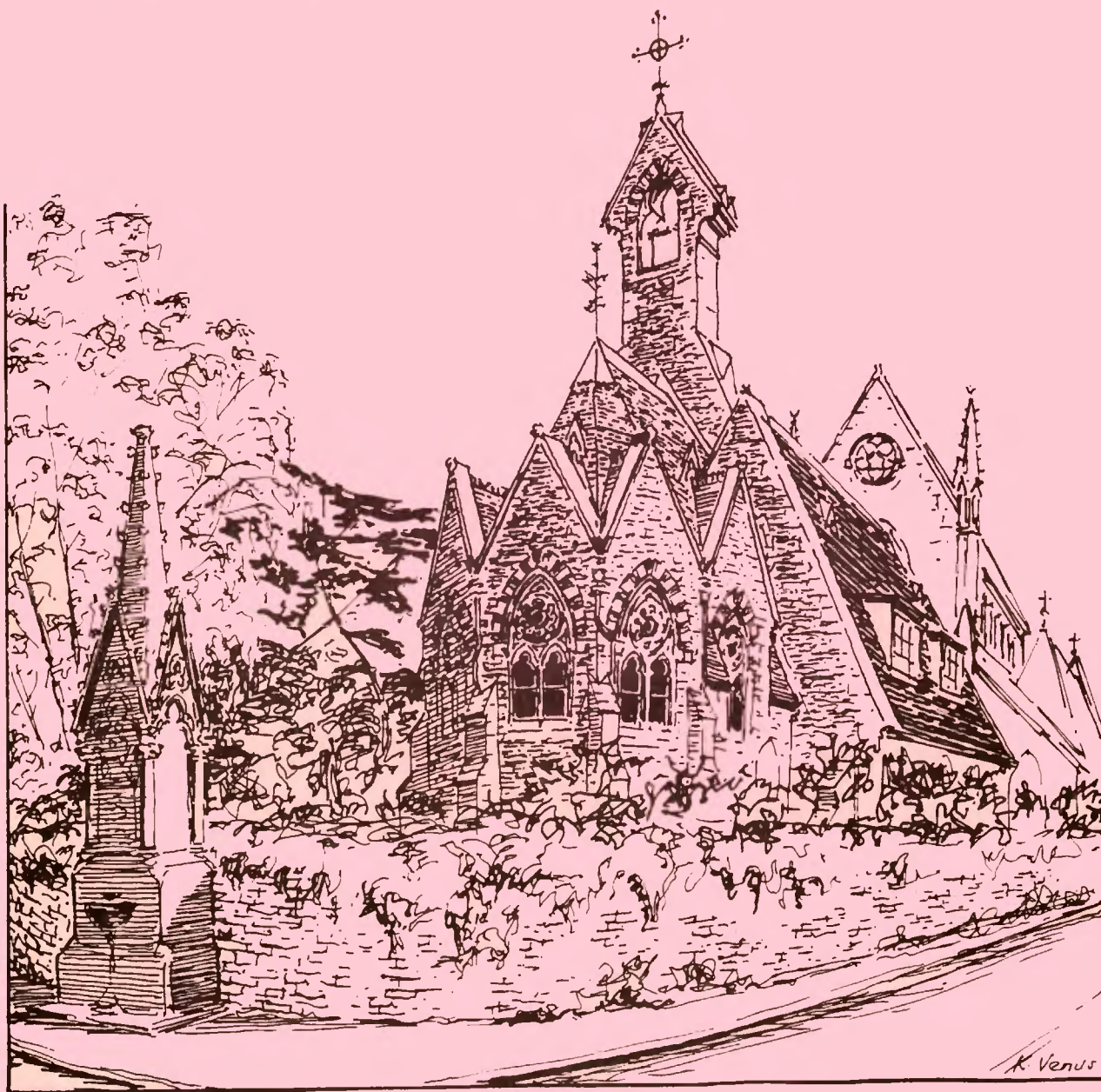


CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 26

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Membership of this Society

Membership forms are available from the Hon. Secretary. Annual subscription £2 or £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. HOLY APOSTLES CHURCH - THE ORIGINAL PLAN

In Gloucestershire Record Office is the original plan for a new church, as submitted by Middleton in 1862 and accepted by Charles Cooke Higgs in 1865 - his signature is on the back. It is interesting as showing what Middleton thought necessary inside and outside the building - on the south side are dotted lines indicating where he hoped to build a detached tower and spire some day - and also what he forgot.

The most obvious omission is a vestry, a clergy vestry for transacting business and keeping the records as well as for vesting, and a vestry for the choir. The first any architect should have known was essential. The second might be thought optional. No place for an organ is indicated. Yet we know that the new church had both organ and choir when it opened for public worship in 1871. Until 1891 the choir had to vest behind curtains which after 20 years use (as the parish magazine complained) were growing ragged! Then metal screens were substituted, and in 1894 new choir stalls were added.

Middleton intended that the North chancel aisle should be filled with seating, a position from which worshippers would see neither the pulpit nor the reading desk! and of course would never glimpse the altar. This seating may never have been installed - at least until the 1970 fire the organ stood on this side of the church.

The font was intended to be in the traditional place by the main entrance where, as the 1891 parish magazine remarked, it had to be "protected from accident by brass standards and crimson cord". A Baptistry down steps was then created between the buttresses at the west end, a position Middleton had left unused. The carving here was by Martyns. But by 1924 the urgent need of a proper choir vestry led to a western extension of the church and the font was moved to the head of the north aisle.

Middleton was an architect who had designed and built many churches. This makes it more extraordinary that he understood so little of the needs of worship.

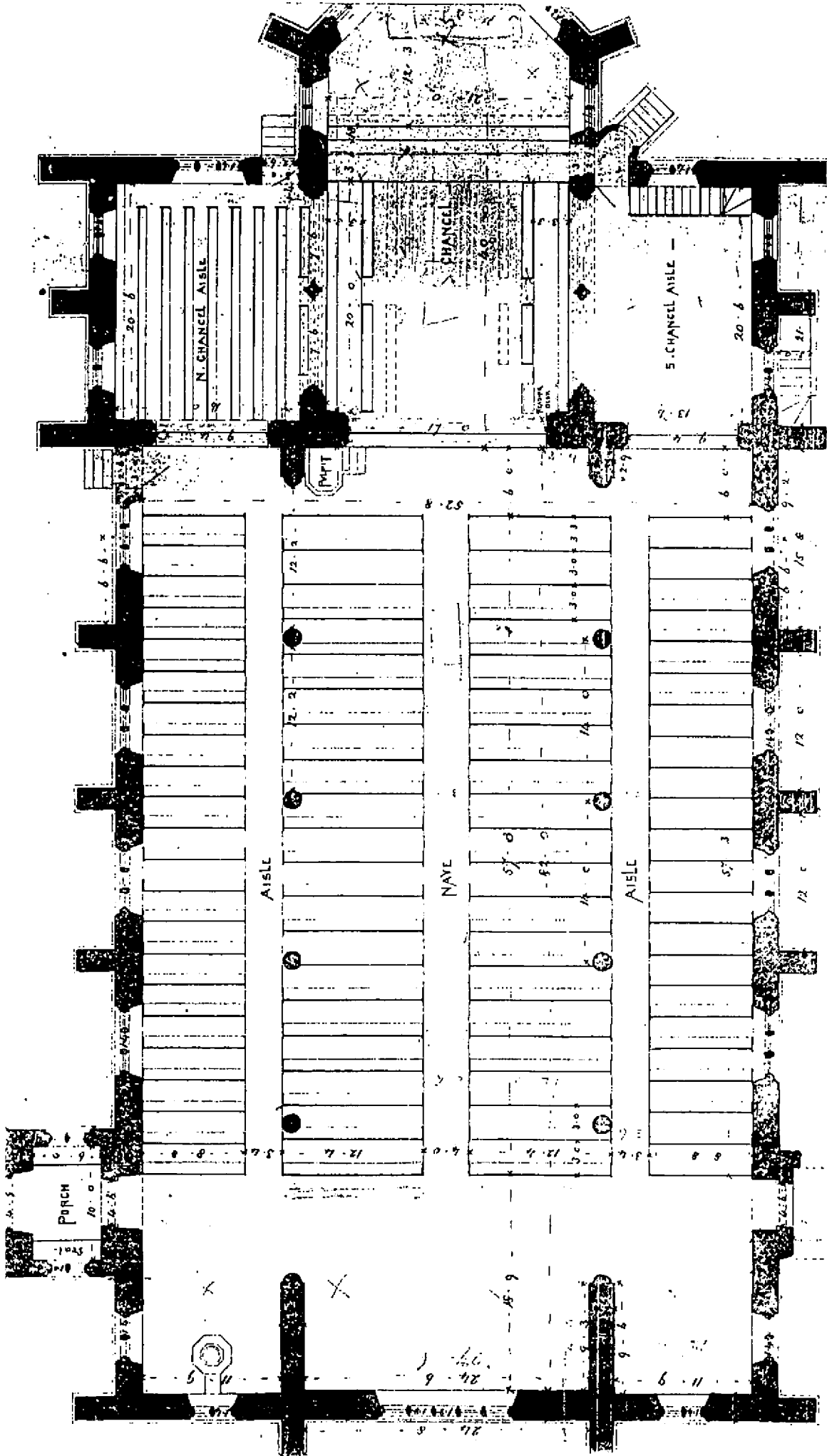
M. Paget

2. THE NATIONAL SCHOOL AND THE NEW CHURCH

Evidence from the School log book (S76/2/1/K907)

On March 13th 1866 the Boys National School in Charlton Kings closed at 11 a.m. "on account of the laying of the Corner Stone of the New Church". Until the building of this new church, St Marys (under whose aegis the National School was run) served the whole parish.

"On Tuesday June 6th (1871) reopened School, after the Whitsun holidays. Commenced on Tuesday because the new church was opened on Monday". This opening affected attendance at the National School because, unlike St Mary's, the new church had a boys' choir and also had sung weekday services on major feast days and many saints' days. This was not a common practice at this date, and certainly not the practice of the parish church which under Gabb (according to S.H.Gael) had a small mixed choir only. Henceforward such entries as the following are common:-



GROUND PLAN -

"On Thursday (29 June, St Peter's day) most of the 1st (or top) Class boys were absent in the morning to sing at the New Church"

"On Tuesday morning (25 July, St James the Great) were away at the New Church, being a Saint's day"

"On Thursday morning September 21st (St Mathew's day) 9 of the First Class boys were absent to go to the New Church"

"The First Class were nearly all away on Friday morning at the New Church" (29 September S.Michael and All Angels)

1872 "On Wednesday June 7th all the boys who sing in the choir at the New Church were absent, being the anniversary of the opening thereof"

"First Class boys were chiefly absent on account of the service at the New Church, St Barnabas Day" (11 June)

"The attendance of the 1st Class was small on Wednesday afternoon owing to the choir boys being invited to the Coltham Fields Treat" (7 August)

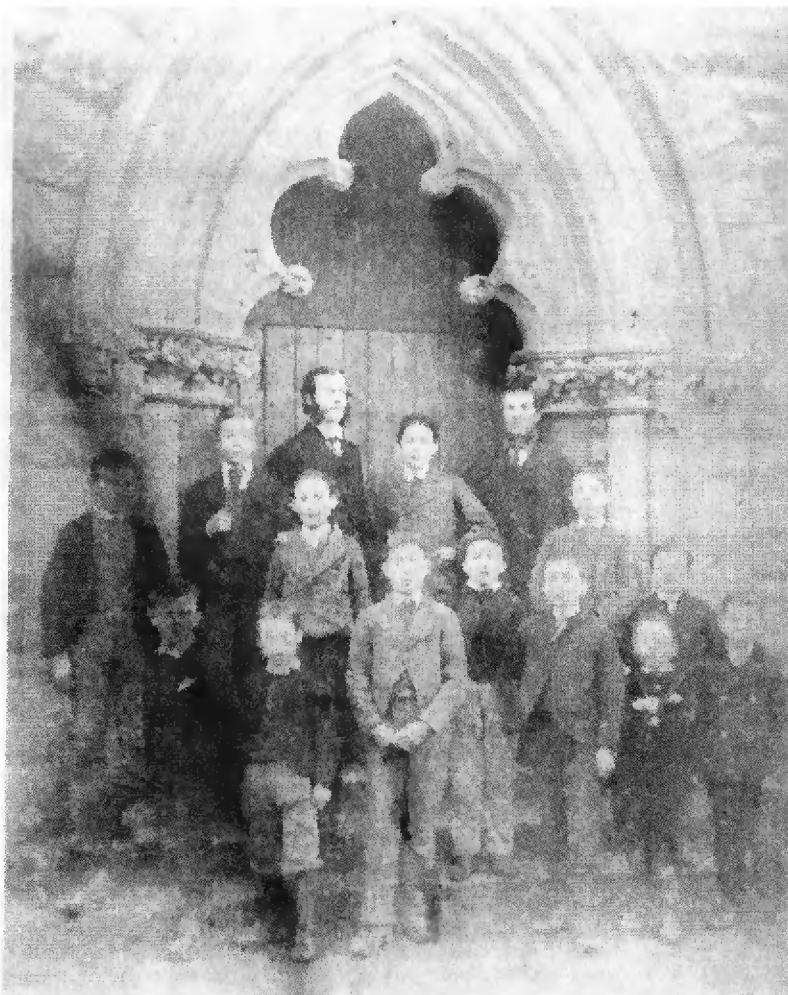
1873 22nd May "The First Class nearly all away on Thursday at the New Church being Assension Day; also on Friday afternoon at Mrs Potter's tea for attending church on Thursday"

All these absences, together with those from many other causes, must have made it very difficult for the Headmaster to maintain the standard of work in his upper classes which the H.M.I.s' reports show he was able to do.

It is possible that with the opening of the New Church's own school in 1872 and the creation of St Mary's boys' choir in 1877, this problem solved itself.

J. Paget

3. HOLY APOSTLES' CHOIR 1876



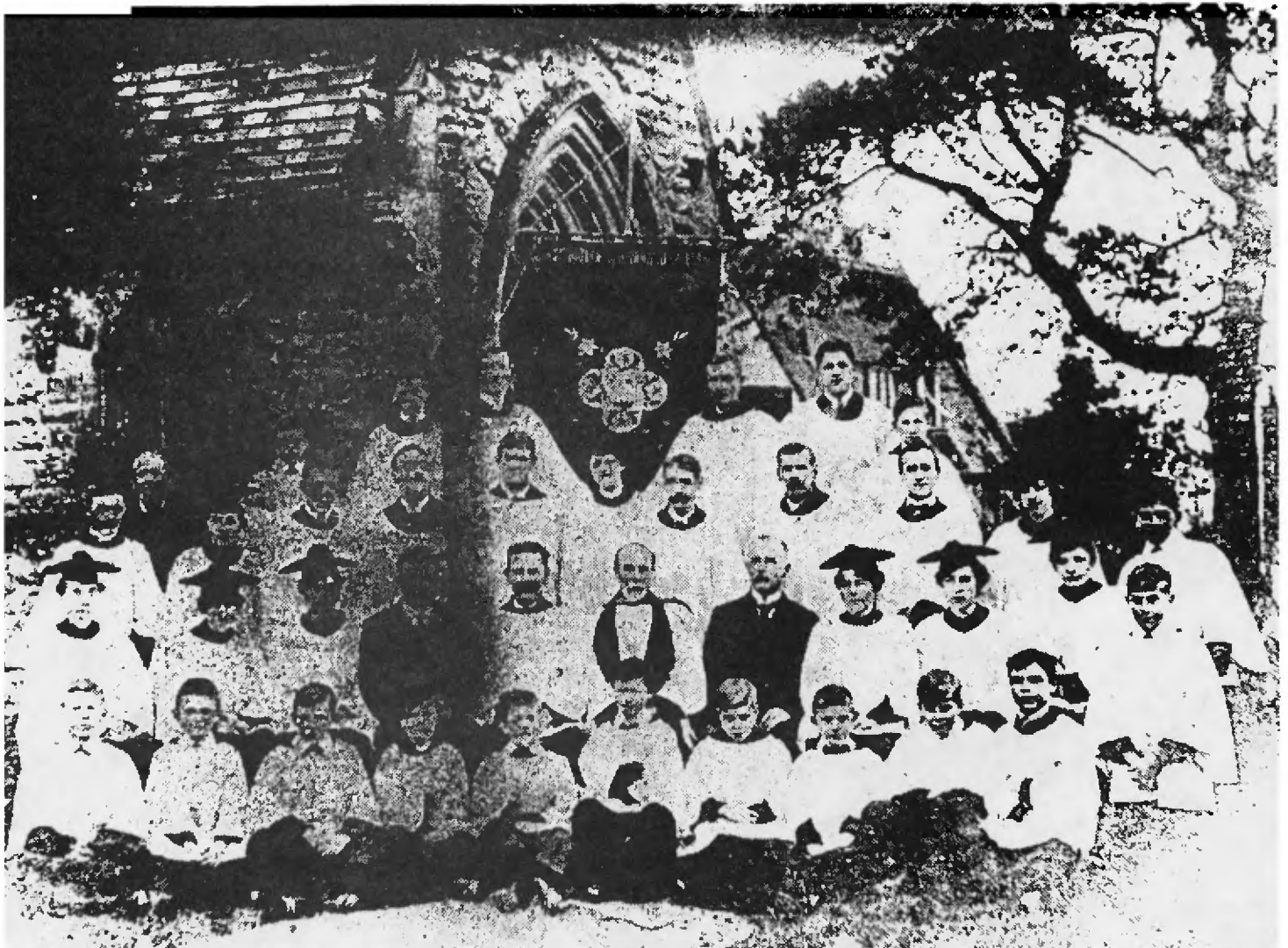
This photograph was given to the Society by Mrs. C.M. Muckelroy nee Bridgman, who found it among her father's papers.

Mrs Muckelroy's grandfather Frank Bridgman, born 16 June 1866, is the end boy (marked by a faint cross) on the extreme right of the photograph. The boy on the extreme left is F.J.Fry, later to be Headmaster of Lyefield School and Peoples' Warden at St Mary's for many years. The choirmaster is believed to be Mr. Perry, schoolmaster at Holy Apostles' School.

Mrs. Muckelroy's father William Bridgman born 1887 joined the choir himself when he was 7-8. But which door are the boys standing by? and what is the wooden partition in the background? If this is the south door, as seems probable, it suggests that the very first 'vestry' was a wooden "box" just inside it. Later, as Mr Bridgman told his daughter, the choir came in from behind the organ, which was on the North side of the chancel. In turn, two choir-boys had to stay behind to pump the organ (in the days before electric motors). Later, the south transept ("Chancel aisle" on the plan) was used, until the new vestry was built.

HOLY APOSTLES' CHOIR 1916

Photograph lent by Miss Margaret Bridgman, whose mother is on the extreme left of the second row from the bottom. Next to her is Mrs Protherough and then Miss Goldfinch who lived in Hales Road and worked in Lloyds Bank with Miss Statham. Mr William Bridgman was at the Front, as no doubt were other younger choirmen. The Vicar was the Revd. H.A. Corke (1904-1919).



4. HOLY APOSTLES' CHURCH FIRE, 18 JUNE 1970 (1)



Photograph lent by Mrs Bax, whose husband was then Churchwarden. It appears that a quantity of sheet music kept by the organ contributed to the rapidity of the blaze. This photograph proves that the chancel roof and ceiling were totally destroyed (contrary to information given in 1986 - correct History of Charlton Kings p 132) and also the front rows of pews; but luckily nothing further west. The Vicar of St Mary's, Robert Deakin, was passing at the time and helped with the rescue of the contents of the vestry. The adjoining school had to be evacuated.

Mrs. H. Bax

For a view of the interior before the fire, see History of Charlton Kings p 131.

HOLY APOSTLES' CHURCH FIRE (2)

It was on Thursday 18th June 1970, as my Father sat down to his lunch, that his neighbour called "Mr Maycock, your Church is on fire!"; he was caretaker of the Church and Hall. Dad ran out to see what she was talking about and she said there were flames leaping from the Church building as she passed in the bus.

There had been a very nasty thunderstorm at about mid-day and it was thought lightning had struck the conductor on the roof which in turn led to an electric switch at the base of the organ. Being very old and dry, the organ caught fire immediately. However, when Dad got back to Holy Apostles, there were fire engines and police everywhere. The flames could be seen for miles, but eventually it was brought under control, and the enormous task of assessing the damage and restoring it began.

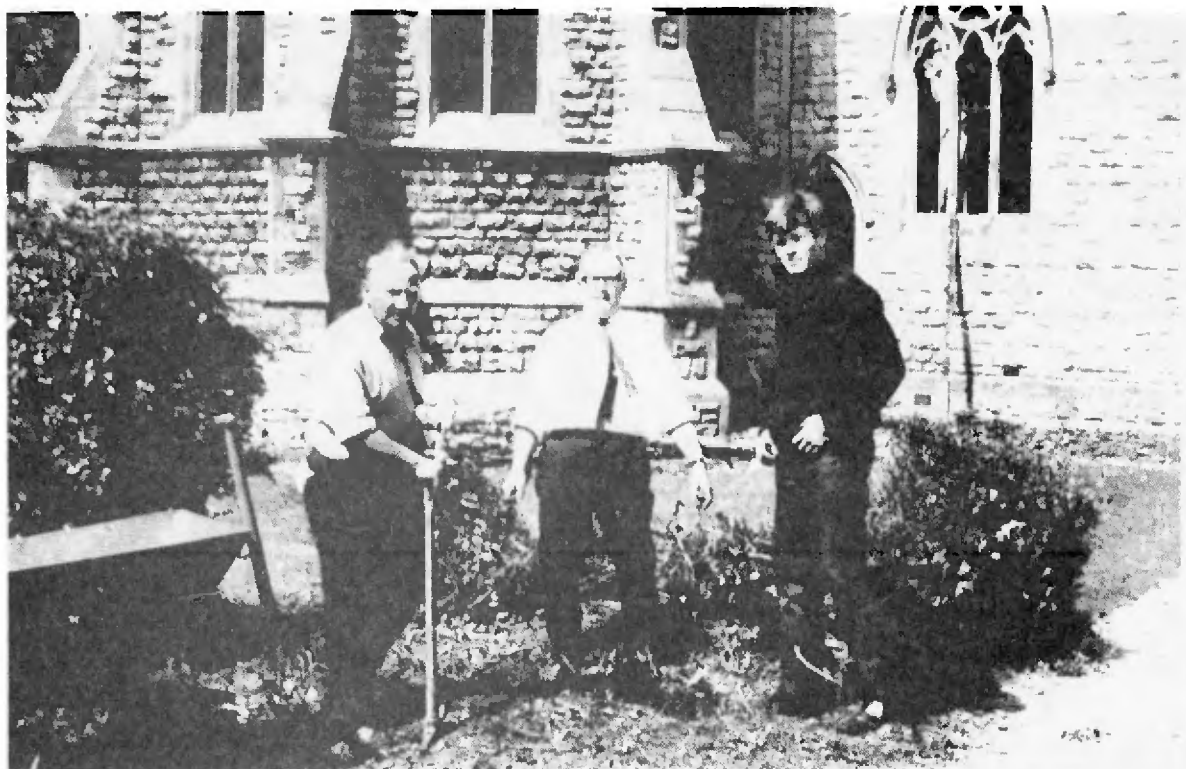
I shall always remember walking up Cirencester Road that evening and seeing some forty or fifty people just standing on the wide pavement gaping at the beautiful building with no roof. I remember feeling such a strong urge to walk among them with a hat and ask for money to help put things right. I did manage to restrain myself, but it was difficult!

Then came the long hard year in the life of Holy Apostles. It was decided to use the Church Hall for worship, and a temporary building was erected for Guides, Brownies, and other organisations. Most of the congregation helped in some way and the Brownies did their bit by taking the burnt wet hassocks out into the churchyard and laying them out to dry.

Members of the Church contributed money for good chairs to be used in the temporary church.

As the main structure of the Church was still sound, the work was eventually completed, and Holy Apostles was beautifully restored, though its seating capacity is slightly less.

Sadly we lost the War Memorial chapel, a memorial to the dead of the 1939-45 war, dedicated on 24 November 1948.

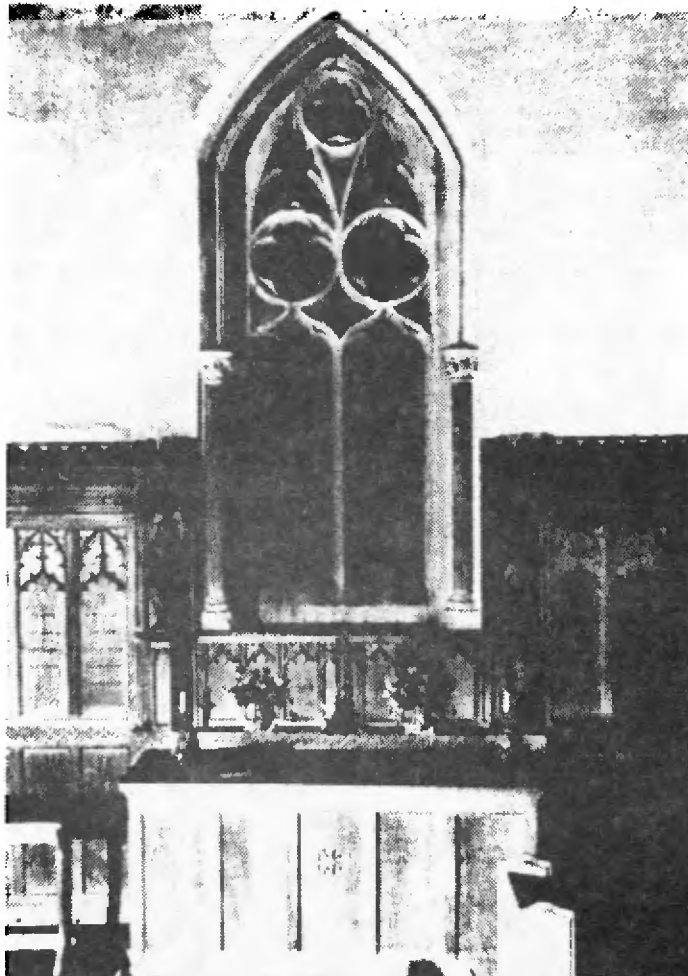


20 June 1970. Mr Maycock and friends clearing a hedge to make way for the lorries to collect debris



The Brownies and the hassocks, 20 June 1970. June Cleveley is second from right.

J. Cleveley



The War Memorial Chapel

5. VICARS OF HOLY APOSTLES, AS I REMEMBER THEM

The Revd Northcott, as I remember him, was a tall thin man with a thatch of white hair and a very friendly smile. I was in Holy Apostles' Junior School at the time and remember how he would always stop and speak to us children, even if we were with our parents. He always seemed to have time, though he seemed to walk everywhere. I don't think he had a car - perhaps because it was war time or because he was partially blind.

Every Sunday he would make his way back to the Vicarage after Sunday School with a group of six or seven children in tow! he was generally going to tidy his large garden and saw up pieces of tree trunk, and as we reached his gate he would ask if anyone would like to help. I don't know if we "helped", but we always joined in collecting wood etc and putting it into piles, and we managed to get home in time for tea, if a little grubby.

The Sunday Morning service used to seem very popular in those days and sometimes there would be extra chairs placed at the end of each of the centre pews to accommodate the congregation.

I think the Revd. Northcott retired when he left Holy Apostles. His wife kept in touch for a long time, but their son had been killed in the war.

Then came the Revd. Charles Peers; he had been in the Forces during the war and appeared to be a quiet fatherly figure. He too was a friendly man and would stop and have a chat in the street. In his time at Holy Apostles the Church didn't seem to be quite so full, but his sermons were always very good and easy to follow. If there was something he wished especially to get across he would bang his hand on the pulpit! - this he did quite often in some sermons.

The Revd Peers had a small sports car which he enjoyed driving with the roof down.

While Vicar of Holy Apostles he was made a Canon of Gloucester Cathedral.

He too retired and moved to Keynsham near Bristol with his wife; their daughter and family lived in that area.

Then came the Revd Patrick Walton. He was a very friendly man who had been in the Navy during the War and seemed interested in everything. The Revd. Walton had a wife and two daughters when he came to Holy Apostles and it was during his incumbency that the Church caught fire. He was very strong in those dark days and kept everything running extremely well.

The Revd Walton was a very real friend. He and his wife had always got time to listen and he was extremely good at visiting the sick both at home and in hospital. He would sometimes call on my Mother and ask how her sick friend was, have a cup of tea, then walk up the garden through the fence and in through our friend's back door just for a little chat.

On several occasions the Social Committee organised an evening out, sometimes to a skittle alley where supper would be laid on. The Revd and Mrs Walton always joined in and usually travelled on the coach with the rest of us. They were a lovely family.

On leaving Holy Apostles, he became Vicar of Upper and Lower Slaughter and Naunton; but unfortunately he passed away before retirement.

Jean Cleevely

6. MEMORIES OF HOLY APOSTLES

There was a very popular folk-dance group at the church, it was led by Miss Mills (of Pates' Kindergarten). We entered for the Musical Festival several times, with Imogen Holst as the accompanist.

We also danced at a festival in Cirencester Park in our blue pinafore dresses and white blouses. I suppose we went on till the War started.

I was a supply teacher at the School under Mrs Cooke. I well remember her taking the children who stayed to lunch under her wing and really mothering them (no school dinners!)

There was a thriving Youth Club, and the Church was usually full, with lots of young people. The Vicar then was the Revd R. Northcott, there was a curate too.

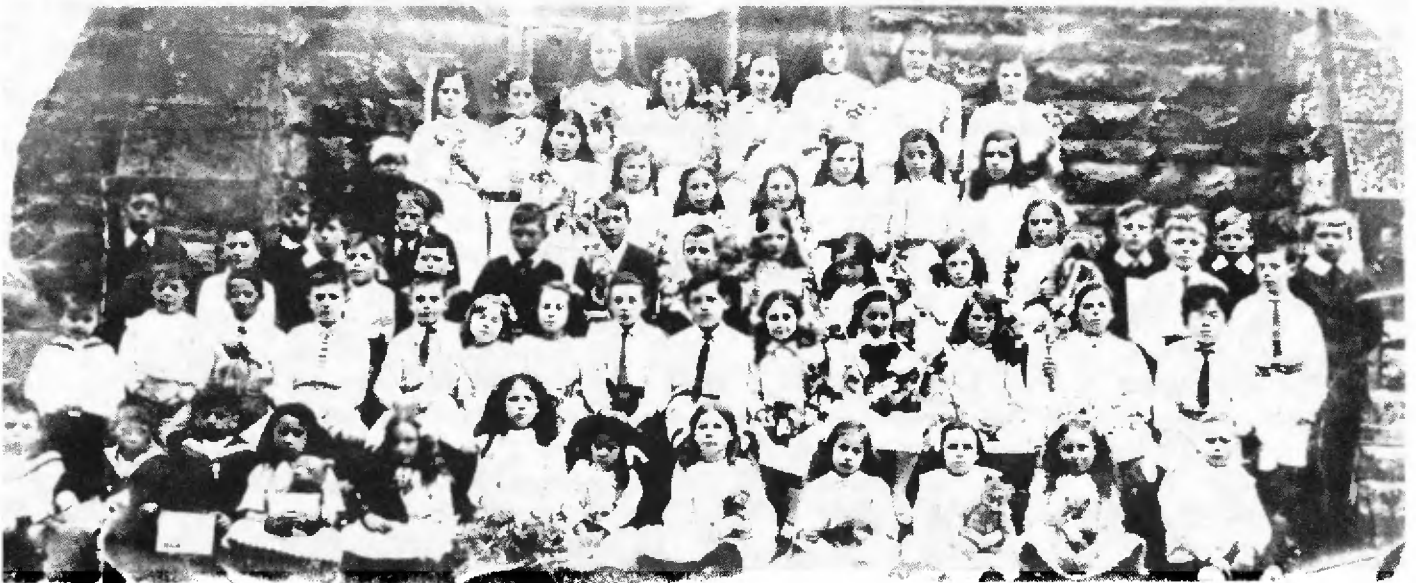
There is a Memorial window to Mr Dovey (an ex-policeman) and his wife who were vergers. Joan Hawley took over for some years. Joan gave the window with St Francis, her favourite saint.

It all seemed so different after the fire when Arthur (my husband) and I attended a service for couples who were married there.

Gwen Bray nee Hughes

Mrs Bax remembers that folk dancing continued at Holy Apostles on Sunday evenings after evensong, to provide something for the young people to do during War time and black-out.

7. HOLY APOSTLES' SCHOOL c 1900 - 1914



Photograph lent by Mrs Daphne Gibbins through Mrs Ryder.

8. MISS BLOXSOME OF BAFFORD HOUSE, AGED 100 MAY 1991, DIED JUNE 1991

I was grateful for an opportunity to see some of Miss Bloxsome's papers. Elizabeth Emily Maud, daughter of William Henry Bloxsome of Charlton Kings carpenter and his wife Elizabeth Anne Bloxsome was baptised at St Marys on 5 July 1891, and confirmed there on 6 March 1906. Like many young people of her generation, she joined the Church of England Temperance Society's Young Crusaders' Union.

Her father was the son of Samuel Bloxsome of Lyefield Cottage, to whom the Cooper Charity Trustees wrote on 22 January 1886 "The Trustees of Cooper's Charity have granted an apprenticeship to your son William Bloxsome" - signed by (Colonel) G. Holmes of Whithorne, Acting Trustee. So on 1 February 1886 William Henry Bloxsome son of Samuel Bloxsome of Charlton Kings, with the consent of his father, apprenticed himself to Robert R. Skemp, carpenter and builder, from 1 February 1886 for a term of 4 years till aged 19½, and Skemp in consideration of £10 provided by Cooper's Charity (£5 paid and £5 to be paid at the end of the second year) agreed to teach the apprentice and pay him weekly wages, 3s 6d the first year, 6s the second year, 8s the third year, and 10s the fourth year.

William Henry Bloxsome must have married almost as soon as he was out of his apprenticeship and earning a living wage. Later he lived at 'St Malo', Lyefield Road, where his wife died on 28 February 1922 aged 56.

M. Paget

9. A CHARLTON CHILDHOOD REMEMBERED

I remember the boys coming round with bath tubs full of elvers - the men brought them up from Gloucester or Frampton on Severn - they were sold by the pint jug. My mother loved them. Once I bought some, wrapped them in rhubarb leaves, and posted them express to a cousin in London who was very fond of them - the Post Office complained!

On New Year's Day the boys always came round Buff Blowing.

My father once took us girls to hear the nightingale in Timbercombe Wood about 3 in the morning.

Charlton Kings had its own Fire Brigade then, my father was in it and I have a picture of him on the fire engine pumping. When there was a fire at Ham Court, they had to trundle the engine all the way up Ham Road! that was before the Lindners lived there.

The Lord family of Lilleybrook had a walled garden on the opposite side of the road (now site of Timbercombe Mews) and in it was a line of small houses or shacks, at least 4 of them, along the railway track. Mr Price the chicken master lived in one of them. The dynamo (for the private electric light plant) was worked by Mr Catherine.

Mother used to give us girls a frying pan of dripping and potatoes and send us off for the day to Chatcombe Pitch etc. Father was the Secretary of the Charlton Kings Horticultural Society, and at the show we always won a prize for wild flowers.

Mrs Morris and Mrs Brunsdon of Bafford were sisters - they used to tease the bull at Bafford Farm. In those days there were cows in the field in Laundry Lane where the houses now are. We fetched milk from the farm. Once the cows got into the farm garden!

There were several forges in Charlton - the one at Six Ways was still shoeing horses in 1931.

There was another in Cirencester Road that was burnt down about 70 years ago.

Hancocks in Bennington Street in Cheltenham used to do wrought iron roses - Leslie's father did it and Horace Hancocks in Gladstone Road still has one of them. Uncle Charles worked for H.H.Martyn - the head of the iron work department was a man whose daughter lives in Ryeworth Road.

When a plane came down out of control to the left of the poplar row near Sandy Lane, all the children trooped up to see and we didn't get back till 7 in the evening, so we got a hiding - I'd be 12-13 then.

John Beamish my mother's cousin, had the carriages that stood by the Fountain in the Prom - he got through three fortunes with drink.

Aunt Olive used to give us a lemon cheese sandwich if we went to see her on Sundays.

Mrs. F. Hancocks

10. LIFE AT BATTLEDOWN HOUSE, 1910-1940s

My grandparents Alexander and Annie-Emma Smith came to live at Battledown House in about 1910. They had previously lived for many years at Lapworth near Birmingham. My grandfather was a consulting engineer with offices in New Street, Birmingham. His two younger sons Douglas and Stuart were partners in this business. My grandparents came to Cheltenham for my grandmother's health. Her family had a history of tuberculosis and though she did not suffer from this herself they always feared it. In fact, she lived to be 96! Alexander died in 1927 at Battledown, and my grandmother left the house in the early 1940s. She died in 1947 at Sydenham Lodge in Cranham Road, which had been her home for some years. The time I am describing was 1914-1927.

Staying at Battledown as children we were involved in the daily routine. Breakfast was at 8 followed by family prayers read by grandfather. Everyone in the house was expected to attend! The domestic staff consisted of the cook, Clara, the house-parlour-maid, Mary, and outside William Cooper, who was gardener, coachman and handyman. He came from Charlton Kings village every day. So did the daily charwoman who also did the washing etc.

At 9 o'clock our grandmother put on a large pinafore and went to the kitchen to order the meals for the day and make a list of things wanted etc. Nearly everything was made at home, bread was made twice a week, cakes every day and jams, jellies and dark, bitter marmalade were made in season and stored in the cellar. At 11 o'clock the carriage came round to the front door, driven by Cooper, to take my grandmother, and sometimes us, to the town to shop or to Ryeworth to a farm for chickens, eggs and butter. This was quite a treat for us!

Luncheon was at 1.30 and consisted of soup, fish, chicken, or meat, usually lamb (pork was never served and beef seldom), then a pudding, usually an apple pie or stewed fruit and always a rice pudding which had been put into the slow oven at 9 o'clock. All cooking was done on a coal range though there was a small gas stove in the back kitchen. After lunch everyone rested until 3 o'clock.

We children sat in the billiard room and had to read or play quietly. Tea was at 4.30 and one day a week our grandmother was "at home" and usually a few friends called in for tea. My sister and I, washed and changed into clean dresses, handed round cakes and cups of tea. When we were older we had to pour out the tea. Grandmother did not drink tea but had a cup of cocoa made with cocoa-nibs instead. There were small sandwiches, bread and butter, a large fruit, or chocolate, cake, home-made, and usually an iced cake or small cakes from a Swiss confectioner in the Promenade. These were displayed on a three-tiered cake stand. Once when an aunt's dog sniffed at the cakes, our grandmother had them all thrown away much to our grief! Another time when she heard that the dog had been given a drink of water in a pudding basin she ordered that that had to be smashed, and the dog only given water in a bulb-bowl in future!

We went to bed at 7 o'clock after a supper of milk and bread and butter or biscuits. We did not like the milk as it was always boiled, but we had to drink it! Dinner was at 7.30 and was much the same as lunch. Wine was seldom served, and sherry only at Christmas or to visitors. Coffee also was only made for visitors. Sometimes we children were allowed to stay up for dessert. In our best dresses we sat on the settee and were given a plate of fruit and sweets each. This was only at Christmas or on birthdays etc. Also we were allowed a sip of port! Our grandfather was by this time semi-retired and went to Birmingham only one or two days a week. A taxi came to take him to the Midland Station and our Uncle Stuart brought him home in his car in the evening. He also called for grandfather and us on Sundays to take us to Holy Apostles church in the morning. The carriage did not go out ever on Sundays. If we did not go to church, we were expected to learn the collect for the day and were only allowed to read "Sunday books". We were not supposed to sew or knit either! In summer we sat in the garden in the afternoon but were somewhat bothered by flies owing to the cattle who were often in the fields nearby. The carriage horse was sometimes turned out into a field opposite the front of the house. I sometimes tried to ride him but he was too big and not used to a saddle. After the first war there was an ex-army horse called Ginger, who had a number branded on his back. We could sometimes ride him. In the back-yard there was a guard dog, usually an airedale, chained-up. We would sometimes take him for a walk along the road, but he was rather wild and difficult to control. When I was very small there was a bull-dog called Jumbo. If I had been naughty and wanted to escape, I used to get into the kennel behind "Jumbo" and no one dared to get me out till I wanted to come! I fear I must have been a bit spoilt owing to having had polio at age 4 and being supposed to be "not strong"! There was a large six-seater car in the garage, but I never saw it used; later it was sold. I believe this car was a Napier, vintage about 1906. The kitchen garden managed by Cooper with the aid of one of his sons, Patrick, from time to time, gave us all the vegetables and most of the fruit used in the house. Cooper also was allowed to take what he needed for his numerous family (I believe he had eight or nine children), living in a small cottage in Charlton Kings. There was a lovely asparagus bed running the length of the garden. The plants were on two high mounds with a ditch in between and when the ferns had grown up, we used to crawl along this ditch quite hidden from grown-ups!

My grandfather was a great collector of pictures, cloisonne, and other antiques (Grandmother was not so keen on them as he was!) Once when she said she thought the drawing room should be redecorated, he said "Why bother, you can't see the wallpaper as it is quite covered by the pictures"! The artist Sydney Herbert, a great uncle by marriage, had painted a frieze below the ceiling in the drawing room, consisting of large circular portraits of the poets, held up by griffins with long curling tails. I do not remember him as he died suddenly in a tram coming down Cleeve Hill, in 1914. I have done a plan of the house (ground floor) and its gardens etc. (this is not at all to scale). The upper floor of the house consisted of two large bedrooms facing the road, and one the garden as well, and five smaller bedrooms. A fairly large linen closet, and the bathroom and lavatory which were joined by a glassed-in verandah housing a collection of

ferns and other plants. These faced the yard at the back. My grandmother never walked upstairs but was carried up in a chair every evening. It was supposed that she had a bad heart and had to take life very easily. She also stuck to a strict diet given her years ago by a doctor at Matlock Hydro where she had gone for a cure. Our grandfather had good health on the whole. Both of them suffered from rheumatism from time to time.

Looking back on our childhood - that time between 1914 and 1927 - now, I feel so thankful for the stable, loving background our grandparents, both the Smiths at "Battledown" and the Guilmants at "Cotswold" provided. Especially in the war years when our father was away in the army. Life was not easy, what with food shortages etc. of which we children were hardly aware. Yes, on the whole, they were very happy days!

PHOTOS. TAKEN IN CHELTENHAM. (DATES NOT KNOWN.)



ALEXANDER SMITH.
1846-1927.



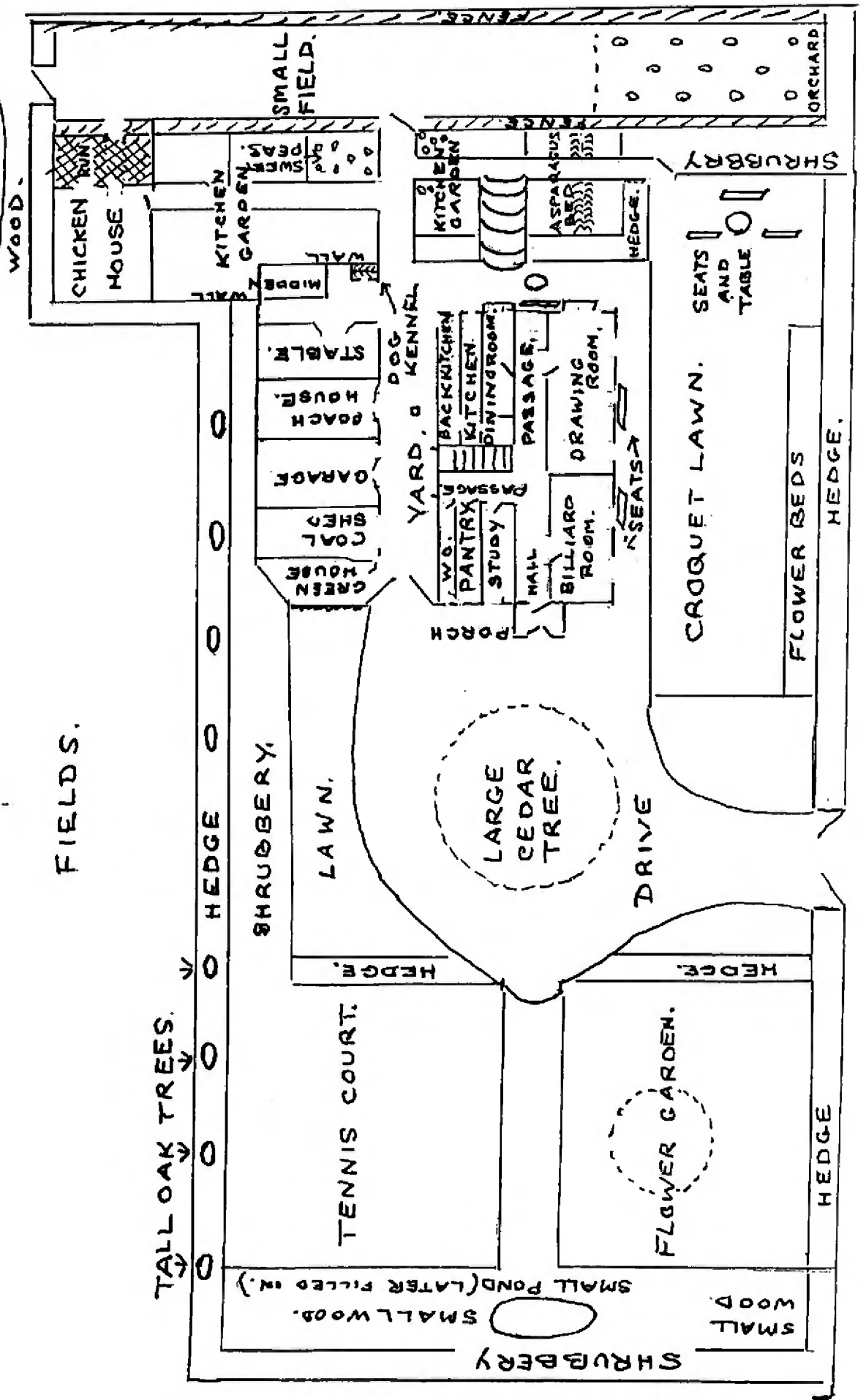
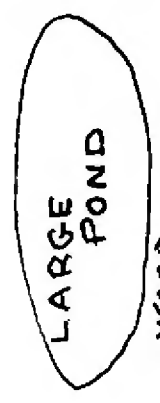
ANNIE EMMA SMITH
1850-1949

ROUGH PLAN OF BATTLEDOWN HOUSE. 1910-1940S.

(NOT TO SCALE.)

BATTLEDOWN HILL.

FIELDS.



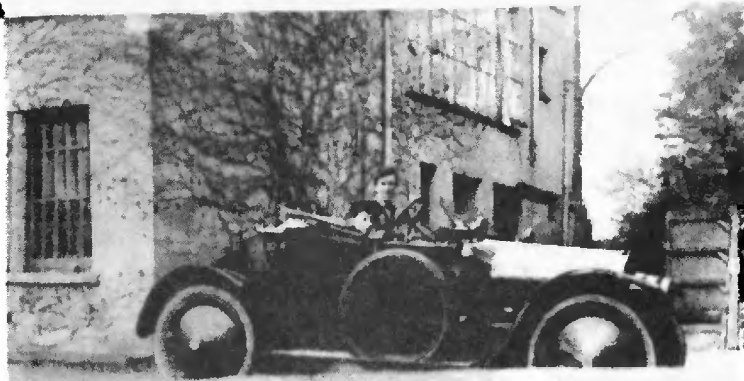
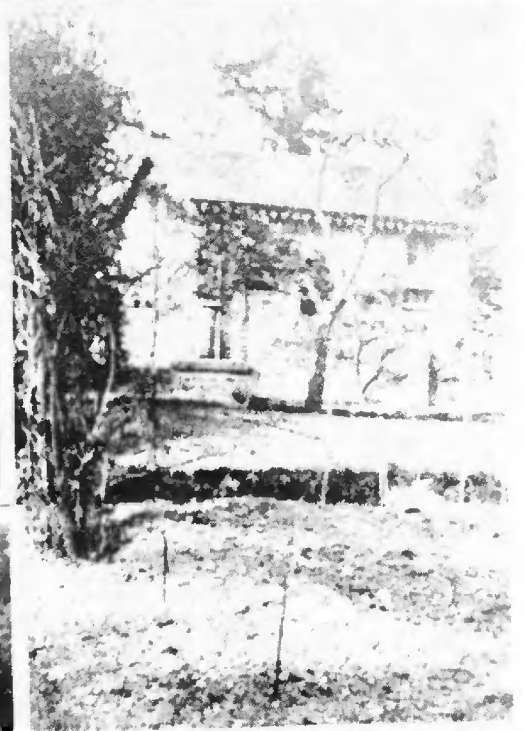
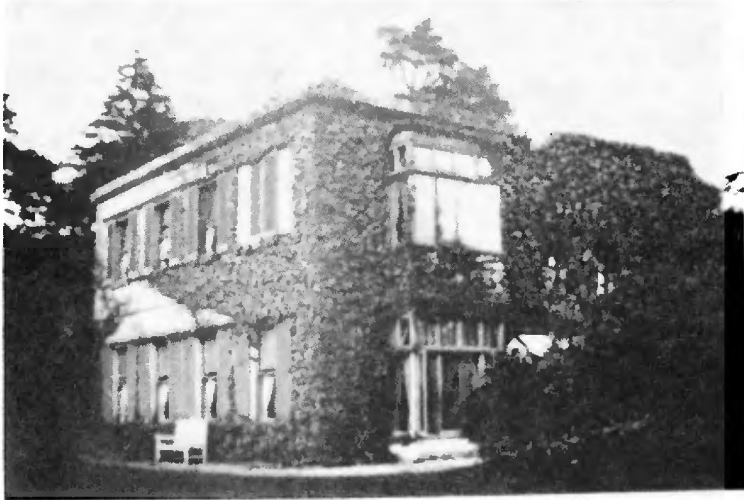
TO GREENWOOD.

ASHLEY ROAD.

TO THE KNOLL

BATTLEDOWN HOUSE. ABOUT 1925. 2. THE STABLES.

2



3. BACK YARD.

AUNT MARY
SMITH. WITH
ALEC SMITH
AGED 6. IN
1920.

4. MARY ISABEL
SMITH. AGED
7. APRIL 1916.
WITH "NED"

5. SHEILA ELISE
SMITH. AGED
7 SPRING 1920.



ALEXANDER AND ANNIE EMMA SMITH

My Grandmother Annie Emma Smith's maiden name was Minty. Both she and my Grandfather came of Scottish presbyterian stock. My Grandmother's father, William Minty, came from Fyvre in Aberdeenshire of a farming family. He came south as a young man, and set up as a woollen draper in Dudley. He married into a local family and had nine children, of whom my Grandmother was the youngest. Her mother was ailing for many years before she died, when Annie Emma was 14, and she was brought up by her oldest sister Amelia, who was 20 years older. Grannie went to a boarding school for a year or so. Which school she said was rather like "Lowood" in Jane Eyre! She also went to live in a french family, in Boulogne, to learn french.

We do not know what part of Scotland our Grandfather came from. His Grandfather and father were both called Alexander and both were engineers. Our Grandfather's father was living and married in Croydon where our Grandfather was born in 1846. Soon after this his parents, and he, sailed for Java, where his father was employed by the Dutch government to install sugar crushing machinery and where 4 more children were born. Then soon after 1859 both parents died probably of cholera. Our Grandfather and his two older sisters were brought home to be brought up by their uncle George Smith and his wife Elizabeth, in Dudley. Our Grandfather's youngest brother and sister were adopted and stayed in Java, though the sister Eliza was brought back to this country in 1868 to live with her foster parents in Dulwich. Our Grandfather went to Amblecote school in Stourbridge where he was a model pupil and won many prizes, (several, books, we still have). After serving his apprenticeship he got practical experience in the locomotive department of the North Staffordshire Railway. And then worked for the Earl of Dudley before setting up in an office in Dudley, on his own account. He met and married our Grandmother in 1869. He was 23 and she was 19. They had six children. The eldest two, Sarah Isabel and our father Alexander Graham were born in Dudley. When they moved to Lapworth, four more boys were born, our uncles Douglas and Stuart, and two others who died young.

Our Grandfather was an astute businessman and did well over the years. He was also a religious and sensitive man, fond of music and the arts. He was quite happy to leave the practicalities of life to his wife. She was a much more down to earth character and her word was law at Battledown! She was a great reader and also read "The Times" every morning. Fiction was not to be read until later in the day! She always kept to an everyday routine and she expected others to do the same. Once, when her boys had got into mischief someone said, "What will your father say?" And Graham replied, "Its not father its mother!"

11. HOME THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD

"---I often think of the fields we travelled as children. They were not very big and divided by hedges, some had been laid as they called it, and some left tall and brushy. Then there were the stone walls which were plentiful up in the Leckhampton area. There was one up at the Bee Hive where Charlton Athletic football team played their games for a season, I used to sit on it and watch them. Then there was one a little farther east, just this way from Coxhorne Farm, then one along where Bees had their pub across from the reservoir; and many more around the country.

You remarked about the sand or gravel pits. Well, I remember two. There was one just west of Steel's Alley where there were houses built in it, the chimneys used to protrude up above the London highway. I recall an elderly lady named Sally Mathews, she lived alone and carried a large hand bag (I think you'd call it), the boys used to hide along the hedges and when she walked by they'd yell "Sally Quack Quack!" - why I don't know and it made her real provoked and she'd try to chase them. When she'd see me, she'd reach into her bag and give me some sweets. I often wondered if the pit is still there or if it was filled in. There

was a stone wall along the wood (shrubbery) just west of the pit.

Then there was one just down from the church, where the tram cars used to turn into Cirencester Road across from Charlton Park where Miss E.M. Statham used to live (her father was Vassar Smith's coachman). It was lot bigger than the one at East End and no buildings in it ----- (now filled in and bungalows built on it).

My mind runs back to the many things I did as a boy. In such a short period of time, I travelled many miles all around the country, up in the Leckhampton hills, Dowswell Woods, Red Wood, going with the Neather boys delivering coal, the Matthews boys gathering freight at the station, delivering it to the stores, gathering dirty laundry at the big homes in Cheltenham, then going with Frank Fisher who peddled milk for Parslow's farm down to Cheltenham, delivering bread with Ed Mills who had the bakeshop in East End -- no doubt it has changed a lot but I guess the roads are the same. But 64 years is a long time ---- I remember Charlie Holder's Farm (Ashgrove) he was another farmer that took milk to town in churns as Parslows did. When I'd go with Frank Fisher delivering milk to Cheltenham, he'd take a pail and I'd take one, we'd start up the street, he on one side, me on the other, and we'd take the money out of the pitchers, then give the customer the measure she'd paid for, a pint or a quart ---

Mr Mathew's place was across from Detmore Cottages, he raised fruit and vegetables. (The Hitchens, built on 1990). I used to go in there when the fruit was on and he'd give me plums and pears off the ground. I forget his first name. But the other Mathews brothers were Bill and Horace, they had the wagon which drew freight from Charlton Station and Bill used to pick up dirty laundry at the big homes on the Promenade in Cheltenham and deliver it to local homes such as Mother's and they'd wash it by hand and iron it and then he'd pick up and deliver it back, sometimes he'd unload at Cliffords Laundry next to Mrs Farrer's store and Post Office just a little way past the Cotswold Inn.

I remember the big team Moses Davis drove (of Old Dole). When he was going up the hill over the railroad (Capel Lane) he'd crack the whip and yell "Up Boxer and Harry", and when he came down the hill he had to drop steel runners under the back wheels to keep the wagon from running up on the horses' hind quarters-----

I remember going up over the bridge in the Spring (Bottom) and was going to sit down besides a tree, but on investigating further there were a big nest of snakes which must have hibernated through the winter (probably slow worms!)

I remember gypsies camped up on the roadside by the football field at the Beehive and we were afraid of them as the people used to tell us they would kidnap us, so we'd run and hide when we'd see them. There were usually a lot of children with them and they had their pots and pans and whatever they needed hanging on their caravan, as we called it -----

I remember Miss Mott (at Detmore) and her brother Leonard who was crippled. Grandad worked for her for many years and I used to go up to their dairy and get a pail of skim milk every night, and I'd go the front way sometimes and sometimes I'd go the back way by Hamdayous across the single plank over the brook. Once Miss Mott invited me in as I was going by and Leonard let me use his binoculars to look around the fields. After grandad retired, Dick Spencer took over and they turned a field beside Amos Knighton (who lived in the other half of Detmore Cottage) into a chicken yard where they had a huge flock of white chickens. I think they tore down the old barn that Mr Knighton used to keep his donkey in when he was in the coal business.

You remarked about the Cotswold Inn being torn down. I recall Miss Hopkins ran it as a pub, she married a man who ran the garage beside it. There was an old brick wall which divided it from Detmore Cottages, it was old and the lower end fell down, and sometimes we'd crawl up on it by the London Road and they'd chase

us off, as I suppose it wasn't safe. As for the Duke of York, I remember the horse trough in front where the horses drank and I'll never forget I was sent to the store for vinegar and I drank some out of the bottle then filled it out of the trough, but at home they found out as there was some chaff in it that the horses had left! William Neather snr ran the pub. I'd go in there once in a great while if someone gave me a penny and buy a chocolate bar. Beside the pub was a house that the Parkers lived in and Dukes Alley ran through beside them. He had a little building behind the house that he kept fantail pigeons in, they were beautiful to see with their fantails spread out. Mrs Parker could play the mandoline or banjo beautifully. Sometimes coming from school, she'd be outside playing and I'd listen for a long while -----"

Allan Thomas, Wellanport, Ontario
(left Charlton in 1927).

12. R.S.P.C.A. CENTENARY 1924

Water Trough presented to Charlton Kings East by Local Branch, R.S.P.C.A.



Re-photographed by Derek Copson

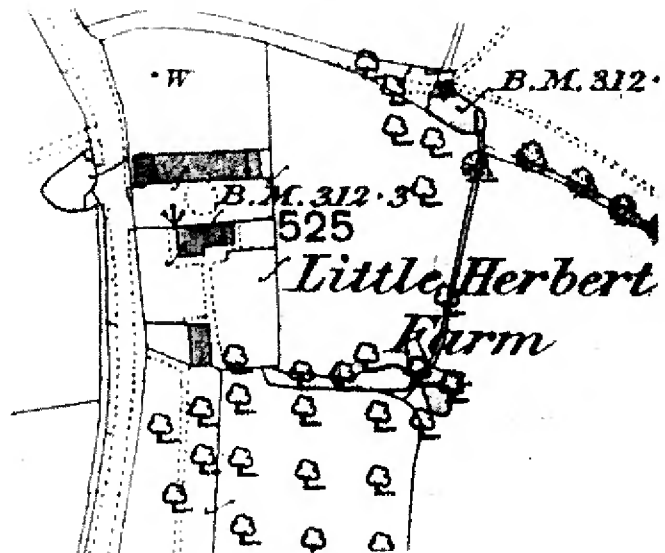
13. LITTLE HERBERTS FARM (CHELTENHAM MANOR)

On the east (or Cheltenham manor) side of Little Herberts Road, the first house south of Sappercombe Lane was Little Herberts Farm. The present house, No 80, (all that's left of the farm) was built shortly before 1888. But this holding had a long history before that.

In July 1834 the artist Powell visited Charlton and sketched several of our older houses. His sketchbook includes a timber-framed farmhouse with a range of cow byres or cart sheds, and in the background the ridge of Timbercombe with one or two of the oaks I see out of my bedroom window today. Mitchell's map of 1806 and the tithe map of 1848 confirm the layout and show a barn (on what became a garden) between the farmhouse and Sappercombe Lane.



1848 Tithe map

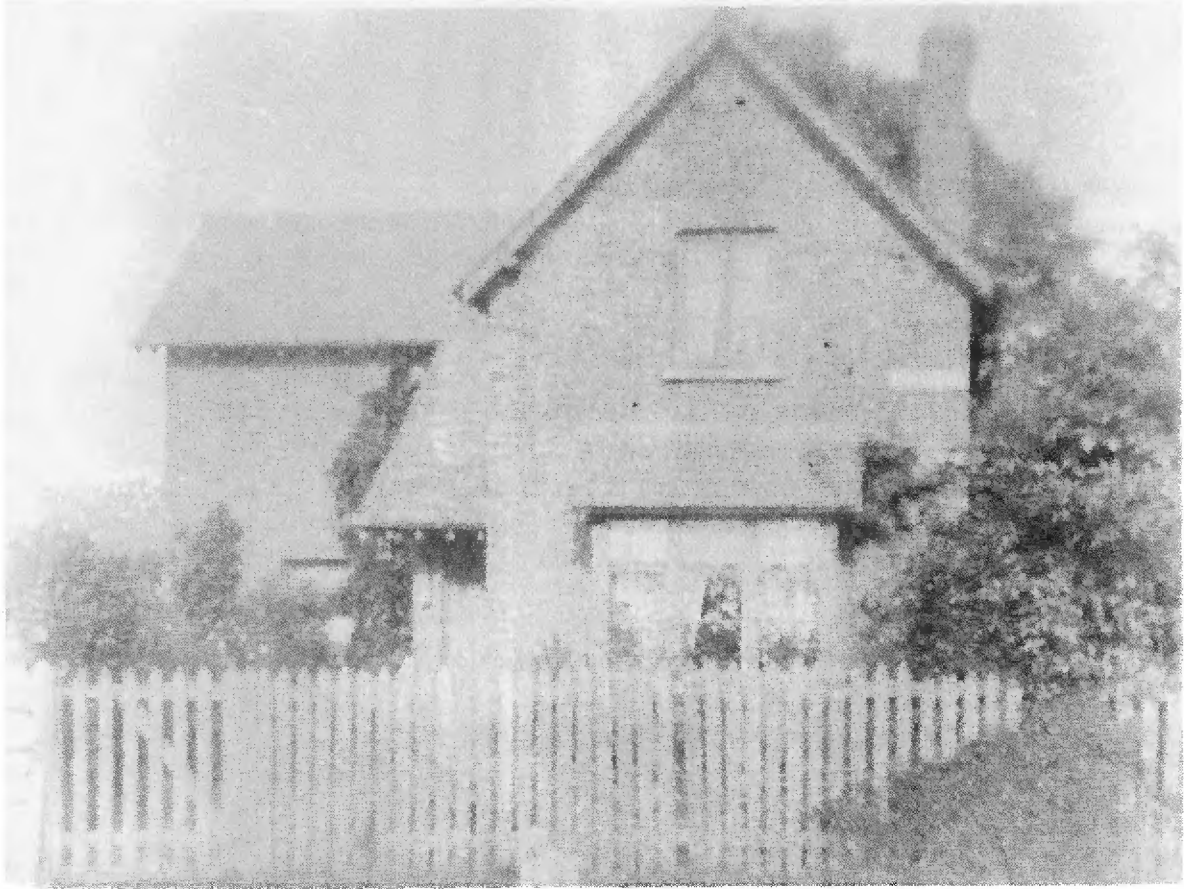


OS 25" 1888

(both enlarged)

By the time of 25" OS 1888, the old barn had gone and the shape and position of the house had been altered; a new barn had been built which corresponds to the brick barn in Mrs James' photograph, on the site of Beeches Road.

This means that the new farm house (which still survives) is about 20 years older than I thought (History of Charlton Kings p 67)

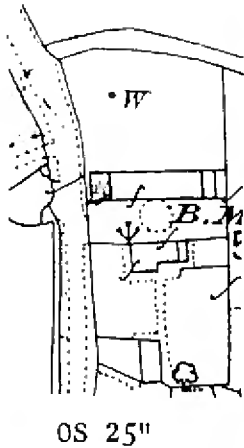


The new farm house taken c 1904 after addition of creamery (on left)



Hayricks and wood pile in the farm yard

Mrs Shill's photographs



The brick barn - Mrs. James' photograph

Now for the history of Little Herberts farm.

This was one of the first of the new farms created between 1550 and 1700, with the swing from arable to dairying; it was easier to move the dairy to the cow pasture than carry milk back to the house, and cows were usually milked out of doors.

Little Herberts was the home of John Pate or Pates. There were two Charlton branches of the Pates family in the 16th century, the more affluent (aspiring to gentry status) described by Mrs Crewe on pp 31-39 who descended from William Pates, and the yeoman branch descended from our John. His old house was on the west side of Moorend Street (New Court Lane), with a close going down to the Lilleybrook. He seems to have built the new house in Little Herberts about the time of his second marriage. John's first wife Elizabeth was buried on 2 November 1547 and he had had no children by her. Then early in 1548 he married Joan. Their first daughter was born in November and buried in December 1548. After her came William, baptised 24 November 1550, then a son Richard and a daughter Grace who died young, and the youngest son and heir Walter (who must have been born between 1553 and 1558 when there is a gap in St. Mary's register). Lastly the Pates had three girls.

John's farm was a comfortable size for his day. He held some Ashley land as well as his two Cheltenham Manor messuages, 47 acres in all. Under the 1564 inclosure agreement, he was allowed to inclose 7 acres of it in Ravensgate meade and Pennybreach (part of his Cheltenham land).

Until 1625, customary holdings were inherited by ultimogeniture; the youngest son or youngest daughter (not the eldest) inherited, and the widow had special rights. She might hold her husband's entire tenement (not just a third of it) for her life and 12 years from her death - that is, she might lease out or mortgage it for those 12 years to raise money for other children and to pay debts. So when John died and was buried on 25 April 1587, his widow Joan held both messuages and all the land till her death - and she was not buried till 5 December 1609!

Immediately, on 15 December, her youngest son and customary heir Walter reported her death, claimed, and was admitted. He paid £4 in lieu of the two heriots, a best beast for each holding, and in addition a fine of 22s 4d (double the fixed 'rent' payable to the lord).

The court book said he was "of full age". Actually Walter must have been getting on for 60! Presumably he had farmed the land for his mother and lived with her at Little Herberts. The Moorend house was let.

Walter's reaction to his succession was in fact to retire. On 5 April 1611, six days after the marriage on 30 March of his youngest daughter and customary heir Joan, he arranged for the payment of an annuity of £5 for his life and £5 for his wife Eleanor's life, and then surrendered the whole to Joan and her husband Richard Rooke. Eleanor (or Elinor) was buried on 25 June 1611 and after that the widower left the parish. He was not buried here and may have gone to live with his elder daughter to enjoy his £5 annuity with her.

Thus Little Herberts Farm passed from the Pates family to the Rucks, Rocks, or Rookes - versions of the name were used indiscriminately. The field called in the 1848 tithe apportionment 'Galerocks' is a reminder of this, for it is actually two inclosures, Gale's and Rook's, thrown together. Nothing to do with stony ground.

John Pates in 1587 may well have farmed his whole 47 acres himself, but his widow had been in the habit of letting Ravensgate Meade (6 acres), and Richard Rooke continued this practice, stipulating that the occupiers were not to plough any part (if they did he could take half the crop) or cut any wood, dry or green, or remove hedges under the pretext that they were dead - hedges were a useful asset, providing stakes and firewood. (GRO D 855 M 7 f 72,171; M 8 f 9lv; M 9 p 60).

We know exactly what Richard Rooke held from Cheltenham Manor because we have Norden's survey made in 1617 (see Bulletin 17).

Within the tithing of Bafford, which included part of Horsefair Street and the east side of Little Herberts Road, he held two messuages - Pates' new one in Moorend Street, and his new old at Little Herberts. There was only one dwellinghouse, however (so the Moorend one had been allowed to fall down). With the house went a garden, barn, stable, orchard and backside, a total of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres. He held the two closes of arable in Hencroft called The Feysams (modern Great and Little Pheasants), put down as 5 acres. On the Horsefair Street ends of the Butts, Richard had built two cottages, one described as the cottage at Blind Lane's End, and the other as a cottage lately occupied by Elizabeth Bramley, with $\frac{1}{2}$ acre and 1 acre of land respectively. The cottage on the corner was the timber-framed cottage burnt down in May 1901, the other was probably on the site of 'Shaftesbury'. The only relic of the Blind Lane End cottage, is the well at the back, a good example of a 17th century brick well-shaft.

Rooke still had the two Ravensgate Meades partly inclosed in 1564 (6 acres) and two closes of pasture called Penne Breaches (9 acres, including the 1564 Pennybreaches). He had a close of pasture called Baffords Paddock (2 acres) behind the houses on the south side of Bafford Lane; Hillie Laines (2 acres); le Furlong ($1\frac{1}{2}$ acres) in Little Herberts; pasture in Hencroft ($\frac{1}{2}$ acre); Henlock ($\frac{1}{2}$ acre and 1 acre); and Symes Grove (2 acres) valuable as a source of fuel. Finally he had 17 acres of arable scattered through the open field area between Benbridge near Sandford Mill and the Barley Stream or Southfield Brook.

For all this Rooke paid a customary rent of 10s 6d to the lord and $15\frac{1}{2}$ d for "works" due on the old Moorend tenement. No such payment could be demanded for Little Herberts Farm because it had been built on land never previously subject to work services or money in lieu. Only an ancient holding like the one in Moorend Street was bound to pay this service. The site of the old messuage with its yard and one headland in the Lye was let to David Jones (ibid M 9 pp 240-1, M 10 f 49v).

The custom of the manor was changed by Act in 1625. Now the elder, not the younger son was customary heir and the widow lost her special rights. But women married before 1625 were not affected, so Joan Rooke's position was secure. Many parents took steps to see that their youngest son was not totally

disinherited; this was why Richard and Joan Rooke in 1632 surrendered certain lands to a trustee who would pass them on to their youngest son Robert. Should he die without issue, the land was to go either to the new customary heir, the eldest son Richard, or to the third son Thomas. There must have been some reason, not explained by the entry in the court book, why the second son John was overlooked, for Thomas was already provided for - he inherited the cottage in Blind Lane and some of the land when his father died. (ibid M 10 ff 60v-61). It may have been because John's eventual inheritance from Richard was already anticipated.

For it appears that neither Richard the eldest son nor Robert the youngest son ever married and certainly neither left issue.

Richard the father died in 1643. Thomas inherited the land in Lower Field (later Charlton Park) and sold it in 1647 to Robert Whithorne (ibid M 11 f 9); he then sold the house at Blind Lane End, with 4 acres, to Edward Hall on 29 February 1647/8 (ibid M 11 f 18v).

Richard the son inherited the old homestead in Moorend and on 26 November 1650 surrendered it, with land in le Lye and le Upper Field (modern Greatfield) to use of Robert his brother and heirs of his body. In default of such heirs it too was to pass to Thomas, and in fact did so (ibid f 72). We do not know exactly when brother Robert died, but on 24 September 1692 the Moorend house and land were sold by Thomas Ruck, the surviving son of brother Thomas, born 1650. It may have been little Thomas's arrival into the world in 1650 that prompted his uncle Richard's surrender. (ibid M 12 p 52).

So Richard the eldest of the four brothers was left with Little Herberts Farm; and as he had no children, his lawful heir was his next brother John and then John's eldest son William, born 29 December 1655. The Hearth Tax roll of 1671-2 names John as occupier of Little Herberts, paying tax on three hearths; presumably the timber-framed farmhouse had a fire in the hall, kitchen, and parlour.

John was buried on 30 November 1685 and William his elder son, born 29 December 1655, succeeded him. In May 1687 William married Catherine Pates nee Trotman, widow of Lynnett Pates gentleman (see Bulletin 24 p 40 and page 25 below). Catherine was then aged 30 and her bridegroom 32.

William and Catherine had seven children, William the heir (baptised 6 March 1687/8), John (baptised 31 May 1689, buried 30 May 1693), Thomas (baptised 23 June 1691), Charles (baptised 2 July 1693), a second John (baptised 23 September 1694), Obadiah (baptised 26 January 1696/7) and Elizabeth (baptised 18 March 1700/1). It may be that the unusual choice of the name Obadiah for a son, once the accepted family names had been used up and the king honoured, indicates puritan leanings - we can't tell.

When William Ruck surrendered his customary property to uses of his will on 10 August 1701, he was a very sick man - he was buried 9 days later. The heriot due was 42s 10d and the annual fixed 'rent' 7s 3d, (GRO D 855 M 13 p 66).

William's eldest son William came of age in 1708 and the trustees surrendered to him unspecified property on which 33s 11d heriot had to be paid. Dower had been fixed for Catherine the widow - however in that same year she married for a third time John Batten (ibid M 13 p 144) and he was prepared to agree on 10 August 1708 that her Ashley land should eventually revert to her children (GRO 109/papers 31).

It was to Catherine wife of John Batten and her son William Ruck that on 7 August 1709 John Prinn surrendered a close of meadow or pasture called Sappercomb previously the land of Lawrence Mace, and also one ridge of arable in Lilleyfield,

both Ashley manor land, to be Catherine's for life and afterwards her son's. This is how Little Herberts Farm came to include a sizeable piece on the west side of the road in what was sometimes known as The Croft. There was an exchange between Catherine Batten (then widow) and her son in 1721 (GRO D 855 M 14 p 256).

None of the Rucks married young. William (Catherine's son) was 43 before on 4 February 1730/1 he married Mary Stiles, widow, on whom he settled the tenement called 'Little Harbord' and its land for life. From 33s 11d the heriot had dropped (presumably as a result of the exchange) to 30s 6d (ibid M 14 pp 322-3). William was buried on 27 August 1733, after a very short married life, and on 21 January 1748/9 his widow Mary married for a third time. Her new husband was John Humphris, by whom she had two sons John and William, but they of course had no claim to the property.

William Ruck's heir was his nephew William, son of brother Thomas, (baptised 23 June 1691) who lived in Gloucester but was brought back to Charlton for burial on 24 May 1724.

Again, William the nephew died without issue, unmarried, leaving a sister Elizabeth. On 7 April 1739 she claimed as sister and heir of her brother William, and this time (taking in Mary Humphris' life interest) the heriot was back to the 42s 10d of 1701 (ibid M 14 p 430). Elizabeth was said in court to be not yet of age.

Elizabeth Ruck married John Cowles of Gloucester, a grazier. Though Mary Humphris and her third husband were still occupying the farm, the Cowles could and did mortgage it; and then on 19 October 1781 settled it on their three children. Subject to Mary Humphris' life interest and subject to payment of £100 to William as elder son, each of the sons was to have a moiety of the property for life and afterwards the whole was to go to their sister Elizabeth. The parents probably thought that neither son would want to farm in Charlton Kings but they could raise money on their moieties. Elizabeth was about to marry Smith Lemon a linen draper of Eastington co Glos and the prospect of her eventual inheritance was agreeable. A settlement after this marriage was presented in court on 13 June 1783 (ibid M 17 pp 61-7, 107-8).

The parents were dead by 3 October 1806 when William Cowles of Liverpool horse dealer claimed his moiety for life (GRO D 856 M 21 p 91). He had two sons, Michael (who became a stable keeper in Bath) and Thomas (who continued his father's business as stable keeper in Liverpool). There were also two daughters, Elizabeth and Caroline, living with Thomas. In the event of a failure of heirs, these relatives would have had a claim to the property, so in 1830 they accepted £45 shared between them and surrendered their interest (GRO D 855 acc 2198 M 6 p 329).

For Smith Lemon and his wife had an only child also named Elizabeth, who married Joseph Taylor of Cricklade an ironmonger. Joseph and Elizabeth and her widowed father joined in 1820 to sell the strip of land in Lilleyfield to Captain Mansell who lived in a house on the site of Lilleybrook. (GRO D 855 M 27 p 164). Again, there was only one daughter of that marriage, Sarah Taylor, to inherit Little Herberts Farm. She was the owner and William Pates (a very distant relative presumably) the tenant, at the time of the tithe apportionment.

It is a remarkable fact that though this property had passed so often through the female line, with no less than five changes of surname, it had never been sold from the time it was created c.1550 to 1850.

PATES John
bur 25 Ap 1587

m (1) Elizabeth bur 2 Nov 1547
(2) Joan, bur 5 Dec 1609

William
bp 24 Nov 1550

Richard

Walter y.s. and heir
m Eleanor bur 25 June 1611

e.d.

Joan y.d. and heir
m 30 March 1610, bur 4 Aug 1643

JOHN ROOK
brother of Richard, ref 1612
(GRO D 855 M 8 f 115v)

RICHARD ROOCHE bur 1 Oct 1643

Richard
bp elsewhere c.1613

John
bp 17 Feb 1615/6
bur 30 Nov 1685

Thomas
bp 27 Dec 1619,
bur 9 June 1684

Joan
bp 12 Dec 1624

Robert y.s.
bp 26 Nov 1629
ref 1632
alive 1655
(D855 M 11 p 159)

Isabel Ruck wo
bur 10 Jan 1698/9
Sarah, wo, bur
31 Jan 1696/7

William
born 29 Dec 1655
bur 19 Aug 1701

John
born 2 Dec 1658

m. Catherine Pates wo
who m (3) John
Batten

Thomas
bp 12 Oct 1649
ob.

Thomas
born 26 Sept 1650
Surrendered the Moorend
Street message to Jane
Mansell 1692
(GRO D 855 M 12 p 52)

Catherine Batten wo
bur 3 Ap 1720

William
bp 6 March 1687/8
settlement 1731
bur 27 Aug 1733
m 4 Feb 1730/1
Mary Stiles wo
she m (3) John
Humphris 21
Jan 1738/9

John
bp 31 May 1689, bur
30 May 1693

Thomas
bp 23 June 1691,
of Gloucester,
bur CK 24 May 1724

Charles
bp 2 July 1693

John bp 23
Sept 1694
m. Jane

Jane
bp 31 Jan 1747/8

Ann
bp 3 May 1751
bur 6 June 1753

John
bp 10 March 1754

HUMPHRIS

John
bp 9 Jan 1742/3

William
bp 27 June 1744

Obadiah
bp 26 Jan 1696/7
bur 11 July 1735
m. Sarah

Elizabeth
bp 18 March 1700/1

Elizabeth
bp 7 June 1734

Sarah, posthumous dau.
bp 9 Dec 1735 m William
Peacey 15 June 1755

Thomas RUCK of Gloucester

William
nephew and heir of
William Ruck 1733

Elizabeth
m John COWLES of Gloucester grazier
Not of age 1739 when heir to her
brother William.
both dead by 1806

COWLES

William
(GRO D 855 M 15 pp 66-7
1781)
admitted for life 1806
(D 855 M 20 p 91)
of Liverpool
stable keeper

Thomas

Elizabeth
m Smith LEMON of Eastington,
later of Cricklade, then of
Cirencester, linendraper
Elizabeth heir to her mother
(D 855 M 17 p 107)

Elizabeth LEMON e.d. and heir
1820, m Joseph TAYLOR of
Cricklade ironmonger
(D 855 M 21 p 164)

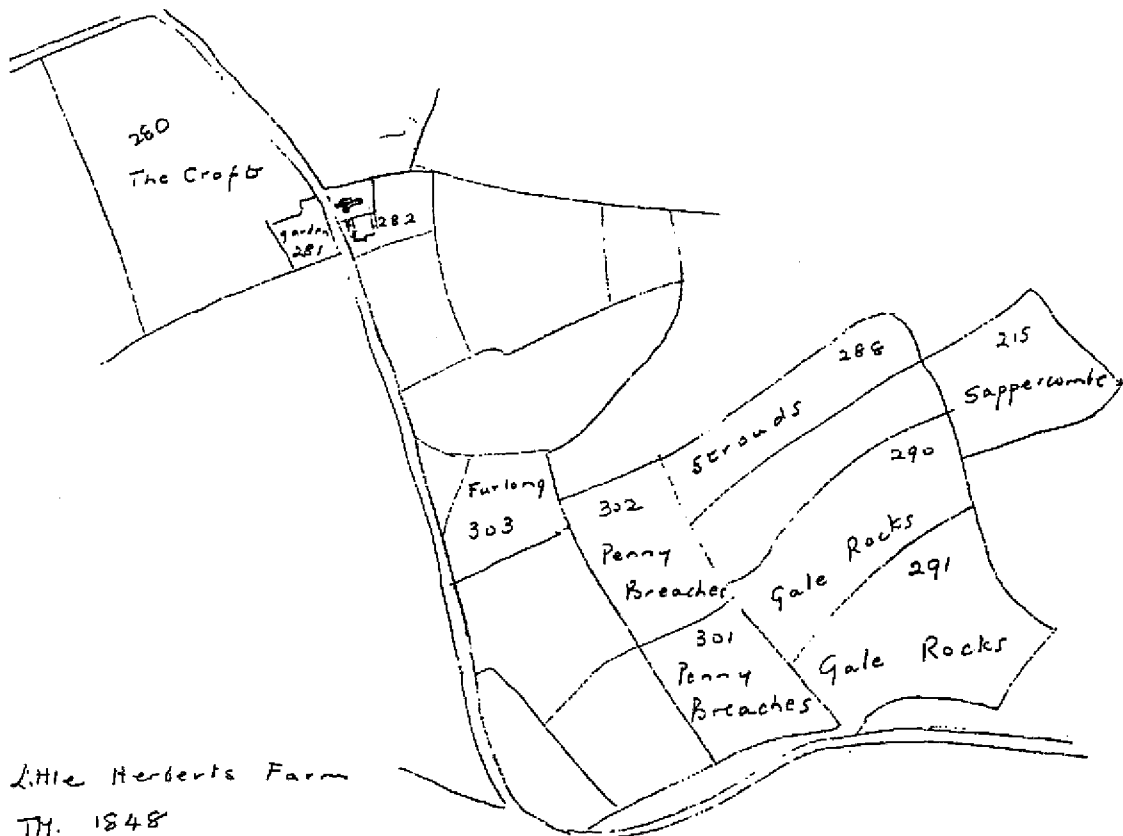
Michael of
Bath stable
keeper

Thomas of
Liverpool
stable
keeper

Elizabeth
spinsters

Caroline

Sarah TAYLOR
owner 1848 T.M.



Tracing with names added from Tithe map.

The acreage had been 47 acres in 1564; it was 46 acres in 1848.

	a.	r.	p.
Homestead (TM 283), pasture	1	3	4
garden (TM 281)			32
Croft (TM 280), arable	9	0	0
Sapercombe (TM 215), pasture	5	0	8
Strouds (TM 288), pasture	4	3	6
Gale Rocks (TM 290, 291) arable	5	2	1
	10	0	0
Penny Breach (TM 301, 302) pasture	3	3	5
	3	2	23
Furlong (TM 303) pasture			
occupied by Thos Masters	2	1	1

Pennybreaches, the Furlong, and land on Ravensgate (now called Gale's and Rook's) had been part of the farm in 1617.

This state of things was not to last much longer. The farm was heavily mortgaged, beyond its value, according to a surrender of 21 December 1849 by Elizabeth Taylor's attorney (GRO D 855 acc 2198 M 20 pp 215-8). By the date of the Charlton Park estate map of 1865, the farmhouse, unchanged, belonged to Sir William Russell. With his bankruptcy in 1874 it went to his creditors.

The Post Office Directory of 1879 shows Thomas George Mellersh, farmer, at Little Herberts farm; and he was given as occupier when the farm was put up for sale on 3 June 1879 (GRO D 1388 SL 6 no 62).

It is described as farm, homestead with barn and buildings, and about 41 acres of productive arable and pasture land, besides 2 inclosures called The Croft (13.1.24) with upwards of 1100 feet of road frontage "admirably adapted for building or market gardens". The farm was now freehold and bounded by lands of C.W. Lawrence esq, C.Lovesy esq and A. Brassey esq. Commuted tithe rent charge £8.16.1, land tax £3.2.0. The farm was lot 1.

110 Homestead		0	3	4
111 orchard	pasture	1	0	0
113 The Mead	pasture	0	1	0
114 Mansells	pasture	3	0	0
115 Mansells	pasture	2	3	7
120 Furlong	pasture	1	1	33
121 Breaches	pasture	3	1	34
122 Shrouds	pasture	3	1	14
123 Sappercomb	pasture	4	3	25
124 Lower Galerocks	arable	5	0	3
125 Upper Galerocks	arable and pasture	10	2	10
126 Penny Breaches	pasture	4	1	30
		41	0	0

Lot 2

109 The Croft, freehold, arable		9	1	10
112 The Croft, copyhold,				
Cheltenham	arable	4	0	14
		13	1	24

Lot 2 was in occupation of Mr E Chapman (of the other Little Herberts farm) and Mr. T.G. Mellersh. Commuted tithe rent charge £5.8.9; land tax 9s. Lot 1 and part of lot 2 in occupation of Mellersh at a rent of £129 which will be apportioned. Chapman's rent £37.5.0.

M. Paget

14. THE HEWINSONS AT LITTLE HERBERTS FARM

There are no Hewinsons in Charlton Kings registers till 1827. After that several families of the name lived and worked here or in Cheltenham. Among them was Robert Hewinson a gardener, probably living in Fairview, who had two sons Robert and George, neither baptised in Charlton. George must have been born c.1851-2, according to his age as given in the register when he died in 1918. He began life as a lime burner and that could have been on Charlton Common (see Bulletin 18, pp 17-20) or Leckhampton. His first wife's name is not known but by her he had a son Jim. Soon after her death when he was living at Ernest Cottage, Fairview, Cheltenham, he married again, at Cheltenham parish church, on 27 January 1877. His second wife was Harriet, daughter of George Simmons a farm bailiff, of 1 Oakley Villas, Charlton Kings. George was then 25 and his bride 30. Through Harriet he eventually became the owner of Oakley Cottage in Ryeworth and had moved there by 1880, when the Post Office Directory describes him as wheelwright.

It may have been Harriet who introduced her husband to the Baptist Church. She was living in Ryeworth when from 1865 to 1875 John Burgh Rochfort preached in the former Methodist chapel there, attracting some former Methodists and some who disliked Gabb's inexperienced curate. In 1875 Rochfort's congregation built a new chapel in Church Street, and in the same year Gabb retired to make way for Dundas whose High Church views were not acceptable to all. The Church Street congregation formally joined the Baptists in 1888. Harriet in 1908 and George in 1918 were buried in the parish churchyard "without rites".

There were three children of the marriage, Emmeline Mary born 13 January 1878, buried aged 7 months (when the parents were living in Ryeworth); Ernest Lewin born 28 November 1879; and Blanche Edith born 28 November 1882.

Not long afterwards, George got the opportunity to farm Little Herberts as tenant. The 1895 register of electors lists him as qualified to vote by reason of his tenancy of Little Herberts and his ownership of Oakley Cottage. His brother Robert had emigrated to America.



George Hewinson
as a young man



Harriet Simmond
as a girl



Harriet about the time of
her marriage



Harriet as an older woman



George Hewinson, Jim, Harriet,
Blanche, Ernest



Annie Simmons, Harriet's sister,
who never married



- Field, George's 3rd wife



Ernest Lewin Hewinson with the milk float
"G.Hewinson, Little Herberts Farm"

Robert HEWINSON
gardener

George
born c.1851-2
of Ernest Cottage, Fairview
lime burner, later of Oakley
Cottage, Ryeworth, wheelwright
c.1880, of Little Herberts Farm
farmer by 1895

Robert
went to America

George SIMMONS of 1
Oakley Villas, farm bailiff

m(1) -

m (2) Harriet

Annie (Hannah, a witness)

James
(Jim) d.aged 24

Emmeline
Mary born
13 Jan 1878
bur aged 7 mo
29 August 1878

Ernest Lewin
b 28 Nov 1879
d 22 Jan 1931
married at
Painswick
7 Sept 1912

Blanche Edith
b 28 Nov 1882
d 4 Dec 1920
witnessed brother's
marriage

Florence Agnes
sp aged 24, dau of Joseph IRELAND of
Painswick baker, d by 1910

m (3) - Field of
Ashley Place
Charlton Kings
dressmaker

Beryl
b 14 March 1923
m 2 June 1949

SHILL

Anne
b 1953

Beryl Shill, M. Paget

15. LITTLE HERBERTS AS REMEMBERED BY ALBERT MITCHELL WHO FARMED IT

I do remember the Hewinsons were at Little Herberts Farm. We used to buy their milk. I think it was owned by a Mr Edwards. He lived at Herbert Villa, later re-named Orchard House. He used the Orchard as Pleasure Gardens, swings, slides etc. All the Schools and Churches used it for treats, parties, teas, arriving in horse-drawn brakes.

On his death, it was sold. A Mr Organ, Green Dragon Inn, Coberley, bought it, a horse-dealer, supplied horses to the Army during the War 1914-18. After the War he sold the farm to Mr James from the Forest of Dean. Mr Organ lived on in the Villa. I took over land and buildings as tenant till sold for housing. I never heard of the name Russell.

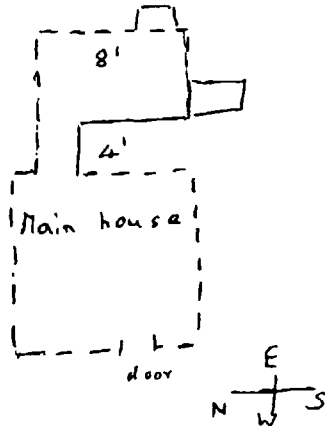
In the Town Library, a summons served on the farmer of Little Herberts Farm for obstructing a footpath, dated 1600.

A. Mitchell

16. POSTSCRIPT, AUGUST 1991

Miss Hickman told me that the house was undergoing alterations for the owner, Mrs Ritchings, but I was not in time to photograph the foundations of the old house which had been discovered under the present walls. However, I saw the south corner of the original doorway, as shown in Powell's sketch; and Mr Sansum who was working on the house explained that the stone foundations were 3 courses deep, each course slightly stepped on the inside, and that they had found dressed stones, in addition to a large front doorstep, (re-used), and another stone worn by feet at the back door. Behind the main house was a square 8 ft building attached to it by a 4 ft passage - this was probably a dairy. The present house does not extend southwards to include the lower section illustrated by Powell, so we don't know whether any foundations survive there. A spring by the house has re-appeared, and the stream which gave trouble in the 17th century.

Rough plan



17. THE PATES FAMILY OF CHARLTON KINGS

My own particular branch of the Pates family lived in Charlton Kings and Cheltenham for at least 375 years, definitely from 1516 until 1891. Most probably they were in Cheltenham before 1516. I know from the parish registers that there were Pates in Charlton Kings up to 1929 and I have been told that they lived here up to the 1950s. Before then, my own family had moved to London. However, there are still descendants of the family living in and around Cheltenham and I am in touch with some of these.

It was in 1516 that Richard Pate was born to Walter and Alice Pate in Cheltenham, which at that time was little more than a village or very small market town, with one long main street and a church. By 1551 its population was still only 870.

Walter and Alice Pate lived in the main street with their 2 sons and 5 daughters. Richard Pate was the eldest son and the most renowned member of the family, but my 10 x great grandfather was his younger brother William. Richard was Recorder of Gloucester in 1556 and a Member of Parliament in 1557-8, 1562-3 and 1586. He seems to have made himself a fortune in the late 1530s and 1540s by using his inside knowledge to acquire properties. This knowledge was gained by his work of aiding lay people to take over the chantries, after the dissolution of the monasteries decreed by Henry VIII.

In 1574 Richard Pate was given the residue of the parish church chantries in Cheltenham by royal grant from Elizabeth I, to provide the endowment of a school. This school had been founded in Cheltenham in 1572 by Richard Pate and the name Pates School still exists today, although the buildings have been renewed. Part of the original buildings was still in use until 1886. Richard Pate also founded what he called a hospital and we would call almshouses. These appear to have been very pleasant with separate rooms and gardens for 6 people and an income for each person of 1 shilling a week and 4d quarterly, and sufficient black cloth for gowns. It was quite generous for those days. The land and buildings, which were situated in the main street, were sold in 1801. The almshouses were demolished and much smaller ones built in Albion Street, where they still stand.

So, although Richard Pate lived most of his life in Gloucester, he never forgot his birthplace. He died in 1588 and his tomb is in Gloucester Cathedral. He outlived his only child, Margaret and his grand-daughter Susan inherited his fortune. So the Pates name was continued through his younger brother William. There doesn't seem to have been a lot of brotherly love between the two men, as the only bequest Richard left in his will to William was his 4th best suit of apparel!

I am indebted to Richard Pate for one thing, taking me further back in the family tree. In 1557 he applied to the College of Arms for his coat of arms to be recognised. They turned down his application but in it he stated that his grandfather was called John Pate and his great grandfather was a Reynolds Pate from 'Cornischewe' in Cornwall. Cornischewe doesn't seem to exist, so was he telling the truth? Well I don't suppose I shall ever know. There are Pates mentioned in Cornwall in the mid 1400s but no place called Cornischewe. Gwen Hart in her book 'A History of Cheltenham' says that Richard Pate the recorder was almost certainly related to the Richard Pate who became Bishop of Worcester and who was at one time committed to the Tower of London by Elizabeth I before being banished abroad. However, I have not found any definite proof of this connection, although the family names are very similar and both Richard Pates went to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, although six years apart.

Well, back to William Pate, he married Elizabeth Linnett on the 29th May 1547 in Charlton Kings. Elizabeth was the youngest of the 3 daughters of Thomas and Alice Linnett, and through them William and Elizabeth acquired property and land in Charlton Kings, including Sandford Mill. This was to pass to future generations, as was Elizabeth's surname.

John Stubbs of Charlton Kings produced lists of Charlton tenants and their holdings and in 1557 William Pate held 52 acres in base tenure in part of Colpitate and part of Hawbeach, and in 1564 he held 52 acres in Hawgrove and 33 acres in Badleton. This was the 4th largest holding in the area, so the family seems to have been reasonably affluent. They certainly employed servants and were given the title of gentlemen in documents and registers.

William and Elizabeth had 3 sons and 6 daughters. Their eldest son Walter appears to have died without issue and their second son William seems to have been a 'black sheep'. He was not mentioned in his father's will in 1596 but Elizabeth Pate was more forgiving. In 1598 she leaves money to William's son Walter, her grandson, to pay the 4 years owing for his apprenticeship to John Tayler, a city of London haberdasher, and £8 to be paid to Walter at the end of his apprenticeship, if William has behaved himself well and honestly. She also asks that William's daughter Elizabeth "shall be honestly and decently kept and brought up at the cost and charge of mine Executors by their discretion until the age of fourteen years except her father in the meanspace be found sufficiently able to perform the same himself."

It was William and Elizabeth's third son Richard who was to continue living in Charlton Kings. He married Edith Higges on the 26th January 1593/4 in Leigh. Her grandfather was Thomas Higges who had been well known in Cheltenham and held the rectory from Francis Bacon. They had 5 sons and 4 daughters. One of the sons John Pates, who died in 1647, has a memorial plaque in the south wing of St. Mary's Church along with his sister Anne, wife of Walter Currier. This John Pates was a learned man, having matriculated at the age of 17 and received a BA from Oxford University in 1624 and an MA in 1627. John Pates died without issue as did two other sons, so the family line continued through the eldest son Thomas and the youngest son Linnett.

Their father Richard had control over many types of property. Gwen Hart says "he held copyhold land in Charlton Kings, Alstone, Arle, Westhall, Naunton and Sandford as well as freehold properties in Charlton Kings and Cheltenham fields, a house and 2 acres on burgage tenure in the borough, and 13 ½ acres of demesne land on lease." Richard Pates was also one of the 32 jurors chosen to answer the questions put by John Norden in 1617 in his survey of freeholders and customary tenants called 'Extent of the Manor of Cheltenham'. These questions ranged from the ancient customs of the parish to the number of trout and eels in the river Chelt. The survey shows that Richard Pates held 3 freehold properties in Charlton and 24 varying acreages as customary tenant. He had 29 acres as pasture, 21 acres of meadow and 32 acres of arable as well as coppices and furze. He also had 2 watermills in Sandford with garden and stable and his own dwelling house with garden.

When Richard Pates died, his Cheltenham, Arle and Alstone property went to Thomas and the Charlton Kings, Naunton, Westhall, and Sandford lands were given to Linnett. The latter was married on the 12th May 1640 in Prestbury to Mary Taylor alias Rudgehall. Samuel Rudgehall was Mary's father and he had as much property as Richard Pates in Charlton Kings but doesn't seem to have merited the title of gentleman.

Linnett and Mary had 3 sons and 3 daughters, although the eldest daughter died at the age of 4 years. There is also a sad entry in the parish register "1670 October 29 buried the same day Richard and Elizabeth son and daughter of Linnet Pates gent". (Linnett is spelt in many different ways.) Was there some kind of accident or perhaps an infectious disease is more likely.

So 2 sons survived, Linnett and Thomas, both of whom are my 7 x great grand-fathers. Thomas married Frances Crumpe in 1679. She was the daughter of William Crumpe, the local blacksmith, and whose forebears appear to have kept an ale house. It was through their sons, Thomas, William and Richard, all producing offspring, that the number of Pates in Charlton Kings increased during the 18th century. In 1711 Thomas's eldest son Thomas was to marry his cousin, Judith as her 2nd husband. She was the daughter of Linnett's 1st wife Judeth Norwood, who died at her birth. Judeth Norwood was the daughter of Francis Norwood of Leckhampton. Linnett's second wife was Catherine Trotman, who after his death in 1685 married secondly William Ruck and thirdly John Batten.

Linnett Pates seems to have lived at what is now called Spring Cottage, Bafford Lane and the inventory taken of his possessions after his death is most interesting. It goes through every room naming all the items in each and even giving colours of bed curtains rugs etc. He obviously still farmed in the old way as the inventory included 2 yoke of oxen as well as 4 horses. He also owned 37 ewes and lambs, 50 hogs, 67 dry sheep, 12 cows without calves, 7 two-year old beasts, 7 yearlings, 3 weaned calves and 3 unweaned and 6 pigs.

Judeth was not quite 5 years old at the time of her father's death and her story really deserves an article of its own. Briefly at the age of 13½ she married John Grevill, although the marriage allegation states she is 16 or thereabouts. She had 6 Grevill children only 2 of whom survived her. John Grevill's death is not recorded in the Charlton Kings parish register but it must have occurred between 1706 and 1709, as on the 10th April 1709 a daughter Mary was baptised to Judeth and Thomas Pates. They were not married until the 7th September 1711. There were 6 Pates children and after Thomas's death Judeth married a 3rd husband, Roger Probert. She died aged 68 having outlived all her husbands.

In 1735 Judeth and Thomas Pates' eldest son, Thomas, claimed lands and a dwelling house in Bafford as heir to his father. He married Mary Sollis in Charlton Kings on 6th May 1739 and they produced 6 sons and 6 daughters, many of whom died young. To the best of my knowledge only the youngest son Thomas carried on the family line. Thomas marrying Mary Gardner in 1792. She was the daughter of Thomas Gardner of Crab End. Thomas's eldest brother William may have had offspring but there are several William Pates alive at this time and it is very difficult to differentiate between them. William was almost 20 years older than Thomas and, in 1799, he passed over the use of land and cottages in Bafford to his brother Thomas. This land was to be Thomas's absolutely after William's death. So Bafford land had been passed from generation to generation for many years and when Thomas died in 1837 he left 9 cottages between his 3 sons, Thomas, John and Samuel.

Perhaps because of this continual division of property and land, the Pates family were now far from wealthy. In fact in 1845 two of Samuel's daughters were unable to go to Sunday school because they had no shoes to wear. The number of Pates living in Charlton Kings was on the decline. In the 1851 census there were 45 Pates, in 1861 there were 22 and by 1881 there were only 12. This could have been due to the agricultural depression and that the families had to move away to earn a living.

The 12 Pates left in Charlton Kings in 1881 were Joseph Pates of Timbercombe Farm and his brother William with wife Eliza and 3 children living at Charlton Cottage. One of William's sons, William was living in Chesnut Row with his wife Martha and their 2 children. These 10 people were descended from William Pates (bapt. 1689) and Elizabeth Freeman. The only other Pates were Edmund and his stepmother living at Endfield Cottage. The two Williams were gardeners and Edmund was a carpenter. Edmund (bapt. 1827) was the son of John Pates and Elizabeth Chard.

By 1881 my great grandfather John had been living in Cheltenham for many years, where he too was a gardener or nurseryman. His son Edward Pates owned many businesses and other property in Cheltenham, including the Imperial Nurseries and Bayshill Dairy.

The last Pates entry in the Charlton Kings parish register of baptisms is '1890 April 23rd Henry Charles and Alfred John baptised to Alfred and Emily Pates of Charlton Kings, shoemaker'. The last burial entry that I found is in 1929, when Sarah Anne Pates, Newlyn Villa, Copt Elm Road died July 29th age 79. However, I am told that Reuben Pates also of Copt Elm Road was living there until around 1950. If anyone has any knowledge of him or any other Pates living in Charlton Kings around this time, I would be very glad to hear from them.

I have necessarily had to write a very short version of the Pates family history and to concentrate mainly on my own branch of the family, but I do have a great deal of other material on the Pates and other connected families which I would be glad to share with anybody who is interested.

June
 1680
 Buried the seventh day June 80
 Daughter of Samuel Morris
 Baptized the fourteenth day June
 Daughter of Walter Gigg
 Baptized the sixteenth day June 80
 Daughter of Linnett Pates gent
 Buried the seventeenth day June 80
 Linnett Pates gent.
 Wm. Pates
 Linnett Pates Churchwarden
 Wm. Pates

PHOTOCOPY FROM CHARLTON KING'S PARISH REGISTER - Signature of Lynette Pates

PATES FAMILY TREE (1)

REYNOLDE PATE

from Cornwall

↓

JOHN PATE

↓

WALTER PATE = ALICE

d. 1553-9 d. 20 Mar 1559/60
Churchwarden Cheltenham
1553

Richard SEP 1516 - 1588 m. Matilda ↓ Margaret m. Richard Brook ↓ Susan	Margaret m. Richd Tomkin ↓ Alice	<u>WILLIAM = ELIZ. LINNETT</u> m. 29 May 1547 C.Kings gentleman d. 18 Apr 1596 Chelt. Eliz d. 30 Oct 1598	Alice m. Darke	Johan m. Thomas Pury ↓ Alice Walter	Elinor m. Richd Ockold 1558 ↓ Edwd, Alice+ Agnes d. pre 1560	Agnes m. John Atwell ↓
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Walter d. pre 1596 ↓ Katherine	Alice m. Webbe ↓ Elizabeth	William m. Alice he d. 1610 ↓ Walter Elizabeth	Agnes m. Robt Mansell 1579 ↓ Rich Eliz. Jane	<u>RICHARD = EDITH HIGGES</u> m. 26 Jan 1593/4 Leigh d. 6 Dec 1628 C. Kings Edith bp 25 Mar 1572 in Norton Edith bu 24 Sep 1650	Joyce m. Ant. 1583 ↓ William John Anthony	Margrt. bp. 1561 m. 1589 John Dickens ↓ Eliz. Edward	Jane 1565 m. Thos. Bowland ↓ Jane Jane	Elinor 1567 m. John Crowther 1595 ↓ Eliz.
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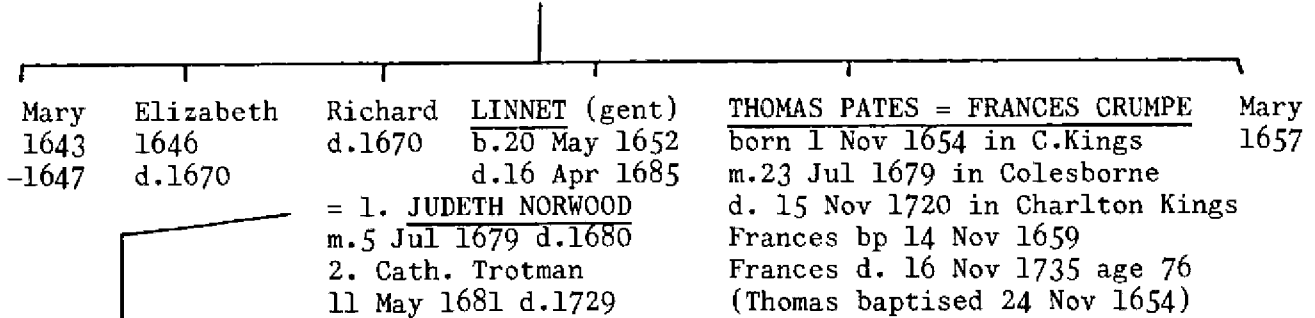
Edith Dec 1594 m. Arthur Bleeke 1617 ↓ Richard Alice	Thos 1596 -1685 m. Mary Banaster ↓ John Ann 1632-88 m. Frances ↓ Charles, Eliz. Frances, Mary	Willm 1599 -1647 m. Walt. Currier ↓ 5 chld.	Anne 1601 -1647 Will BA 1624 MA 1627 ↓ no offspring	John 1603- 1646/7 Will 1624 1627 ↓ no offspring	Richard 6 Jul 1606 -1634 1627 1630 ↓	Alice 15 Jan 1608 -1637 m. John Stubbs 1639 ↓ Eliz	Eliz 6 Jan 1610 m. Walt Higgs 1639 ↓ Eliz	<u>LINNETT = MARY RUGGEDALL</u> m. 12 May 1640 d. 23 Jun 1679 Gentleman Overseer of the Poor 1649 & 1663	TAYLOR alias Prestbury C.Kings
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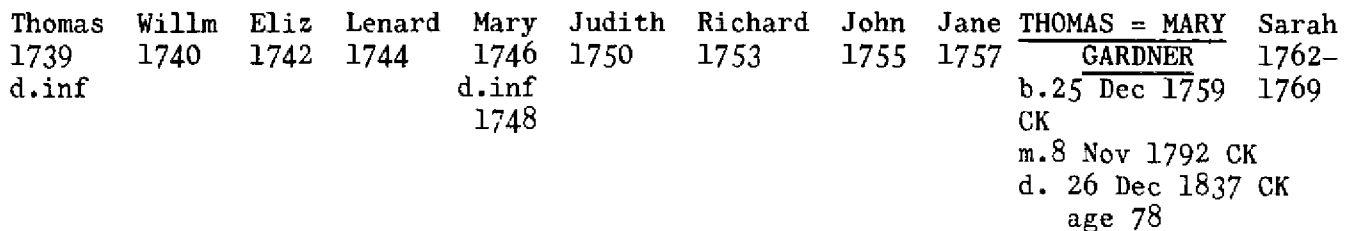
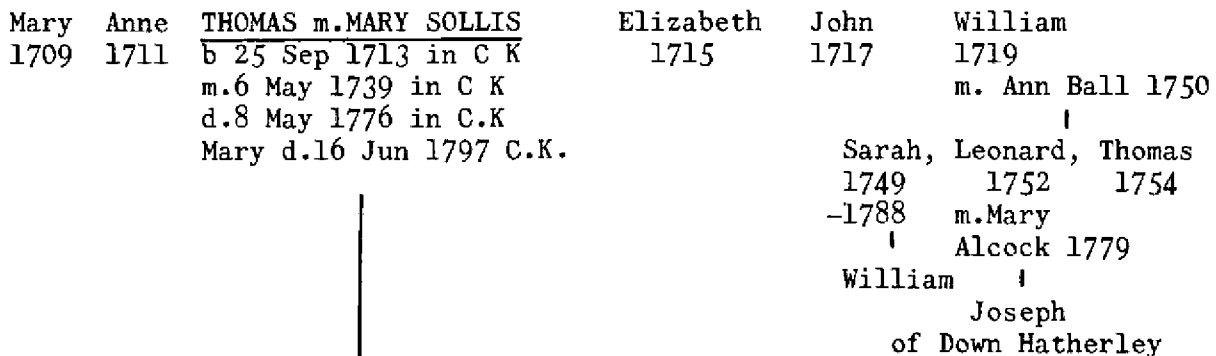
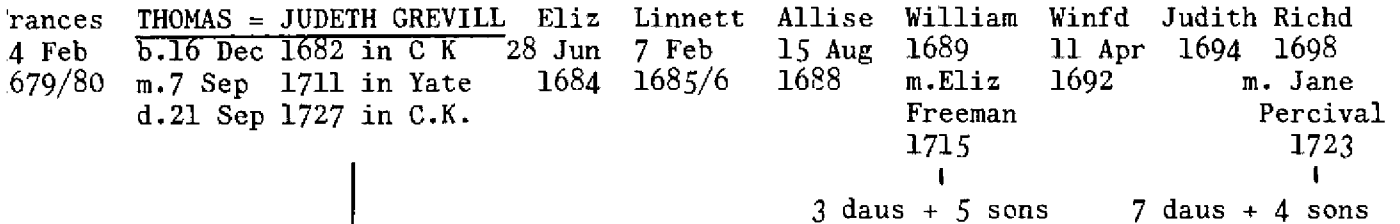
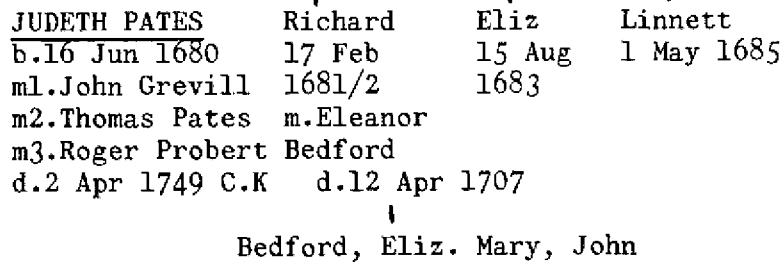
PATES FAMILY TREE (2)

LINNETT PATES = MARY TAYLOR alias RUDGEDALL

m. 12 May 1640 Prestbury bp 16 Jun 1620 Charlton Kings
 d. 23 Jun 1679 C. Kings d. 25 May 1678 Charlton Kings



*



* same person

PATES FAMILY TREE (3)

THOMAS PATES = MARY GARDNER

b.25 Dec 1759 b.12 Aug 1761
 m.8 Nov 1792 d.13 Apr 1831
 d.26 Dec 1837 Charlton Kings
 Charlton Kings

THOMAS PATES = ANN CAPPER

b.24 Nov 1793 in C.Kings
 m.8 April 1816 Mary de Lode
 d.30 Jun 1874 Charlton Kings
 Ann bp 2 Nov 1794 in Hartpury

Mary

28 Feb 1796
 D.Inf.

John (builder)

4 Mar 1798

m.1.1826 Eliz Chard

m.2.1846 Eliz Cox

d.17 Oct 1863

Edmund 1827

no issue

Samuel

16 Mar 1800

m.Sarah Hamlet

1824

6 sons + 4 daus

JOHN PATES = ANNE POYTRESS

b.19 July 1818 in CK
 m.21 Dec 1838 in Chelt.
 buried. 20 Jul 1891 nurseryman
 Anne bp 5 Jan 1815 in Tirley
 Anne buried 22 Feb 1883 Cheltenham

Elizabeth?
 1819/20

Mary

30 Mar 1821

m.8 May 1843

James Green

Mary d.23 Dec 1872

Thomas = Eliza

7 Sept 1823 Dessimore

1 son + 6 daus

Anna Maria
 Poytress
 1836 Chelt.

William
 1839
 Chelt
 d.1883?

ANNE ELIZABETH = HENRY JOHN AGG

b. 18 April 1841 in Cheltenham
 m.30 Mar 1869 St. Pauls Chelt.
 d. 6 Mar 1897 London
 Jeweller

1 son + 4 daus

Susan
 1844
 Prestbury

Edward = Eliz
 1846
 Prestbury
 d.1922 d.1930
 Florist

3 sons + 2 daus

Pat Crewe

18. EDMUND CARRINGTON

B. Brussels 11 Sep 1842. Ensign 29th Foot 7 Nov '62. Lieut 4 Nov '64. Instructor of Musketry 21 Aug '66 - 8 Oct '69. Capt 9 Oct '69. Major 1 July '81. (In 1881 the 29th became 1st Bn The Worcestershire Regt.)

In Dec '83 commanded a detachment of the Regt employed with the Bikanir Field Force; served with the Zhob Valley expedition Sep - Dec '84.

Lt Col 11 Aug '86, becoming CO of 1st Bn Worcestershire Regt 2 Mar '87. After 4 years in command, placed on Half-pay 2 Mar '91.

Colonel and Deputy Quartermaster-General Bombay 8 Mar '91 - 31 Mar '95; Assistant Quartermaster-General HQ Bombay 1 Apr '95 - 8 Mar '96 then retired on half-pay.

Married 15 Nov '97 at Yately, Hants, Grace Agnes d. of the late Capt F.D.Lumley. Died of heart failure at Poundisford Lodge, Taunton, 5 Sep '98 when staying with Col C.H. Helyar (of Worcs Regt). Buried at Poundisford.

The memorial to Col Carrington in St. Mary's, Charlton Kings, was presumably erected after his brothers' offer to put up a chancel screen in his memory had been turned down (See History of Charlton Kings, p.123). The memorial includes a Valise Star of the 29th (a distinction of that Regt still held by The Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters Regt, following amalgamation in 1970). When the 29th & 36th amalgamated in 1881 to form the Worcs Regt the 1st Bn disagreed with a new design of Valise Star and wore these with the centre hammered plain. It is one such Star which has been used as part of this memorial with '29' engraved in the centre. Though the Star was not worn by officers (inter alia, it was worn on the valise or large pack by other ranks when changing station), its use on Col Carrington's memorial is highly suitable, as it very much symbolises the Regiment and the elongated form of the star recalls the raising of what was then 'Farrington's Foot' by Col Thomas Farrington, an officer of the 2nd (Coldstream) Regt of Guards in 1694, the Coldstream having a similar star.

Roman script. Brass plate
IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF/EDMUND CARRINGTON/FORMERLY COLONEL/1st
WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT./BORN AT BRUSSELS 11 SEPT 1842/DIED AT PITMINSTER NEAR/
TAUNTON 5 SEPT 1898/ERECTED BY HIS BROTHERS.

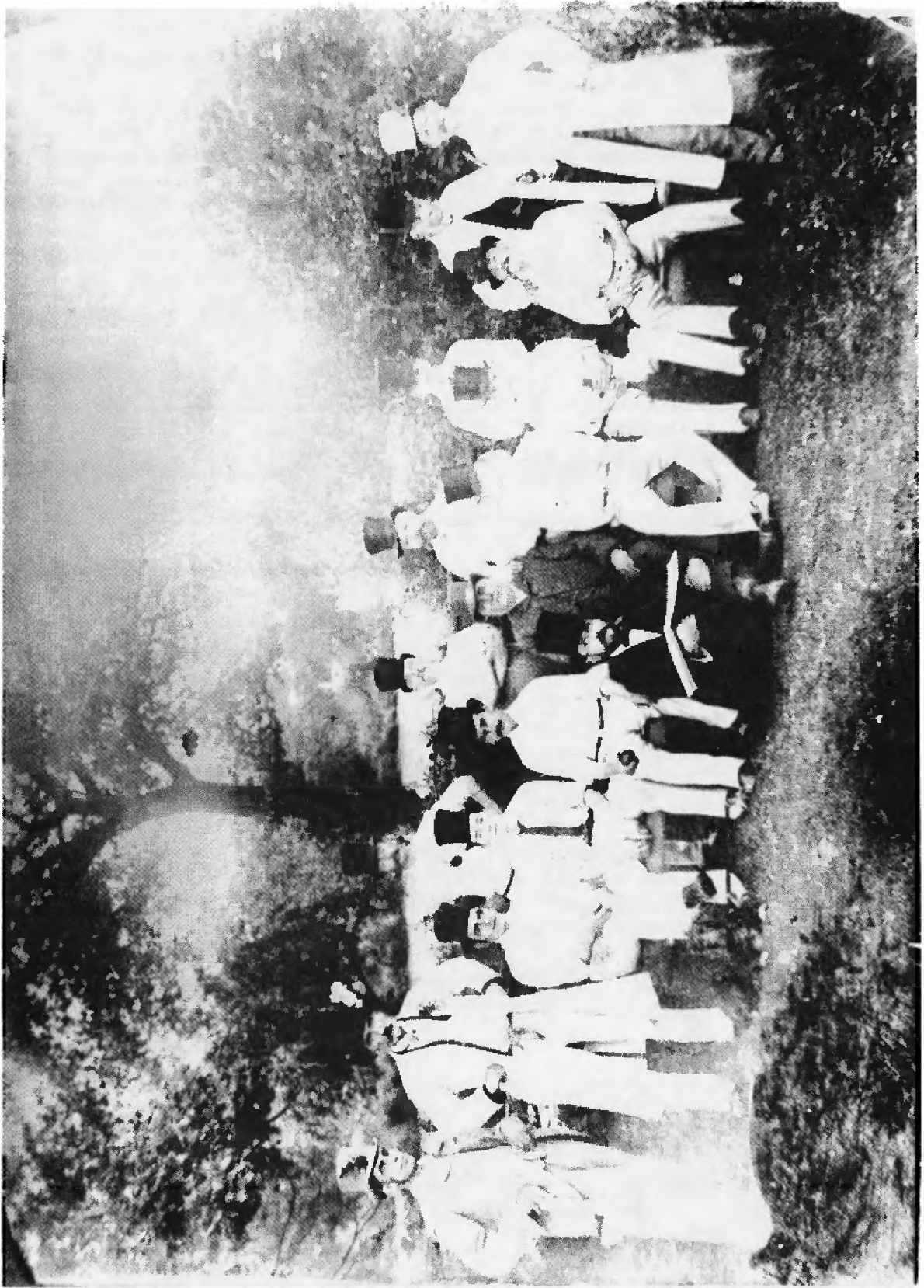
P. Love

19. CRICKET AT RYEWORTH

This photograph was found by Mrs Cecilia M. Muckelroy nee Bridgeman among her father's papers and given to Charlton Kings Local History Society in February 1990.

Two people can be identified, Albert Dowler Mitchel of Glenfall Farm and Ham Farm (centre) who died 7 December 1962 aged 89; and the umpire John Bate (in white coat at end of row), Mrs. Muckelroy's uncle, who died in 1947 aged 91.

The question is, when was this photograph taken? Mrs. Muckelroy queried 1890 because of the costumes. But this is clearly too early having regard to the age of A.D.Mitchell (born 1873). The ancient cricket bat and the decorated top hats must have been assumed to mark some occasion, perhaps the first 25 years of cricket in Charlton Kings, 1904, or the jubilee, 1929; probably the latter. If we could identify the scorer or the batsman it would help to pinpoint this most interesting photograph.



20. THE LAST DAYS OF CHURCHEND MESSE (THE THATCHED COTTAGE IN HORSEFAIR STREET)

I believe I have established the year of its demolition as 1939. We moved into 'Dextra', 100 Horsefair Street, as soon as it was built and the cottage was pulled down within a few weeks. I have the Building Society repayment book for the mortgage and the first entry is February 1939.

I was born there in 1921, but I'm not sure how long my parents had occupied the cottage before that date. It belonged to the various owners of Somerset House. A Mrs Palmer was often mentioned as an earlier owner, and I can remember Mrs Thomas, Mr Parslow, and Mr Snow, who was the owner when we moved.

The laundry was a single storey, slate roofed, addition to the cottage, although it had the appearance of a very old red brick building with weathered and in some parts eroded brickwork. Could it have been built with old salvaged bricks?

The cottage was at a slightly lower level than the laundry. Also, the outside path at the back of the cottage was higher than the floor level, with two steeper steps when leaving through the back door of the kitchen.

To take the rooms one by one, the kitchen was the general living room for six (parents, grandparents, and brother until he married), although there were rarely more than four in there at any one time. The bulk of the cooking was done in the kitchen over the fire or in the two large ovens on either side. A gas cooker, situated between the ironing room and the washroom was sometimes used as an extra point or when something required a long constant temperature. There was no gas point in the kitchen and the only means of lighting was an oil lamp. I believe a Bye-law or a Gas Company rule at one time had limited the number of gas points permissible in a dwelling and therefore the laundry had been given priority, although two gas lights existed, one each side of the grate, in the parlour. There was one window in the front and small glass panes in the kitchen door leading outside.

I've no idea how the mangle room got its name, although through most of my boyhood a large unused mangle stood in the middle. Perhaps the room was utilised to provide maximum floor space in the laundry when it was full operational, before my time. At the back end was the staircase under which was a semi-cellar of no great depth. There was only a front window under which a sink stood. Both hot and cold water had to be carried to the sink and it was the main washing point for both humans and utensils. The food safe was in this room and crockery and hardware were also kept there, to relieve the limited space of the kitchen. It contained no permanent lighting.

The parlour was an occasional room with better quality furniture and was always used for dinner and supper on Sundays or any celebratory occasions. It also had a large grate with ovens, and the lighting was the afore-mentioned gas points in the form of two gas mantles. It relied mainly on natural light from the back window, as a wooden partition, which took most of the light from the front window, formed a passage from the mangle room to the laundry. It was probably fitted to prevent the front door opening into the parlour. The back window was the only window at the back of the cottage.

All the downstairs floors were, I believe, sandstone slabs of irregular-sized squares or rectangles and badly hollowed on the surface by wear. It was found that at an earlier date they had been reversed so that both sides had hollows exceeding 2 inches in the most used areas.

Whilst the ceiling heights downstairs were quite adequate for a tall person, the ceiling heights of the bedrooms were limited by the pitch of the roof, so that an adult had to stoop when approaching the front or back of all three bedrooms. There were no windows at the back of the bedrooms and those at the front were small, as seen in the photograph (History p 52, Bulletin 24 p 36).

There was no door from the stairs to bedroom 2 and access to bedroom 1 was through bedroom 2. There was no lighting or heating upstairs, other than that carried, such as lighted candles, hot water, warming pans, or heated sand-filled jars as bed warmers. Extreme care was always necessary for fear of fire to the thatched roof and the chimney stacks (over exposure in the corner of the photograph failed to show one chimney stack) were so tall they appeared to be out of proportion to the remainder of the cottage.

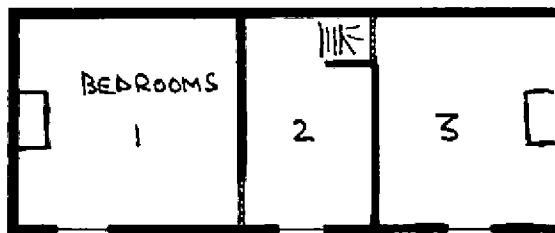
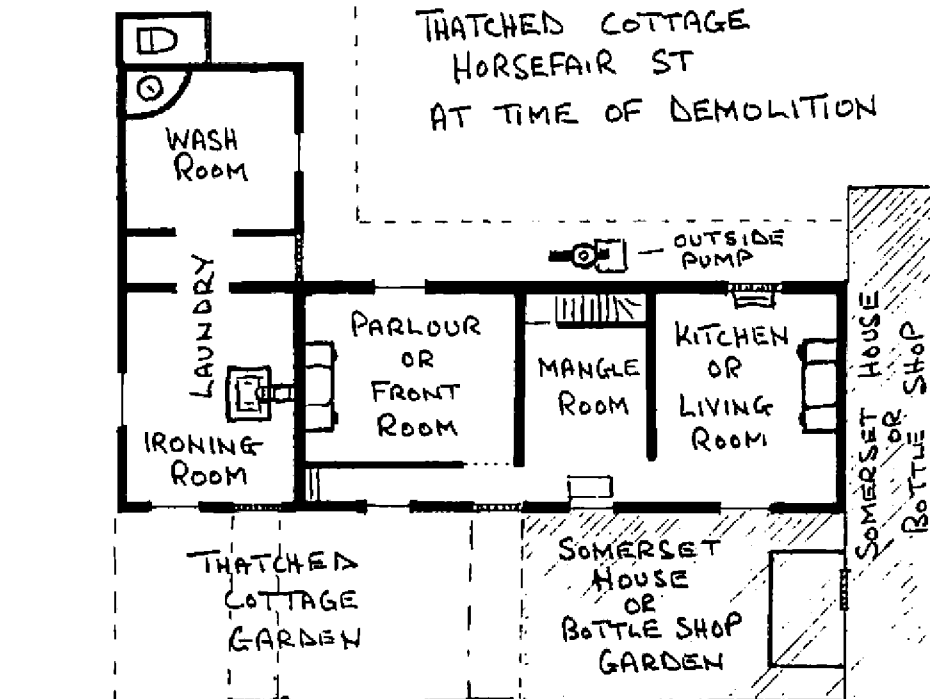
During my memory, the laundry was only used by my mother. But from conversation it was established that it was in full use up to the time of the first World War. In the wash-room there was a large coal-fired copper in the corner, and tressels on which stood three large scrubbing tubs complete with scrubbing boards. There was also a large wooden barrel with a wringer. Perhaps this was the original position of the mangle. All the water used for the laundry was carried by bucket from the pump.

The ironing room was larger than the wash room and there were ironing benches to accommodate four or five ladies. Overhead was a maze of clothes lines for airing or drying clothes during wet weather. The focal point was the iron stove which was flued into the main stack. Around its outside there were three racks on which rested a total of about thirty hand irons of various sizes and shapes, to suit each particular purpose, from large sheets to stiff starched collars; also crimping tongs for collar or cuff frills on servants' uniform. On occasions the stove glowed red hot. The floor was formed from what I believe were ordinary house bricks.

The ironing room, when not in use at the weekends, doubled up as the bathroom, the stove providing ample heating with the copper providing the hot water.

The pump and well produced perfect drinking water which remained cool throughout the hottest summers. Its reputation had obviously reached certain of the local shepherds who often stopped leaving a flock of sheep bound for Cheltenham market in the road whilst they came around the back of the cottage for a drink. I regret I am unable to comment on the dimensions or depth of the well as the only maintenance the pump ever required was thawing out during severe frosts and a visit to the cobbler's to obtain a large sheet of leather to make a new cap for the piston, about every two or three years.

The one luxury - the toilet was connected to the sewer. However as it was at the far end of the laundry, with entry from the garden, weather-proofs were required on wet nights because after the water left in a bucket in the toilet had been used to fill the handwashing bowl and to flush the toilet, it had to be filled at the pump and returned for the next user; and there are no gutters on a thatch.



NOT QUITE TO SCALE.

THE ROOMS IN THE COTTAGE WERE NARROWER THAN THEY APPEAR IN THE SKETCH.

Jack Summers

21. A STORY OF CHARLTON KINGS DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

My brother, eager to fight for his Country, left the G.W.R. and was told the railways were exempt from their men serving in the fighting services and he would not get his job back; he did and became a passenger guard.

The Royal Cycling Corps were formed and their barracks were at Charlton House which is now the Spirax Sarco offices at the bottom of Cirencester Road. My brother joined this regiment. The Regiment paraded with their band to St. Mary's church, Charlton Kings, every Sunday morning. I was a choir boy by then and always looked out for my brother. Bill and Frank Hobbs (from Smith and Hobbs, tailors, from Woodmancote near Cirencester) later joined; they were from a very religious family and close relatives of mine. The first night in the barracks, they knelt down and said their prayers. Cans were thrown at them and they put up with a lot of abuse from certain soldiers; however, they became great favourites.

Sentries were always posted with fixed bayonets at the entrance opposite Holy Apostles' Church, and these two would do anyone's duty when they wanted a night off. Frank lost a leg during the War and Bill was badly wounded.

The Cycle Corps was disbanded and the regiment sent to Sneedhams Green, Gloucester. The soldiers had to choose other regiments. My brother chose the 10th Loyal North Lancashires and was made a Corporal.

When my brother came home on Leave, he was always singing marching songs. Well I remember and still sing them occasionally, as follows:-

"We march down the Arras Road
Night after night.
We get sniped from our left and sniped from our right.
Something will happen to us very soon,
Up in the air will go the blooming balloon!"

"I wear a tunic, a nice khaki tunic, and you wear civilian clothes.
We fought and fell at Loos
When you were scoffing booze
Over at Home, as everybody knows.
You stole our wenches
When we were in the trenches
Facing an angry foe.
You were slacking, when we were attacking
Way down the Laventie Road"

There was a ditty being sung in England

"What do we want with eggs and ham
When we got plum and apple jam
Eyes right, left turn, what shall we do with the money we earn?
Oh, Oh, Oh,
What a lovely War!"

However, the 10th Loyal Lancs were killed except for a few, my brother one of them. Not enough to reform.

My brother joined the Royal Engineers. His job was to drive a narrow-gauge engine with supplies of ammunition up to our front line of trenches. Each night the Germans would send up Verey lights and light up the whole area, then the shelling began. One night a shell dropped right in front of my brother's engine; engine and my brother down into the crater! Shell-shocked, he was sent home for two weeks, arriving very thin and tunic with seams full of lice. Mother put the tunic in very frosty weather into a zinc bath to become covered with ice. Drying and ironing it, there were still lice alive in the seams!

On the day my brother was to go back to France, he went to town and met Mr George Ryland, then an officer in the Tank Corps. They went to school together. They were celebrating, not knowing whether they would ever meet again, God only knew. With only one hour to spare before my brother's departure, Mother was at the front gate of our home in Cirencester Road, crying and upset, looking for him. Eventually my brother boarded the tram car at the terminus outside our house, clinging on to the bar, on the step at the back, waving all down Cirencester Road!

Mr Ballinger, a very close friend of mine and father of Mr Ballinger the schoolmaster of Charlton Kings Junior School, was a Sergeant in the Grenadier Guards. He told me some very gruesome stories of the War. They were told to advance towards the enemy lines with fixed bayonets. There were dead decomposed bodies all around and running over the bodies, bones were crunching. Also, before the advance there was a rum ration; when opening a tin of jam, the rim of the tin

was instantly smothered with flies; and the stench all around was vile.

My brother in the Second World War joined the Home Guard. He dropped dead at his allotment gate aged 78, his worldly task was ended. Mr Ballinger my good friend passed away age 84.

Frederick George Taylor



William Taylor in the uniform of the Royal Cycling Corps



The Corps at Sneedhams Green before being disbanded.

22. CHARLTON TREES (2) -The MULBERRY IN MORLANDS DRIVE

It is hard to guess at the age of this tree, which once belonged to The Knappings. It is natural for mulberries to lean over - left alone they would propagate themselves by natural layering, the fallen branches rooting themselves. This is morus nigra, described in Hilliers' Manual of Trees and Shrubs as "A small very long-lived architectural tree with wide spreading head, becoming gnarled and picturesque with age. Leaves heart-shaped, rough above, downy below. Fruits dark almost black-red, with an agreeable taste. W.Asia. Said to have first been grown in England early in the 16th century". There used to be a number of mulberries in Charlton, one I remember at Sturmy's Cottage in Balcarras but none so fine or old as this one.



Photographed 2 February
1990



Mary Paget