many young people can be gathered together for the practice of good elevating music, ought to be an encouragement to those who are at all interested in the musical welfare of the village. The first part of the season closed on December 12th with a really enjoyable concert. The first part consisted of the "Song of the Bell", rendered, including solos, by members of the Choral class. The second part was of a miscellaneous character and Miss Townshend, Miss Forbes-Robertson, Mrs Hodson, and Messrs E. Boyce Podmore and Randolph Bagnall greatly pleased the large audience by their selections. The second session concluded on April 26th and May 3rd by renderings of Stainer's "Daughter of Jairus" in the parish church and the church of the Holy Apostles.

The following report of the latter is from the Gloucester Echo.

The members of the Charlton Kings Choral Society on Wednesday evening gave a performance of Sir John Stainer's oratorio "The Daughter of Jairus" in Holy Apostles Church. Mr J.H. Brasher, F.G.C.M., under whose capable training the young society has gradually been brought to a highly commendable degree of efficiency conducted, his forces totalling about eighty singers and instrumentalists. The small but skilled orchestra was led by Mr L. Mott, and at the organ was Mr S. Ryder Wingate, organist of St John's Church, whose spirited work was a distinct factor in the success of the performance. The attendance was only moderate, as might be expected on a bright spring evening, with Nature offering every inducement to outdoor pleasers, but it was sufficiently large not to be a discouragement to the performers, and its appreciation was marked by an evident attention as eloquent in its silent way as the noisy encores of more tumultuous throngs. The short opening service was conducted by the Rev. H.A. Corke (vicar) consisting of congregational hymn and opening prayers. The performance of "The Daughter of Jairus" lasted about an hour, and the performers throughout showed themselves to have given careful and painstaking study to the mastering of the beautiful harmony and thrilling climaxes of its choruses. If either part be

selected for a word of special commendation, such was earned by the sopranos, who sang with a freshness and vigour which told greatly in the general effect. They also maintained an excellent tone throughout. The other parts all worked well together, and the body of sound in the heavier choruses was of good quality, the singers and players, who were evidently in sympathy with the spirit of the composer displaying much of that commendable life and vigour which comes from enthusiasm. As is not seldom the case with young societies, the good quality of their "forte" was more marked than that of the subdued passages, this fact by no means reflecting on the manner in which the score markings were followed, but being inherent where long continuous united practice has not been available. The soloists were Mrs A. Mitchell (soprano), Mr Eales (tenor) and Mr Brown (bass). Mrs Mitchell, who was in charge of the most important individual part, was in excellent voice, and proved an altogether satisfactory selection for a position of no small difficulty to an amateur vocalist. The male soloists are both members of All Saints Church choir, and the oratorio gave each an opportunity for effective work. After the collection, any balance of which will go to the Children's Hospital, the orchestra performed the "Andante" movement from Haydn's 'Sixth Symphony', in which the excellent quality of the little band of musicians was much more forcibly demonstrated than in the previous performance.

1920 A glimpse of the Society in 1920 is provided by the programme, reproduced in part below.



Charlton Kings Choral Society.

President :
MADAM DE NAVARRO.

Vice-Presidents :
REV. E NEALE REV. A H. RHODES. REV. F WYNNE.

Patrons :
SIR RICHARD AND LADY VASSAR-SMITH.

SIR JAMES T. AGG GARDNER.	MRS. A. DRAKE.
LADY CRUICKSHANK.	MR. AND MRS. W. H. HUDSON.
MR. AND MRS. E. J. BURROW.	MRS. J. C. M. SKELTON.
MR. ALEX SMITH.	MAJOR E. E. HAUGHAW.
REV. AND MRS. R. E. JONES	MR. AND MRS. H. H. HARDY.
MRS. ROSE.	MRS. BOER.
MR. AND MRS. R. T. ADAMS.	MRS. FITZROGH COX
REV. A. M. MACLEAN.	CAPT. AND MRS. CATLOW-WARR.
REV. A. A. HEADLEY.	MRS. F. F. LEAVER.
MR. AND MRS. P. H. KENWORTHY.	MR. G. A. HAWKINS.

Performance of . . .

EDWARD GERMAN'S OPERA
"MERRIE ENGLAND"
(by kind permission of Messrs. Chappell & Co.)

IN THE
TOWN HALL, CHELTENHAM.
On Tuesday, Feb. 17th, 1920, at 8 p.m.

SOLOISTS :
Miss Flora Woodman, Mr. Richard Ripley.
Miss Elsie Chambers. Mr. Edward Halland.

ASSISTED BY
CHELTENHAM ORPHEUS SOCIETY.

Leader of the Band MR. HORACE TEAGUE.
Pianoforte MISS CARBONELL. Organ MISS GARNICK.
Conductor MR. J. CHARLES WILLIAMS, A.R.C.M

9. A LONDON SILVERSMITH BURIED HERE

Charlton Parish Register records under 7 January 1701/2 - "Buried Lodwick Packer silversmith of London".

He was the son of Alexander Packer gentleman of Charlton Kings. He was apprenticed on 16 July 1684 to St John Hoyte, citizen and goldsmith of London. There is no record of him entering a mark at Goldsmiths' Hall, so he was presumably not a master but a journeyman silversmith.

A. Sale

Lodwick son of Alexander Packer gentleman was baptised here on 29 November 1668, so he was 16 when apprenticed and only 33 when he died - had he come home to Ham Court to be nursed by his widowed mother Dorothy Packer in his last illness? This is the usual story of the younger son sent to London to seek his fortune in a craft.

10. THE PARISH SURGEON IN 1929

We may have anxieties about the N.H.S. in 1989 but we should be grateful for it when we look back to health care in 1829.

From the minutes of the Vestry 10 April 1829, extracted by Bridgman Vol IV 18, "Mr Skelton to be re-appointed to the office of Parish Surgeon on the understanding that, in future, he make no extra charge for cases of small-pox. Broken bones and surgical operations to be considered extraordinary".

M.J. Greet

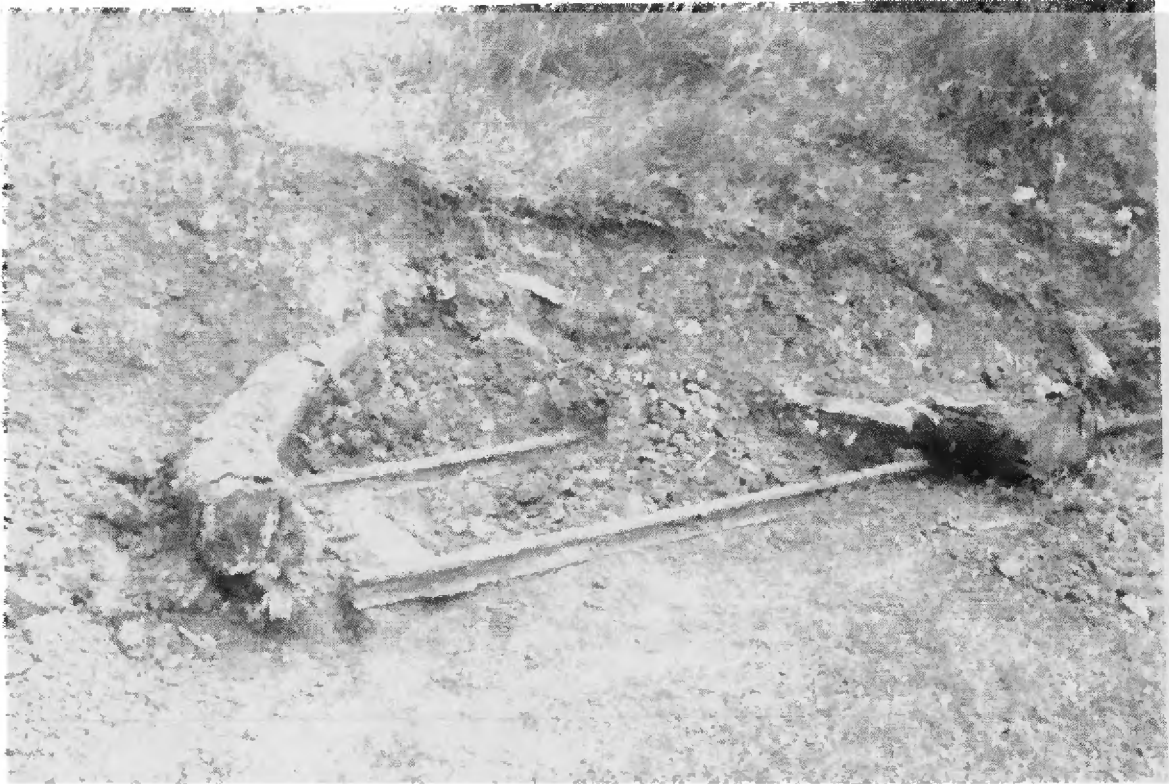
11. A "JUBILEE" LINE

In late June, Mr J.W. Coates of 36 Branch Hill Rise, Charlton Kings, was extending his lawn into a bank at the rear of his garden when he came across a well-preserved set of railway lines, much to his surprise.

The lines proved to be 18 inch guage and of a type used by contractors at the end of the 19th century. The rails are in a very good state of preservation, straight and even, with only surface corrosion. It seems likely that they were used to tip spoil from the excavation of the cutting to the south of Charlton Kings Station, since they incline in that direction.

A more detailed study will, no doubt, uncover a more complete explanation for their use. In the meantime, however, their very existence raises an interesting question. Why were they abandoned? They are in good condition with no sign of break or twisting. Most contractors' rails were moved and used to destruction, then sold for scrap. Did some negligent foreman forget them? Did the contractor go bankrupt? Or ---?

D. Copson



12. TEMPERANCE AND THE BAND OF HOPE IN CHARLTON KINGS 1865

A report in the Cheltenham Journal for 22 July 1865, extracted by W.H. Bridgman VOL II 52.

"Charlton Kings. On Monday evening a numerous Band of Hope meeting was held at the Rosehill Street School Room, which was addressed in a most effective manner by Mr Wm Drew the popular temperance revivalist, who has been engaged for two months as temperance missionary in this district. J.B. Aldwin, Esq, the respected Superintendent of the Sabbath School, presided, and several melodies were sung by the children, including the song "Nay! John!" by the speaker. On Thursday evening Mr Drew addressed his first adult audience on the Ups and Downs of a Prisoner's Life.

The room was densely crowded and numbers could not gain access. Capt. Tickell of Battledown presided, Mrs Hartland of The Oaklands, the active worker in this movement, was also present. The lecture embraced the leading incidents of a sadly chequered career, the usefulness of which was destroyed by intemperance, and was eminently adapted to young men who may be indulging too freely in pleasure and fast living. Through the kindness of Mr Gabb, the above impressive discourse will be re-delivered at the Vestry Hall --- the Thursday evening next".

M.J. Greet

13. EDUCATION IN CHARLTON KINGS IV - A FURTHER NOTE ON PRIVATE SCHOOLS
MRS ARNOTT'S , CAMBRIAN VILLA

Peter Kendall's paper on private education in Charlton Kings (Bulletin 5 pp 29-31) did not take us beyond 1850. The Post Office Directory of 1863 mentions another "Ladies' School", that run by Mrs Elizabeth Arnott at Cambrian Villa, Church Street.

I first heard of this school from the late Miss E. Keen, who told me that her aunt Miss Emma Buckle was educated there in the 1860s. I have also been informed that while the school occupied the main house, servants were housed in the adjoining cottage, but this is plainly a legend.

The story of Cambrian Cottage and Cambrian Villa is interesting as a piece of development. The site was originally part of the land belonging to a copyhold tenement, Brevels Hays.

On 29 September 1832, (1), Robert Arnott gardener, who came from Bridgend co Glamorgan, acquired from Thomas Buckle and Elizabeth his wife of Brevels Hays half an acre of their land. It was bounded on the north by the public highway (Church Street), on the east by an ancient brook (Hearne brook), on the west in part by cottages belonging to Richard Pruen and Benjamin Ballinger (Pruen's Row, a group of very old cottages lying just behind the 19th century house now called Jasmine Villa - they were demolished in 1940) and in other part by a party wall dividing the same piece of ground from the premises of Thomas Buckle (a brick wall still standing on the east side of Mrs Bick's). A right of way into a private road 8 feet wide (Brevel Terrace) which Buckle had made across his land was included (and is still exercised); at that time, Brevel Terrace was gated at its SW end where it led into a public road (Grange Walk). A messuage (Cambrian Cottage) had already been erected on the land, and Arnott paid £300 for it and its half acre. He must have named it Cambrian because his old home was in S. Wales.

The tithe map of 1848 shows Arnott's property as a cottage and garden (2 roods 20 perches) owned and occupied by him.

Cambrian Cottage (left) and Cambrian Villa



Arnott was a gardener, one of a series of nurserymen to occupy this site. He was also parish clerk and in this capacity he witnessed a codicil to the will of Thomas Smalley Potter of East Court in 1847. (3)

Robert Arnott died on 25 June 1853 while on a visit to Bridgend and is buried there, according to the inscription on the stone marking the grave of his wife and eldest daughter. (4) By his will (5) he left all his copyhold and real estate on trust - ten shillings a week was paid to the widow Frances from the rent and any residue to his 4 children, and after the widow's death his son Robert Augustus Arnott was to sell. She lived, however, till 1881. The wording of the will does not suggest that a second house had as yet been built, so the erection of Cambrian Villa against the end of the existing house must have happened between 1853 and 1858 and be the work of the son. In 1858 according to the rate book (6) the cottage and nursery garden owned by R.A. Arnott was occupied by Thomas Wildsmith, gross estimated rental £20. Cambrian Villa, g.e.r.£13, also owned by R.A. Arnott, was occupied by Eliza Arnott, the Mrs. Elizabeth Arnott of the Directory.

Mrs Arnott's was a more modest establishment than, for example, Miss King's at Charlton Villa; I have been told that for day pupils the charge was 5d a week. Profits would be made from boarders, if there were any. It was, I suppose, an example of the sort of school Jane Austen had in mind

when she talked of an old-fashioned boarding-school where "girls might be sent to be out of the way and scramble themselves into a little education, without any danger of coming back prodigies". It probably insisted that girls should sit up straight - my memory of Miss Buckle is of an elderly lady with a very upright carriage who to the end of her days always wore a shawl, as ladies did when she was young, and a cap or hat. Her nephew Bill Keen spoke of her beautiful handwriting, which she certainly owed to her schooling under Mrs Arnott.

Cambrian Villa is a tall house, a simple oblong block of 3 storeys, with an Italianate overhanging roof (to be seen on a number of Cheltenham houses of the 1840s or 50s, and formerly in Charlton Kings at The Knapp, demolished in the 70s). The chimneys are built of rounded bricks, a feature which appears on several other Charlton houses; these bricks were also used at The Withyhold for the supporting pillars of beautiful stone-tiled cart-shed, (demolished when the estate was developed); it would be interesting to discover which of our local brickworks made them.

M. Paget

- (1) G.R.O., Ashley manor court book 3, D 109/
- (2) The gate must have been removed in the early 1900s (before 1910) but several local people remember it. Either the Terrace or Grange Walk or both were known as the Click-Clacks on account of this gate.
- (3) G.R.O., Ashley Manor will book I No.28.
- (4) On the left side of the path from the lych gate to the church.
- (5) Ashley manor will book I No.39.
- (6) Rate book 1858, transcribed by kind permission of Mr. Kilby.

14. CHARLES EDWARD HODDY - A TRIBUTE

Born on the 7th June 1909 at 4 Cambray Cottages, Church Street, Charles Edward Hoddy was the youngest of six surviving children. His father William Joseph Hoddy, was a sign writer by trade and one of his works survive now in the village, i.e. the sign of the Royal Hotel, above the entrance.

Charles' life was a poor existence, in so much as when only 7 years old he lost his father in 1916, from T.B. His mother struggled to keep the family fed and clothed but eventually she had little choice but to put him into the hands of the "Gordon Boys Brigade" when he was approximately twelve years old.

Charles told many stories of village life, including the time he and his friends were as usual, sent to St. Marys for the Sunday morning service. They sat in a pew before the last bell and the sidesmen threw them out because, in those days, all pews were paid for! (1) On his return home, his mother took somewhat offence to this action, and despite the pleas and apologies from the then vicar Edgar Neale, she vowed never to allow any of her children in St. Marys again, and they were sent to the Baptist Chapel.

During Charles' two years with the "Gordon Boys" one story, a great favourite of his, goes that he was sent to Lansdown Road to Lord and Lady Kingsdale - Lord Kingsdale was equerry to King George VI. Charles' duties varied a great deal and the very first day he had no less than FOUR baths to make sure he was clean! Their daughter Miss Violet Kingsdale, lived on her own in a large house, and Charles was told he was to stay with her and sleep there. On telling Mother this, she said with great disgust "Sleeping with Miss Violet at your age - never; I will not allow it!" But obviously Charles was to sleep in different quarters of her house

Charles was a very talented artist but was robbed of opportunity due to lack of money. However, he managed to use his talent working with his hands, i.e. Landscape gardening, cotswold walling, building bridges and many more trades he accomplished on his own merit. Even today, his works are a monument in the village.

He lived all his life in Charlton, was married to Rita for 54 years and had four children. He died peacefully in his sleep at 2 Croft Gardens, Charlton Kings, after a long and suffering illness, but despite his condition, he never lost his memory or his faculties.

As a tribute said, "He was a true gentleman of Charlton , and will be remembered by many, riding his bike and always wearing his trilby hat".

1st August 1989

Maureen Vernon

Pews at St Mary's were originally allocated c.1630 to existing houses and property of the owners, sold with the houses. From 1824 there were some free seats and more were created at the restoration of the church in 1877-8, but many parishioners clung to their accustomed pews, for which in this church they paid no pew rent. About 1884 it was agreed that after the bell stopped, empty seats should be available for anyone; but pew holders arriving late were upset if they found anyone sitting in their pew! My parents suffered much from this when they arrived in Charlton Kings in 1910.

M. Paget

15. AS WE WERE - TWO VIEWS OF CHARLTON, 1888 and c.1900
lent by Mr and Mrs W. Ryder



(1) From the Church Tower 1888

The Workingmen's Club is shown half built and the Vestry Hall, now the Parish Centre, with three bays of building only. The 1854-5 extension of the churchyard is not yet filled up.

(2) Horsefair Street c. 1900



This shows on the right, Providence Place (demolished), and on the left a shop (now a privatehouse). The two-wheeled cart is a Post Office parcels delivery van.