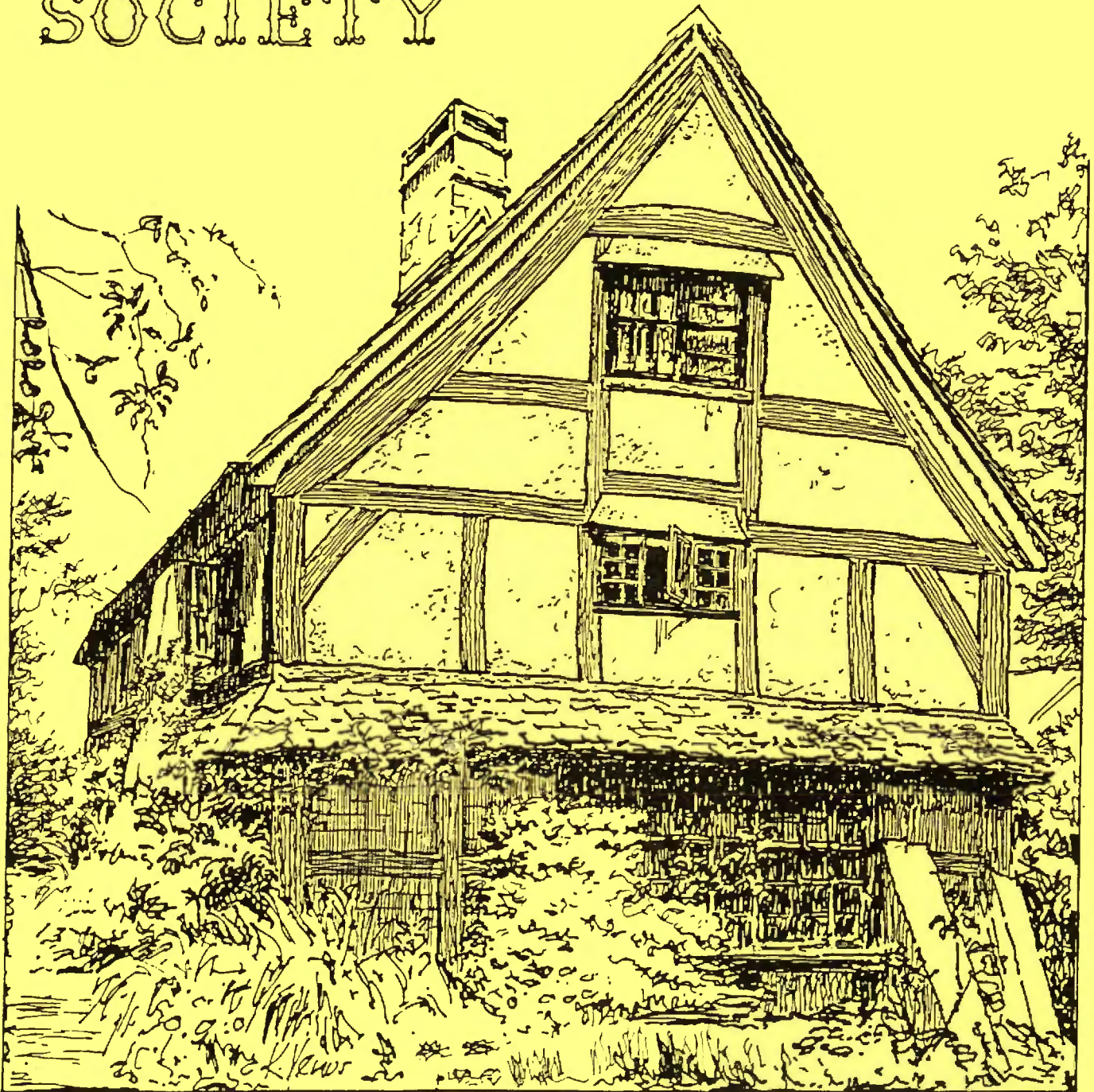


CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 23

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Membership of this Society

Membership forms are available from the Hon. Secretary. Annual subscriptions for 1990 £1 or £1.50 for a couple; from 1991 £2 and £3 for a couple.

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

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1. OBITUARY

We mourn the loss of two of our oldest members, George Ryland and Eric Cleveley.

What shall we do when Bulletins no longer start with one of George's inimitable stories, illustrated by his own drawings? his hand at 97 years of age still as steady as ever. George was our last link with World War I in which he served (as his story in this Bulletin reminds us - he had planned two more stories about his war experiences which should have followed) and almost our last link with life in Charlton before 1914. How we shall miss his humour and the cunning twist he always gave his stories at the end! It's hard to believe that our nonagenarian artist who painted so many Cotswold scenes, actual or essential, won't be holding a third special exhibition of his oils and water-colours for our delight. In every aspect of Charlton life, there is an enormous gap.

Readers of this Bulletin will find tributes to George as an Art teacher (in a paper written before his death) and as a leader of Scouts; and in the Daily Telegraph of 25 October 1989 there was a paragraph on the Sports page paying tribute to his work as founder of the Rugby Football Schools' Union.

There is another sad gap with the death on 21 September of Eric Cleveley, master-builder, grandson of William Cleveley who built the Baptist Church, the 1872 School Road schools and much else, son of Albert Cleveley of Hawthorne Villa who built houses, bungalows and shops in the village. Eric himself built houses and bungalows, and was intimately acquainted with many of our older houses which he had altered or repaired; his expert knowledge will be greatly missed. The Cleveleys are perhaps the oldest Charlton family still represented here. Eric had lived in Charlton all his life and through his long residence and his work had known so many of the colourful characters of "Old Chorlton" - we have all enjoyed his tales of Nobby Hall and others. But he was scrupulously careful never to print anything that could hurt people still around.

His stories in this Bulletin (and a few more which will appear in Bulletin 24) he gave me only a day or two before he went into hospital to die.

I know that without these two stalwarts behind me, the task of putting together a Bulletin and mixing research and reminiscence in the right proportions is going to be much harder in future.

M. Paget

2. GEORGE'S LAST STORY:

BAA - BEAUNE - RUMOUR

When an army enters into action, its normal unit is the DIVISION. Its composition I don't think was a constant. Much depended on what it had to do. Most divisions were made up of three Brigades of four battalions each. I don't vouch for these numbers as accurate and for the purpose of our story they don't really matter. I only knew because my training taught me to take a normal interest in things that I was doing, while long talks on the march with my company officer, who had been to the Staff College, filled in a lot of my ignorance.

Well, it was a beautiful morning of early summer. This time there was no R.T.O., we were fallen in by our own officers and marched off as on a normal route march. Granted the country was "knocked about a bit", but no more than a big bunch of determined louts might do. There was a certain sort of strangeness but we were in a foreign country and anything may be expected. But when we marched into a large town, yes, there certainly was a difference. That town looked pillaged. On enquiry we were told it was AMIENS and here the Boche had been through twice. Sometime after we found cobbles under our feet again and knew we were coming to a village. Looking upwards we saw British soldiers, leaning out, talking, singing, and taking their ease. Surely, yes, they were the Ox and Bucks. I was a bit surprised there was no fraternizing. On the contrary, there was shouting and the beginning of a scuffle up front.

Then the shouting developed into a roar and out of it came the one syllable, BAA, in imitation of a sheep's cry! At the head of the column our troops were not only annoyed but breaking ranks and swinging rifle butts. This called for action and we Non-Coms rushed up and restored some order, while the C.O. called the battalion to march to attention. So we got through that, but it was nearly inciting to mutiny.

And the cause for all that? Well, we have to go back in history, yes, about a year, when our battalions were being welded into a Brigade. On arrival on the PLAIN the GLOSTERS had been allocated quite a good field in which to pitch camp, but in early summer the grass was about eighteen inches high. Our C.O. indented for a mowing machine and Ordnance laughed and said they were at War, not hay-making. Our C.O. was livid and said that from the view of health, he would not allow his men to sleep in what he said would only be "...trodden and decaying vegetable matter". He therefore ordered that officers should deploy their companies by platoons and in relays get down on their knees and pick it off! So well and good, it all was perhaps a little humiliating but it became great fun.

Then came the Ox and Bucks. They were returning from a route march and their track came near the field where the GLOSTERS were working. They were at ease, the GLOSTERS under orders. I don't know why but there was never a good feeling between the regiments. Here was the ideal chance to take the mickey out of the GLOSTERS, and they did to some effect. It was never forgotten, though I must say as the days went by, the BAA ceased to be an expression of venom and was rather an expression of fun.

Well, there in France, we pressed on about half a mile marching at attention - which was perhaps the worst insult to the regiment - mercifully no road swung east and just ahead was a small river backed by an old church. This, said my officer, was CORBIE SUR SOMME and this for the present was our destination.

We were halted in front of a house in one of the streets of Corbie. "This" said he "is where you will be billeted".

"But" we said "you said 'a farm'".

"Well" he replied "this is a farm" - we were looking at an ordinary house with, at the side, double doors. "IN PICARDY" he said "most farms are small but during the war there is precious little farming at all. Why farm, when the Boche will sweep through and swipe it all? No, you will find the buildings and perhaps a kitchen garden, but munitions are what is primarily needed, so Monsieur works daily at the Fabrique. You will deal with Madame". Just then, Madame appeared.

In appearance she was the epitome of a big, fat, comfortable, cook. Somehow I think we took to each other at once.

Nothing less like an English farm could I imagine. As I said, the frontage was an ordinary house with double doors at the side. Behind this, set as a square, were the byres and in a central square pit was the slurry hole, while at the end away from the house one corner had a substantial shed and the other a door leading into the kitchen garden.

All was spotlessly clean. Well strawed, one could sleep in the byres with comfort and roughly I should say they held 24 men.

The billeting officer counted them off and then moved on. First we allocated the men, drew straw from the QM, got the men as comfortable as we could, and then drew them food from the cooks. It was a long and arduous business for Meak and me. We were tired out, and when all was more or less completed Madame asked me "And where will you sleep?" "In one of the byres, I expect". "You will not" said she "I have just the thing for you. Come".

She led me to the two storey shed in the corner, we went up a few steps and there was the answer to a tired man's dream - a deep, downy, duvet-kind of French bed. On it a tired man could sink and sleep forever. I gazed at it in deep longing. It was all I could desire, but for one thing. It stood in a grenier --- and I can't stand the smell of apples!

Madame had decided that we should have our evening meal with them. Well, I was in no great state to argue; actually, I accepted with gratitude. I dug a tin of MACHONCHY and two tins of FRAY BENTOS out of the gun-carriage lorry (surprising what could be found there!), sent Meak for a couple of bottles of plonk, and somewhere Madame found a pumpkin. Madame being quite a cook, I had no doubt a good meal would be produced, and it was.

There was a well in the garden. I drew myself water and had a good wash and felt better. Then I fancy I had a short nap. Meak woke me up and said supper was ready, so I went into Madame's kitchen, and there was quite a 'lay out'. Monsieur came in, was introduced to us, and we all sat down. Monsieur had been at the Fabrique all day so the gathering was a bit of a surprise to him also. However, it was a good meal, if it had been only our hunger that supplied the sauce, while bits of broken French and English made merry chatter. I told Meak to produce the plonk and Monsieur opened it. The reactions were various, but there was no uncertainty about Madame's. She thought it was dreadful, screwed up her face, and refused to touch any more!

Then there was a hurried and unintelligible conversation between Madame and Monsieur. It was conducted in Picardie, a patois of the district. The result was that the untouched plonk was left on the table. Monsieur rose from the table and told me to follow. It was getting rather dark now. He grabbed one small garden spade, gave me another, and we groped our way through the byres and into the kitchen garden. There he stopped at a small bush, pulled it aside and asked me to do so too. Then he started to dig. Soon I heard small sounds as if metal was striking glass, and then I realised. We were striking bottles. We were digging up a number of bottles! Carefully, we dug out half a dozen and then replanted the bush.

We carefully washed and dried them and took them in on to the sideboard. Monsieur opened one bottle and passed it to Madame for her consideration. Her expression was vastly different; and after her approbation, a glass was filled for each of us and our opinion asked in raised and questioning eye-brows. It was wonderful! Mine is not a really educated palate but it was sufficiently sensitive to know I had tasted nothing like it before.

"Well", said Monsieur, "Wine is our drink about here. Either you make your own or you have to buy in a stock for the winter, rather like you do potatoes. The big farmers have their own vineyards, others have to buy in. Quite a number of factors go together to make a good wine, chiefly the soil and the weather. This area is BEAUNE and grows some of the finest grapes in the world. When the wine is made it is stored in La Cave or cellar of the house".

We could hardly not be interested in the Beaune. Monsieur explained that with a cellar full of wine, a family felt safe for the winter.

"But why the parade you and I have gone through?" I asked.

Then he told us how the Boche made their march on PARIS. They drank all they could of the caves as they went along. Then they were hurriedly recalled to enter PARIS with the Crown Prince. So again they passed through the country and again drank up as much as they could. But they never entered PARIS with the Crown Prince, and most of France settled back to a sort of normal.

Then back to the old standard came the vine-growers. They gathered up all the remaining wine, buried it in the most unlikely places, and spread the bottom of the caves with sand. Thus did they fool the Boche and saved an enormous amount of wine for France, including the marvellous Beaune we were drinking.

Well, that was the end of a very pleasant meal, and for me a very informative one. Madame had been so pleasant and so matronly that I had nearly kissed her when we left. I can see her yet, a halo of candle light behind her tall stately figure clad in a lightish frock, smiling benignly on her departing guests.

We staggered round the slurry to our shed in the corner of the farm and I fell into my comfortable bed and almost straight asleep, notwithstanding the ever-present smell, which, I think, pervaded even my sleep.

Next day our Company Officer gave us a sound lecture. We were starting on a new form of fighting, trench warfare. We must apply ourselves to it quite seriously. It might save our lives. The French had stretched their lines so far that in places they had become very thin. A length of this thinned line we were going to take over in order to learn their system and perhaps develop one of our own.

So that was our work for the next few weeks. And it kept us busy.

If you have been for any length of time with a regiment, you will find that nothing grows faster than RUMOUR. That was the same with our regiment. First the enemy had broken through at Mons. We were being trained to help fill up the gap. The enemy was about to drive south. We were to fill that weakness. All sorts of rumours were rife, none malevolent. We drilled on and drilled on until something did happen - the R.T.O. arrived. Now we did know we were on the move? But where? The concensus of opinion was we were to move north where the enemy's line was known to be weak.

The fact was, nobody knew. All was guess work. What we did know was that we had to be on CORBIE station at 0800 hours ready to entrain. And here we were. There was a train, waiting in the station - or rather a string of wagons of the standard army type. They were all labelled "Twenty four men, eight horses" (in French of course). They were well lined with clean straw. And at the sight of them the men's spirits fell.

But not mine. I have always had a preference for travelling than arriving.

G. Ryland

Mary has asked me to try to finish off this last story of George's. It is an oft told tale in the family, but my one regret is that I haven't the ability to make it as entertaining as he would have done, but I'll do my best.

MCR

After en-training, the regiment had no idea where it was going, but they set off in an ambling sort of way going Eastwards towards the front; which caused considerable anxiety and gloom among the troops. However, they bedded down as best they could; and hours later, my husband was aroused. "Where are we going, Sarge?" He got up and looked around, and having a very good compass sense, realised that the train was no longer going east, but southwards. He said "We are not going east, that's for certain, but wake me again if you see anything else".

Suddenly, the sky was brilliant with lights - gosh, was this a bombardment from another direction? "No" said my husband, "those are the lights of Paris" (Paris was never blacked out in the 14/18 war). Spirits rose as their train travelled on, skirting its way through the Parish environs. My husband had another snooze, and was rudely awakened in the dawn light with "Sarge, we've come to a station, where are we?" He got out of the truck and looked at the name, CHANTILLY. With a broad smile, he turned to the men and said "Boys, we're going to the races!!" The famous race-course being well to the South of Paris, the regiment realised that they were not, after all, going to the Front as feared - but where?

Well, they trundled down through France for a couple of days and finally reached MARSEILLES where they boarded a very ancient troop carrier called H.M.S. MARS. She was so slow and aged, that she had to hug the coasts of South France and Italy, and eventually finished up in SALONICA. By a strange coincidence, some fifty years later, he was recounting this event in the bar at Lilleybrook Golf Club, when one of the older golfers chipped in and said "I was at Salonica at that time, and saw your boat H.M.S. MARS come into harbour!"

3. BYEGONE CHARLTON

(1) MR RYLAND'S SKETCH - A tribute to a very special teacher

When Mr Ryland taught us art at "Crab End College", it was common to see boys jumping round in the playground saying with joy "I'm going into Mr. Ryland's class now!"

One day Mr Ryland pinned a sheet of paper on the board and there in front of us began to do a sketch of a row of stone cottages, a mill with a brick chimney and a stream with a little stone footbridge. It was fascinating to see how he did it with a few quick strokes of the brush and the scene was so vivid it stayed in our minds. My pal and I speculated afterwards whether it was a real place or not.

Well, so it was, the years passed, we grew up, and after the war we got bicycles and began to explore the Cotswolds - before that we'd had to stick to the neighbourhood of Charlton Kings. One day my pal and I found ourselves coming down a hill and there in front of us was the stream, the bridge, the cottages, and the mill; and we both exclaimed "Mr Ryland's sketch!"

Yes, you've guessed it, it was LOWER SLAUGHTER.

(2) UNCOMMON SCHOOL DAYS

Akers was a boy who lived at the house next door to King's House in Spring Bottom - those houses had been built on an orchard and had long gardens going through to Church Walk. Akers used to come through the hedge of his garden into Father's orchard and call me "Come on, Pop, school bell's ringing", and we'd go to school together. One day Akers had his ferret with him - it had a collar on, a watch strap probably, and a piece of binder twine through the collar. I warned Akers there'd be trouble if he took the ferret to school but he was determined to do it and when he was determined he wouldn't budge. So up School Road we went, the ferret walking in front, and all the boys and girls going in to school in a crowd fell in behind to see what would happen. The school gate being narrow, they couldn't all get in at once. Mr Thorn came out to see what was causing the jam - he had a sixth sense for trouble; and when he saw the ferret he demanded what Akers thought he was doing.

"Well, Sir, I thought the school would be interested."

"This isn't a Zoo. You take the ferret home and if you're late back at school I'll keep you in!"

Well, Akers hadn't a chance - the bell had already stopped. Mr Thorn blew his whistle for Lines and Akers was sore all day because he was going to be kept in!

That boy was mad on animals. He kept rabbits and mice which increased till he couldn't give them away and had to get rid of them. So we let the rabbits loose on Cleeve Hill and the mice in Timbercombe Wood.

Appropriately, Akers ended up as a keeper in a Zoo!

(3) HAZARDS OF A HAIR CUT

Besides Oram in Church Street, there was another hairdresser in Charlton, in Horsefair Street. He used to cut all the boys' hair for ld and it was short back and sides and top for all of them - a regular crop! He used to take their pennies so that they wouldn't run off and then make them wait on a bench opposite the door - every time the door was opened, they got an icy blast; while he and the person in the chair had the benefit of the fire. At the end, he'd pull back your collar and blow the loose hairs down your neck!

(4) THE SIMPLE LIFE

Cleveleys did a lot of work for Alcock of Wellinghill Farm. He'd come into the yard and give his order, with never a please or thank you, but he always paid on the dot. He'd hardly any furniture in the house, just a table and two chairs and up stairs an Army camp bed and a tea chest for a bedside table and another box with a few clothes. A woman came in to cook for him. Well, in the end the old range smoked so badly, she refused to use it any more. So Alcock told Father to put in an Aga. There'd never been piped water in the house before and to get water for the Aga's boiler we had to dig a trench and bring water down the hillside from a spring, a costly job. But he never murmured about the expense. That was the kind of man he was.

(5) CHARLTON KINGS FIRE BRIGADE

There are a lot of stories about Charlton Kings Fire Brigade that have never been told. Here are a few.

Harris was the Chief; but as he lived in town, Fred Neather (Frank's father) controlled it. He was a big stout man (1) - they used to put him up on top of the fire engine among the ladders, because he couldn't run as all the other firemen did. Trouble was, they had to fetch some men from their work at Ham or elsewhere in the parish by push bike, so by the time they arrived very often the fire was out.

Once they were called to a fire said to be in Cirencester Road, so they rushed up Horsefair Street and along Croft Road -- and then came the problem, should they turn right or left? Well, they decided to turn right and had got down to the Lyefield Road East cross roads when someone came tearing up to say the fire wasn't in Cirencester Road at all but in Bug Alley! So round the corner and back up Horsefair Street as hard as they could run - and by the time they got there, the fire, only a chimney fire, had been put out by the occupiers!

Another time, the fire engine with Neather on top, ran down the slope from the Council Yard so fast it overturned at the bottom and Neather was flung off! But he wasn't badly hurt.

(1) See his photograph in Bulletin 5, p.34.

Eric Cleveley

4. THE KNAPPINGS

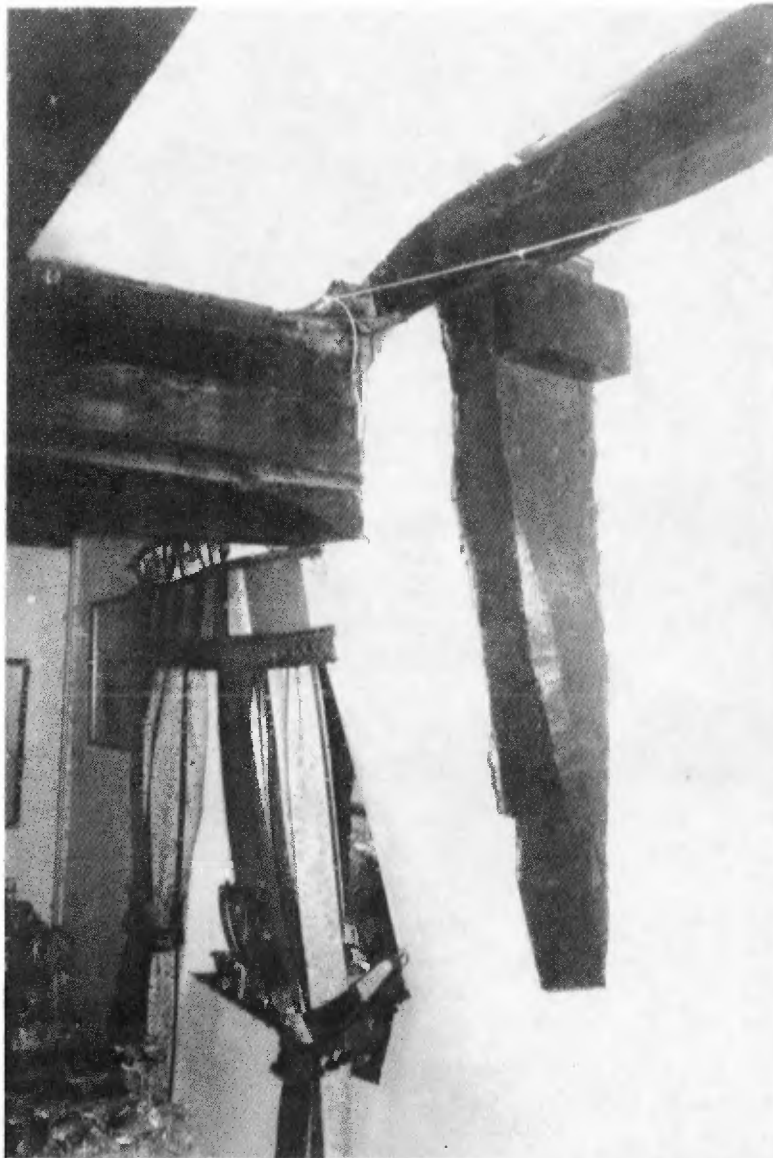
Surveyed and photographed by kind permission of Mr. M. Rayward



The back of the house - the chimney-stack was originally in the centre of the house.



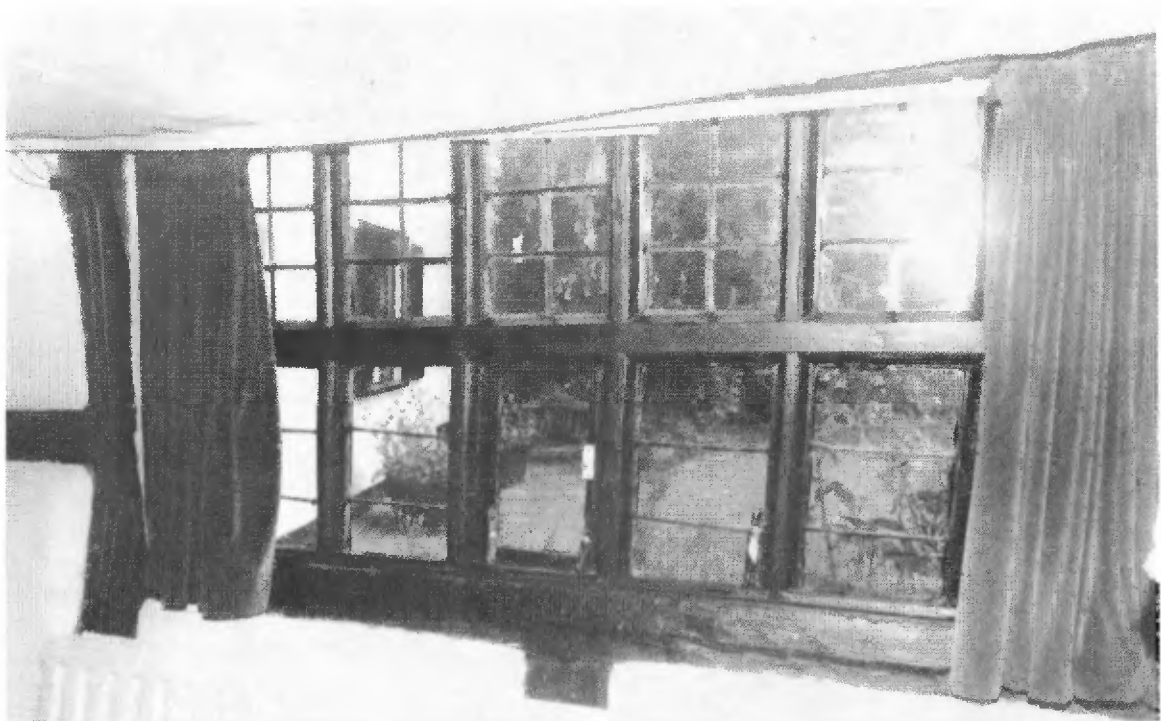
Hall fireplace



HALL

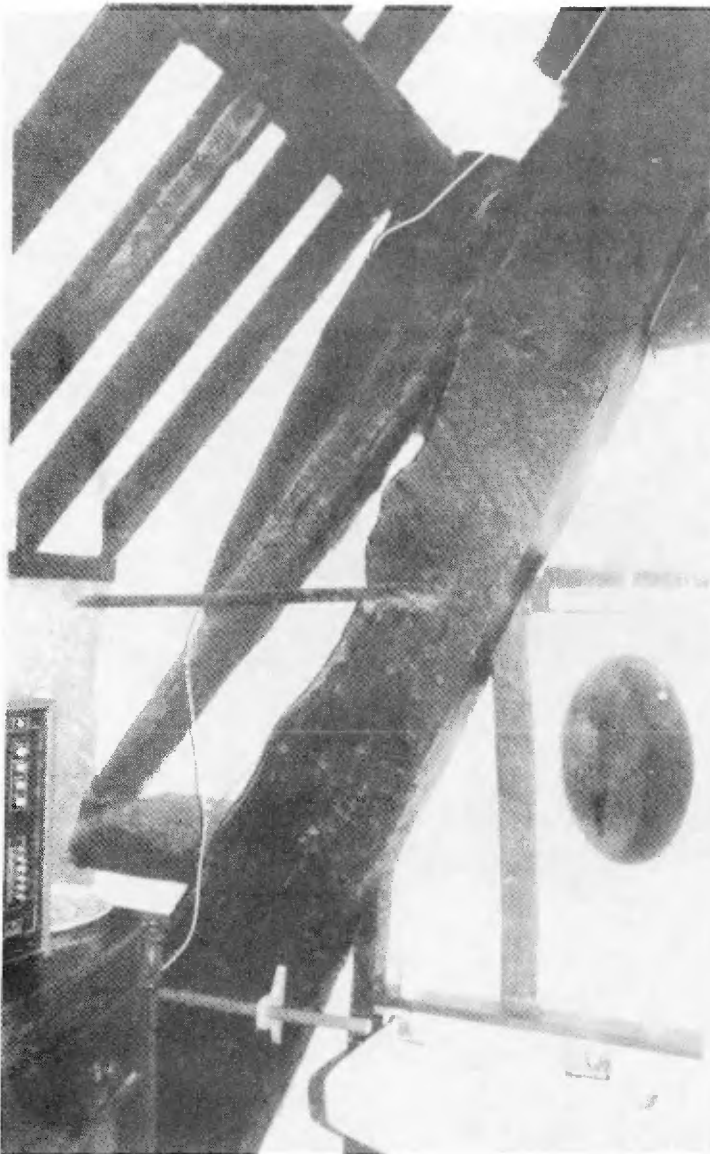
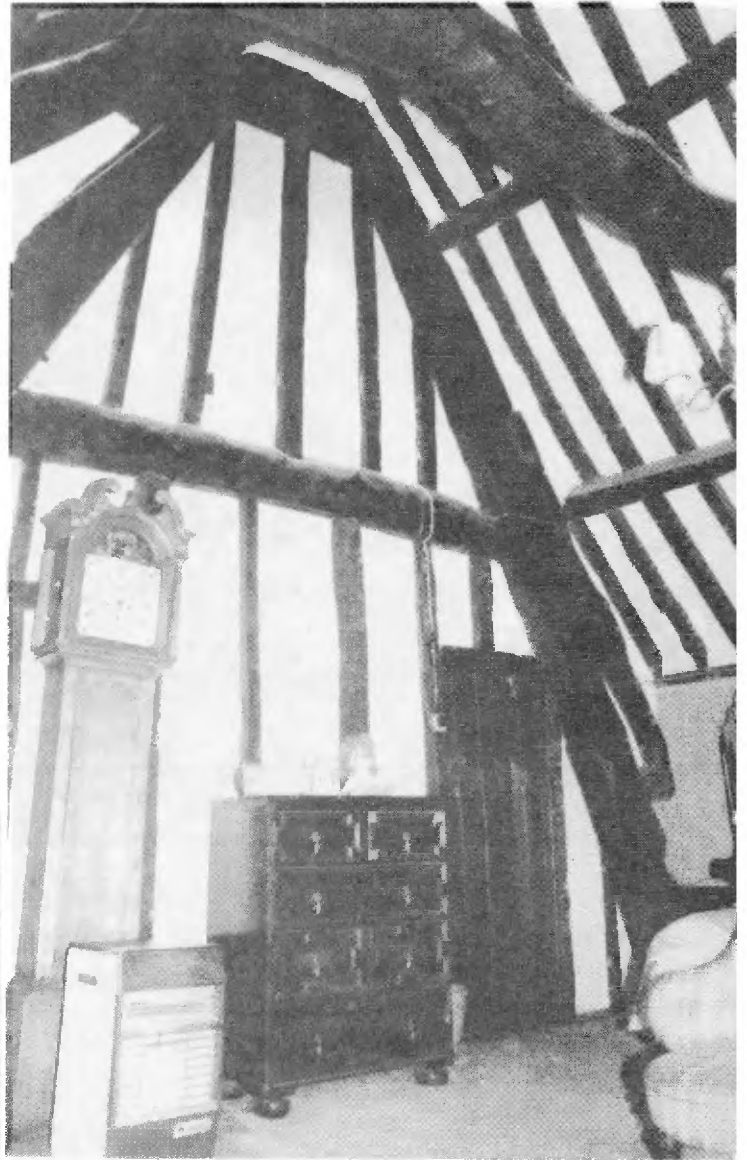
East wall.
Foot of Truss B
showing notch,
perhaps used
when the Truss
was erected - the
block near the
ceiling may be
the sawn-off end
of a tie-beam.

Parlour - timber framed east wall



Parlour - Transomed window in South End Wall.

Truss A
Original end
wall viewed from
north, showing
saddle apex.



Truss A, eastern
side from the north
showing cruck blade
and packing piece.
A later block on top
of the packing piece
supports the purlin
over the north bay.

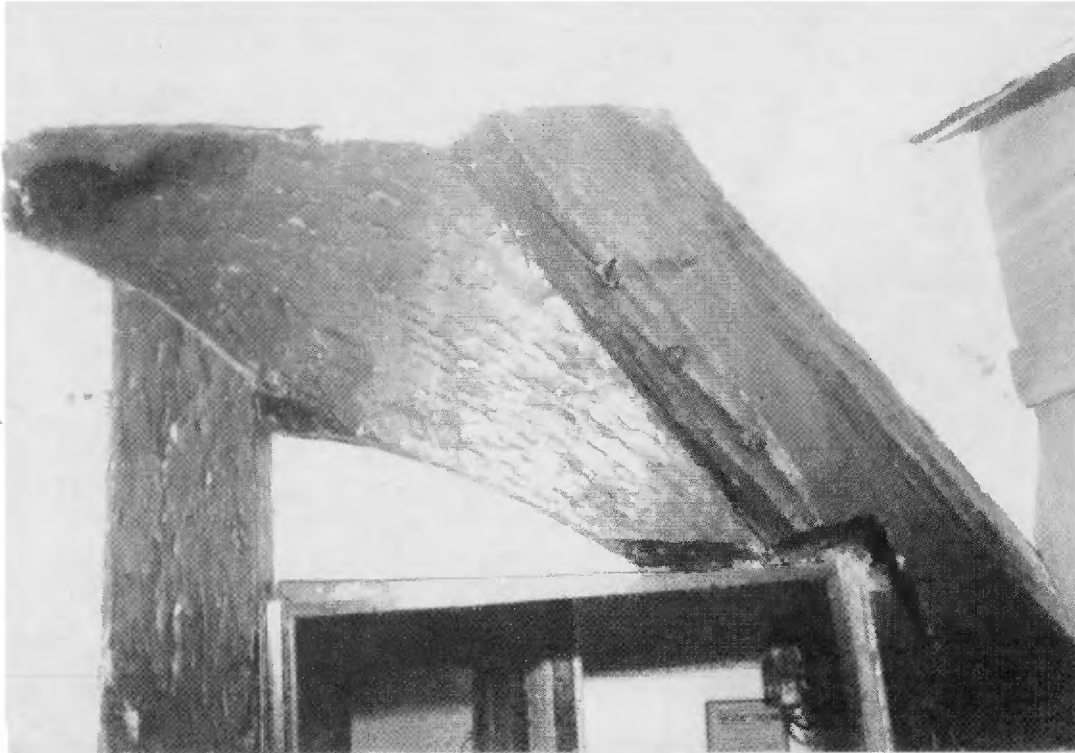


Truss B
Eastern blade
viewed from the
South



Truss B
Western blade
viewed from
the North

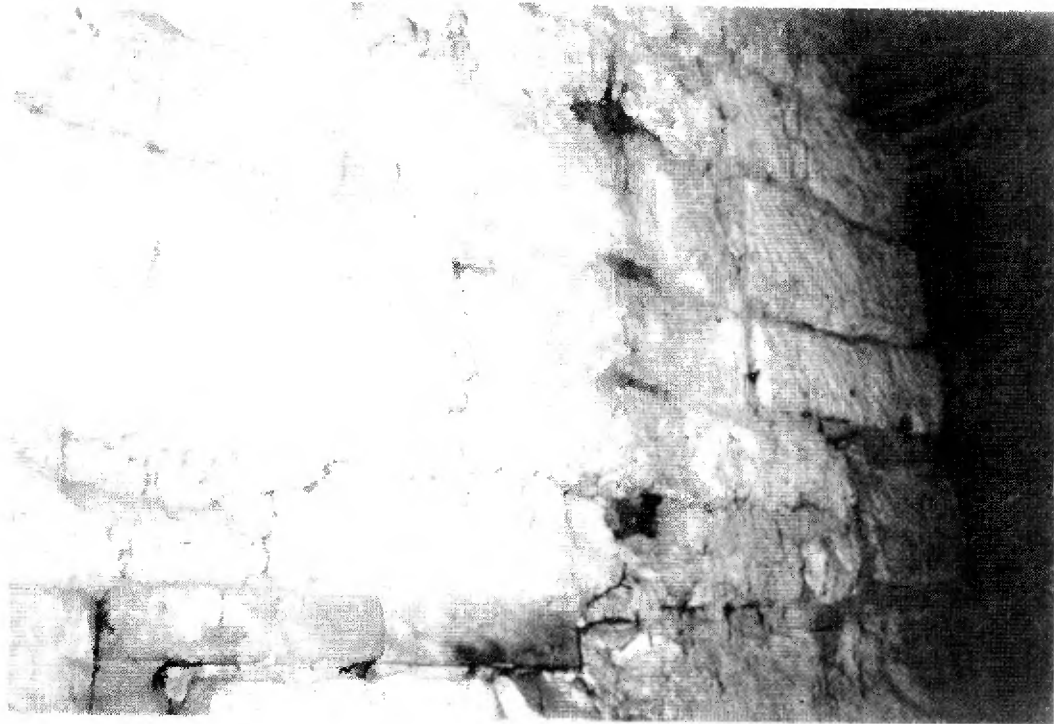
Truss C - viewed from north, showing cusped arch brace. Later stud and doorway; truss originally open.



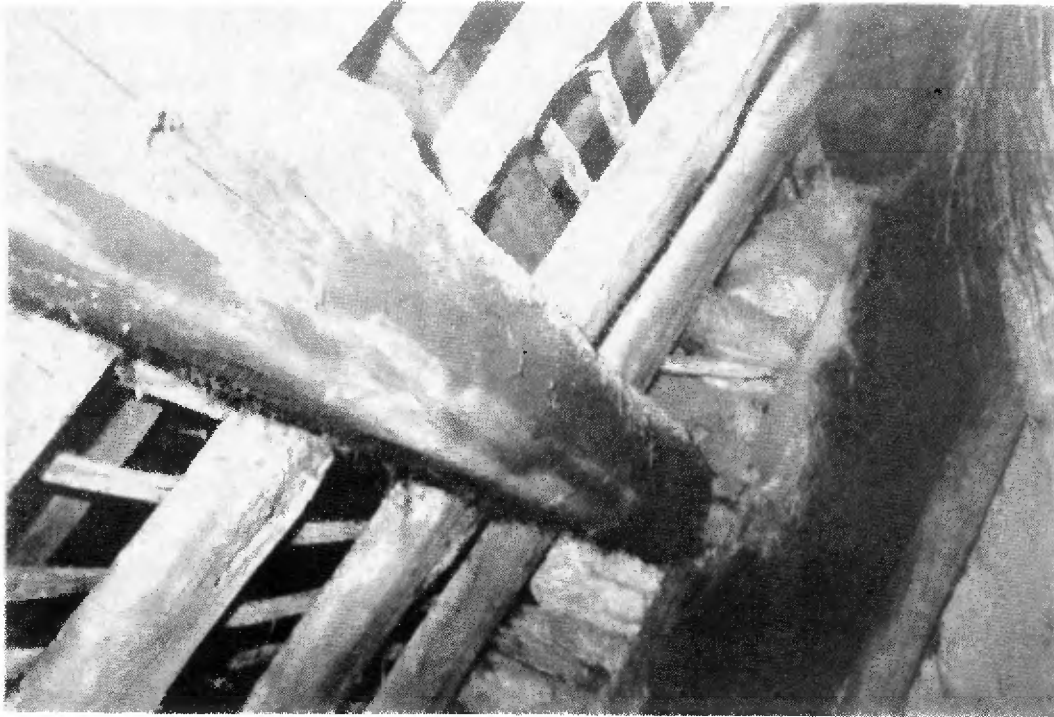
Parlour chamber, south end wall.



In the roof Masonry of the Chimney Stack



Smoke - blackened purlin and part of Truss C (the central truss of the open hall)



Chimney stack profile



later purlin

original purlin

Later purlin

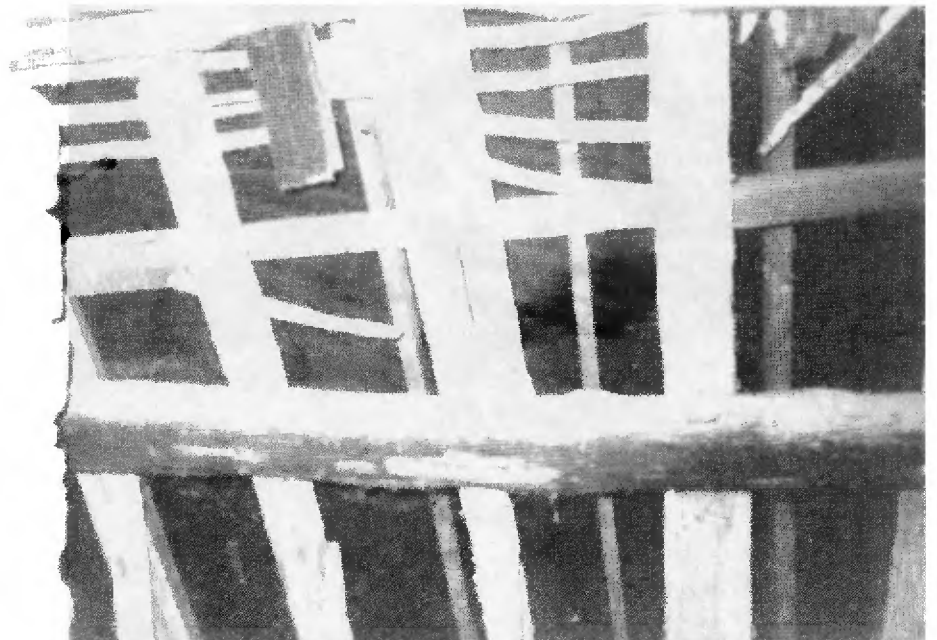


Three rows of purlins visible, only the middle is original and shows blackening.

Blackened rafter

Later clear rafters

Stack and purlin with bark on



THE KNAPPINGS, 243 CIRENCESTER ROAD, CHARLTON KINGS, GLOS.

SO 965197

SITE The house is sited on more-or-less level ground, parallel to the road and facing west-south-west.

MATERIALS Construction is of timber frame and brick, with a roof of modern plain tiles.

EXTERNAL FEATURES The house has two storeys and is mostly of brick with painted "timber-framing" in large horizontal panels. In the south end gable some of the real timbers are exposed, but even here some of the timbers are only painted. At this end there are three oriel windows, one in the gable end on the ground floor and two in the west wall, one above the other. A pentice roof with stone tiles protects the two ground-floor windows. All three oriel windows have wooden ovolo mullions; the south window is transomed and has twelve lights, with some square leaded lights surviving. Windows elsewhere in the house are assorted casements, some with leaded lights. The front and back doors have shallow porches roofed with stone tiles.

PLAN The house has two lobby entries onto a central stack whose back-to-back fireplaces serve the parlour at the south end and the hall. There is a winder stair in the north-west corner of the parlour, close to the stack. North of the hall is a very short inner room only 6'9" long, and beyond this an added room, now a kitchen and pantry. This room has external doors in the east and west walls, but no sign of a fireplace; it may have been a back kitchen for food preparation, or a dairy.

STRUCTURE The north bay is constructed entirely of brick, with the roof carried on two pairs of purlins (shown in solid black on section A - A') which run from the end wall to truss A - A'. This was the original end wall and consists of a splendid cruck truss with a saddle apex. It has a halved and lapped collar and stud, wattle and daub infill. The studs are not a uniform size; four principal studs are five inches across while the rest are half that size. The studs above the collar slope slightly inwards. The cruck blades appear to be a matching pair i.e. they were made from a single timber which was split in half to give the two blades. There is one pair of purlins pegged straight through the blades just above the collar. The apex above the saddle is plastered over, but there is likely to have been a square-set ridge piece. Packing pieces run from the purlins to the spur ties and support the purlins of the added north bay. Truss B - B', across the centre of the present hall, has unusual crucks with an ogee or double curve. They also seem to be a matching pair and have a saddle apex. There are three round holes in the soffit of the saddle; the central one was probably for a peg to hold a square-set ridge piece. The others were for wattle and daub infill, some of which remains. The halved and lapped collar, whose ends overlap the cruck blades in rather a crude fashion, has a row of similar holes in the soffit, showing that the truss was once completely closed. Now it is open below the collar and there is an inserted attic floor a little way above the collar (not shown on the drawings). The truss has smoke-blackening on its south face and possibly also on its north face, and the wattle and daub is partially smoke-blackened. The upper purlins are also blackened. There are two notches in the eastern blade (one just above the foot) and one in the western blade, which may have been used when the truss was erected. Truss C - C' is an open cruck truss, now largely concealed by the inserted stone stack and a modern shower room. It was clearly the central truss of a two-bay open hall. A collar, possibly tenoned and fastened with two pegs, is visible in the attic on the east side, and above it is a trench for a purlin. In the attic the truss can be seen to be smoke-blackened. The west side of the truss is visible at first-floor level; the blade is chamfered and there are the remains of a cusped arch-brace. All three cruck trusses have spur ties, each fastened with two pegs. The feet

of the trusses go down to between 4'5" and 2'6" from the ground. The walling between trusses A and C is of brick, with timber-framing painted on the outside. It is not clear if the brick totally replaces the original timber-framed walls or if some of the timbers are concealed within the brickwork.

The south end bay is of square panel timber framing, infilled with brick. The end wall is of post-and-truss construction; the posts have jowled heads and short straight braces. One pair of purlins is visible above the collar and there is almost certainly a second pair concealed behind the false side walls of the attic. This attic is reached by a winder stair built against the west side of the stack.

FEATURES Beams The hall beams have 4½ inch chamfers with 5½ inch long shouldered-step stops. The central beam is set to one side of truss B - B' and is not attached to it. The beam along the stack is supported on a wooden corbel. The beams in the parlour and parlour chamber have the same stops and 4 inch and 3¼ inch chamfers respectively. The beam in the parlour chamber is set axially, parallel to the long walls of the house. The beam in the north bay has 1¾ inch chamfers and runout stops. The joists over the hall are replacements, but those in the inner room are 8 inches wide by 4½ inches deep and are set 10 to 12 inches apart. Fireplaces The hall fireplace has chamfered stone jambs and a slightly cambered wooden lintel which is chamfered with mason's mitres where the chamfer joins the chamfer of the jambs. The parlour fireplace is similar. Windows The ovolo - mullioned windows in the parlour and parlour chamber have leaded lights. Each window has one opening iron casement with a window catch of spring type. The design of these catches is long and tapering with a fleur-de-lys design at the end. The inner room has a small two-light window in the west wall which has a narrow chamfered mullion and frame, an iron casement with leaded lights and two iron stanchions in each light. The stanchions are fixed in C18th fashion with a flattened foot nailed to the bottom of the window frame. (In the C16th and C17th stanchions were fixed into diamond-shaped holes in both the top and bottom of the frame.) There is a similar two-light window in the parlour attic and a four-light window in the gable end of the north chamber. Both have plain turnil catches and tulip-leaf handles in the opening casements. The window in the north chamber is large and so the casements have horizontal iron bars to add rigidity to the leaded lights. This too is typical of the C18th.

DATE AND DEVELOPMENT The oldest parts of the existing structure are the three cruck trusses which date from the medieval period. There was clearly a two-bay open hall with the open truss C across its centre and an open hearth (hence the smoke-blackening on the roof timbers). This hearth may have been below the central truss on the site of the later stack. The original entrance is likely to have been a screens passage (i.e. opposing doorways with screens to protect the hall from the worst of the draughts) sited to one side of truss B. In some houses the passage is on the hall side of the truss, in others it is on the far side of the truss. There is no evidence either way here as the original wall timbers are either concealed or removed. Truss B has clearly been a closed truss, giving a room at the north end which took up the whole bay. However, the existing wattle and daub in the attic is only partially smoke-blackened, which implies either that it has been renewed, or that it is a secondary feature, and that it was not exposed to the smoke from the open hearth for very long. Another possibility is that it had a very heavy encrustation of smoke-blackening which has peeled off, leaving some of the underlying daub clean. This has been seen happening in a house in Somerset. If the infill is secondary, it would imply that the north room was originally separated from the open hall only by a low partition some 6 feet high, a feature common in parts of Devon and Somerset and also found in North Avon. Whatever the truth about the sequence of events, there remains one problem regarding the infill of truss B. Although

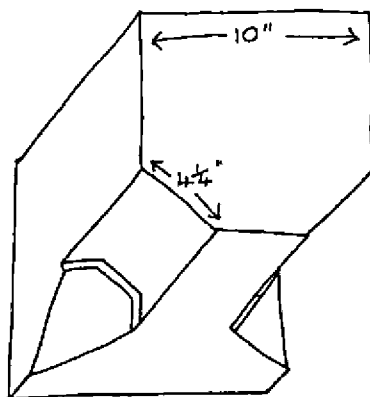
there are holes in the soffit of the collar, there is no corresponding beam for the lower ends of the wattle to be fixed into. The existing beam across the centre of the later hall is not part of the truss as it is positioned several inches to the north of it. Yet there must have been a beam at about this level. Possibly the block on the eastern blade of truss B is the remains of it (see photo).

It is not clear what happened at the south end of the original house. Presumably the post-and-truss D replaces a medieval cruck truss at one end of the open hall. This may have been the end wall of the house or there may have been another room at this end, with a further presumed cruck truss E. This could have been a parlour or solar, in which case the north room was presumably a service room or rooms. The present room arrangement would support this idea. However, it is quite common for houses to have been "turned round" completely, with the original parlour becoming a kitchen and vice versa. It is therefore possible that the original screens passage and service room(s) were at the south end of the house, with a parlour or solar at the north. Again, this is pure speculation and there is no evidence either way. The house was clearly of very good quality, as shown by the use of cusped arch braces and the quality of truss A. A likely date is sometime in the C15th, but an earlier date is not impossible. If samples of wood were taken for dendrochronological sampling this might provide a more accurate date if the samples proved to be good ones.

In the late C16th the house was radically altered. The south end of the hall was rebuilt to give a large heated parlour (possibly replacing a lost third room at this end), using post and truss construction for the end wall. A central stack built of large blocks of stone was inserted next to the open truss of the hall, with the back-to-back fireplaces heating the hall and parlour. As the stack took up rather a lot of the old hall, the partition between the hall and the north room was moved northwards to give a good-sized hall and a short inner room. The hall was floored over to give chambers upstairs, while the south end was given a first floor and an attic in the rebuilding. The old screens passage was replaced by lobby entries on either side of the stack. In most houses of this type one of these lobbies would house a winder stair, but it is not clear if this was ever the case here. The position of the west window in the parlour rather suggests that the stair has always been in the parlour, unless the window was positioned to avoid the end of the ceiling beam. Some time in the C18th the north bay was added to give either a back kitchen or a dairy and pantry, with an upper room open to the roof. This upper room has a very large window, perhaps to provide enough light for some special function such as weaving or ventilation for a cheese room. At this time the windows in the inner room and the parlour attic were renewed. It may also have been in the C18th that the timber-framed walls of the medieval house were replaced by or encased in brick to give a more fashionable appearance to the house.

There are still various details of the construction that need to be checked, and there is a small barn and a small cottage close to the house which need investigating. It may therefore be necessary to amend this account slightly at a later date.

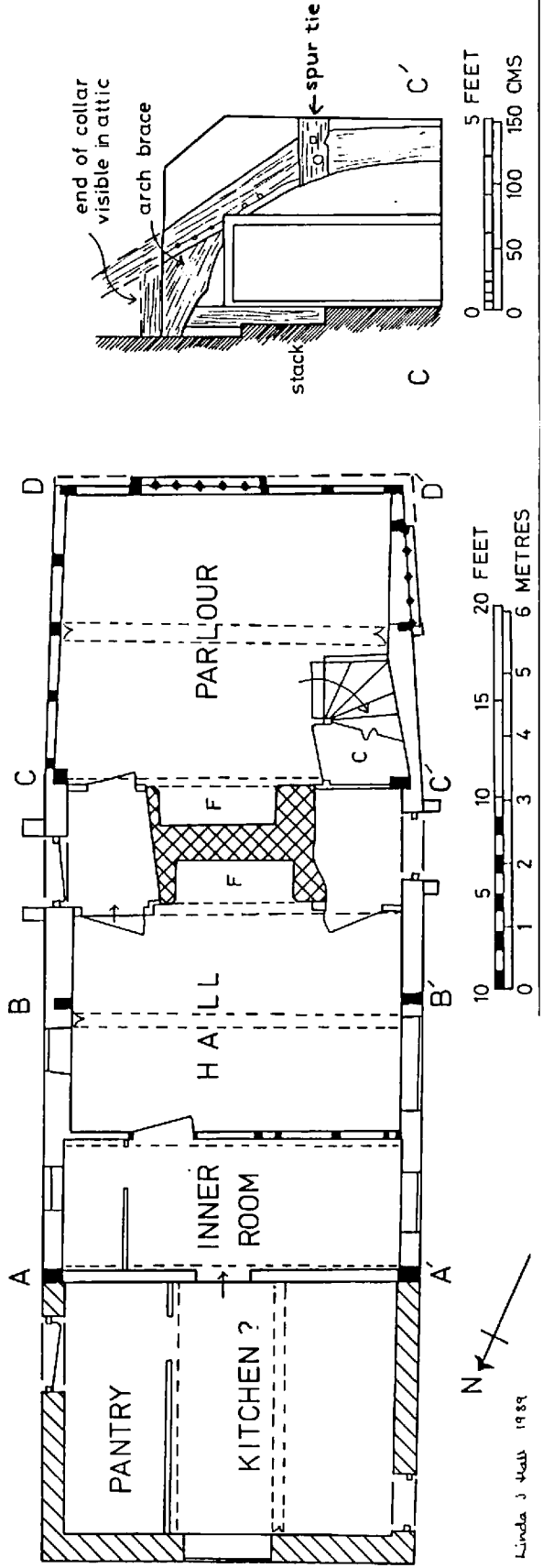
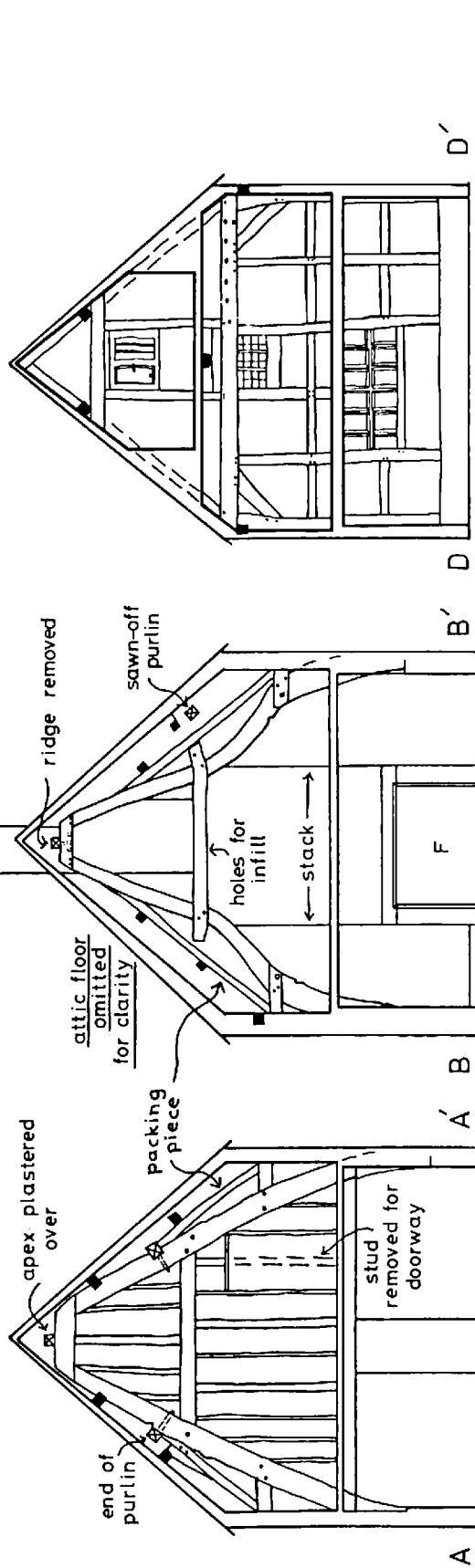
Linda Hall Jan 1990



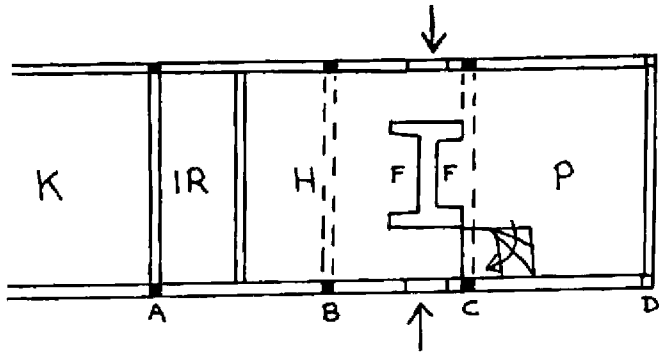
Hall beam with
shouldered - step stops.

THE KNAPPINGS, 243 CIRENCESTER ROAD, CHARLTON KINGS, GLOS.

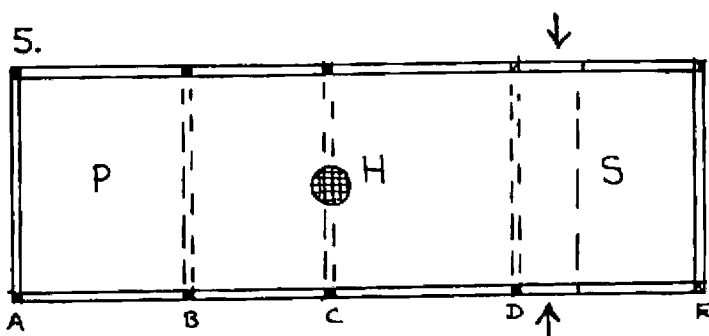
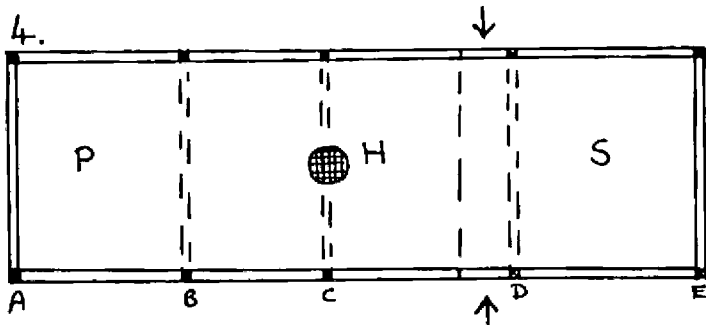
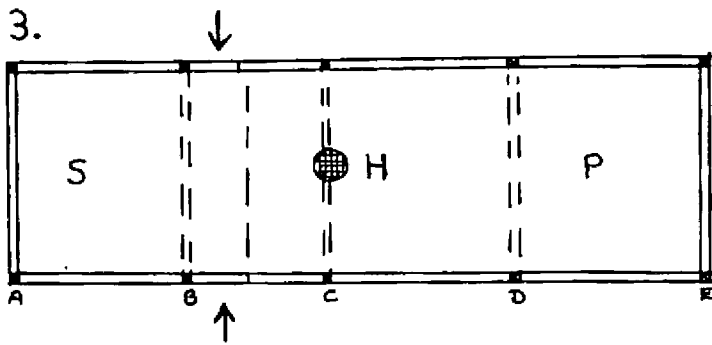
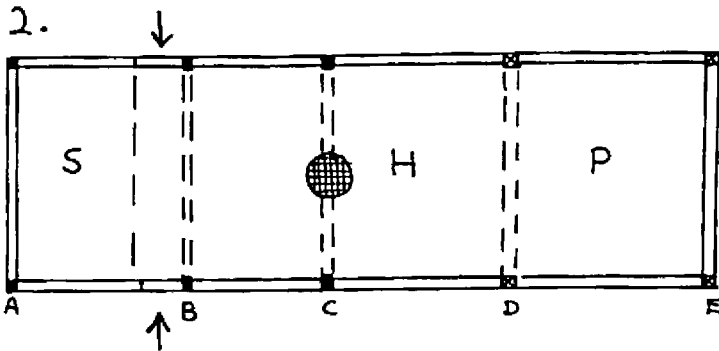
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Linda J Wall 1989



- KEY
- main entrance
 - existing cruck truss
 - ▨ supposed cruck truss
 - H hall (D and E)
 - IR inner room
 - K kitchen
 - P parlour
 - S service room
 - ⊗ open hearth



Plan 1. Shows the existing layout of the house. Plans 2 to 5 show possible alternatives for the original medieval layout. In all of these the existence of the fourth bay and truss E is entirely conjectural.

Plan 2 shows the screens passage outside the hall. Plan 3 shows the passage within the hall. Either of these layouts could exist without the conjectured fourth bay.

Plans 4 and 5 presuppose the existence of the fourth bay and show service rooms at this end; again the passage could be either within or outside the hall.

5. THE KNAPPINGS AND ITS OCCUPIERS

(1) The Batten family

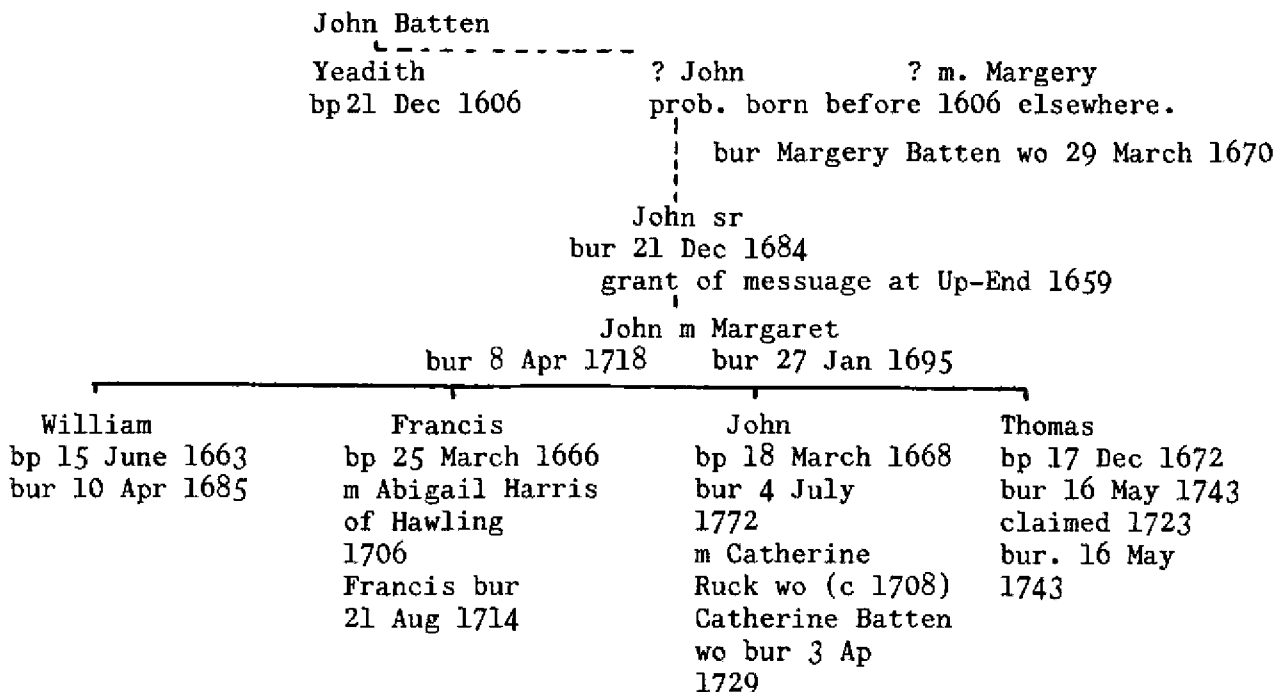
The message, obviously medieval, can only be traced with certainty from 1659 because this was a customary tenement of Ashley manor and the court books are lost. So the first reference we can be positive about is a grant to John Batten on 17 May 1659, which is recited in his son's claim (GRO 109/19 C 59).

On 21 May 1706 John Batten and his eldest son Francis surrendered to use of John for life and after to use of Francis for life and his intended wife Abigail Harris of Hawling for life, his heirs by her or his right heirs. The property was described as a house or tenement with garden and backside and one close of meadow or pasture adjoining the message. It stood in Charlton Kings "in a place called Nup-End, with the highway called Nup-End Street on the south and land of the said John Batten on the north". The heriot payable was 11s 9d, which helps to identify the tenement later on (GRO B 109/19/63). As a result of this surrender, on 30 March 1711, Francis and Abigail were able to raise money by a mortgage to Samuel Cooper the lawyer, even though John the father was still alive. This time the house was said to have Nup-End Street on the south and a common lane or way on the west. This "lane" was one of the many paths through the common field called The Croft between Nup End Street and Little Herberts - several are still in use as footpaths, and this one may be the path alongside The New Inn alias the Little Owl (GRO D 109/19/85).

The parish register shows that Francis Batten was buried on 21 August 1714; so that the father's heir was now his next son John. John had married in 1708 Catherine Ruck the widow of William Ruck of Little Herberts Farm; and on 10 August 1708 he and Catherine settled her properties, which after her death were to be divided among Ruck's children. So John Batten the younger only benefitted during his wife's life.

John Batten the elder was buried on 8 April 1718; and John his son and heir on 4 July 1722, while Catherine lived on till 1729. As there were no children of that marriage, the third son Thomas, baptised 17 December 1672, now inherited at the age of 50.

BATTEN



Catherine was buried as Widow Batten according to the parish register; But Bigland records her epitaph on a flat stone in the South Transept:- "Here lyeth the body of CATHERINE, Relict of LYNNETT PATES Gent, of WILLIAM RUCK and JOHN BATTEN, Yeomen. She was buried April 3 Anno Dom. 1729" So perhaps she did marry for a third time, and as her neighbours thought, above her station!

Between 1711 and 1723 (when Thomas claimed) the family had added the close called Goldwell to their original holding. This is the inclosure (subsequently called Battlemoor ie Battens Moor) in the triangle between the Timbercombe road from Up End and the Little Herberts Road; it got its older name from a spring near the "Timbercombe Triangle" which often flooded the road and still makes the upper part of Little Herberts road a sheet of ice in frosty weather. In 1327 a Robert de Goldwell lived here, probably at the top end of the close, but no trace remains, except bumps in the ground which could be house platforms.

Thomas Batten claimed on 22 May 1723 (D 109/19/C 59) as son and heir of his father, first the messuage and the land the Battens had held since 1659, and second the close called Goldwell. So the heriot was raised to 17s 5d. This claim was subject to the life interest of Catherine Batten widow.

Thomas went on to acquire the two parts of the close on the east side of Little Herberts Road, known since c.1564 as Catshay or Cattshey.

The northern part had been held by Henry Collet and Elizabeth his wife, part of the property to which they were admitted on 27 April 1669. It came to their eldest daughter Joyce Gisborne widow, who claimed on 13 May 1735 (D 109/19/C 147) and she then surrendered to use of Thomas Batten and his heirs (D 109/19/C148). But her part was only a half acre. The larger southern section went with Thomas Hall's messuage in Nup-End; he was admitted on 13 May 1721 (D 109/19/C46) as son of Thomas Hall and nephew of the late Joseph Hall. On 15 May 1727 (D 109/19/C77) Thomas and his wife Margaret sold Cats Hay to the lawyer Samuel Sloper, describing their close as having land of Henry Collet on the north and a highway south. A year later, on 10 May 1728 Sloper and his wife Susannah surrendered it to Thomas Batten (D 109/19/C98).

So Thomas Batten from 1735 held both parts of Cats Hay and could throw them into the single inclosure (measuring 2.1.10) we know today.

On 11 December 1739, Thomas Batten surrendered to uses of his will. He seems not to have married and had no immediate heirs. He was buried on 16 May 1743 and his executor and trustee Joseph Kilmaster was admitted. But this was a formality Thomas had already parted with his property, which passed into the possession of the Whithornes of The Knapp, later also of Coxhorne House.

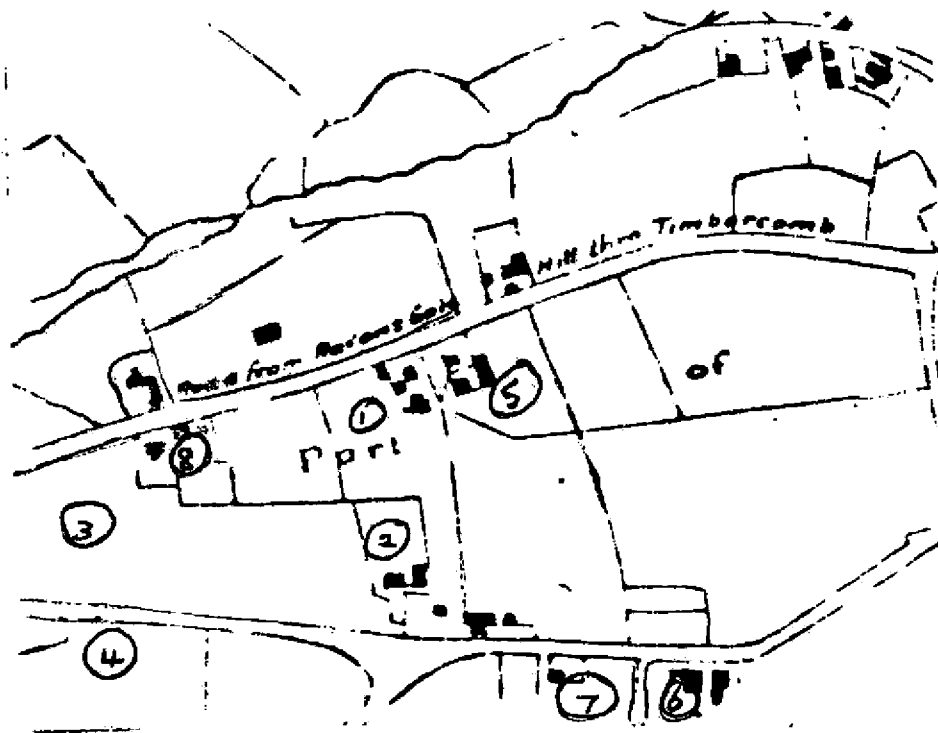
(2) Successors to the Battens

John Whithorne left his property to his daughter Elizabeth Lovesy and her sons; through the death of the elder son William, everything eventually passed to Conway Whithorne Lovesy, this farmhouse at Up End being a small item in the whole estate.

At the tithe apportionment, completed in 1848, house, stable, garden, and yards (TM 312, 0.1.24) and the close at the back called Matthews Piece (TM 313 2.1.0) were held by Lovesy's representatives and occupied by William Wheeler. The representatives also held Battlemore close (TM 318, 2.1.10) and Catshay (TM 209, 2.1.0), occupied by John Wornald or Wortnold

(of Brunswick House alias Glenure). But a corner had been taken out of Battens Moor and belonged to Thomas Ballinger. He had built two cottages there (TM 317, 21p). Between 1848 and 1855, Lovesy's trustees bought these cottages to round off the property - they were then tenanted by Thomas Cleevely and Mary Finch. Devisees in trust under Lovesy's will claimed it 10 March 1855 and then went on to mortgage to William Henry Smith and Elizabeth his wife (GRO D 109/3). This explains why the 1858 Rate book credits Elizabeth Smith widow with ownership.

On 16 October 1890 (D 109/5) the messuage, croft, cottages, Batten's Close and Cats Hay were all mortgaged; and the mortgage renewed on 16 October 1890 with a sale clause (D109/5). Consequently on 2 February 1891 the "messuage, barn, garden and premises known as The Nappings, adjoining the Cirencester Road" and the croft (2.2.24), all on occupation of Mr F Baldwin, were surrendered for £450 to John Henry Jones and George Sheffield Blakeway, both of Gloucester.



Part of
Mitchell's
map 1806

- (1) Knappings - note buildings behind the house, probably workshops.
- (2) Little Herberts or Home Farm - was this inclosure taken out of the Knappings land c.1500?
- (3) Battensmore or Battlemoor, originally called Goldwell.
- (4) Catshay.
- (5) Messuage on site of New Inn or Little Owl.
- (6) Little Herberts Farm - site of Beeches Road.
- (7) Messuage, later called Herbert Villa or Orchard House, now demolished - site of Chatcombe Close.
- (8) Ashmead's messuage by the mile-stone, demolished before 1848.

"Battlemoor alias Battens Close", occupied by F. Baldwin, was surrendered for £360 to Charles Randall of Charlton Kings farmer. A little later, on 2 June 1891, Catshay and the two cottages were surrendered to Jones and Blakeway (D 109/5), for £175.

The new owners now enfranchised the house with its croft on 27 July 1891. This freed it from manorial incidents such as heriot and it no longer passed by surrender and admission in the manor court - consequently it does not appear in the court books. It was given as an address by John Henry Theyer butcher and Marjorie Beatrix his wife, previously of Northleach, when they bought some land in Ryeworth on 18 July 1908 (D 109/6). Arthur John Burroughs, dairyman, lived at "The Nappins", in 1923 (Directory).

The two closes had not been enfranchised.

Goldwell or Battens Close, and the cottages were sold on 16 May 1894 by Jones and Blakeway for £150 to William Dugdale of Lilly Brooke (who preceeded the Lords. See Bulletin 10). Part of the land remained pasture, part was walled off and became Lilleybrook's kitchen garden, and on the site of the cottages the Lords subsequently erected their private electric light plant and a house for the electrician. When the Lilleybrook House and adjoining property was enfranchised on 30 May 1908, the entry speaks of "buildings on the east side of the road recently built" which had replaced the two cottages. Also on the east side of the road "a few feet north of the second milestone from Cheltenham" was a piece of land the site of Up End Cottage, now belonging to Lord and included in the enfranchisement; Thomas Ashmead had been its last customary tenant.

Catshay was sold by Jones and Blakeway and surrendered on 5 March 1894 for £150 to Thomas Henry Hooper of Cheltenham cooper. From this time onwards it is described as on the north east side of the road or lane leading to Vineyards farm; Baldwin was still the occupier (D 109/5). Hooper on 17 September 1894 sold it, for £200 this time, to Edward Godwin of Hereford pottery manufacturer. This was, it would seem, in connection with an abortive attempt to find clay suitable for brick-making (the brickworks at the modern Gadshill Road site were having to give up for lack of material); and a trial was made, without success. The excavation can still be seen just inside a gate by the Timbercombe Triangle. So on 30 April 1903, Arthur Edward Godwin (now of Leckhampton) tile manufacturer and Silvia Sophia his wife surrendered it to Herbert Lord of Lilleybrook and were paid £400. (D 109/6).

When the Lilleybrook estate was broken up in 1921-2, Lord (then of Acton Turville), and his wife surrendered Cats Hay on 21 Feb 1921 to Etheldreda Mary Adams of Cranham Lodge, Cirencester Road, widow, for £340. The occupier was Thomas Henry Roper (D 109/6), Mrs Adams paid for Cats Hay to be enfranchised on 15 March 1928.

(3) The Name "KNappings"

If this house was known by any name before the 19th century, it will have been simply "Batten's".

About 1800 it must have been leased to a man who knapped flints here. Some specimens are now in Cheltenham Museum; they are the coarse flints used in flint-lock guns or for striking a light with flint and tinder (not remotely like prehistoric flints) and this activity can only have lasted while such flints were in demand. The first written appearance of the name is in 1890. But the buildings behind the house, marked on Mitchell's 1806 map, may represent workshops.

(4) The Battens' predecessors

As I said at the beginning, there is NO FIRM EVIDENCE for any family holding this house before 1659. But we may make a GUESS.

We are looking for an Ashley manor base tenant, holding a moderate amount of land part near Up End, who cannot be located anywhere else. And when we scan the 1557 list of tenants allowed to inclose land, there are only two possibles.

These are:- Walter Corier or Currier, holding 28 acres and allowed to inclose 3 acres in Milkwell and Broadbreach; and Thomas Whithorne, holding 27 acres and allowed to inclose 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres in Horshill and Little Milkwell.

Milkwell was the open field under "Knife Edge" or "Nifnedge", up the valley. It was in this kind of location that all the first inclosures were authorized.

The question is, what else do we know about the two men?

WHITHORNE - Parish register I records Thomas as buried on 6 January 1577 leaving three sons of whom John the youngest was his customary heir. John, baptised 22 October 1542, was buried on 3 April 1593, having by his wife Joane two daughters and a son William, baptised 11 December 1592. He was not buried here and his only son, Thomas died in infancy.

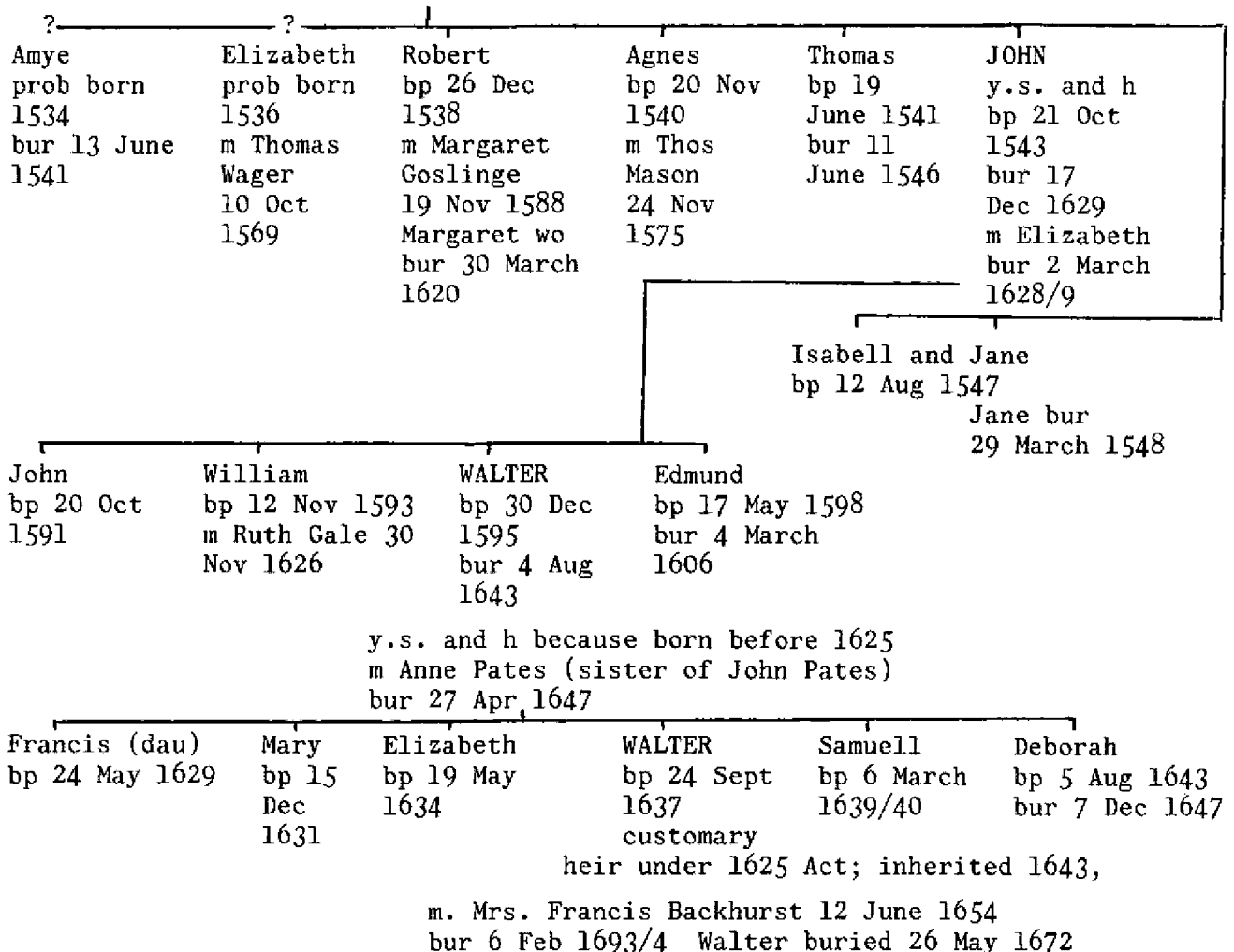
It does not look as though this branch of the Whithornes can be the 17th century tenants of Knappings.

Everything considered, the Curriers seem a more probable option.

CURRIER (PARISH REGISTERS I AND II)

- Currier m. Annes, widow buried 8 March 1540/1

WALTER
bur 7 Feb 1588



Robert Currier held land at Westall which had been demised to him by Walter Bushes 20 Oct 1582. On 17 March 1606/7 Robert, "languishing at Charleton Kinges" made his will and appointed Margaret his wife executrix. She proved the will at Gloucester on 30 May 1607, and put her cattle onto the land, which led to a suit (GRO D 855 M 8 f 6). The interesting point is that he had apparently come back to his brother's house or else to his wife's old home to die, though he was buried in Cheltenham.

It will be noticed that the Curriers were inter-marrying with all the main yeoman families of Charlton - the Wagers, the Goslinges, the Masons, the Gales, and especially the Pates, who regarded themselves as nearly gentry. Anne Pates was the sister of John Pates MA "non minus medicinae quam theologiae studiosus" as his tablet in the church proclaims. Anne shares this memorial, whereas her husband Walter Currier was never accorded this mark of respect. Anne's son Walter (1638-1672) inherited from his father in 1643. But his marriage in 1654 to a woman of rather higher social status (a daughter of Mr Robert Backhurst and entered in the register as Mistress Frances Backhurst) suggests that the last Walter was aspiring to gentry rank. He and his wife might well think the old timber-framed house lacking in amenities and altogether beneath them.

So it would not be surprising to find them surrendering the old customary tenement and moving away, perhaps into Cheltenham, about 1659.

On the other hand, both Walter and Frances were buried here. This might simply mean that they had a family vault. But Widow Carrier was living in Charlton in a house with three hearths at the time of the 1671-2 Hearth Tax; whereas John Batten was taxed on a single hearth.

It is not impossible that she had come back to the old home as John Batten's sub-tenant, and that John was living in the adjoining cottage.

M. Paget

6. A BRIDGE OVER THE LILLEYBROOK IN 1729

We all know that the "Old Cirencester Road" was Sandy Lane, turnpiked in 1754, which came out (as the lane still does), just this side of the Seven Springs cross road; and that the modern Cirencester Road was a creation of the years 1826-7.

But long before that, Up End Road (while continuing along the Timbercombe ridge) had an off-shoot in Combe Lane which gave access to inclosures called the Combes further up the valley. It seems a surprising anticipation of the line of the modern road, however, to find that as far back as 1729 the Revd. John Prinn (son of John Prinn of Forden House or Charlton Park) was acquiring land for a stone and timber bridge on the site of the present Lilleybrook bridge by the old Lodge.

One of the Ashley papers (GRO D 109/19/C116) dated 27 September 1729 records a surrender of land by Richard Churches (who lived in a cottage on the site of Glenure) to use of John Prinn Clerk; and also in consideration of 42s paid by Prinn, the surrender of "a wagon way and cartway and horseway and footway for all manner of cattle through and over the close of Richard Churches called Comb on the north side of Comb Lane at all times, and so much of the close next to Comb Lane as shall be convenient for the said John Prinn his heirs and assigns to erect a gate there or heaver (1) there for ever; and also the soil at the said way for a way and so much of the north part of the said close as shall be convenient for a foundation of a Bridge to be set up over the brook

parting Comb aforesaid from the land of John Prinn for the purpose aforesaid with liberty to bring stone and timber and workmen to repair the same".

- (1) A heaver was a form of slip gate which had no hinges but had to be lifted off.

M. Paget

7. SOME MEDIEVAL DEEDS FROM NAUNTON c.1250-1431

This paper concludes the review of Charlton's medieval deeds which began with my paper in Bulletin 13 pp 4-7. It concerns land holdings, often by Charlton people, in Charlton and Naunton between the mid/late 13th century and 1431. At this period, land holdings, mainly arable, were often widely scattered, the consolidation of strips taking place only slowly. It should be considered in the context of other documents concerning medieval Charlton (published in Bulletins 1,7,10,15 and 19), to some of which I cross-refer below. Naunton itself had become established before 1233 (probably a good deal earlier) and most of the furlongs we know of in Naunton were in use by 1290 or before.

(1) Information concerning the church and chaplains

From these deeds we have learned the names of chaplains, some of whom may have served at St Mary's, Charlton. In 1548 there was evidence that the chantry priest there assisted the Curate of St Mary's.

In 1321 Richard de la Hulle, chaplain, received two half acre plots, in Naunton Field and Leckhampton which had been held by his mother as her dower (MF 199/6). Before 1336 he appears to have received 4 acres more at Naunton from his father. Possibly this included the 2½ acres of Naunton land later given by Richard to Robert ate Hulle's father and which was later (1363) conveyed to John ate More of Charlton by Robert (MF 199/29B). The land was quit claimed to John atte More in 1364 and Reginald Warkesdon, clerk, was witness to this (MF 199/15), John also worked ½ acre held "by the church" at Benegefor in Naunton field (MF 199/29B). Warkesdon also witnessed a deed in 1361 (MF 199/13).

LOVYAR

John Lenyer, another chaplain, held land in Weteforlong in Naunton in 1370 (D 1876/7). A John Lonyere (of Charlton) delivered seizin of a messuage, Morezenescroft, in 1430 (MF 199/32). Morezenescroft may refer to Moor End.

At an early date, a chantry's land (its endowment) could be held by the chaplain in his own name.

In 1548 the income (farm) from ½ acre in Naunton Field in or late in the tenure of Thomas Dodswell provided a light (taper) "for ever" for the chantry of St Mary in Charlton parish church. Perhaps it was among the lands mentioned in Bulletin 13 as being held by the Dowdeswell family (See D 1252 in the GRO).

In 1707 6 acres of parish lands were located in the common fields of Naunton, Sandford and Westall tithing (Bulletin 6 p 40 "Charlton Kings Vestry Books 1698-1793" by B. Middleton) (Had this land been re-acquired for the parish after it was confiscated by the king in 1548? it seems possible).

In 1410 Newmonnes croft (not previously noted) in Charlton was leased to 2 tenants (by gift of Cesilie Morezend) for their lives "with the assent of the parishioners of Charlton Kings" (MF 199/27a). Presumably the property

belonged to the parish and the evidence that parishioners were consulted about its disposal is possible evidence for the de facto existence of a "parish" of Charlton at the time. It is possibly also some evidence for a "community of the vill" here.

In 1416 confirmation was given to Walter Grene, chaplain, of a messuage near Crabbe End way (MF 199/21). Walter had received property there in 1403 (see Bulletins 13,15).

(2) Conditions of tenure before and after 1348/9

There is evidence in these deeds of the terms on which property was held. The earliest deed (D 1876/2) shows 12 acres held in small parcels in the field of Naunton in return for 8 marks and 4s\2d a year rent. Heriots, reliefs, regalities, and suit of court were also owed.

Somewhat later 6s 8d to 7s (and, presumably money in lieu of services) were needed to acquire a half acre (MF 199/2,3).

Changes are seen in the documents after 1348/9, which may reflect the effects of the Black Death. Initially reference is seen to holdings being near land "formerly of" (name), suggesting that holdings had not been taken up, presumably because of the mortality in 1348/9 (MF 199/10 (1353); MF 199/13 (1361); MF 199/15 (1364). This appears to be the only, though indirect, evidence of mortality in Cheltenham.

Based on a small number of deeds, land holdings conveyed after 1350 seem to have been aggregated and are rented for an annual sum, not acquired for larger capital sums. Tenure is for periods of 2-3 lives.

- (a) 1366 16d per year for $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres or so for 3 lives (MF 199/16).
- (b) 1388 8d for $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres or 1 lb of wax, for 2 lives (MF 199/17)
- (c) 1410. Newmonnes Croft, 3s 4d with heriot payable, and common pasture in Charlton, for 2 lives (MF 199/27a).

There is some evidence that it is people from outside Naunton who are involved in Naunton land transfers after the mid 14th century.

Only one Naunton resident appears to receive land after this date (MF 199/10). Possibly there were now few people living there. Could it have been on the way to becoming deserted?

It is also of interest that there is one reference to land being held in Naunton field by "the free men of Naunton" 1363 (MF 199/298). The exact meaning of this phrase, which could imply tenure in common, is not known.

A list of the furlongs in Naunton field (most dating from before 1290), the first to be compiled, is given in Appendix 1. The list provides the earliest available evidence yet for cultivation at Naunton.

As we now know the names of many medieval people in Charlton from the deeds (see Appendix 2 for a list), the 1450 rental (Bulletin 15), the Cirencester Cartulary, a future article will try to draw together what we know of them (eg where they held land).

Appendix 1

FURLONG NAMES IN NAUNTON AND NEARBY (1)

A In Naunton Field

Aldhaye (before 1290)
Astling/Astlonge furlong (before 1290)
Bennigest (before 1290)
Boteforlang (1361)
Bytebruge (1361)
Codeleye (1290-1304) A possible sub-division is called Cooksute of Hodeleye
Depeworns (before 1290)
Egeway (before 1290). Probably Old Bath Road (1)
Godkynefurlong (before 1290)
Gongofurlong (1321) Between Greenhills Road and Old Bath Road (1)
Havenhill (before 1290) Perhaps Knavenhill
Hodeleye (before 1290) cf Codeleye
Kenyngesford (1361)
Kingstre (c. 1300)
Kenningeste, Kenegestr (before 1290)
Middulfurlong (1290-1304) Extends over Ellarnestub. cf Elderstubby, a
Leckhampton field name)
Myddelfeld (before 1290)
Pilley (1290-1304), listed in Naunton; c 1300 listed in Naunton field
(Bulletin 7, p.48)
The earliest evidence for Pilley. Pilleyend, perhaps a settlement,
is known in the 15th century.
Pyllifordeweye (before 1290)
Rifeld (before 1290)
Sotteforlong (before 1290)
Vercombe (before 1290) Fircombe (1)
Weteforlung (before 1290)
Woweforlung (before 1290)
Walcrofte (before 1290) (2)

Reference is also made to land being cultivated outside the township before 1290 and to the "end of the town" in several deeds.

B. Other Land

Grenehale (1363) Near present Greenhills Road (Bulletin 10 p.20)
Benegefor (1363)
Newtonyshulle (1421) In Pilley field "near the king's road"

Notes

- (1) See B. Rawes "The fields and field names of the Hundred of Cheltenham"
pt 1 The Parish of Cheltenham (Cheltenham L.H.S. Journal 6 (1988)
pages 22-26.
- (2) "Throughout the West Midland region, names containing WALH (Gelling
1974) seem to imply a British element in the population". Perhaps this
explains WALCROFT?
D. Hooke "Open field agriculture: the evidence from the pre-conquest
charters of the West Midlands" page 62 in The Origins of Open Field
Agriculture ed. T. Rowley (Croom Helm).

Appendix 2

LIST OF MEDIEVAL CHARLTON AND NAUNTON DEEDS REVIEWED

Date; GRO reference; details published in earlier Bulletin
D 1876 original deed
MF 199 microfilm

c.1250-90	1876/2,199/1, 1997b	-
c.1290-1304	199/2,3	-
c.1300	1876/1	7 pp 48-50
1321	199/6	-
1334	199/11	-
1336	199/9	-
1339	199/27B	13 pp 4-7
1350	199/12	-
1353	199/10; 1876/3	-
1361	199/13	-
1363	199/29B	-
1364	199/15	-
1366	199/16	-
1370	1876/7	-
1376	199/18	-
1388	199/17	-
1391	199/14	13
1403	199/19,20,22;24	13; 10 pp 18-20
1404	1876/4	13
1410	199/27A	-
1416	199/21,25	-
1421	199/30 - D 1252	"Corrody" 1, deed 13
1423	D 1252	13
1430	199/32	-
1431	D 1252	-
1459	D444 T 82(14)	19 p 40
1459	1876/5,6	13

I wish to acknowledge considerable help from Mrs M Paget especially in providing translations from faded texts or assisting me to read some deeds.

Details of these deeds are in the Society's file kept by Mrs Paget and are available for study.

M.J. Greet

8. OUR OLDEST PLACE-NAME

On either side of the upper Chelt at Dowdeswell End were inclosures of meadow land called from the 16th to the 19th centuries "The Rungebournes".

This is an interesting name, for it obviously belongs to the stream, the burn or bourne, not to the land adjoining it. So it seems very likely indeed that the river we now call the Chelt (a name not evidenced before Leland used it in the 16th century) was at one time, in its upper reaches at least, called the Rindburn or Rungebourne. I am grateful to Barbara Rawes who pointed out to me that this ties up with the stream name 'Rindburna' mentioned in a charter of 759 which defines the boundaries of 'Onnanforda' or Andoversford. Finburg, writing about Roman and Saxon Withington in Lucerna (p 22 footnote 4) suggested that Rindburna might refer to the book by Lineover Wood along which the western boundary of Dowdeswell runs; and indeed that tributary of the Chelt has always divided Cheltenham Hundred from its neighbour in this stretch. Perhaps the name was used of both the upper Chelt and this minor stream.

However, the use of the name Rindburn or Rungebourne for land adjoining the Chelt but not adjoining the tributary is a pointer in favour of it having belonged to the river in the first place.

But if the name Rindburna goes back to 750 at least, then it predates by some 20 or more years the name 'Charlton' and the original cheorls' settlement here, possibly on what later became Charlton Lower field and then Charlton Park. That settlement presumably was part of the king's development of his royal manor based on 'Cudda's water-meadows' on the lower Chelt or Arle stream, and we have reason to date that to 770-780.

By the 12th century, meadow on the upper Chelt or Rindburn was highly valued, for when Walter of Ashley was rewarded for his service to Queen Matilda by a share in her manor, a grant afterwards confirmed by Henry II, the Rungebourne ground was divided between the old and new manors, each having about 16 acres. For we know that Cheltenham's Rungebourne measured 16 acres in the early 17th century and its heriot had been fixed at 5s; while the heriot on Ashley's Rungebourne (acreage not specified) was also 5s.

(1) The Ashley portion

This lay on the north bank of the Chelt.

In default of earlier records, we pick up the name in 1557, the first authorized inclosure of any land in Charlton. Henry Smyth an Ashley tenant was allowed to inclose 4 acres "in Foster's Ronysborne", though at the next inclosure in 1564 he gave this up in favour of higher ground at Hawbeach and Old Dole. The Ashley court records are missing till the end of the 17th century, and the next mention of Rungebourne is on 27 March 1732 when John Welsh the elder surrendered to use of Michael Bayley of Gloucester gentleman "all that inclosure of meadow or pasture commonly called Runsbourne", with some land of Sir William Dodwell knight on the east and land late of Joseph Danford on the west (GRO D 109/19 C 133).

Bayley's heir at law, John Phillimore of the City of London silk throwster, claimed on 30 May 1750; and immediately surrendered to use of William Ashmead (GRO D 109/1). This was the William Ashmead of Old Coxhorne who, as son and heir of an older William, had claimed various closes by Coxhorné in 1731 (GRO D 109/19 C 123).

When Coxhorne farm was sold to William Hunt Prinn in 1797, its land included a close called Runsburn, and this was still part of the farm when Charlton Park estate was re-surveyed in 1843 (GRO D 1224). At that date, inclosure 212 carried the name Rounsburns and measured 7.3.20. The map suggests that originally inclosures 208-213 were also part of Runsburn, which would bring the total acreage to 16.0.13.

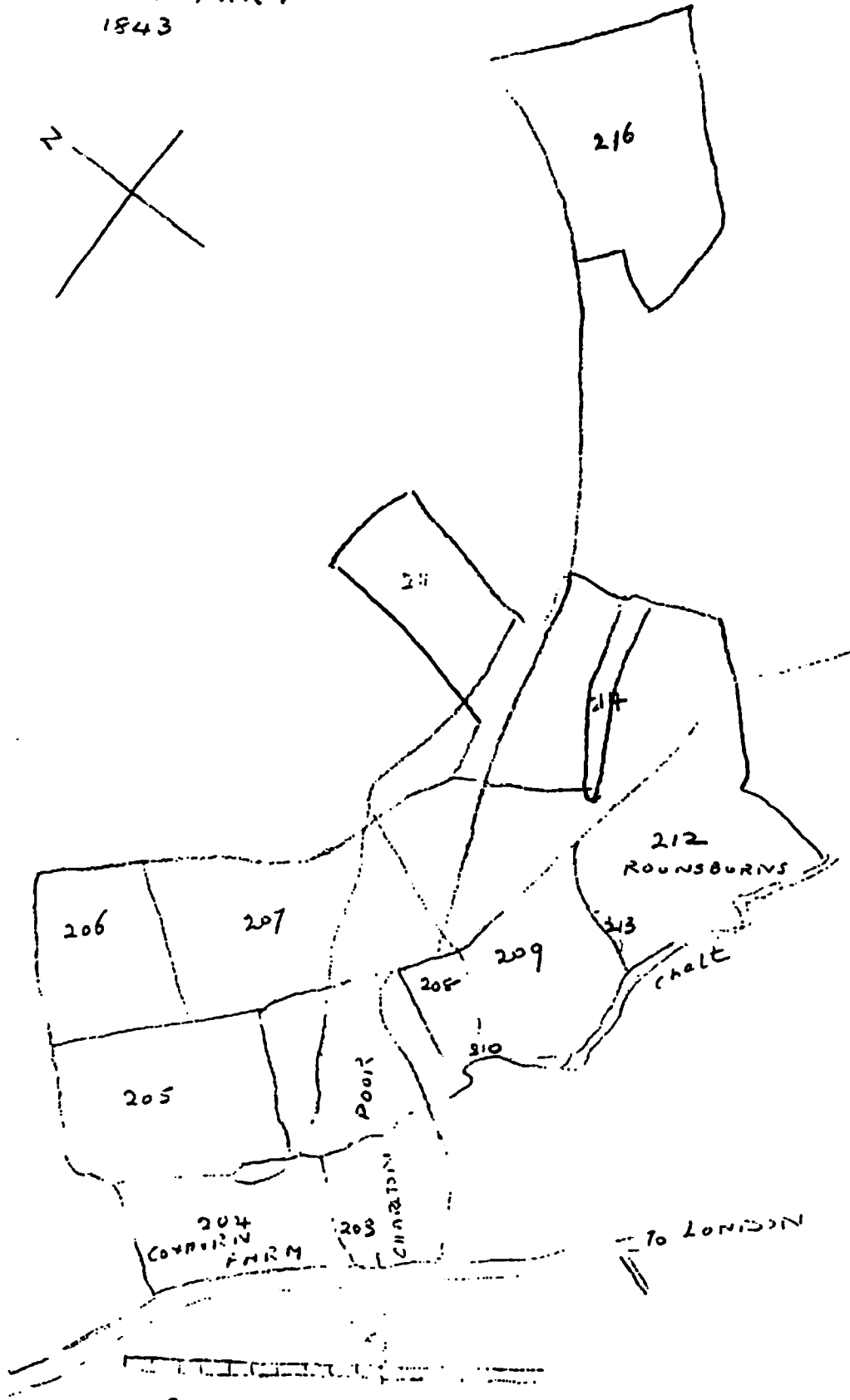
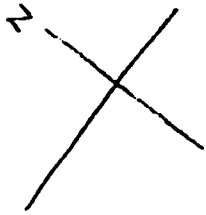
(2) The Cheltenham portion

In 1628 Thomas Horwood and his wife Margaret surrendered their two Rungebourne closes, one on either side of the main road, to use of Francis Smith (GRO D 855 M 10 f 1). From Smith, the closes passed to Francis Crosley, who in 1639 and 1649 mortgaged them (GRO D 855 M 10 ff 177-8 and M 11 f 39).

Then on 29 March 1654, Francis and Mary his wife surrendered Over Rundsborne and Nether Rundsborne, total 16 acres, to William Danford, his heirs and assigns. The heriot was 5s (GRO D 855 M 11 f 117).

The Dansfords were weavers, living in Ham and having land scattered in various Charlton fields. But William wanted to acquire some extra to settle on his son William, who was about to make a good match. In 1656 William the son

COXHORN FARM
1843

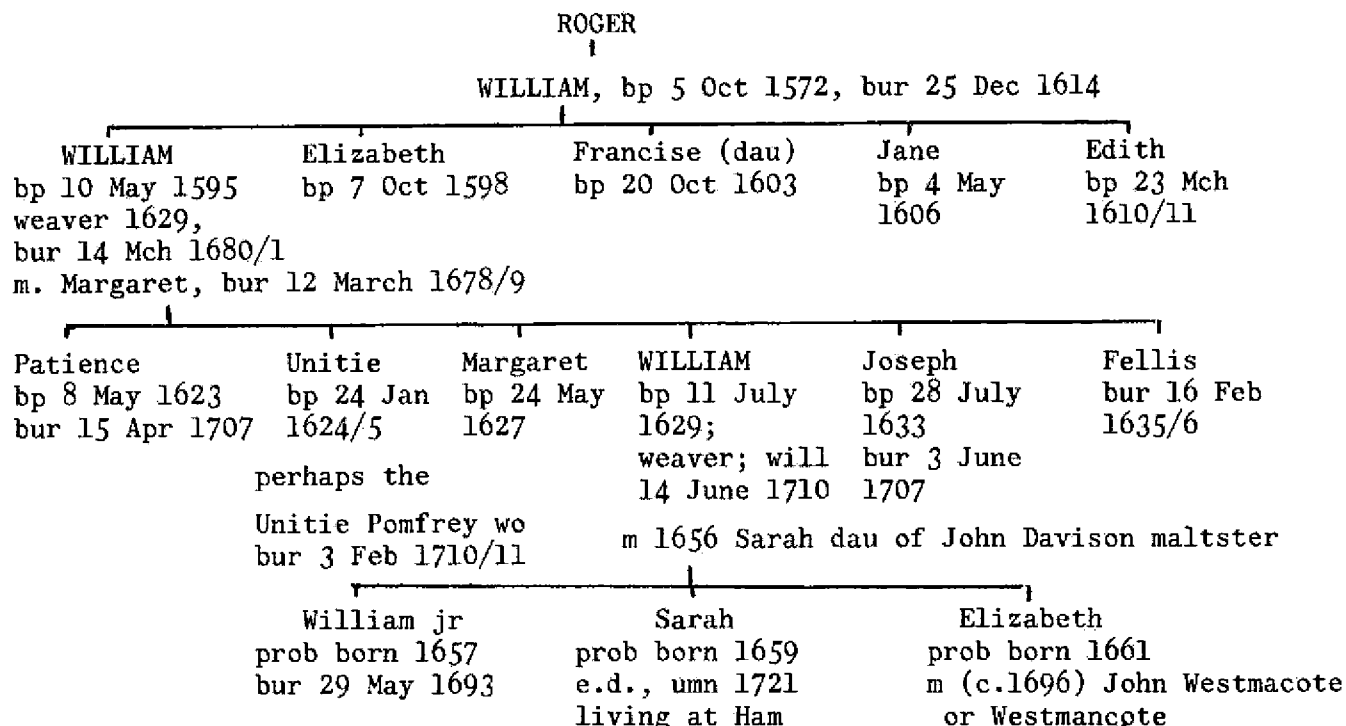


Scale of chains

married Sarah daughter of John Davison of Cheltenham, maltster. The settlement made on 20 September 1656 was presented in court that October (GRO D 855 M 11 pp 199-200).

There were still two William Dansfords, the father and the son, each with a one-hearth cottage, living in Ham in 1672 according to the Hearth Tax roll. As they are not listed together, it does not appear that they shared a house.

DANFORD (Parish registers and court books)

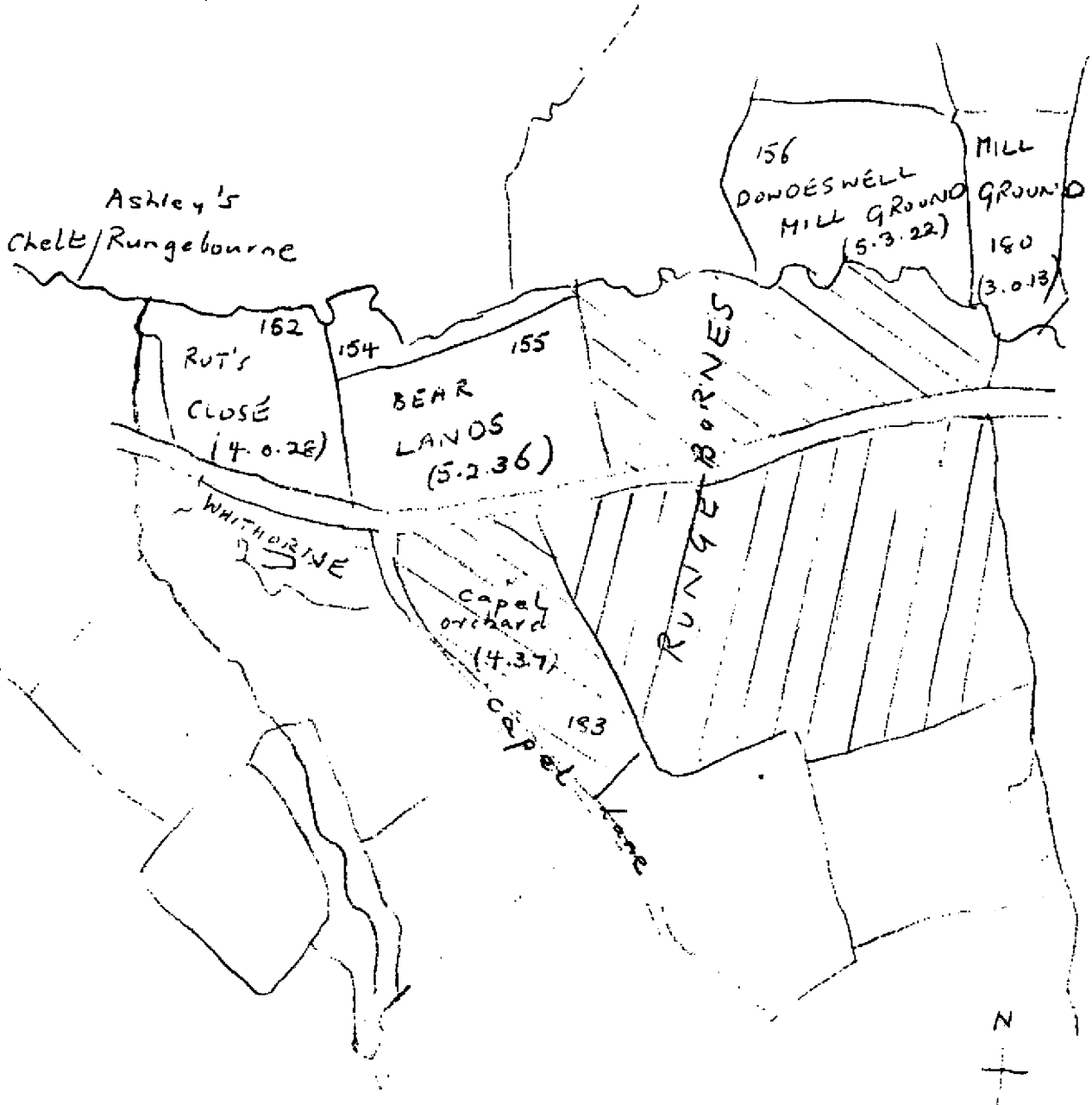


After the death of his only son in 1693, William Danford settled part of his Rungebourne land on his daughter Elizabeth by a surrender of 20 April 1696. She and her heirs were to have "all that upper part of a close called le Lower Rungebornes as now divided and also the upper part of a pasture of William Danford called Upper Rungbornes, as now divided by the highway - lying between the Lower and Upper Rungebornes aforesaid"; with 4 sellions of scattered arable as well (GRO D 855 M 12 pp 223-4). But the heriot payable was only 2s, suggesting that Elizabeth was to have about two fifths of the valuable pasture. However, with this portion, she was able to marry John Westmacote or Westmancote very soon afterwards. The remaining three fifths of the Rungebournes, rated at 3s heriot, went to William's elder daughter, the customary heir. Without this surrender for Elizabeth's benefit, Sarah would have been able to claim the whole.

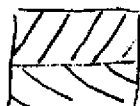
Instead, William by his will in 1710 left Sarah his freehold house in Ham. But the devise was restricted by a clause compelling her to remain unmarried; otherwise the house was to go to Elizabeth and her husband for life and then to their second son John (baptised 3 July 1709) and heirs of his body or in default to Elizabeth's daughter Sarah (baptised 31 May 1706) and her heirs for ever. This grand-daughter was also to inherit all William's goods and chattels after the deaths of both his daughters. (GRO D 444 T 80)

So after her father's death, Sarah Danford spinster claimed "a close called Rungeborne" on 14 October 1712 (D 855 M 14 p 4) and paid her 3s heriot.

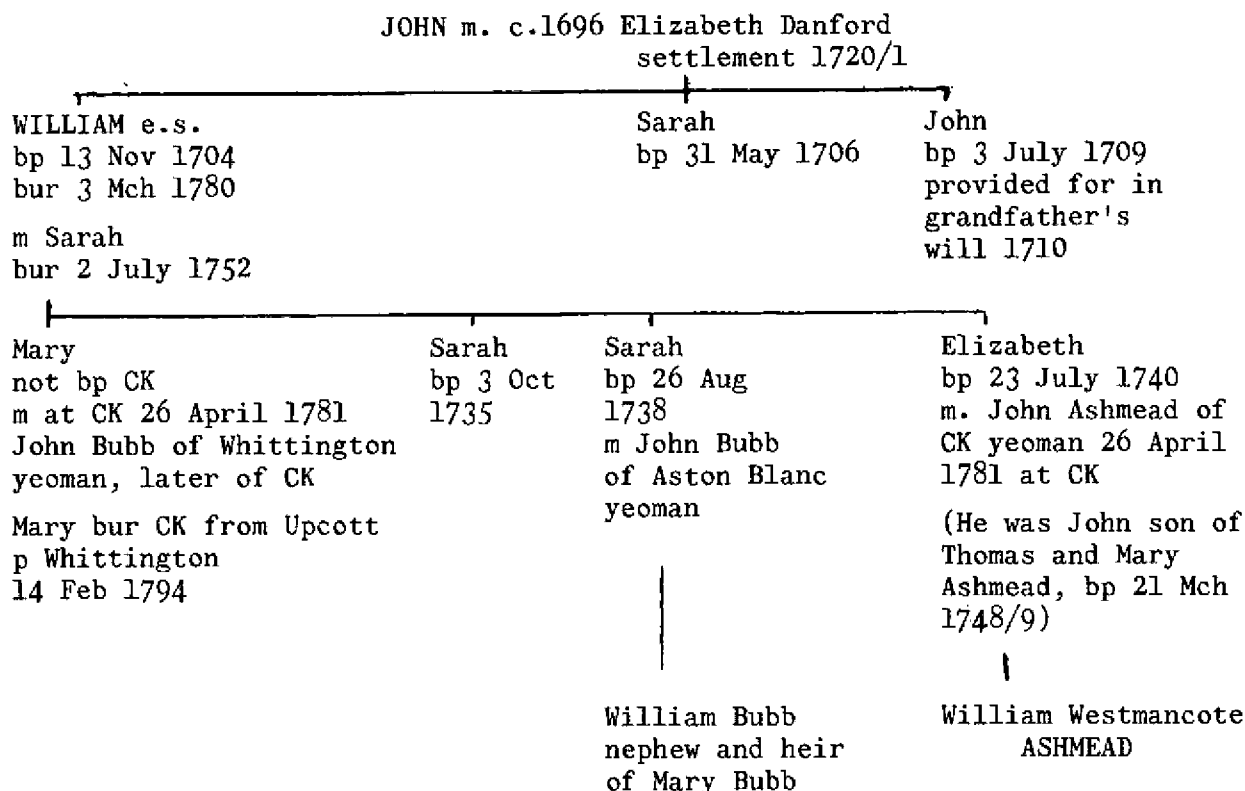
Looking at the tithe map (which shows the field pattern before the railway was cut and the new line of road made) it would seem that Sarah received land south of the road, everything between the parish boundary and Capel Orchard; and Elizabeth the close north of the road, between the parish boundary on the east and Bearlands on the west (that is, the land now occupied by Salts farm and the filter beds, but not the area covered by the depot). She also received Capel Orchard. We know that Sarah's share was south of the highway from a settlement made by John and Elizabeth Westmacote on 24 February 1720/1 (GRO D 855 M 14 p 138). The land was to go to their elder son William baptised on 13 November 1704 (the second son had been provided for by his grandfather) and during the parents' lives he and his sister Sarah were to receive 20s a year each. William was then to pay his sister 40s yearly and give her a load of wood or 10s a year at her choice.



From tithe map (enlarged)
Sarah Danford's share
Elizabeth Danford's share



WESTMACOTE OR WESTMANCOTE



Sarah Dansford's share of Rungbornes, paying 3s heriot, duly passed to her sister Elizabeth Westmancote and so eventually to John Ashmead and his son William Westmancote Ashmead, Sarah's great-great-nephew. They settled it on 19 May 1809 (GRP D 855 M 22 p 320).

Until the mid 18th century, the Westmancotes continued to live at Ham, presumably in the old Danford freehold house. They also held land in Ham, part freehold and part customary. For on 16 May 1757 William Westmancote paid the lord 2s 2d relief and 5s heriot for a close or orchard in Ham called Cartwright's Homestead, late of Edmund Welsh deceased; this was the site of another old house which had been allowed to fall down. Part of the land must have been customary, part freehold, since Westmancote paid both heriot for the former and relief for the latter, and is stated to have done fealty for the freehold part.

But at this point, William Westmancote decided to build himself a new home on his Rungebourne land; for he is described as "William Westmancote of Rungeborne" in 1760 when he surrendered to uses of his will, paying 9s heriot (for that land and for his land at Ham).

After his death, his daughters Mary Westmancote, Sarah wife of John Bubb of Aston Blanc and Elizabeth Westmancote produced the will and claimed on 20 April 1781. The three girls then proceeded to divide the property according to an agreement of the previous February. The Ham property went to Sarah, the Rungebourne land paying 3s heriot to Elizabeth, and the messuage and land called Rungebourne lying north of the highway and paying 2s heriot, to Mary. Mary's property was settled on 26 April 1781. And on this day there was a double wedding at Charlton Kings, Mary marrying John Bubb of Whittington and Elizabeth marrying John Ashmead of Charlton. Elizabeth's Rungebournes were settled the following October (GRO D 855 M 17 pp 48-51, 67-8).

As it happened, Mary Bubb had no child, so when she died in 1794, her heir was her nephew, Sarah's only son William Bubb, then of Temple Guiting. He claimed on 22 May 1797. Uncle John Bubb of Aston Blanc had moved to Charlton and was living in the messuage called "Ringbornes" in which he had a life

interest. So William the nephew surrendered to use of his other uncle John Ashmead for life and after to use of Aunt Elizabeth for life and then their heirs (GRO D 855 M 18 pp 439-441). This was a family arrangement. On 29 April 1801 John Ashmead surrendered the messuage and the two closes to his brother-in-law John Bubb, so that Bubb could raise money by mortgaging in 1804 and 1805 (GRO D 855 M 19 pp 241-2).

After Elizabeth's death, John Ashmead and his son William Westmancote Ashmead sold to a Cheltenham maltster, Nathaniel Markes Barnett. Finally the property came into the ownership of Henry Haines of Cheltenham builder and was held for him by a trustee (GRO D 855 M 20 pp 159,428; M 22 p 320; M 23 pp 25,54; D 855 acc 2198 M 1 pp 450,478; M 2 pp 219,430-5).

This last surrender dated 1 October 1828 describes the property as a messuage and homestead (0.1.34), a parcel of land called Runsbons Orchard (2.0.4), a coppice (10p), another orchard (0.2.24), land called Runsbons (2.2.17), two more coppices (27p and 0.1.12) another piece called Runsbons (1.3.5) - "all these were heretofore two closes called Ringbornes and two small coppices adjoining" - and Capel Orchard (5.1.28). The heriot was 2s. This was the Rungebourne land which in 1696 had been given to Elizabeth Danford as her portion. Haines had bought it as an investment, and so on 3 July 1834 he and his trustee in consideration of £1600 paid by Charles Salt of Cheltenham surgeon surrendered to his use Capel Orchard, the messuage and homestead, and the Runsbons with the coppices, described as before.

So here we have a direct link with the present state of things. This is SALTS FARM (not the present house, of course).

It seems a pity that the name of a chance owner of the mid-19th century, never an occupier of this farm himself, should have supplanted the old name and a name of such antiquity at RUNGEBOURNE.

M. Paget

9. HERBERT HENRY MARTYN IN CHARLTON KINGS

The census returns for 1881 show that Herbert Henry Martyn and his family were living at Waverley Lodge in Rosehill Street at that time. The entry is as follows:-

Herbert Hy. Martyn	Head	Mar	38	Sculptor employing 16 men & 3 boys	Worcester
Amelia Fanny	"	Wife	38	-	Cheltenham
Frances Nellie	"	Daur	14	Scholar	Worcester
Harry Frank	"	Son	13	"	"
Alfred Willie	"	Son	10	"	Cheltenham
Alice Jessie	"	Daur	8	"	"
George Herbert	"	Son	7	"	"
Mary Gertrude	"	Daur	4	"	"
Rebecca	"	Mother	80	No occupation	Worcester

Information from The Best by John Whitaker confirms the details in the census entry. Herbert Henry Martyn had been born at Worcester in 1842, had married Fanny Clissold in 1865, and two years later moved with his family to Cheltenham. His employer in Worcester, the stone and wood sculptor R.L. Boulton, had decided to move his studio to Cheltenham, because the number of churches being built in the town would ensure plenty of work.

Herbert Henry lived at 32 Keynsham Road and continued working for Boulton until 1874, when he decided to set up on his own. E.A. Emms, another of Boulton's employees, offered to go into partnership with Martyn and put up the bigger share of their modest capital. In Herbert Henry's own words 'we looked about for a suitable place whereon to build our wooden studio'. That place was Waverley Lodge - the second house on the left as you enter Rosehill Street from Hales Road. It is probable that their 'wooden studio' had a frontage on to Hales Road, on the site of the present showroom of R.F. Paul, which still bears faint traces of the name EMMS above the window.

The Cheltenham Annuaire for 1875 carries an entry under 'Resident Tradesmen' for:-

Martyn & Emms Sculptors Hales Rd.

In 1882, the Cheltenham Directory lists Herbert Henry as 'Resident' at Waverley Lodge, Hales Rd., and carries an advertisement for the firm showing their works to be in Hales Rd. Later editions of the Annuaire give business addresses at both Hales Rd. and Hewletts Rd.

The census returns for 1881 show that several of the firm's employees lived close by - there were nine stonemasons/carvers and two marble-finishers in Rosehill and Park Streets.

Martyn and Emms stayed in partnership for fourteen years, until the firm of H.H. Martyn & Co. was formed in 1888. Emms carried on the works at Hales Rd. as is shown by an entry in the 1890 Annuaire, but Martyn was by then at Sunningend.

1881 CENSUS - CHARLTON KINGS - ENUMERATION DISTRICT No.1

Men listed as Stone Masons/Carvers and Marble Polishers who probably worked for Martyn and Emms at their works in Hales Rd.

William COPESTAKE - Mason - aged 21 - living in Coltham (probably what is now called Coltham Fields).
Thomas ADAMS - Stone Mason - aged 42 - living in Rosehill St.
(no number given but 3 houses after Martyn's)
Thomas BOWEN - Stone Mason - aged 35 - living in Rosehill St.
(no number given but 3 houses before No.14).
Frederick MUSTY - Stone Mason - aged 39 - living in Rosehill St.
(no number given but 3 houses after No.14)
Charles RUTLAND - Sculptor - aged 21 - living at No.38 Rosehill St.
Charles COOKE - Stone Carver - age illegible, wife 31 - living at
Henley Cottage, Rosehill St. (between Nos 38 & 40).
Joseph OKEY - Mason - aged 43 - living at No.10 Park St.
William MARTIN - Stone Cutter - aged 45 - living at No.13 Park St.
Henry WILLOUGHBY - Marble Polisher - aged 25 - living at No.61 Park St.
Tom WILLOUGHBY - Marble Polisher - aged 20 - living at No.61 Park St.
John SUMMERS - Monumental Mason - aged 42 - living at No.65 Park St.

There was also a Brass Finisher who may have worked for Martyn and Emms, but there was a Cabinet maker in Rosehill St. who may equally have been his employer:

Charles MOOREY - aged 26 - boarding in Rosehill St. in the next house to Frederick MUSTY.

J. Sale

10. **MEMORIES - MR. F.G. TAYLOR (now in his 86th year) remembers his younger days as CHOIR BOY, SCOUT, AND CRAFTSMAN**

(1) Choir boy

As choir boys we were not as angelic as we would appear in our cassocks and surplices. We had our naughty moments. However, we were not violent and destructive as we so often see with some of the youth of today. We had what we called our fun and tricks, such as tying cotton on door knockers - Mr Hamlett, undertaker, was often a victim of our pranks. Sergeant Day caught us one night and put his stick across our backs! A policeman then was respected. Pity, not so today.

Coming from Choir practice one night, a cat was caught and put through Tommy Simms' bakery window, in among the cakes etc on display. The cat went wild and scattered the cakes and things all over the place! I did not handle the cat but was equally to blame for watching the mischief. Once 'Carlo' Fry the Sexton chased us and fell over, we had to appear before Edgar Neale the Vicar.

Edgar Neale had high hopes of making me a solo boy, saying I possessed the clearest top note in the Choir. I was reluctant or shy to think of facing the congregation. The Vicar called several times to discuss his intention with my mother and myself. Mother would call me in from outside and each time I would disappear through the top garden gate (We lived then just above the New Inn, now the Little Owl). I regret my reluctance to this day. Reg Shalders or Victor Hemmings, "Parp" as he was known, often sang solos. To this day I sometimes sing two of my favourite anthems "Love one another with a pure heart fervently" and "O for the Wings of a dove". Singing is a wonderful gift. I have often harmonized with my daughter in America, she was gifted in this way.



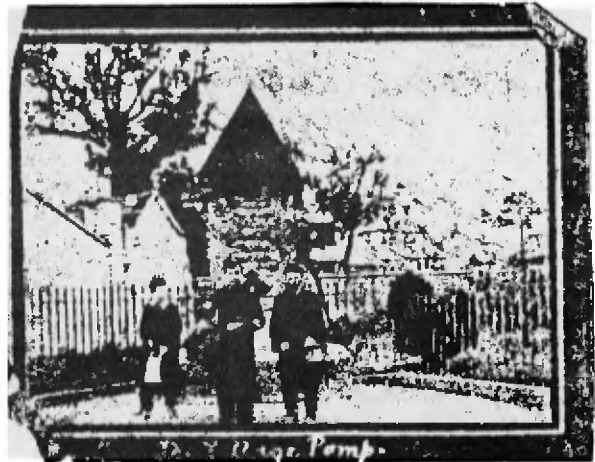
"Angels without wings" - Fred Taylor in his black cassock, white surplice, Eton collar, and black bow tie.

Choir outings were of the same pattern usually, which entailed a trip to Tewkesbury in horse-drawn brakes hired from Cripps of Cudnall Street. It was around 2 to 3 hours journey, trotting and walking the horses. It was always a river trip and return to Barsanti's Italian Restaurant for a meal and entertainment in the pleasure grounds adjacent to the Abbey. Once when leaving for our trip it was raining pouring and we all got very wet; but half way there the sun came out and we dried off a little and when we got to Tewkesbury it was a lovely day.

Arriving at Tewkesbury I jumped down from the brake, and went and asked Mr. Barsanti if we could leave our wet coats while we went for our river trip. "Bring them in" said Mr Barsanti. Dashing back, I called to the boys "Bring your coats". - tongue-tied, I said "Mr Banty said we could!" Reg Shalders from that day christened me "Banty", and I was known as "Banty" by Vicar, teachers, and the community of Charlton Kings. Mr Humphris of Horsefair Street occasionally says to this day "Hello, Banty!" I grew fond of my nickname Banty.

Sunday School treats were always held at Horace Edwards' grounds at Herbert Villa, Little Herberts Road, before the equipment was transferred to Denleys at Bishop's Cleeve. My mother always assisted with the teas at Little Herberts.

The blacksmith's shop (now the newsagent's) we always gathered at from school to see the horses being shod and the sparks flying. Adjacent was the village pump where the horses drank from a trough all round. Unfortunately the men and boys used to go behind it and the trough got filled with litter and urine and smelled and the whole pump was destroyed. Why on earth did they not fill the trough with concrete? This was originally the Village Pump and a lovely monument that could be treasured today.



The pump with (centre) a Gordon Boy



Tram outside Fred's home, with Fred peeping over the wall.

The terminus for the trams was just outside our house and father used to give the drivers roses for their button holes. The first trams were said to be second-hand from America and so one of the drivers, a little fat chap, was always known as Yankee! Another driver was Billy Greengrass, who was 6 ft - he married a waitress from George's the cake shop. About lunch time, the trams would always be ten minutes late, the drivers used to go into the New Inn to have a quick one and sometimes a song at the piano - there was always singing there on Saturday nights. The fare to town was 2d and to Holy Apostles 1d! they later put it up to 4d. and 2d.

I remember a fish and chip shop from Lower High Street named Sabatella's. Mr Sabatella used to tour Charlton Kings with a horse and cart, oven and smoke bellowing out of the chimney, selling fish and chips. In summer he came round with ice cream.

Great events in my youth were the General Elections. All the lower end of the town, Dockem it was known as, was rank Conservative and pubs gave away a lot of free beer. I remember witnessing a lot of kids down by the gasworks banging dustbin lids and going round with sticks and mallets, singing

'The beer, the beer, Agg Gardner gave the beer -
The beer, the beer, that makes you feel so queer.
Why should we be beggars with the mallets in our hands?
Agg Gardner gave the beer to the people!"

Further up the High Street, Tommy Yarnold the butcher gave meat. He was a staunch Liberal!

And of course everyone wore election favours.

Flower Shows and Fetes before World War I were held in the grounds of Lilleybrook, Mr Lord's place. I was once up the slope to the New Inn with my iron hoop and hook and I let the hoop run down the slope and across the road into Mr Lord's car - the chauffeur Mr Excell nearly shook the life out of me! Mr Lord used to rave and swear terrible when hunting. The story was that Mr Lord with his wife's brother-in-law, Blagrove came out of the Plough pretty drunk and had a carriage and pair to bring them home, but when they got there, they wanted to fight the driver for the fare!

Mr and Mrs Lord always walked through the village on Sunday to attend St Mary's church. My two sisters and all the girls were instructed at school that whenever they saw Mrs Lord in the village they must curtsy to her. Mrs Lord was a sister to Lady Henry Somerset from London Road - I think she lived at Springfield.

My father was ganger when the railway lines was enlarged to a double track through Leckhampton and Charlton Kings up to Andoversford, an up line and down line. Four hundred men were employed digging the cutting needed, and the Dowdeswell viaduct had to be doubled. Tons of engineering bricks were left over. Dad was up at the Viaduct with his trolley, a big flat platform on two pair of wheels, coupled with a U piece over the wheels. The brake was a big piece of wood under his arm, when it was new it only touched one place on the wheel and was hard to use, when it was worn it was supple and easier but might snap. They had to load the trolley with perhaps two tons of bricks to convey back to Charlton Kings station yard. A space was left for Dad to sit and check the speed of the load, it was all down hill. The other men sat on top. Dad told me that the more he pressed on the brake stick the faster they went! One big strain and the brake stick, which was quite worn, broke in half. Dad's men sitting on top of the load, seeing the danger, jumped off and left Dad to see to the troubled situation. Mr Cotton, then station master at Leckhampton, told me Dad (minus his bowler hat) careered down the line at great speed, kicking and throwing the bricks off all down the line, eventually pulling up the trolley just seconds before an express train was

going through Lansdown! A pension in those days was 3s 6d per week for the permanent way men and 5s 6d for a foreman ganger. Because Dad had stayed at his post and avoided a certain disaster, he was awarded 7s 6d per week pension and I wish I had the letter from Paddington which was on the mantel-piece at home for years.

During the First World War, trains went up and down our line through Charlton Kings day and night, troop trains to and from Southampton. A signal man told me there were hundreds of trains passing in a day and sometimes he was out on his feet pulling the signals. It was a very important line then.

Most people in the village will recall the railway track being built to transport the lime from the burners adjacent to the Devil's Chimney down to the sidings at Charlton Kings Station yard. My father, then in charge of the permanent way on the GWR, lent a tool called a Jim Crow, used for straightening bent railway lines, to the contractors at the top of the hill. This was not returned and father sent one of his men to the contractors' office at the Devil's Chimney with the message "Please return the Jim Crow". A time keeper checked through their list of employees and said "Tell Mr. Taylor, we have no employee by the name of Jim Crow".

To transport the lime from the quarry down the hill, the procedure was as follows. A full load of lime was let go from the top of the hill, pulling empty trucks back to the top. Once a coupling broke, letting a full load down at 90 miles an hour, which crashed in Southfield. A dense cloud of lime could be observed all round the area.

(2) Scouting Days

I became patrol leader of the Lion Patrol. Mr George Ryland, a great personality as sportsman and artist, tutored Sydney Burrows and myself to box for the Troop. Sid was our heavy-weight. A temporary ring was set up in our Scout Hall, with Mr Jim Thorn school master and wife, School master Mr Fry and wife, the Vicar and others, taking an interest.

Sid was matched against Bert Dyer (later to become Champion of Warwickshire). I was matched against a Bill Taylor (no relation), he was sparring partner to Bert Dyer. Unfortunately Sid had a proper hiding. Banty beat Bill Taylor, who complained that I was fighting, not boxing! Mr Thorn said "We never thought you had it in you, Banty". Having had another win, we went to the Drill Hall in Grosvenor Street to challenge the Highbury Troop. My opposite number never turned up. Being disappointed, I asked Mr Ryland to let me have a go at their heavy-weight, a scout from the news-agent's at the bottom of Grosvenor Street named Iles. Mr Ryland said "He will kill you, Banty". Head and shoulders taller than me, he taught me my lesson and gave me a thrashing! Scouts, pushing my cycle home with me saturated in blood, could not stop my nose bleeding. Mother said "No more of this, my boy, or you will go in lodgings!" From then on, I could take care of myself but did not pursue a boxing career.

George Ryland was a good rugby player and did a lot for Schools Rugger.

I played for Charlton St Mary's, Soccer, but not for long, I didn't make the grade as a footballer.

Our summer camps were always at Pershore or Bredon. The senior Scouts had to go the day before to pitch camp. A large hand-cart was always hired from Davis in Cleaveland Street. With the cart loaded with bell tents, pots and pans, bully beef, and bicycles on top, taking it in turns to ride the bikes, we pushed the cart to Bredon or Pershore! For the use of the grounds near

the river, we had to do a days fruit picking for the farmers. Early morning we took fishing rods down to the river at break of dawn, sitting in a punt which had been newly tarred with sand sprinkled over! We all got stuck to the tar and spent a long time using the oil cans out of our cycle kits to get the tar off our rears. One farmer was so pleased with the amount of fruit I picked, he wrote to my parents with a view to taking me to live with him. I was always a worker.

During the first World War, there were mock battles in the field opposite Mr H.O.Lord's place, Lilleybrook House, where the Misses Violet and Ruby Lord, Officers in the Red Cross, bandaged our sham wounds. As scouts we attended the Charlton Kings railway Station and lent a hand to the Red Cross each time the wounded boys from the Western Front arrived by train. Ambulances took them to the various temporary hospitals, Moorend Park, The Priory, and other buildings.

Shooting at the Rifle Range in the Workingmen's Club, I won 1st prize for two years running. Mrs Griffiths of the Oaklands, Battledown, who was known as the Scouts' Fairy Godmother, always gave the prizes. We camped each year in two bell tents on her lawn. Each morning, it was home to breakfast, then on to Martyns to work.

(3) Craftsman

I started at Martyns in September 1917 for the last year of the First War, one month before my 13th birthday. We were allowed to work at 13 years if we had reached the 7th Standard, due to the War being on. Before that, I never took my six weeks school holiday.

I have always revelled in it and enjoyed my work and am pleased to have left my mark in India, Rangoon, Hong Kong, and many cemeteries for the American Battle Monuments Commission on the Continent and at Cambridge, England. I have left my mark also in the House of Commons, the Bank of England, the Mersey Tunnel; on 25 passenger liners, and 109 contracts for work on Banks and public buildings in England and Ireland.

I was associated with Martyns for 56 years, and in later years with the great grandson of H.H. Martyn, Mr. Whitaker.

I had a pleasant surprise last Sunday afternoon. Mr Whitaker asked Bernard Lawrence to call on me with his wife and mother-in-law. Colonel Lawrence his father lived at the Knappings, Cirencester Road, next door to me, some 30-40 years ago. Mrs. Lawrence was the daughter of Mr Trigg, architect for all the lovely work for the Rajah of Indore, for Calcutta, Rangoon, and very much more. It was always said that Trigg the architect made Martyns what they were. Mrs Lawrence was never well in India and was more or less brought up with the Martyns in England.

Some High-Lights during my Career (see Bulletin 15)

Meeting General Eisenhower in Paris 1952, when he gave me his signature.
Parading before King George V and Queen Mary at the opening of the Mersey Tunnel. A three day coastal cruise from Grenock to Southampton in SS Caronia after we did the trials in the presence of the Duke of Edinburgh and many notable people.

Making the Crown Jewel cases for King Carol in Bucharest.

Helping to make the nickel silver bedstead, wash-basins etc for the Rajah of Indore.

Installing work in the House of Commons, bronze rail, dispatch boxes, etc. Approximately 3 years work for the Bank of England, 34 bronze entrances in corridors, balustrades to staircases, and lift surrounds.

Pioneering and installing the largest door in the world of its kind, 6 tons

each leaf, span 33 ft, height 22 ft, operated by Dowty's electric hydraulic system, at the Government's New Offices, Horse Guards Avenue, Whitehall. Bronze entrance etc for the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank; bronze work for Rangoon, Bangkok, etc.

Going on trials in the Ocean Monarch in company of Mr McBride, architect, and H.H. Martyns' Directors.

Receiving an achievement certificate from the Battlefield Commission, Washington DC for my work in Normandy, and visiting US Cemeteries.

Making and presenting a shrine in memory of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1969 (after his death) for the desk of Colonel Ver Hurst, cousin of the Duchess of Windsor. I met and lunched with Celie Magonier, Secretary to General Pershing (Supreme Commander) a very delightful lady, who perished in a fire in her apartment in Paris.

My life has been a wonderful experience, having met and been introduced to so many famous people.

F.G. Taylor

11. THE MERRY FELLOW, CUDNALL STREET - see History of Charlton Kings, p.148

I doubt whether the original Merry Fellow was in the 'Ancient Messuage'. The 1851 Census suggests to me that those 3 cottages were then known as 1,2,3, Milford Place: whereas in a (reasonably appropriate) position for what are now 32,30,38 Cudnall and 1,3, Brookway Road (which used till 1870s to be Brookway Place) we find:-

Brook Place - James, Tailor and Grocer
Merry Fellows - Samuel Hogg, Beerseller
Brook Place - Jos. Sallis, Carpenter

Then Parsonage House, Wraxall, and the other Brook Place; then back into Cudnall Street for 3 more humble inhabitants. These may be the rest of the Brookway Place group.

Gwen Tovey

Lady Tovey is certainly right as far as the Ancient Messuage is concerned. We now know from the later Ashley court books (GRO 109/2 and 3) that from c.1800 the old house (standing in a large garden) was held by the Turner family - Edward and his widow Mary and then from 1824 by William a bricklayer and his wife Mary. In 1858 the property was described as a former messuage afterwards used as 2 tenements with a dwelling house (Milford Cottage) adjoining at the back, but better described as 6 messuages occupied by John Cobby and Maria Mathews (at nos 1 and 2 Brook Place); Timothy Greening, Maria Nash, Edwin Walton; and Mrs Fowler (at Milford Cottage) - the old house had become 3 tenements. In 1863, the Ancient messuage and Milford Cottage were sold for £635 to Henry Dyke, who immediately sold Milford Cottage for £110 to William Sandes (of Ivy Cottage).

Presumably the Brook Place houses had been built by William Turner shortly after 1824.

M. Paget

12. THE HEARNE - COMMENTS ON PAPERS IN BULLETIN 22

(1) The Ball or Balle family

In Bulletin 22 page 5, reference was made to Agnes Balle who lived c.1450 on the site later to be occupied by the Hearne. Here are some more facts about that family.

- (a) On 1 September 1350 a John Balle was granted a pardon of the king's suit for the death of John de Shirewode, of which he was indicted or appealed and also of any subsequent outlawry (Calendar of Patent Rolls 24 Edward III p 561).
- (b) A John Balle paid 3s tax in Alstone in 1327 (Lay Subsidy).
- (c) A John Balle witnessed a deed for land in Naunton in 1353 (MF 199/10) and held land there in 1361 (MF 199/13).
- (d) In 1416 Thomas Balle witnessed the confirmation of a grant of land to Walter Grene (MF 199/21). It was between Crabbe End Way (ie Church Street) and land formerly held by John Snel (see Bulletin 15 p 28 for a plan of this land). Some of the land had been given by William Goderych who was later a witness to the confirmation. The fact that Balle was also a witness may indicate that he was a near neighbour of Grene. If so, perhaps the Balle family was already living on the site of the Hearne in 1416.
- (e) In 1477, the Balle family may have held the freehold, Cops Elm (A History of Charlton Kings p 37).

(2) The Sperwynke family - tree on p 6

There is a will (1557/129) of Joane Sprywinke widow who had a son William, another son Richard with two children, and a daughter Margaret who was appointed executrix.

(3) Occupiers of The Hearne

Subscribers to Isaac Bell's Poems c.1833 include "Mrs Bennet of Hearne House, Charlton. So probably she occupied the new house for a couple of years before William Baylis.

(4) Robert Arnott

See also Bulletin 15 pages 51-53 for the circumstances of his appointment as parish clerk.

13. RATE OF LAY SUBSIDY - CORRECTION

Correction to Bulletin 7 p 35 and Bulletin 13 p 4. The tax rate in 1327 was 1/20 on moveables, not 1/10 or 1/15 as in 1334.

M.J. Greet

14. HAM HILL SOUTH, CORRECTION TO BULLETIN 20 pp 27-9

There was a barn on this site as early as 1617, when, according to Norden's Survey, Walter Whithorne had a parcel of arable (1 acre) inclosed with "Thomas Cartwright's barn" on Ham Hill. This may have been the timber frame barn on a stone base which we postulated as preceding the Stone Barn of 1809-10.

M. Paget

15. REVIEW OF A HISTORY OF CHARLTON KINGS

Members may like to know that our History was reviewed by Dr Betty in The British Agricultural History Society Review (1989) vol 37 pt 2 pp 218-9.

16. THE LAST THATCHED COTTAGE IN CHARLTON

This photograph shows the cottage in School Road which stood opposite Lyefield Road East and was divided into two dwellings. Originally it was a freehold yeoman house, Yew Tree Farm.

The state into which the thatch had been allowed to get can be seen in this photograph (taken not long before demolition). Holes in the thatch had been filled with grass in places!

