

CHARLTON KINGS  
LOCAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 27

## 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.

The Bulletin is published twice a year. An Index to Bulletins 1-7 is available price £2; an index to Bulletins 8-16 will be ready soon.

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## 1. OBITUARIES

### (1) Helen Bennett

Mrs Helen Bennett, who died on 23 October 1991 aged 92, was one of our earliest members and a contributor to Bulletins 1 and 3. Especially valuable were her recollections of Wager Court as it was during her childhood when her parents lived there, before the 1912-14 rebuilding of the oldest part, information that would otherwise have been totally lost. Her photographs of the house as it was are also something we could have found nowhere else. We owe her a great debt.

M. Paget

### (2) Beryl Bick

A special personality of the village left us in October 1991 when Beryl Frances Bick died on the 31st day of the month.

Beryl or Bobby as she was known by her family was born on a farm near Tewkesbury in 1907 and was the youngest daughter of the fairly large family of Leslie Ernest Bick and Kate Bick (who was a scion of the Charlton Clevely family). When her father's health began to cause concern, they moved back to Charlton Kings in 1924 to live in the 16th century cottage Brevels Haye (see Bulletin 24).

Beryl's childhood was very strict and church had to be attended at least twice on Sundays, but she found Canon Neale very inspiring. She won a scholarship to Ribston Hall School Gloucester, and was considered the cleverest pupil in her group, but when she was aged 14 her parents took her away as she was wanted at home, her father's health was deteriorating. So from then on, she was at the beck and call of everyone and gave her life to all the family around her. Eventually she was able to take a job with Georges, the well known caterers in Cheltenham High Street and worked as a general help and waitress until she was smitten down with rheumatoid arthritis in the early 40s. This confined her to bed for two years, much of which she spent at the General Hospital. She was one of the first patients to receive gold and cortisone injections. The former she found gave her much benefit. Her limbs became very disfigured and she suffered poor health for the rest of her life. She had great courage and tenacity, well illustrated by the way she used a bicycle for transporting herself in the town or village as she was not able to walk easily. It was only when she became an octogenarian that she was persuaded to give it up, much to the relief of her family and friends!

Beryl spent the latter half of her working life as a finance and clerical assistant with the firms of Oldacres and London Road Garden Shop. Her grasp of figures and all forms of mathematics was remarkable and one almost felt her brain worked like a computer.

Her concern and kindness for young people was evident for all to see, and her sister-in-law Mrs Rose Bick encouraged her to 'Nanny' her two young daughters, which gave her much happiness. In return, all her nephews and nieces of two generations loved her very much - at her funeral they were present from all parts of the country.

Beryl kept a daily diary and collected many interesting papers, some of which it is hoped can be relayed in future bulletins. She was a member of the society, though unable to attend meetings. It was through her efforts that Brevels Haye became a Scheduled house.

M.L.Clarke

(3) **Bert Thornton** (1907-1992)

All Charlton Kings has lost a friend in the death of Bert Thornton, (who died 30 January 1992), for 10 years our verger at St. Mary's. We owed much to his help when we first began transcribing the parish registers, some time before they were deposited at Gloucestershire Record Office.

M.P.

2. **RYEWORTH FARM (CHELTENHAM MANOR), NOW LITTLE MANOR**

The name Ryeworth 'the farm in the rye inclosure' suggests a Saxon origin and it seems likely that there was a farmstead here before the re-organisation of Cheltenham manor c.1050-1086 turned Ryeworth into an open field with strips (still visible on the 1848 tithe map) and reduced the farm to little more than a small holding. One would not expect to find its tenant wealthy enough to feature on the 1327 lay subsidy, a tax on moveables.

But Ryeworth farm was liable for both work money and peter's pence, according to Norden's survey of the manor in 1617; and this indicates a continuous existence from c.1100 at least.

Cheltenham being a royal manor, the amount of work demanded from base tenants (in addition to some money rent) was comparatively small and confined largely to harvest time. The 1294 survey (PRO E 106/2/3; History p.10 Bulletin 15) shows that all the work except a few days in harvest had been commuted by that date and much of it a great deal earlier. So any holding paying work money must go back before the 13th century. Any holding paying peter's pence must be older still. This ecclesiastical tax, first imposed by Offa of Mercia in 787, reimposed by William I and then commuted early in the 12th century for a fixed sum roughly equivalent to the number of substantial households, was collected thereafter by the lord of the manor along with his other rents. The whole of Cheltenham manor paid 60 pence. Henry VIII abolished peter's pence in 1534 but on manors like this it was still collected, having ceased to be a papal tax.

Norden shows that in the 2/3rds of this parish which belonged to Cheltenham manor, 14 Charlton tenants paid work money, some on more than one messuage; but only 5 messuages were charged with payment of peter's pence (See Bulletin 18).

So Ryeworth Farm was a very ancient holding. It had 13 acres of sheep pasture on Ham Hill, but no more than 10-11 acres of arable, excluding its garden, orchard, and close. The only Cheltenham base tenement in 1557 which fits it is Reginald Cliveley's of 10 acres occupied by himself; he was allowed to inclose 1 acre at his close end. By 1564 the holding had passed to John Holder, either by purchase or marriage; he had 11 acres of arable and was to inclose 1 acre in Badleton and the Crofte (GRO D 855 M 68).

The present building is probably late 16th century; John Holder must have re-built it.

To appreciate the position of the farm, one must remember that Ryeworth Road was just a field track going no further than The Avens or Avers and giving access to strips in the big open field. Beyond the modern Ryeworth Inn, the strips ran over the line of the road as they are shown on the tithe map of 1848. There was no through road to Ham. The present London Road was not cut till 1787; the western boundary of Ryeworth field was the old London Road running past Grove House down to Spring Bottom and across the ford. The southern and eastern boundaries were the Chelt and Ham brook. A cart track led from Ryeworth farm to

Charlton mill in Spring Bottom; and gave foot access to Church Walk. But the only road approach to the farm was by Greenway Lane. This explains why the original door was very probably in the north gable end which faced the road. (Ashley Rise is part of the Battledown estate development). Greenway Lane was a direct link between Cudnall and the "roadway", the ancient road up Aggs Hill.

By 1617, Norden describes this holding as consisting of a house, garden, orchard, barn, 1 acre close, a close of pasture in two parts called Badleton (5 acres), le Paddocke ( $\frac{1}{4}$  acre), Cunley (1 acre), sheep pasture on the hill (12 acres), 9 selions in Ryeworth and 2 selions in le Homfurlong (total 3 acres), held by 3s 10d rent, 10d for works, 4d for tything silver, a peter's penny, and heriot. Robert or Ann Holder were the tenants; for though Ann, Robert's mother, was dead, she had had the right to lease the property for 12 years from her death, a period incomplete when Norden surveyed the manor.

We have to distinguish these Holders from another branch living in Cuddenhall's Meese on the corner of Cudnall Street and Brookway Lane. However, the court books show that John Holder late base tenant was reported dead on 7 September 1610 and an ox value £3 surrendered as his heriot. His wife Ann was entitled to the whole tenement until her death and for 12 years after; her death was presented on 15 April 1614 and a cow paid as heriot. Robert Holder their younger son and heir was admitted on 17 June (GRO D 855 M 8 ff 73v,160v, 164). Neither parent was buried in Charlton Kings.

Robert Holder mortgaged his messuage with lands in Ham and Charlton Kings for 12 years on 18 March 1624/5. His mother's 12 years was nearly ended. Probably he was ill by then, for his death was presented in court on 29 July 1625, a heriot of 30s paid (instead of a cow or ox) and his widow Margaret admitted (*ibid.* M 9 pt 2 pp 76,130); she renewed the mortgage for her life and 12 years (*ibid.* p 220). In 1627 it was reported that Margaret Holder was to marry William Cleeveley, but this intended match seems not to have come off, for she was still described as widow of Robert Holder in 1630 and 1631; some of her land adjoined Timothy Cartwright's in 1632 (M 9 pt 2 p 271; 10 ff 34,53-53v, 69v).

Robert and Margaret had had a son Thomas, baptised 22 September 1616, buried 9 December 1624. There do not seem to have been any other children. Margaret was probably the Widow Holder who was taxed on 2 hearths in 1672 - the entry follows those for Ham and precedes those for Cudnall. She may have been the Margaret Holder widow buried on 26 May 1678 (though a namesake was buried 12 October 1684). The Cheltenham court books from 1660-1692 are missing so they offer no help, and we don't know how or when the farm passed out of the Holder family's possession.

It is reasonable to assume that Margaret's house needed a considerable amount of repair. Possibly it was about this time that the original front door was closed and another made on the west side of the house.

The new tenants were Thomas Ockley and Mary his wife. On 13 April 1694 they surrendered to use of William Goodrich and Edith his wife all that dwellinghouse in Charlton Regis in a place there called Cudenhill, land of Edward Spooner on the west and land late of James Mansell on the east, with the garden, courts, yards, curtilage etc. This was the house without much land, so the heriot due was only 6d and the lord's rent 9d.

On 20 October 1710, William and Edith settled it, with Rodways and Dry Lanes (land acquired from his parents) on their son Richard and Mary his wife. With the land, the heriot on a death was to be 10s 6d and the rent 4s 6d (M 12 p 116; 13 p 32).

Richard and Mary Goodrich in turn settled house and land on their son Richard, 22 November 1749 (M 15 pp 189-90).

The younger Richard mortgaged the property in 1785 and then had to sell Rodways. (M 17 pp 200-4). When he died, there was no son to succeed him and his daughter Sarah, wife of Richard Humphris of Shipton Oliffe carpenter, claimed. She and her husband immediately arranged a surrender on 11 September 1792 to use of Richard Freeman, a neighbour of theirs at Shipton Oliffe (who may have had Charlton roots). He bought the house and Dry Lanes. (M 18 pp 81-3).

Freeman was building up a small estate at Charlton. In 1798 he bought Richard Goodrich's Ashley manor land in Ryeworth (GRO D 109/1). He built The Hermitage (Bridge House) on the new London Road for himself, and two houses at the corner of Greenway Lane and Ryeworth Road (now Roadlands and Ashley Firs). The second, The Firs, he sold to Ann Lane widow in 1801 (M 19 pp 219-220; see Bulletin 6); and the first, then The Elms, to Mary Buckle of Ham in 1802 (M 19 p 441) but subject to a mortgage. Freeman retained Ryeworth Farm, and on Mitchell's map of 1806 the house and a farm building at right angles (as now) are marked.

The feature that positively ties up the Holder/Oakley/Goodrich/Freeman property with Ryeworth Farm is the sudden reappearance of a demand for payment of the ancient due, a peter's penny. Half a peter's penny is mentioned in Richard Freeman's surrender to Mary Buckle (half, because she was only getting part of the land not the house). This demand is not surprising. Early 19th century lawyers were frequently antiquarians, interested in old customs, and in any case thought they had a duty to their clients to claim absolutely anything to which they might be entitled, even 1d or ½d.

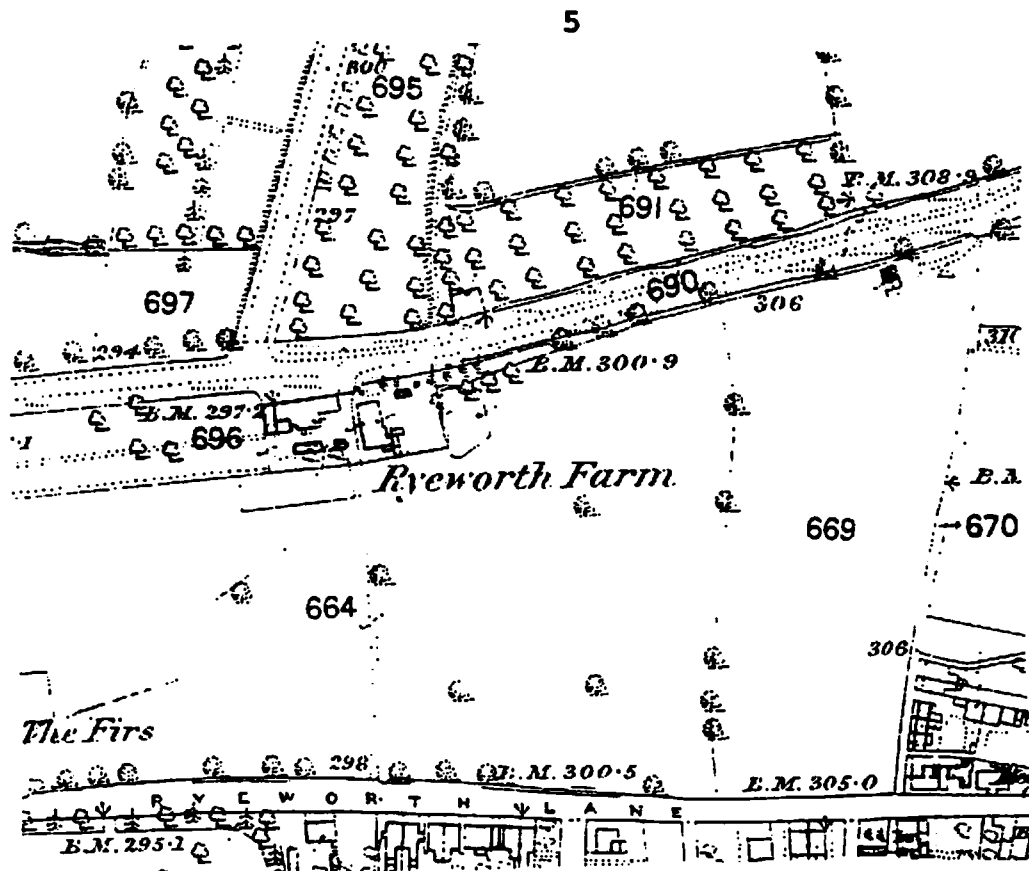
The next reference to anyone living at the farm is in 1822, when the Banns book has this entry "John Spire bachelor of Ryeworth Farm and Mary Lovesy spinster of Cheltenham" (GRO P 76 IN/1/28). The marriage would have taken place in the bride's parish.

Freeman must have enfranchised Ryeworth, along with other copyhold property he held, and also redeemed the tithe. There are no subsequent references to it in the Court books and none of the land he had held is shown on the 1848 tithe map. Consequently, it is more difficult to trace the house after his purchase of it.

We are not even able to give a complete list of occupiers. The 1841 Census mentions three farmers at Ryeworth, without any addresses. The most likely is John James aged 50. The 1851 Census lists Ryeworth Farm as the home of Alfred Townsend aged 43, and a directory mentions George Edney in 1856. The farm seems to have been left out of the 1858 Rate book (possibly because it was unoccupied). By 1861 John Stephens was living there, a farm bailiff aged 59.

We are back on firm ground with George Mitchell, at Ryeworth by the time the 1867 Directory was compiled so there the previous year at least. The 1871 Census shows that by then he was 37 and 47 in 1881 when he farmed 137 acres. By 1879 he farmed both Ryeworth and Ham farms and by 1897 had added Greenway and Coxhorne farms.

George Mitchell had a painting of the farm, which suggests that he was fond of it. Unfortunately, this painting is now lost; it may even have shown the house still thatched. The farm was not sold till after George Mitchell's death in 1905.



1st ed. O.S. 25 1888 shows farm buildings and footpath to "Ryeworth Lane".

By the time the Gloucestershire Dairy acquired Ryeworth Farm, it is said to have been in bad condition; and very little seems to have been done by that firm, as the 1917 description indicates.

Ryeworth farm was lot 5 of a sale by Villar and Thompson at the Royal Hotel, Cheltenham on 12 April 1923 (GRO D 4858 2/2/1). It is described as a small holding "ripe for development" of 4a 1r 8p pasture land and garden ground

pt 207 house and garden, yards, buildings	(0.3.6)
208a pasture	(0.3.30)
208 pasture	(2.2.12)

"Farmhouse - half timbered. Sitting Room; Kitchen or Living Room; dairy - loft over; Back Kitchen - loft over; 3 Bedrooms; coal house; lean to at back; wash house; town water and gas  
 Farm buildings:- brick built tiled Cowshed for 14 cows - water laid on outside  
 Brick built and slate barn with root house  
 3 vaults cart shed, 3 stall stable, trap house, and 2 pig styes  
 valuable accommodation pasture and garden ground. Immediate building value. Let to R.C. Smith to September 1926, 40 years. £42 for growing timber.

(Sale particular notes by Eric Armitage.)

Eventually the farm was bought by Benjamin Gough, who had grandiose schemes for adding a stone front, totally out of keeping, or timber frame enlargements. Fortunately the worst of these plans dated 1926 and 1927 proved too expensive, but what he actually did, cutting through main timbers with complete disregard for their function, was drastic enough. It was Gough who changed the name to Little Manor.

M.Paget



### 3. RYEWORTH FARM

Information given by Mrs. B. Williams, formerly Miss Bella Apperly, who lived with her family at Ryeworth Farm from 1917. At that time her father was Farm Manager for the Gloucestershire Dairy.

#### The Hallway

On entering the front door one faced a long hallway with a red quarry tiled floor.

#### The Living Room

At the end of the hall leading off to the right was the Living Room. This was a very spacious airy room. The walls of the room, and indeed all the other rooms, were covered in wattle and daub, this was a mixture of cow hair and was a form of plaster used at that time. The ceiling had large oak beams and there was only one window, which had decorative leaded panes and looked out on to the front of the house. In the corner of the room was a wooden staircase which led to a bedroom above. As you entered the room, to the left was a small fireplace.

#### Bedroom One

This room was a reasonably sized room and had a small window facing out to the side of the house. The ceiling again had oak beams. The entrance to the room had no door.

#### Bedroom Two

From the front hall, just before the living room entrance, was a wooden staircase. This went straight up to begin with and then turned to the left leading to a second bedroom.

This was a very large bedroom and also like the previous room it had no door to the entrance. The ceiling also had oak beams across it, but this wasn't a straight ceiling, it sloped down to the window, again with leaded panes, which looked out to the front of the house. A large fitted wardrobe ran along the left hand wall and right up in the left hand corner was a small slit window, which looked out on to the other side of the house facing the poultry yard.

Along the right hand wall ran a very big oak support beam, the top of which came about 18 inches down from the ceiling and went down nearly two thirds of the length of the wall. As both bedrooms had separate staircases, they were cut off from one another. So at some point in time, someone had made a tiny doorway through underneath the beam, and Mrs Williams remembers as a young woman having to crawl through that tiny doorway into her bedroom. These were the only two adjoining rooms.

In the centre of the room was a circular piece of metal (zinc it was thought) whereupon stood a wood burning tortoise stove with a flue that went right out through the roof.

#### The Kitchen

The end of the entrance hall led into the kitchen. This was a large room, with a huge fireplace that faced you when you entered. It had an open wood fire with an oven on each side of the fireplace. Inside the chimney was a large iron rod with heavy chains attached, where the kettle and various pots were hung; the chain was able to be adjusted to any height needed. This room also had a beamed ceiling and from one of the beams hung a rack for drying bacon. The floor also had red quarry tiles. A window looked out to the front yard, this window was also leaded.

Along the right hand wall was a very large wooden dresser which was well stocked with various plates, and in the centre of the room was a large wooden scrubbed table.

In the left hand corner of the room was a doorway leading to the dairy, and in front of the doorway in the kitchen was a settle seat to keep the draught from the coldest room in the house from getting to one's back.

### **The Dairy and Third Bedroom**

The Dairy was quite a big room, square in shape, with a blue stone tiled floor. At the far end of the room was the Butter Churn, to the right of the room was a long cold slab which ran the whole length of the room. The top was solid slate.

To the left of the room was a wooden bench, which had on it the egg racks and above that, shelves containing butter spatulas and stencils.

From the Dairy was a stairway, not a solid staircase, it resembled an ordinary wooden ladder. This led to a very small bedroom. This room also had no door at its entrance.

### **The Veranda**

From the Dairy was a door which led to a covered Veranda which ran along the whole back of the house, where the family were able to walk under cover from the Dairy to the Wash-house. The bricks of this building were of a bluish colour.

### **The Wash-house**

The Wash-house had a stone floor and contained a huge wooden tub and over the tub was the tap, in fact the only one in the whole house. From this room was a door to the back kitchen.

### **The Back Kitchen**

The Back Kitchen also had a stone floor and housed the Furnace. This was kept burning winter and summer, just as the kitchen fire was, supplying the household with hot water that was needed. The only item in this room was a wooden work bench where all the buckets etc were stood.

### **The 4th Bedroom**

From the back kitchen led a stairway, the same as the one in the third bedroom, just a ladder. This was a very small room, and also had no door at its entrance.

Mrs Williams and her family did not make use of the two very small bedrooms and tended to use the other two major ones, as the children would have been too cut off from their parents.

### **The Roof**

The roof was probably thatched at one time.

### **Outside of house**

The outside of the front of the house, as Mrs Williams, recalls, was covered in creeping ivy. She can remember it being very useful to hide their prayer books in, when they occasionally tried to skip church, not that they got away with it too often, though. In Mrs William's words, it was a lovely old house, but a lot of hard work.

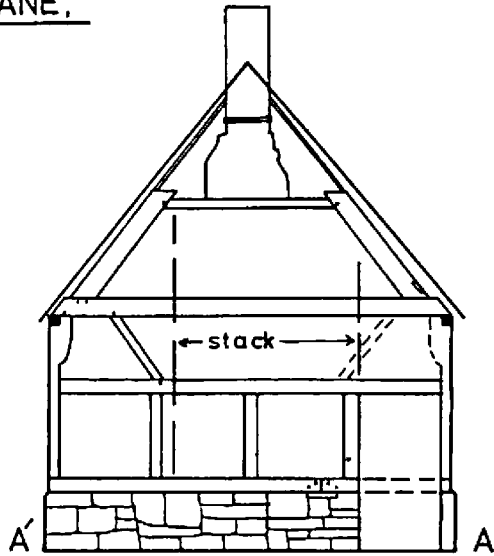
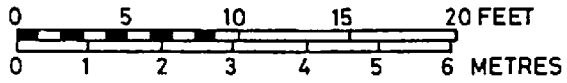
M. Wilcox

We are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Peter Chew for allowing this survey to be made and the house photographed.

LITTLE MANOR, GREENWAY LANE,  
CHARLTON KINGS

==== conjectural timbers  
(concealed or removed)

W? — probable site of window



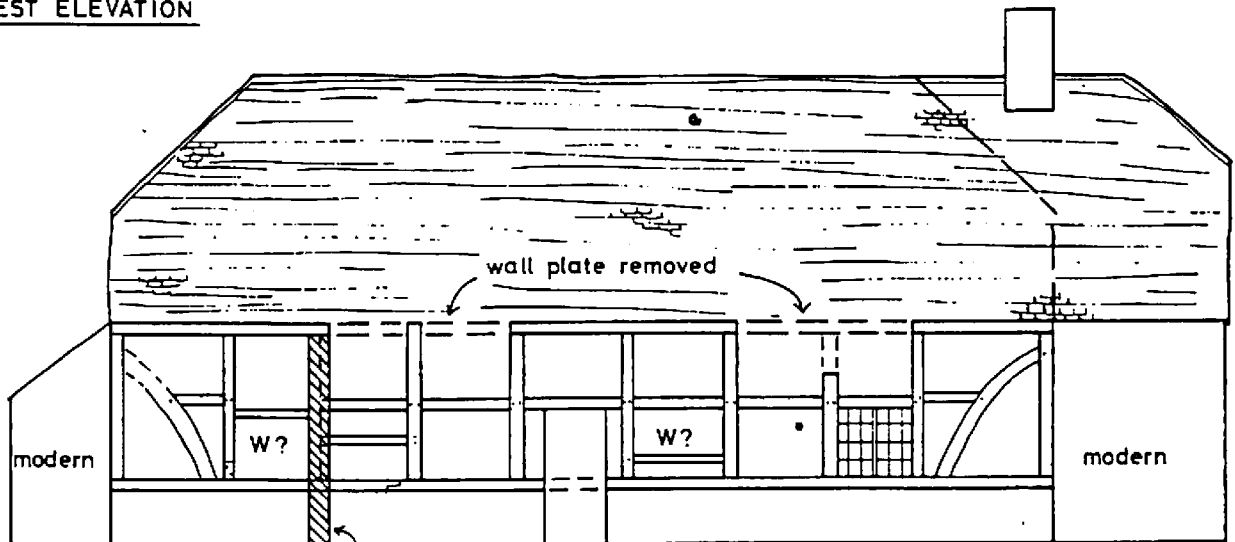
↑ truss 1

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WEST ELEVATION



↑ truss 4

↑ truss 3

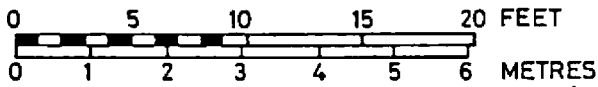
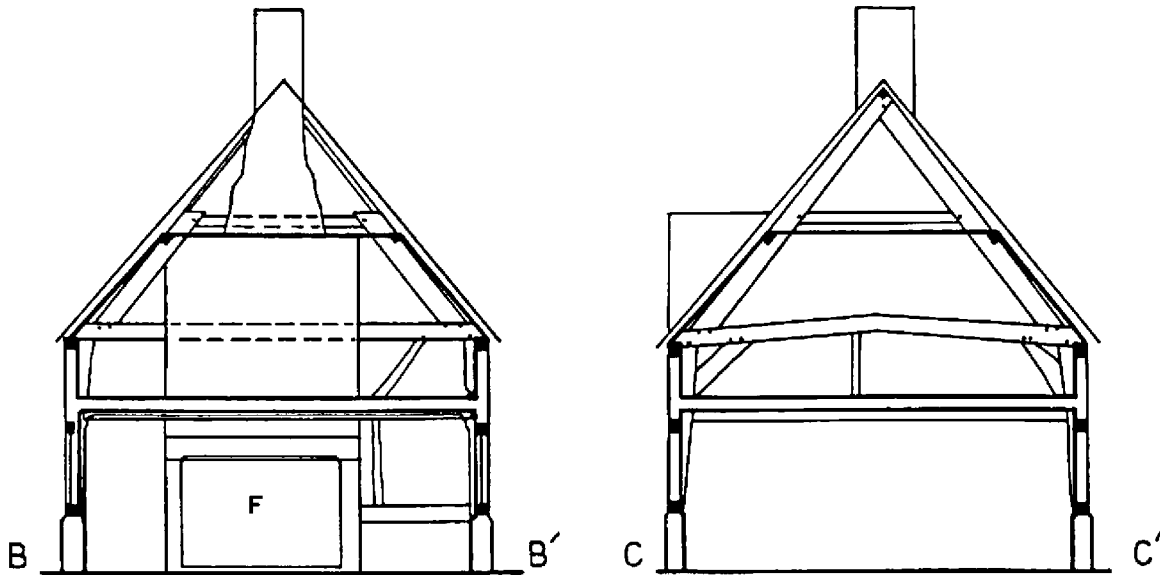
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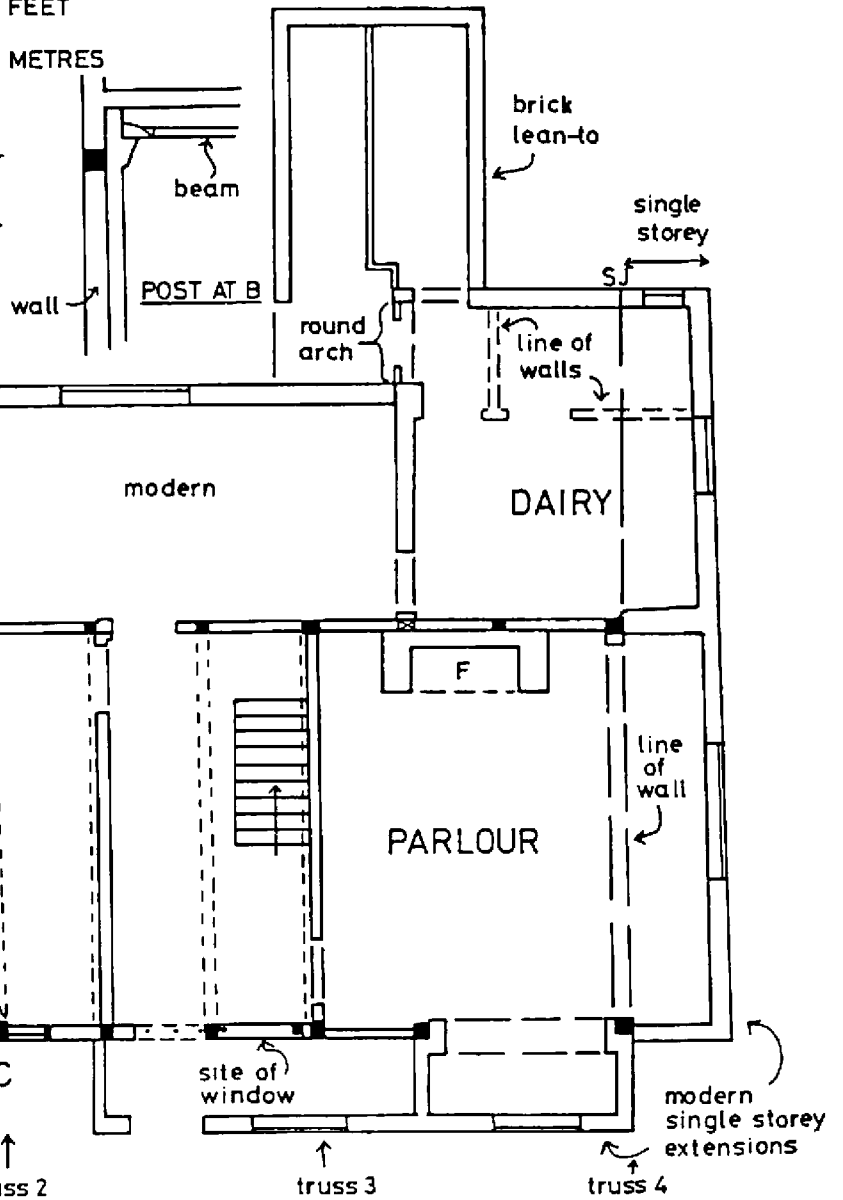
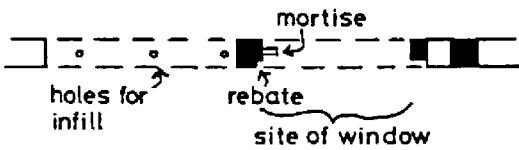
EAST ELEVATION (omitting modern extensions)

LITTLE MANOR (fo. RYEWORTH FARM),  
GREENWAY LANE, CHARLTON KINGS, GLOS.

(SO 967212)



DETAIL OF BRESSUMER IN WEST WALL



All photographs by Linda Hall



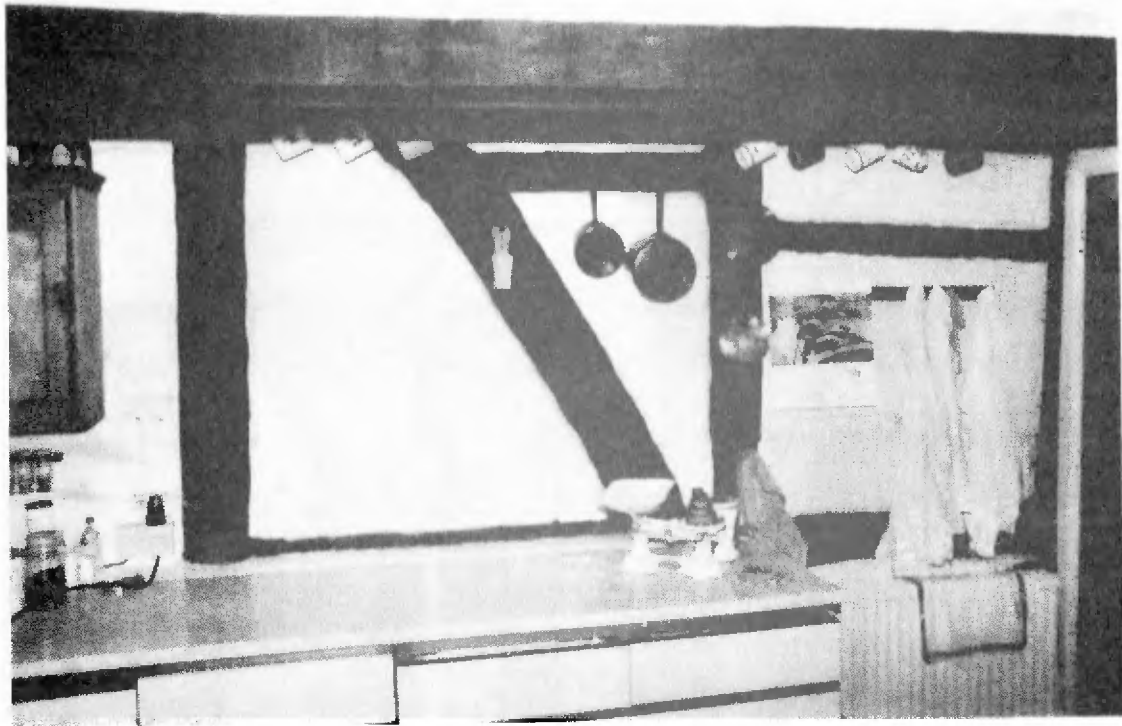
1. Little Manor, west side



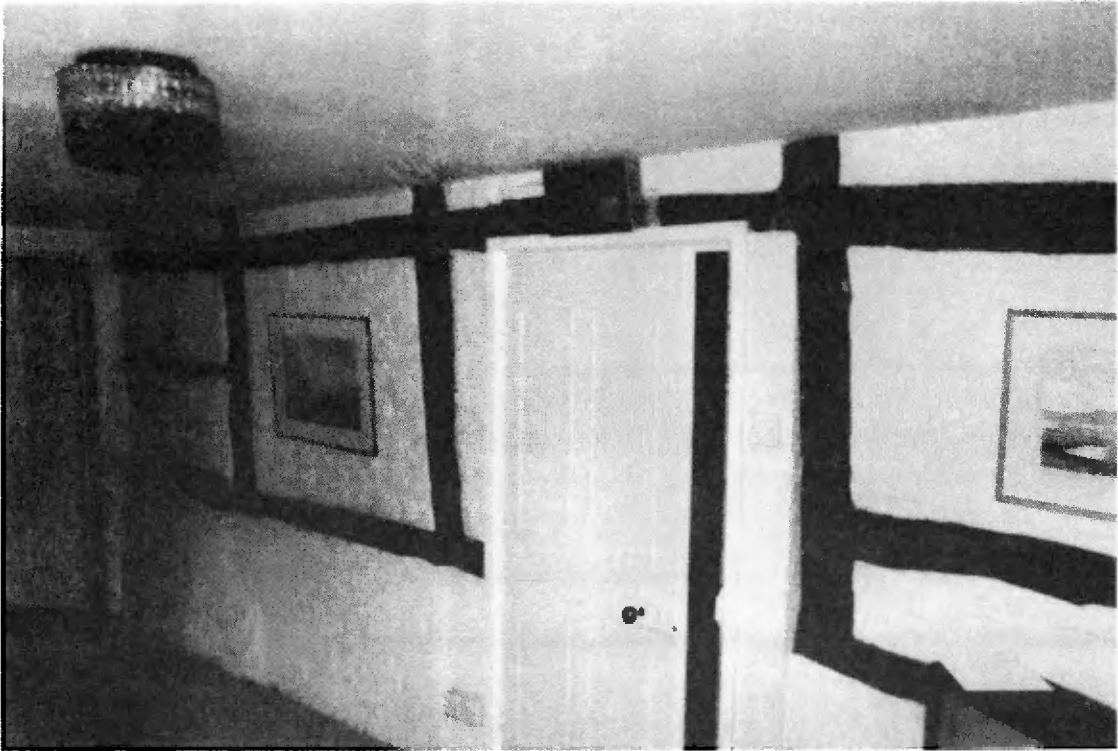
2. West wall, showing dormer gable



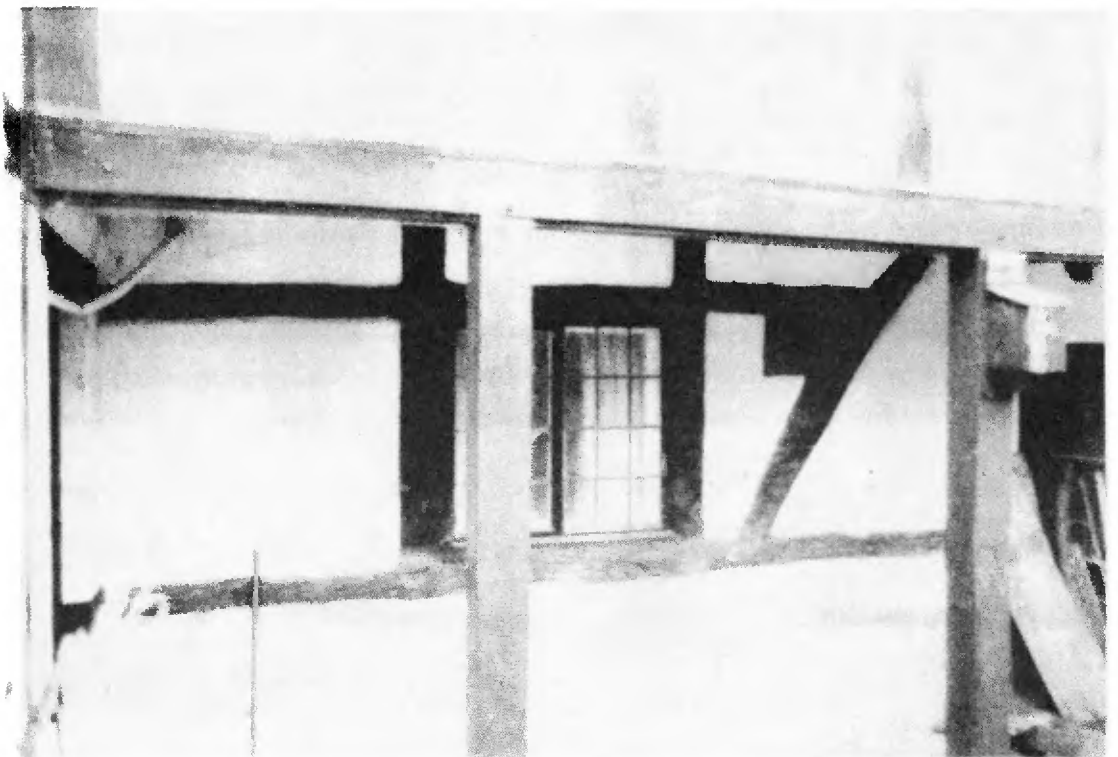
3. South end, showing dairy wing and modern single-storey extensions.



4. Original external east wall, south end, seen from the dairy wing



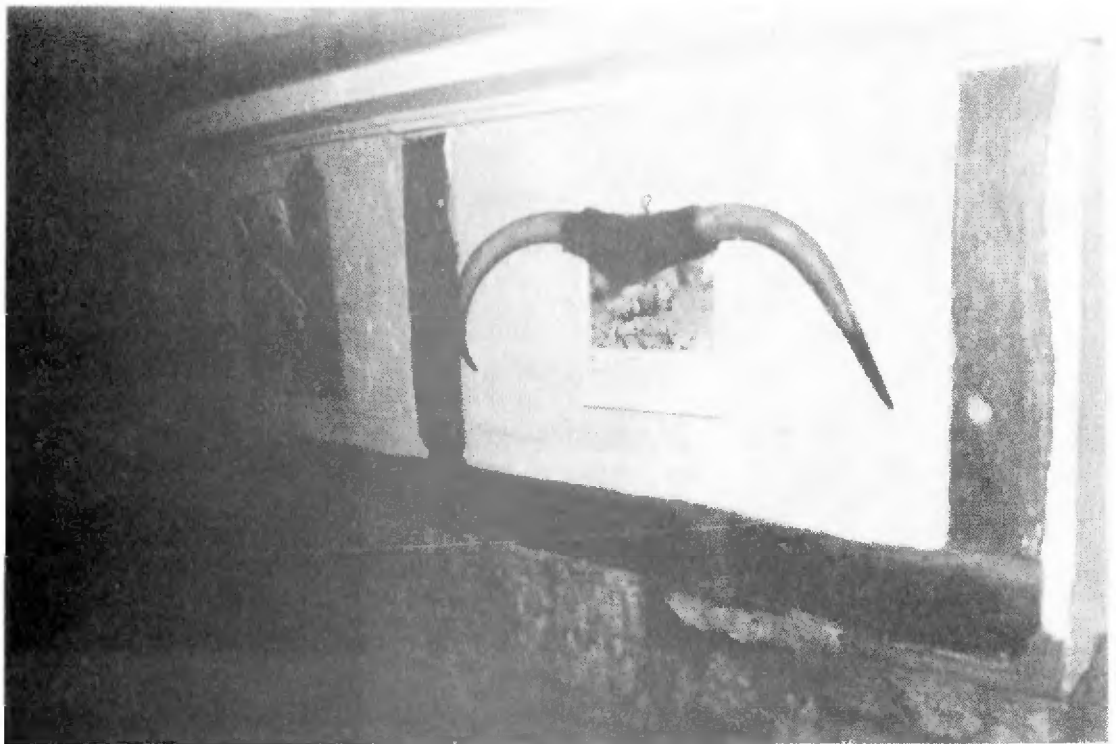
5. Original external east wall, now inside extension



6. North end of east wall, showing curved brace



7. Top of hall/kitchen stack

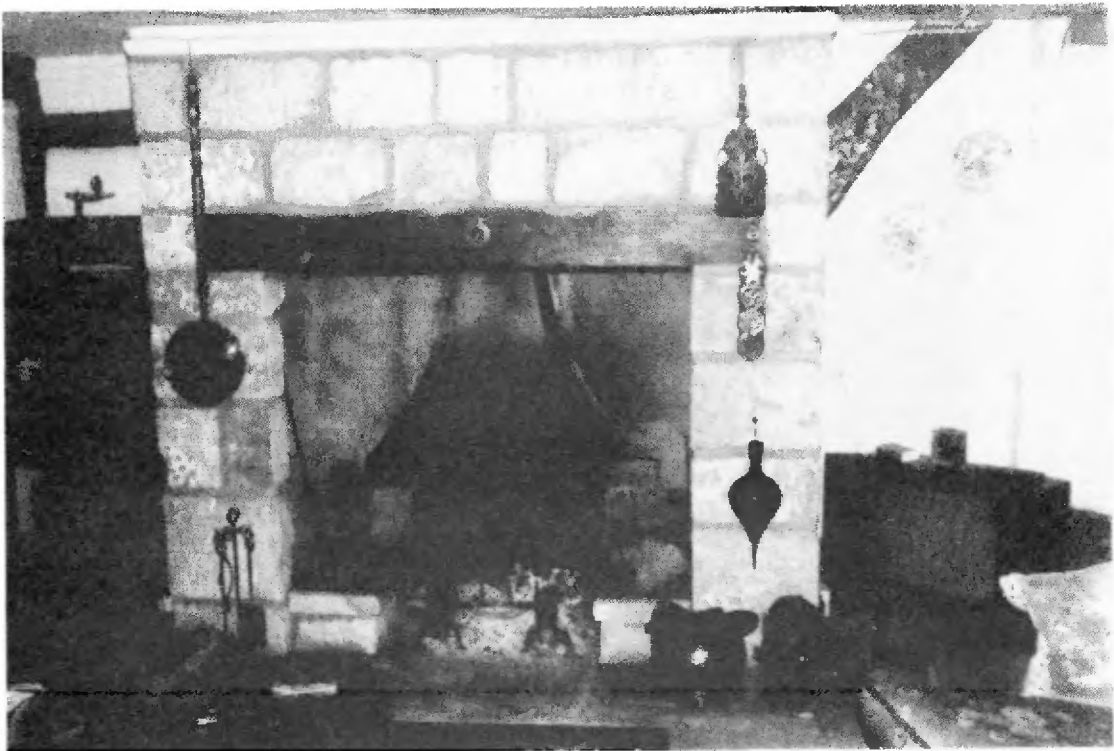


8. Original north external wall, showing timber-framing running behind hall/kitchen stack





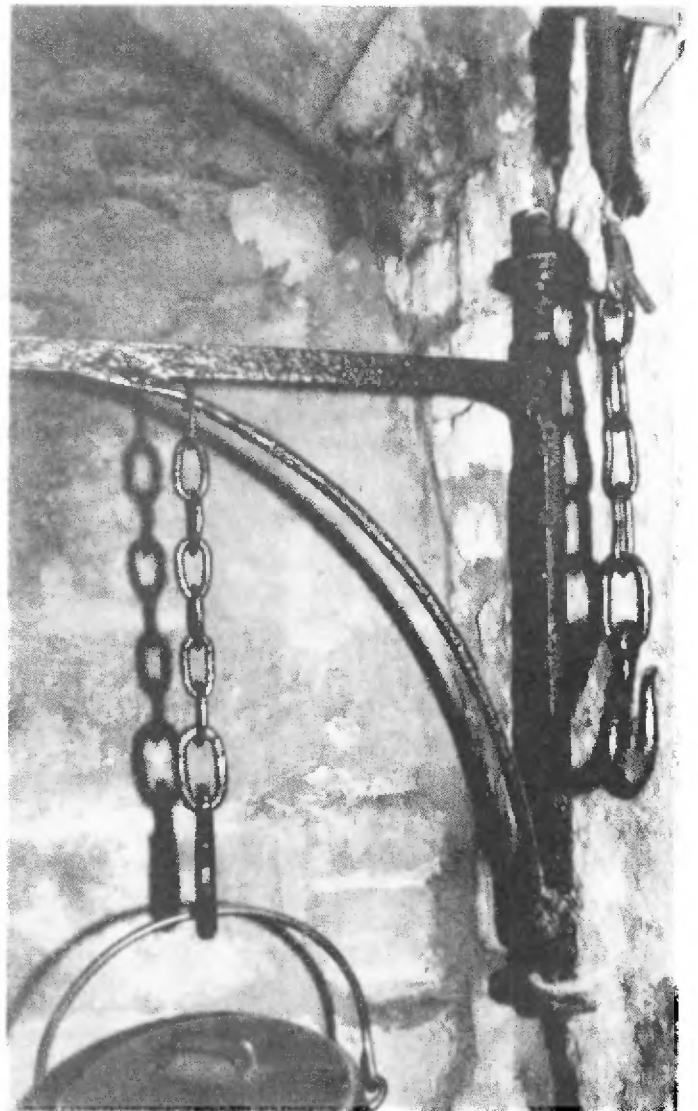
9. Hall/kitchen fire place



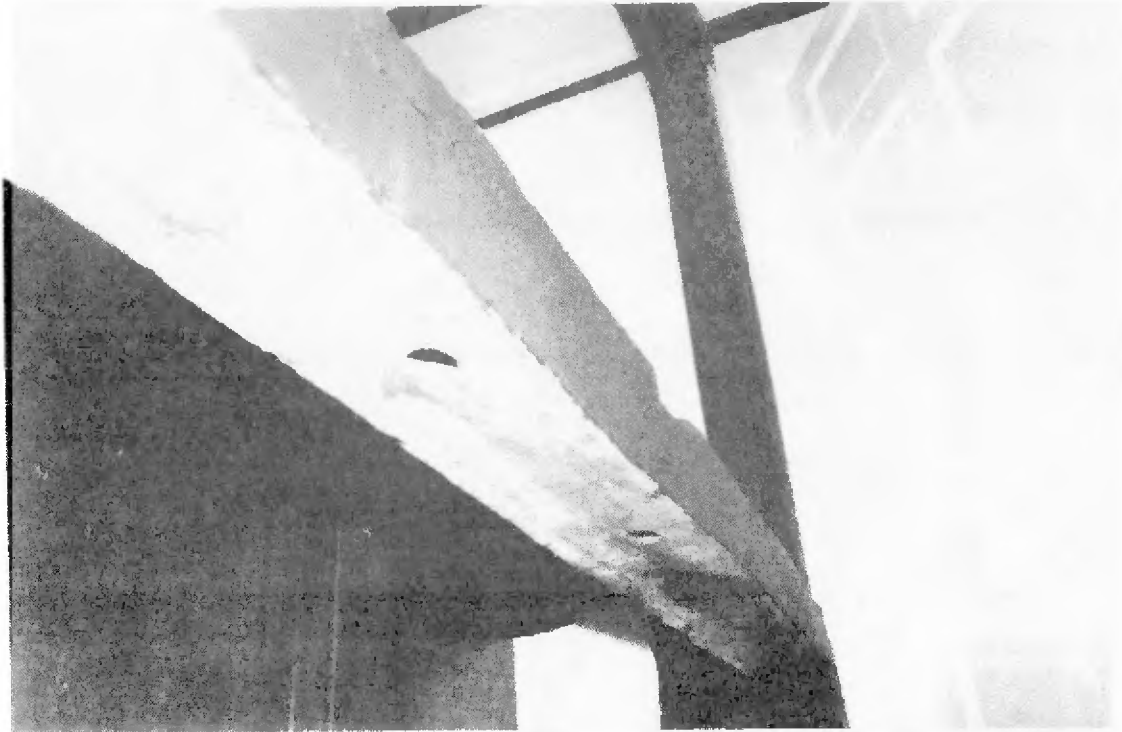
10. Parlour fireplace. To the right is the brace seen in picture 4



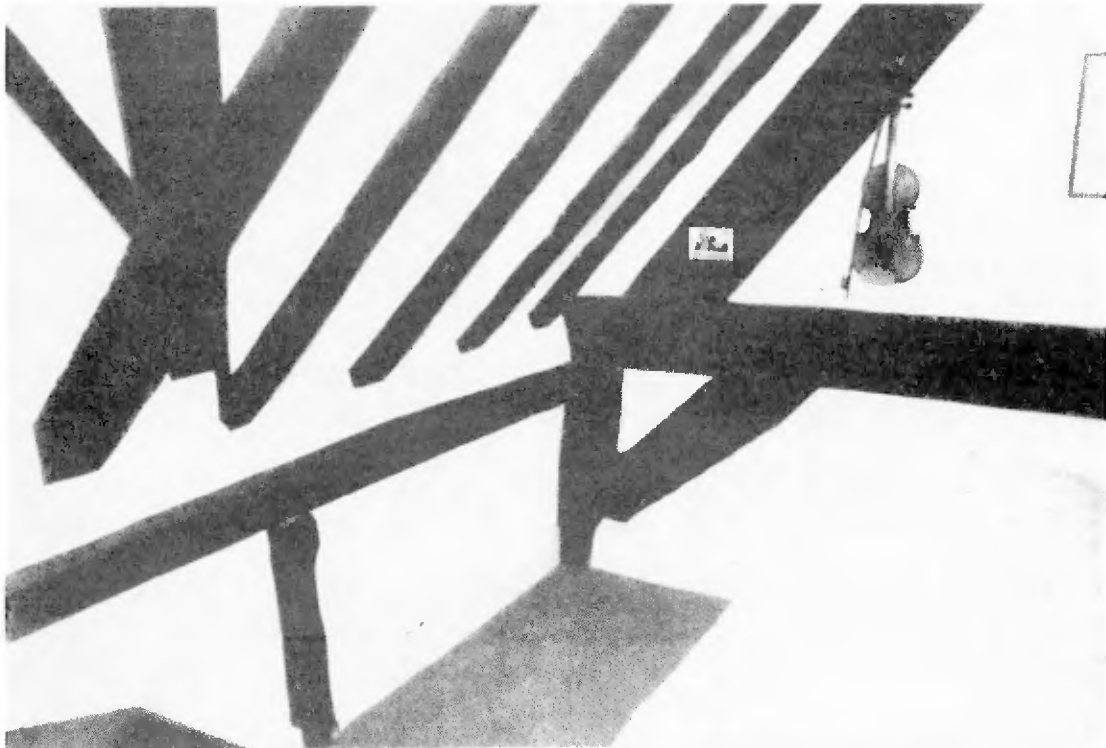
II. Hall/kitchen fireplace, crane and pothooks



12. Hall/kitchen fireplace, detail of crane



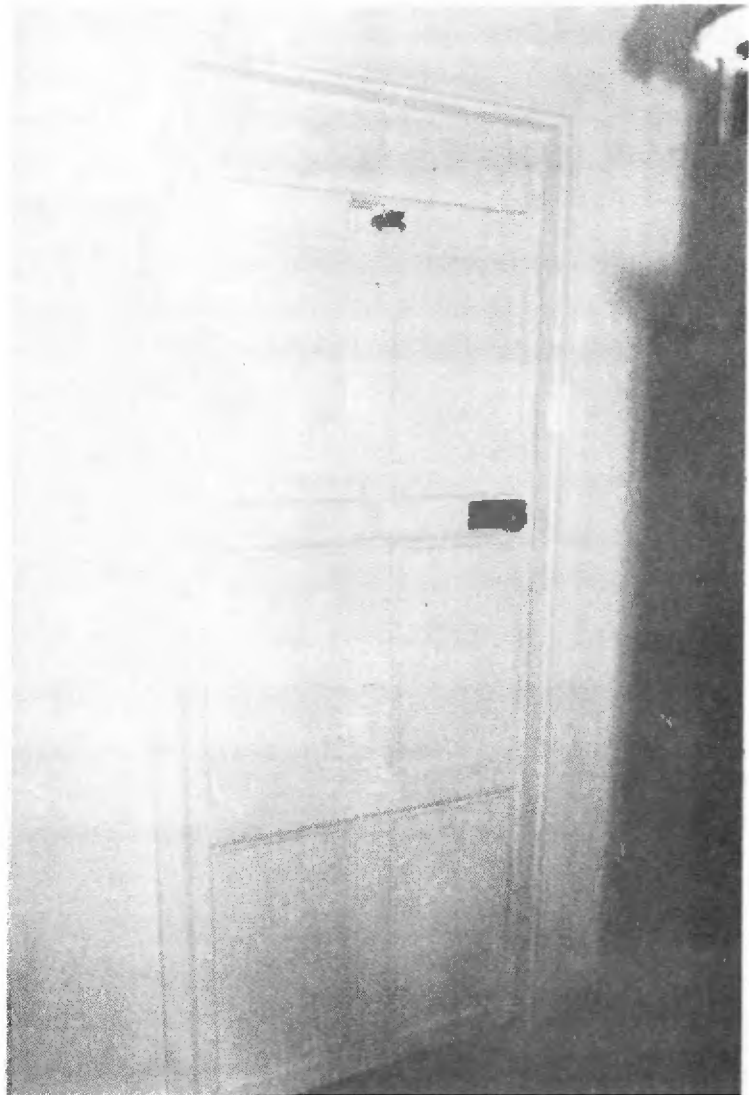
13. Wall-plate in hall/kitchen chamber (east side), showing holes in the soffit for wattle and daub infill.



14. Truss 2, west side, showing post and brace



15. Truss 2, viewed from the south



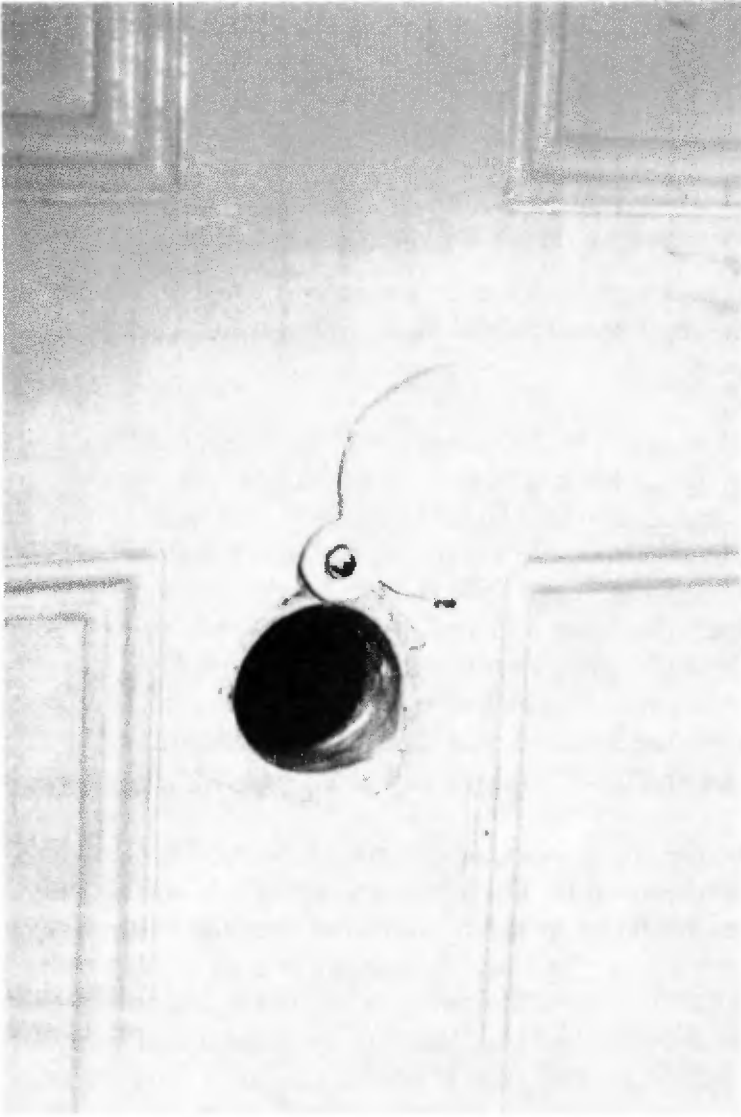
16. 17th century panelled door, reused in dairy chamber



17. Round-arched doorway in dairy wing



18. Parlour door, seen from the entrance hall. Early 19th century panelled door



19. Parlour door - the ventilation hole and cover. Seen from the parlour



20. Brewhouse

**LITTLE MANOR (formerly RYEWORTH FARM), GREENWAY LANE, CHARLTON KINGS,  
GLOS.  
SO 967212**

**SITE.** The house is built on level ground south of the road and at right angles to it; the present front door faces west.

**MATERIALS.** The house is timber-framed with a stone sill and stone roof tiles. The present infill of the timber framing is brick, replacing earlier wattle and daub. Various extensions on the east side are built of brick.

**EXTERNAL FEATURES.** The house has one and a half storeys, with two dormer gables of uncertain age on the west side lighting the upper floor. The roof is half-hipped at each end and there is a chimney stack towards the north end in line with the original end wall. There is another chimney stack on the east side between the main range and the rear wing. The rear wing also has a roof which is half-hipped on the south side. C20th single-storey lean-to extensions run along the south wall of both the wing and the main range and along the southern half of the west wall. These and a full-height extension at the north end have been given mock timber-framing which matches the original. The original timber walls are built on stone sill walls 2'9" high; in most places these are plastered over, but where exposed it can be seen that they are constructed of large blocks of limestone.

**TIMBER-FRAMING.** The framing consists of medium-sized square panels formed by vertical posts and studs and horizontal bressumers or mid-rails. The posts and studs are all the full height of the wall and are tenoned into the sill-beam at the bottom and into the wall-plate at the top. (The posts carry the roof trusses while the studs merely form part of the wall framing; externally they are indistinguishable). The vertical panels so formed are subdivided into two square panels by interrupted mid-rails - so-called because they are interrupted by the posts and studs into which they are tenoned. The end panels of the east wall have large braces curving down from the end posts to the sill-beam. The west wall by contrast has small straight braces going up from the end posts to the wall-plate (the brace at the south end is conjectural). In some panels horizontal timbers at different levels suggest the probable sites of original windows. Another probable window in the west wall is indicated by a rebate on one stud, with a mortise in the mid-rail for an additional stud immediately to one side of and an extra stud a few inches from the post of truss 3. Next to this window is the present entrance, but round holes in the soffit of the mid-rail show that this panel was originally infilled with wattle and daub and therefore could not have been a doorway. Similar holes for wattle and daub are visible in the soffit of the wall-plate on the east side of the hall chamber. The C20th extensions on this side made considerable alterations to the house, which included cutting through the wall-plate in three places (on either side of truss 3 and to the north of truss 2). The notches for the rafters can be seen on the top of the exposed wall-plate.

The sill-beam has a side-halved scarf joint in the east wall, just north of the dairy wing, and face-halved scarf joints below the hall window in the west wall and behind the hall stack in the north end wall. No other breaks were seen apart from a crack in the west wall to the north of the hall window. The north end wall has three studs rising to a strainer beam which links the posts below the tie-beam. On the east side an angled brace rises from the strainer beam to the tie-beam. The main posts have rounded jowls (trusses 1 and 3) or swelling jowls (truss 2) to carry the tie-beams of the roof trusses. Trusses 2 and 3 have heavy short braces rising from post to tie-beam, with the spandrels filled in and plastered over.

**ROOF STRUCTURE.** Trusses 1 and 4 have straight tie-beams and principal rafters which end just above the tenoned collar to accommodate the half-hipped roof. At the north end the roof has been extended over the C20th addition, but weathering on the stone-work of the stack shows where the original roof-line was. Trusses 2 and 3 have cambered tie-beams and straight tenoned collars, and are closed up to the collar and open above. The principal rafters are tenoned at the apex with a diagonal joint, and the diagonal ridge is set in a notch. There is one pair of purlins, but it was not possible to establish the type of joint used. On the west side of truss 1 there is a windbrace.

## **FEATURES**

**PLAN.** The present plan has a central wide entrance passage and stair, with a parlour to the south with a lateral fireplace on the east wall, and a hall/kitchen to the north with a gable-end fireplace. Behind the parlour is an added wing, probably a dairy, which originally had no internal access to the main range. A brick lean-to pantry adjoins its north-east corner, and marks on the floor show that there was once a pantry partitioned out of the dairy. C20th additions have enlarged the parlour and dairy and added a room to the north of the hall/kitchen stack and another room between the rear wing and the main range. There is a first-floor extension to the east of the hall/kitchen chamber, with an open ground floor.

**FEATURES.** The ceiling beam in the entrance hall has rough 3½ inch chamfers and no stops. In the hall/kitchen the beam at C-C' is unchamfered on the north side, but on the south side has a rough chamfer and straight-cut stops. The beam at B-B' has a 4½ inch chamfer on the south side, with a scroll and notch stop at the east end and a rather cruder scroll stop at the west end. This beam is supported on corbels carved out of the vertical posts; the posts project a few inches into the room, but it is not clear if they butt up against the wall studs or if they and the studs are in fact single timbers. Both hall and parlour stacks are built of large blocks of limestone, those in the parlour being slightly more regular. The hall fireplace has a wooden lintel with a 3 inch chamfer and straight-cut stops. When the fireplace was unblocked a crane was found on the east side. The stonework at the back of the fireplace is slightly different from the sides, and it is possible that the original fireplace was a little deeper than the existing one. The parlour has an early C19th six-panelled door. A round hole in the central muntin has a swivel cover and must be a ventilation hole to enable the fire to draw properly. The dairy wing, built of brick, has a round-arched doorway in the north-east corner. The chamber above has a panelled door of C17th type.

**DATE AND DEVELOPMENT.** This house is full of uncertainties, from its date of construction to its original layout. The evidence throughout is contradictory and confusing, and the C20th alterations have concealed or removed further evidence. Square-panel timber-framing covers a wide time span in the west, from the C15th on (in contrast to East Sussex (i) where it was rare before 1560). Large down-braces like those in the east wall are often associated with C15th buildings, such as Elborough Cottage in Cudnall Street and Wood Lane Cottage, Horton, near Bristol. Small straight braces like those on the west wall are usually a C16th type, although their date range is not certain. It is not clear if the two walls were in fact built at different times - the framing is otherwise identical, with interrupted mid-rails and with the end panels being wider than the rest, although the scarf joints in the sill-beam are different types. Alternatively the down-braces could represent either

- a) an archaic but still prestigious type used for show in the front wall, or
  - b) an archaic type relegated to the rear wall, with more up-to-date braces at the front.
- The problem of interpretation is compounded by the fact that it is far from clear which was the front, as there is no way of being certain of the original site of the front door. The only



certainty is that it was not where the present front door is, as the holes in the soffit of the mid-rail show that this was a closed panel. There are several alternative possibilities:

- a) the existing door in the east wall may be on the site of the original main door
- b) the existing door from the hall/kitchen to the north extension may have been the main door, giving a gable entry plan
- c) there may have been a door at the north end of the west wall. The wider end panel has a small stud below the mid-rail, which could mark the side of a doorway, and there is a crack (possibly a joint?) in the sill-beam at this point. The sill wall is rendered, so it is not possible to look for straight joints in the masonry to confirm or deny this suggestion. A door in this position would give a lobby entry plan, with the door opening onto the side of the stack.
- d) there could have been a door somewhere in the west or south walls of the parlour, where the C20th extensions have destroyed the evidence.

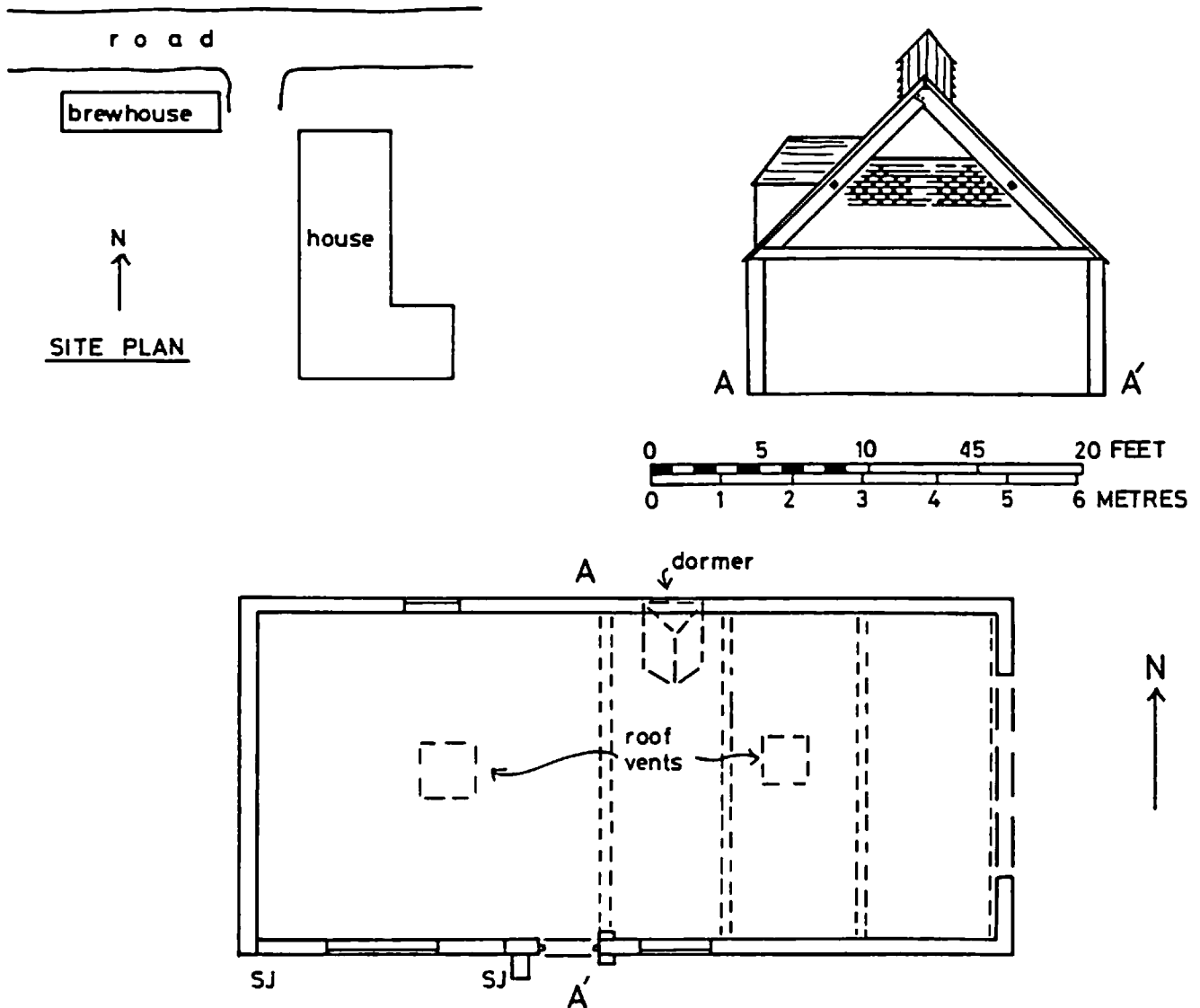
There is insufficient evidence either visible or surviving to be able to say that any of these suggestions is more likely than any other, although the last is perhaps the least likely.

As it stands now the house has a layout typical of the mid C17th to the mid C18th, a central entrance hall and stair, a heated room either side and a rear dairy wing. This wing was probably added in the 1720s or 1730s; similar round-arched doorways occur at Oxwick Farm, Yate, near Bristol, which was built in 1722. The entrance hall is spacious and it is possible that the dairy wing replaced a small central dairy set between the hall/kitchen and the parlour. This type of central-service-plan is common in South Gloucestershire/Avon and in other areas such as Dorset and Monmouthshire in the C17th. It is also likely that the central stair replaced a winder stair in the recess on the east side of the hall/kitchen stack. This stack is built of stone, but it appears to have been built independently of the north wall; here, as throughout the house, the original wattle and daub infill has been replaced by brick, perhaps in the late C17th or C18th. One might expect that, if the stack were contemporary with the walls, it would be better integrated into the north wall. On the other hand, there are no obvious signs of smoke-blackening on the roof timbers such as one would expect if the fireplace were a later insertion replacing an open hearth in an open hall. In addition, the construction of the corbelling on the posts carrying the ceiling beam at B-B' implies that the house was built with an upper floor from the start.

To summarise, Little Manor is a three-bay timber-framed building of 1½ storeys and represents an average yeoman farmhouse. The balance of probabilities is that it is one build of the second half of the C16th and that it had a complete upper floor from the start. Earlier buildings in Charlton Kings used cruck construction (Ellborough Cottage and The Knappings), while post and truss construction is used from the C16th on. The cambered tie-beam and the use of braces which are visible externally argue for a pre-C17th date, although features such as the hall/kitchen fireplace and the beam with 4½ inch chamfers and scroll stops would be equally at home in the first half of the C17th. The parlour fireplace is probably later than the hall fireplace, as the stonework is more regular. (The lintel is a modern replacement). The dairy wing was added in the C18th, and it would appear that it was originally smaller and that the C20th enlargement of the parlour also extended the dairy. There is a straight joint in the brickwork of the east wall of the dairy, between the two-storey part and the single-storey addition. This being the case, the line of walls marked in the dairy floor must belong to a recent feature, presumably a walk-in larder.

- (i) David and Barbara Martin "Domestic Building in the Eastern High Weald 1300-1750; Part I. Wall Construction" (1989).

LITTLE MANOR, CHARLTON KINGS - BREWHOUSE



BREWHOUSE AT LITTLE MANOR, GREENWAY LANE, CHARLTON KINGS, GLOS.  
SO 967212

**SITE.** The brewhouse is built parallel to the road and at right angles to the house, with its long axis running east-west.

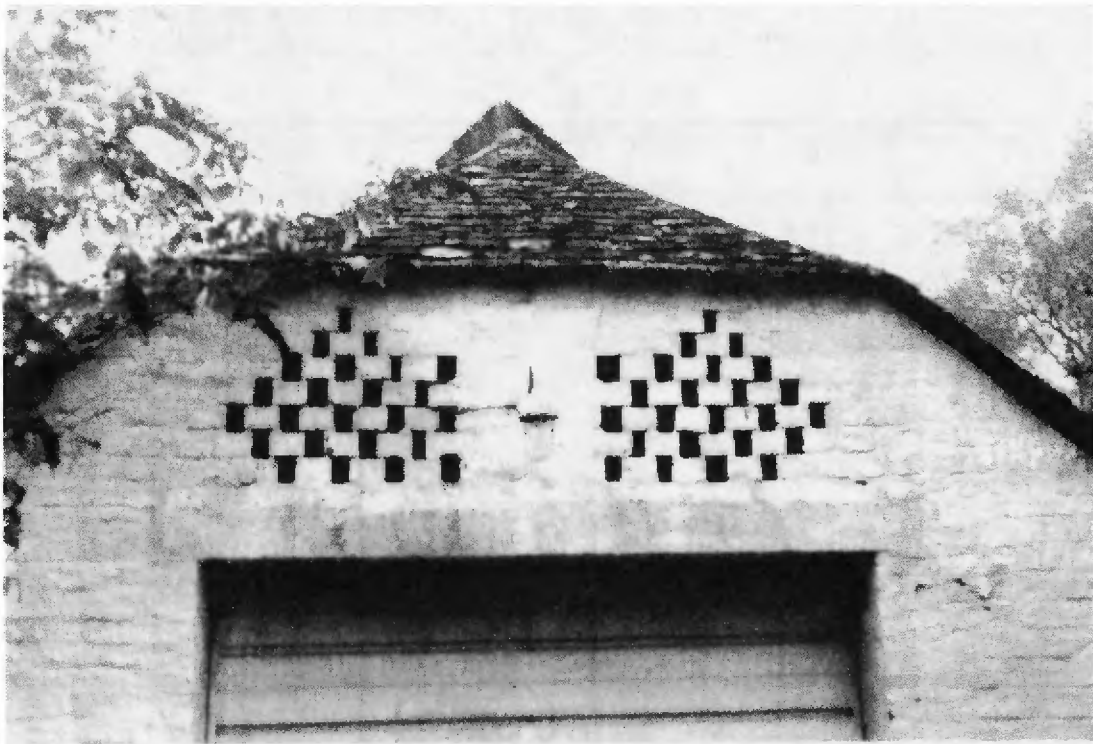
**MATERIALS.** The walls are brick and the roof is stone.

**EXTERNAL FEATURES.** The brewhouse is a single-storey building with a half-hipped roof. There is a door and two windows in the south wall, with two added buttresses to support the wall on either side of the door. West of the door straight joints suggest that this section of wall has been added or rebuilt; possibly the building was open at this end. There is a tiny window at eaves level in the north wall, and halfway along the north side is a hipped dormer in the roof, just above eaves level. In the east wall is a modern garage door; above it the bricks are arranged to form ventilation holes in the shape of two lozenges. There are two louvred vents projecting from the apex of the roof.

**INTERNAL FEATURES.** The west half of the roof has been much altered. The eastern half has four roof trusses, one against the east end wall. The trusses have tie-beams, one pair of tenoned purlins, and a plank ridge set in a notch at the apex. The principal rafters are tenoned at the apex with an offset diagonal joint. Some timbers are reused, as they have mortises for tenoned collars, but the mortises do not match up in their present positions. The floor is brick.

**DATE.** The building is identified as a brewhouse by the louvred vents, although there are no fireplaces or coppers there now. It was probably built in the late C18th. The dormer window suggests that there was a loft at the east end, and it may in fact have been a loading door rather than a window as such. Brewhouses were common on farms from the late C17th; some were in wings built onto the house, but many were in outbuildings or were entirely separate detached buildings as here. Before the late C17th brewing tended to be done in the kitchen. In Charlton Kings Elborough Cottage has a large malthouse and brewhouse wing at the back of the main house.

#### Ventilation holes in brewhouse



#### 5. THE MITCHELL FAMILY

This article has been written because of a persuasive editor and a photo in the Bulletin no.26. The photo was labelled Cricket at Ryeworth, and the suggested date of 1890 was queried and an alternative date of 1929 was suggested. I can confirm the date of 1890, as the man in the suit seated in the centre is not Albert Dowler Mitchell as was suggested but his father George Mitchell, who farmed Ryeworth Farm (now known as 'The Little Manor') for over 35 years. In our possession is a photo portrait of George Mitchell wearing the same suit and gold fob watch and there is no doubt that it is he in your photo, I would suggest that his son Albert Dowler Mitchell is the bowler holding the cricket ball seated on his right. It was while farming Ryeworth that George Mitchell gave the land that was used to start Charlton Kings Cricket Club.

Thomas Mitchell was born in Bossington, Hampshire in 1805, according to later census papers, though we cannot find his baptism there or in any of the surrounding parishes. He was a farm labourer who, in 1829, married Fanny Marsh of Southampton on February 28th. He did not sign his name (which was spelt with one 'l'), but Fanny did, yet when she registered her three youngest children she made her mark - was it that she had been taught to write Fanny Marsh but not her married name of Fanny Mitchell? They had 8 children, Charles baptised 3.1.1830, Ellen baptised 30.10.1831, George baptised 15.9.1833, Henry baptised 6.3.1836, Jane baptised 16.12.1838, James baptised 10.4.1842, Walter baptised 3.8.1845 and Susanna baptised 20.10.1848, all at East Tytherley Parish Church. From 3.8.1845 Thomas is described as a Farm Bailiff. In the 1851 census they were living in North Walk East House, Manor Farm on the Lockerley Hall estate near Mottisfont, Hampshire. We will meet the underlined people and place names in Charlton Kings later, when George and his brother Walter settle in Charlton Kings.

We next meet George Mitchell at his wedding to Sarah Ann Wynn on 28th June 1856 at Cheltenham Parish Church, when they were both living at 2 Keynsham Place, Cheltenham, he being described as a servant. Sarah Ann Wynn, of Sheepscombe, was baptised 1.3.1835 at Painswick, the daughter of Edwin Wynn, a labourer, and his wife Ann nee Dowler. (Two surnames we meet again as christian names). Ann Dowler came from Guiting Power and was baptised at Naunton.

In 1861 (Census papers), George and Sarah Ann, with their first child Kate (born 16.3.1861), were living at Ham Dairy Farm, he is described as a dairyman. He is a milkman in the Charlton Kings Church registers when his son Walter (no.2) is baptised on 31.12.1865. Daughter Laura Ann was baptised 30.8.1868 by which time George is described as a farmer.

He was at Ryeworth Farm by 1871 (census papers) together with Sarah Ann, Kate, Walter (no.2) and Laura Ann. There were also 4 male farm servants, one of whom was George's brother Walter, and also 1 female servant. (A far cry from servant status in a time of Depression). In St. Mary's Walter married Susan Kings Wheeler on 21.9.1871. She was the daughter of Samuel Wheeler - a baker. Walter and Susan had a daughter Louise Kings Mitchell who was born 2.8.1872 and baptised at St.Mary's on 21.1.1877. Were there any more descendants? Possibly living in Charlton Kings today? If so I would like to hear from them. In the 1881 census an 'Aunt' Frances Wheeler was visiting George Mitchell and his second wife Mary Ann at Ryeworth Farm. I believe Frances Wheeler to be aunt by marriage of Walter Mitchell and his wife, Susan Kings nee Wheeler.

In St Mary's churchyard are a group of headstones lying together.

- 1) In/Loving Memory/of Samuel Wheeler/who died Jan.10 1886/aged 70/Jane his beloved wife/died June 24th 1879/aged 76/Also of Walter Mitchell/ son in law of the above/ died Oct 3rd 1915 aged 71
- 2) In affectionate remembrance/of John Wheeler/who died July 6th 1878/aged 65 years./In the midst of Life we are in Death/Also of Frances beloved wife of John Wheeler/who died March 20th 1887 aged 82 years/Though I walk through the valley of the shadow/of death/I will fear no evil/Also of/Edgar Cecil Mitchell/Who died April 13th 1906 aged 14 years.

The odd thing about this headstone is that Edgar was the son of Walter (no.2), not George's brother Walter who married into the Wheeler Family, Walter (no.2) married Emily Agnes

Shorey, daughter of William Shorey, a farmer of Greenway Farm on November 2nd 1887. But I run ahead of myself.

On 8.2.1873 Albert Dowler Mitchell was born to George and Sarah Ann at Ryeworth Farm. He was baptised at St. Mary's on 30.3.73 (His second name was his grandmother Ann's maiden name). He was followed by Eva May baptised on 27.9.1874 and Frances Blanche who was baptised on 21.1.1877 with her cousin Louise Kings Mitchell. In the parish registers Frances Blanche Mitchell is mistakenly described as the daughter of Walter and Susan Mitchell.

On 24.11.1878 Sarah Ann Mitchell died of ovarian cancer and was buried at St Mary's on 29.11.1878 aged 43 years. George outlived his wife yet his name precedes hers on the headstone - put up, we think, by their children after their father's death.

- 3) It reads: In loving Memory of/George Mitchell/of Ryeworth Farm/who died Jan 16th 1905/aged 70 years/Also of Sarah Ann/beloved wife of the above/who died Nov 24th 1878/aged 43 years./Also of Arthur George/youngest son of the above/George Mitchell who died/March 10th 1891/aged 7 years./In my Father's House are many Mansions.

Arthur George Mitchell is explained by the 1881 census when we see that between 1878 and 1881 George remarried, a lady from Scotland Mary Ann ----. A necessary act with 6 children from 13 years to 1 year old to care for.

In 1879 George is described as a Farmer at Ham and Ryeworth Farms in 1885 and 1889 in Kelly's Gloucestershire Directory. In 1880 the, by now, prosperous George Mitchell had Ryeworth Farm painted by a Victorian artist called Branch - unfortunately the painting was sold in a Bruton Knowles House Sale in 1964 after Albert Dowler Mitchell died and so passed out of the family to our dismay. If only we had a photo of it. Does anyone know where it is? George also had a set of cream and brown slipware cream and milk jugs made by Doulton of Lambeth with Ryeworth Farm. G. Mitchell 1880 on them. These we still have, we also have his oak bureau of which he was very proud - as it dates from 1790 we do not know who owned it before him.

He was on the Board of Guardians 1882 to 1884 then he served first on Charlton Kings Local Board and then its successor the Urban District council. When he retired from that, just before his death, his seat was won by his son Albert Dowler Mitchell who, when he in his turn retired was succeeded by his son George Wynn Mitchell - almost 100 years of public service by three generations in Charlton Kings.

I digress again.

On 18.6.1884 Kate, George's eldest daughter married from Ryeworth Farm, at St. Mary's; she wed Frederick John Peacey, the boy next door at Woodland Villa on Ryeworth Lane, son of Jesse Peacey, Timber Merchant - Frederick John was an accountant on the 1881 census, but on his marriage is described as a dairyman in 1884!!

Walter (no.2) followed his sister down the aisle when he wed Emily Agnes Shorey whose father farmed Greenway Farm. The wedding at St.Mary's took place on 2.11.1887. Walter must have taken over Greenway Farm as in the newspaper report of his brother Albert Dowler's wedding in 1894 he is described as Mr Walter Mitchell of Greenway Farm. But by 1902 he ran into financial difficulties as his father George is described in Kelly's directory as George

Mitchell farmer and dairyman - Ryeworth and Greenway Farms, Walter Mitchell is described as farmer and dairyman (no farms mentioned) and Albert Dowler Mitchell is described as Farmer and dairyman - Glenfall Farm.

1891 saw the death of George's youngest son, his only child by his second marriage.

On 29.10.1894 Albert Dowler Mitchell aged 21 son of George Mitchell Farmer married Minnie Florence Crump aged 25 a draper's assistant of the parish of St. John, Cheltenham, daughter of Edwin Crump (deceased) butcher whose ancestors came from the Winchcombe area. At the wedding which had a great write up in the local press at the time was Albert Dowler's new nieces. Kathleen Daisy daughter of his sister Kate and Frederick John Peacey of Bafford Farm, Charlton Kings was baptised at St. Mary's on 5.4.1891, and her sister Olive Jessie Peacey baptised 2.4.1893. The two sons of Walter (no.2) and his wife Emily Agnes Hubert William and Edgar Cecil were both baptised with their cousin Olive Jessie on 2.4.1893.

The write up in the Cheltenham Free Press 3.11.1894 reported ....

"Mitchell-Crump. Oct 29th at St. Mary's Parish Church, Charlton Kings.  
by Rev. T. Hodson, Vicar.  
Albert Dowler 2nd son of Mr. George Mitchell, Ryeworth Farm, Charlton Kings to Minnie Florence 2nd daughter of the late Mr Edwin Crump, Cheltenham.

'.....Owing to popularity of the friends of the contracting parties, the event caused quite a stir in the village and from the Church to Glenfall Farm the bridal party received showers of congratulations. The Church was well filled. Among first arrivals were the bridegroom accompanied by his brother Mr Walter Mitchell of Greenway Farm quickly followed by their brother in law Mr & Mrs. F.I. (sic) Peacey of Withyholt Farm. Mrs George Mitchell in a handsome black silk gown trimmed with passementerie; (she was Mary Ann, George's 2nd Wife), Mr. Thorpe, (Who was he?), Mrs Walter Mitchell, Mr. F. Franklin (a close friend of Albert Dowler, who later married Albert Dowler's sister Laura Ann), Mr Tom James Jnr. (another close friend who married another of Albert Dowler's sisters Eva May) and the brothers of the bride Messrs Crump. Mr. F. Crump, the eldest brother arrived with the bride who was dressed in a white gown, and pretty hat trimmed with ostrich feathers and honiton lace veil with pearls (this she left to her eldest grand daughter Diana when she died in 1954). Her bouquet was composed of white chrysanthemums, lilies and fern. The bridesmaids were Miss Laura (Ann) and Miss (Frances) Blanche Mitchell sisters of the groom, who wore French grey dresses with primrose satin cuirass, covered with white guipure lace with hats to match and carried handsome yellow bouquets of Chrysanthemums with Autumn tinted leaves. These were supplied by Mr James Wood of Cambrian Nurseries. The service which was fully choral was conducted by the vicar and at its conclusion large parties were entertained at Glenfall Farm (farmed by the groom and where the newly weds were to live until 1923) and Ryeworth Farm. In the afternoon the bride and groom left for Brighton. Presents numbered nearly 150.....'

The following year Ryeworth Farm saw another wedding this time George's daughter Laura Ann, a milliner, married Frederick Robert Franklin, a butcher of London Road, Charlton Kings (at Six Ways, where the Antique textiles shop is). He was the son of Thomas Franklin hotel proprietor and the wedding took place once again at St. Mary's on 11.9.1895.

On 11.11.1896, the third daughter of George Mitchell, married from Ryeworth Farm, Eva May married Thomas James at St. Mary's. He was of the parish of St. James Cheltenham and the

son of Thomas James, butcher. A few days earlier Hilda Kate daughter of Walter (no.2) and Emily Agnes Mitchell had been baptised on 1.11.96.

On 7.5.1899 Albert Dowler's wife Minnie Florence gave birth to their only child George Wynn Mitchell (his second name was his grandmother Sarah Ann Mitchell's maiden name). He was baptised on 7.6.1899 at St. Mary's.

Ryeworth Farm's last Mitchell wedding took place at St. Mary's on 20.6.1900 when George's last daughter Frances Blanche married Thomas Michael Trevethan a farmer of Brimpsfield, son of William Tippet Trevethan farmer.

Now George was 65 and all his children were married, he could look forward to retirement and his grandchildren. On 19.8.1900 his son Walter (no.2) and his wife had their son Arthur Godfrey baptised at St. Mary's. Walter (no.2) was, as I said, listed in 1902 as a farmer and dairyman in Kelly's Directory. In 1913 his daughter Gwendoline Shorey Mitchell was baptised at St. Mary's, they were then living in Mottisfont Cottages, built by George Mitchell (these still stand in Hambrook Street, but more of them later). Gwendoline Shorey Mitchell was born 17.2.1913 and baptised 4.5.1913. Her father is described as a farmer.

In 1902 George was still farming Ryeworth and Greenway Farms, but three years later when thinking of retiring he died suddenly on 16.1.1905 of a heart attack after suffering from gastritis for 12 days. His son in law Frederick Robert Franklin who lived at Homeleigh on London Road (another house built by George for his children) was present at his death. George was buried at St. Mary's with his first wife on 19.1.1905 and the Cheltenham Free Press printed a glowing obituary on 21.1.1905 also the Cheltenham Examiner on 18.1.1905.

'.....one of the oldest and most respected yeoman of this district .... was a kind hearted benevolent friend of the old school...had served his fellow parishioners in ... public offices, though a man of few words, his keen interest in affairs of parish, local knowledge and shrewd common sense made him an ideal representative....a conservative in politics, he rendered active assistance to the party candidate at the parliamentary elections in Charlton Kings ....without the appearance of the Mitchell wagon gaily bedecked in blue will to say the least lose much of their old time picturesque interest....'

His death saw Ryeworth Farm pass out of the Mitchell sphere, as Albert Dowler Mitchell was farming at Glenfall with his wife and infant son.

George Mitchell's will was interesting...

'he appointed his Son Albert Dowler Mitchell and sons in law Frederick Robert Franklin and Frederick John Peacey as executors and trustees...

To Albert Dowler went his gold fob watch, the same one George wore in the cricket photo and in the portrait we have, which was taken 1890-1895.

To his widow Mary Ann Mitchell he left his plate, linen, china, glass, pictures, prints, furniture and household effects absolutely.

To his trustees properties in Charlton Kings known as Elmore House, Ryeworth Villa, Stoke Villa, Motisfont (sic) Cottage, 1 and 2 Tytherley Villas and Eastleigh. (The underlined names are obviously connected with his farm and his childhood home in Hampshire). (These houses are in Hambrook Street and on Ryeworth Road between Sandhurst Road and Sixways, on the same side as Sandhurst Road). The properties were left upon trust to pay rents etc. to his widow during her lifetime (she died and was buried at St. Mary's on 30.12.1916 aged 70 years, whilst living at Ryeworth Villa - she was not buried with her late husband nor is there a

headstone as far as we know). After her death all properties were to be sold and proceeds divided equally between Albert Dowler, Walter (no.2), Kate Peacey, Eva May James, Frances Blanche Trevethen and Laura Ann Franklin.

But Walter (no.2) was not to have control of his share it was to be administered for him after any money owed by him to his father had been repaid out of it.

Laura Ann Franklin was to repay £300 out of her share for the house Homeleigh given to her by her father.....'

Walter (no.2)'s son Edgar Cecil aged 14 died and was buried on 18.4.1905, three months after his grandfather, then Hilda Kate (Walter No.2's daughter) of 2 Mottisfont Cottages died and was buried 18.2.1915 aged 18.

There are three more 'Family' headstones in St. Mary's churchyard

- 4) To the Beloved Memory of Frederick Robert Franklin passed over 9.9.1924.  
'Now we see through a glass darkly, then face to face'/ Also of Laura Anne Franklin/Wife of the above/died 23rd August 1943/Eternal Peace/and of Albert George Franklin their son died 14.1.1946/Rest in Peace.
- 5) Erected by his wife in everlasting memory of Thomas James/who passed over 20 August 1906 aged 35/Only good night beloved not farewell/Also of Eva May James, his Wife/At rest Nov 1937 aged 62
- 6) In loving memory of Minnie Florence Mitchell/died 23rd Feb. 1954/Also Albert Dowler Mitchell died 7 Dec 1962 aged 89/A very gentle man.

'this last phrase was chosen for both its meaning by his son George Wynn Mitchell.

In 1923 Albert Dowler Mitchell left Glenfall Farm for Ham Court where he farmed until his retirement in 1947.

His son, George Wynn Mitchell, it was decided by his mother, was not going into the family way of life, farming, he was sent to Dean Close school, then to Woolwich Arsenal army academy and served in the R.A. with great distinction. He was married on 30th April 1929 in Exeter to Enid Walker of Exeter, born in Stroud 7.6.1908 and whose father's family came from Twynning. It was the first Mitchell wedding away from St Mary's for over 70 years...They lived in barracks all over the world. Their daughter Diana was born in Exeter in 1931, their son Timothy George Wynn Mitchell was born in St Austell 27.10.1933 and Jillian was born in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1943. The two older children were with their parents at the fall of Singapore and with them on Malta during the Siege when Lt. Col. George Wynn Mitchell was in charge of the coastal defences on Malta.

On their return to England the family stayed with Albert Dowler Mitchell at Ham Court, Timothy George Wynn went to Dean Close then Marlborough College before going on to Dartmouth Naval College and Lord Mountbatten's Flagship HMS Glasgow as a midshipman His father meantime went to Scapa Flow to liaise with the free Norwegian troops for which he received the Norwegian Royal Blue Cross. No one knew when he was to come home, but his old black cocker spaniel did and one day sat by the gate at Ham Court and refused to move, that day his master came home. No Human knew he was coming.

There are many family tales about life at Ham Court and photos...the Americans billeted there...the dining room extension...many stories....



In 1947 Albert Dowler and Minnie left Ham Court and went to live out their retirement at Fontenelle on Sandhurst Road, a fine William IV house. Minnie died 23.2.1954. Diana Mitchell married an American Edward Eve and has four children, Christopher (who has 2 children), Paul, Timothy (who has 1 child) and Valerie. Diana is now sadly widowed, and still lives in Georgia.

However going back to 1960, George Wynn Mitchell retired and came home to Charlton Kings, living in a then, new bungalow in School Road. Albert Dowler Mitchell died in 1962 a very much loved and respected man like his father, and who like him had served in many offices in public service.

George Wynn Mitchell and his wife Enid moved into Fontenelle, which, as it was too big for two people, was divided into two flats. In May 1964 Timothy George Wynn Mitchell, their son, married myself, from Lancashire and we settled in Derbyshire. Where we have raised 4 children, Richard George Wynn Mitchell, born 28.12.1966, is living in London after attending University, Michael Alexander Wynn Mitchell, born 9.3.1971, lives and works in Derbyshire, his Twin Philip William Wynn Mitchell attends University. Our daughter Rachel Lucy Claudia Mitchell born 13.7.72 is about to go to University.

Jillian Mitchell was the last Mitchell to be married at St. Mary's in 1964, she now lives with her 3 children in North Wales. On 1.4.1973 George Wynn Mitchell died in Delancy Hospital, Cheltenham and his ashes lie in St. Mary's churchyard.

His widow Enid lived on, selling Fontenelle, and lived in Glencairn on Greenway Lane, until suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, she too, left Charlton Kings for North Wales. After her death in June 1988 her ashes were placed with her husband's in St. Mary's churchyard.

I have skated over recent generations in the family as they no longer live in Charlton Kings. I have sought to tell of the three generations who did live there, especially the first two who spent all their lives there or nearly so.

I am still collecting snippets of family history, if anyone can help or if anyone finds that they are related, no matter how distantly please contact me. Unfortunately my husband cannot help me too much as he was invalided out of the Merchant Navy 3 years ago when the ship he was the Captain of, was involved in the Iran/Iraq War when he was serving in the Persian Gulf. Unfortunately he health is deteriorating so he can help less and less.

Mrs. Timothy George Wynn Mitchell, Red Lees, 7 Forge Road, Whaley Bridge, Via Stockport, SK12 7HY.

**THE MITCHELL FAMILY, FOUR GENERATIONS**

(1) **George Mitchell** (1833-1905)  
taken about 1890-5.



(2) **Albert Dowler Mitchell**  
(1878-1962) taken about 1960



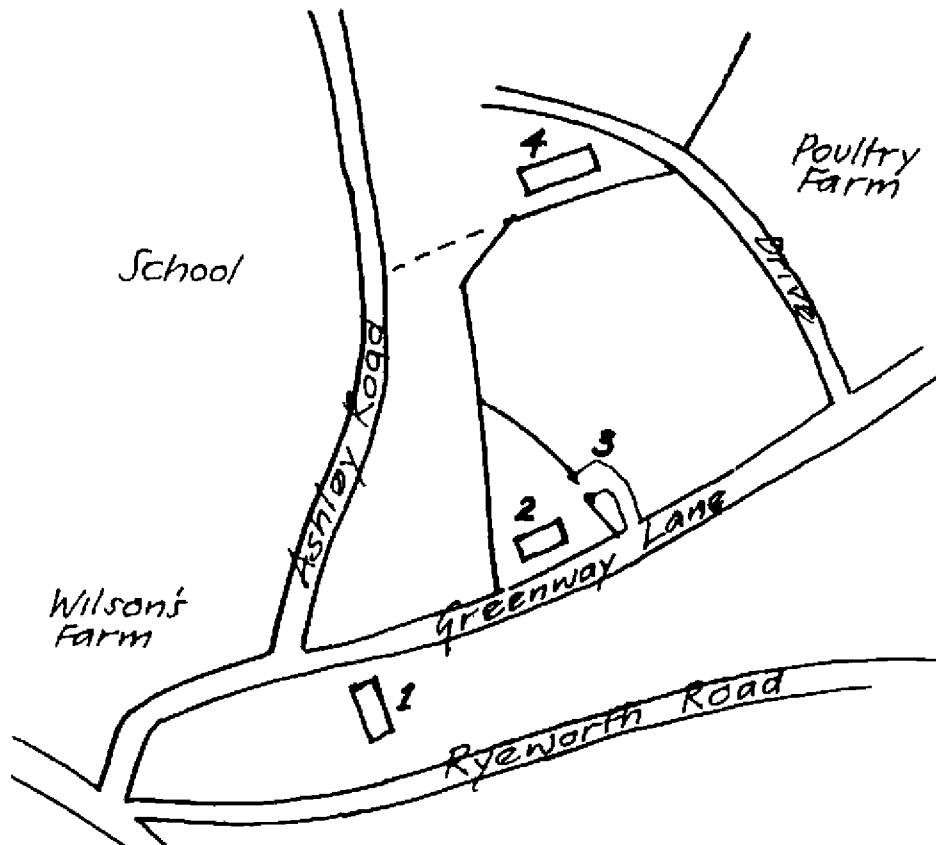
(3) **Lt.Col. George Wynn Mitchell**  
(1899-1973) taken about 1960



(4) **Capt. Timothy George Wynn Mitchell, "The Spirit of Malta"**  
(1933 - ) taken about 1943



## 6. POSSIBLE ANCIENT SITES OFF GREENWAY LANE



I have to go back nearly 30 years. I am 87 years old, might make mistakes. Little Manor is in Greenway Lane, Mark I on plan. It was bought by Mrs Lynes, a widow, who retired from a large Farm at Perrots Brook, near Cirencester. She got tired of nothing to do. Bought a new house the other side of the road, and the land round it, Mark II. She had Buildings erected and started to dabble in her "interests", Jersey Cows and calves, poultry, ducks, game birds, Old Furniture, clocks, and Pictures. Her man left her. I was asked if I would go and help her out.

We got on very well together. Similar interests, I think. She wanted the drive altered, a new entrance made from the road, a fence and a field gate into the yard, Mark 3.

Digging a hole for the gate posts we came on to stone. About 18 ins down, we came across stone. We tried to get through with a bar, impossible. It was a floor or a road, large stones set on edge. While we (were) doing this, 2 men working on a new house came by, Mark 4. They said that they had uncovered 2 or 3 stone troughs deep down, large flat stones that could have been lids. They simply covered them with concrete. They also said bits of Roman stuff had been found during building work on the poultry Farm. Mrs Lynes came out to see what the trouble was. 'Bert, if you breathe one word about this, I will murder you. I had enough trouble with people always digging up Romans at Perrots Brook. I am not having them here'.

Shortly after I left her. She wanted a man to drive her about. I did not want that. She remained very friendly till her death.

A.Mitchell

**Comment by Editor**

Mr Mitchell's memory hasn't deteriorated since he told me this story first about 1980.

There ought to be a Roman site or sites in Charlton, not yet located, simply because our soil is suitable, other sites have been discovered in far less favourable positions, and the population of Roman Britain is known to have been much higher than we used to think. I wish we knew what "bits of stuff" the men found and assumed to be Roman. The word can popularly be used for anything ancient.

On the other hand, the name Battledown appears to come from 'Baedella's tun', implying Saxon settlement somewhere in this area. Both the sites, Mark 3 and Mark 4, are close to the moated site shown on the 6" OS at 0602 2163. See "Preliminary Check List of Moated Sites in Gloucestershire" Barbara Rawes Glevensis 12 p 35 GADARG 1978. So one could postulate a Medieval origin, perhaps a farmyard attached to the main house but on the main road. Mrs Rawes thinks a medieval or post medieval origin more likely than a Roman one.

Old sites were often abandoned in the 17th-18th centuries and the old buildings simply allowed to fall down. We have several well-attested cases in Charlton. People wanted something more convenient and built a new house for themselves (as the Pates' did in Bafford); or several small farms were thrown together and the unwanted houses divided into 3 or 4 cottages or allowed to decay (as we know happened in Ham). The stone troughs may have been water troughs or have been used for brewing or cheese making. There is a stone trough in the cellar at Elborough Cottage. Every Charlton farm made its own cheese and brewed its own beer. The fact that the troughs were found so deep below the present surface suggests the possibility that they were in a cellar, and the building collapsed into it.

The stone 'lids' could have been salting slabs for pigs (every farm killed its own pigs and needed a big flat slab for the purpose); they could have been part of cheese presses. A large slab of this kind was found by Mrs Alday at New Court and broken up.

When we have done some more work on deserted sites in the Greenway-Ham areas, we may be able to say yes or no to these speculations.

Could the "road" be an access road to the moated site?

**7. THE RYEWORTH CRICKET CLUB PHOTOGRAPH RECONSIDERED (See Bulletin 26 pp 39-40)**

Mrs Mitchell has now produced positive evidence that the central figure in the group is not A.D. Mitchell, as we thought, but his father George Mitchell. The much younger man at his side, holding a cricket bat, is Albert Dowler Mitchell.

A Cricket Club was started in June 1879. It was a Parish Club, and thanks to George Mitchell, it played on his land at Ryeworth. This continued till 1899 when, after a hiatus, the present Ryeworth Club was started. But that was not till after George Mitchell's death in 1905.

So the suggested date, c 1893-4 is almost certainly right, taking into account the apparent age of A.D. Mitchell; he would have been 21 in 1894.

Mrs Mitchell adds that A.D.Mitchell was a very good bowler (which explains the ball in his hand). "He played with W.G.Grace and Grace thought him good enough as a slow bowler to play for Gloucestershire and England. But his father and his own common sense decided that farming would feed him for life but Cricket, in those days, wouldn't, and he should concentrate on farming."

M.Paget

## 8. MEMORIES OF RYEWORTH

I lived with my parents and brother Ron in a house in Ryeworth Road from 1928-1952; the pair of semi-detached houses were built in 1926 and we moved in about 1928, so we were the second owners. The house was called LINDLEY, it is still there, but re-named.



My mother, myself, and my grandmother outside our house in Ryeworth Road.

The house was very modern for those days, as the front room had a large bay window looking onto a neat lawn and flower beds. The back room was a dining-room and also had a large window looking down a long narrow garden which backed on to fields and GREENWAY LANE, now a small housing development.

The kitchen was quite large and had a large walk-in larder with a marble slab (no fridges in those days), but outside hung a large mesh-covered cabinet where food to be kept cool would be stored. In the corner of the kitchen was a brick-enclosed copper boiler which would be lit every Monday morning and the "whites" put in and boiled, and then rinsed in the sink, to which would be added a blue bag, finally put through a large mangle and hung out to dry on a line in the garden. The next job was to black the free-standing cooker with ZEBO, and finally the floor was swept and cleaned with a bucket of water and hand-held scrubbing brush and a bar of Sunlight soap.

Upstairs there were three bedrooms, each with a small fireplace, only to be lit when someone was ill. In the bathroom was a wash-basin, toilet, and a very large gas geyser for hot water (what luxury!)

Every Saturday was bath night, Mother would bring up a round free-standing paraffin heater; the top was patterned so when lit it would throw a lovely moving pattern on the bedroom ceiling.

My father grew all his own vegetables, and kept bees at the bottom of the garden. Every year the Charlton Kings Flower Show was held, first at Ashley Manor, and later at Cox's meadow, Sandford Road. Vegetables, flowers, jams, cakes etc were entered for the much coveted prizes. My father was especially keen on showing his honey, which would be strained meticulously in a home-made extractor, made from what looked like a dustbin! My brother and I were allowed to turn the handle and watch the honey come out from the honeycombs.

Opposite our house was a small general store owned by Mr and Mrs JAMES, who sold a variety of things from groceries, sweets, cigarettes etc; outside the shop window on a line would hang plimsolls, wellingtons etc.

Further down on the same side was the RYEWORTH INN kept by a jovial man called Mr. FOWLER, who kept a pet monkey in a cage in the garden. The Inn is still there but modernized, and the garden is now a car park. Almost next door was a small Fish and Chip shop, owned by a MR and MRS FLETCHER. Opposite to them was the bakery owned by the MILLS family, where bread and cakes would be baked on the premises; early morning we would have the delicious aroma of newly baked bread, and in the evening the lovely smell of fish and chips! The delivery man for the bakery was a Mr TIPPER, who lived with his family in the AVER, now numbered as part of Ryeworth Road. He had a horse drawn bread van, and would carry a large wicker basket to each of his customers with a selection of loaves for them to choose from.

Further down the road was another general store owned by a MR and MRS WOODFORD. All those shops have now closed, and the premises converted to private houses.

There was also a chapel next door to the bakery, now redundant and used for other purposes.

Another vivid memory I have of the Thirties is the Annual Summer party held at GLENFALL HOUSE, to which all of the children of Ryeworth and Ham would be invited. We would walk en masse at a given time up Ryeworth Road, along Mill Lane, through the big gates, to another world! The house was then owned by the Mitchell family of Mitchell and Butler, the brewers.

My grandfather Albert Adams was one of the local milkmen, he lived in Croft Avenue where he had a small dairy attached to his house. He owned two ponies, Kitty and Jimmy. Every morning he would harness one of the ponies to a small milk float and collect milk from the junction of Mill Lane and Ham Hill, left for him in big urns by one of the local farmers. Bottled milk was only just beginning to be delivered, so he would carry a large pail of milk to each of his customers, who would quite often be waiting on their doorsteps with their jugs.

As soon as he reached our house, I would be out there to greet him, and my treat was to ride in the milk float to Sixways where I would promptly be dispatched back home. He would then continue his round to OVERBURY, HAMILTON, AND OAKLAND STREETS, down past

HOLY APOSTLES' CHURCH, up HAYWARDS ROAD, and finally ROSEHILL and UPPER PARK STREETS. With the round now finished, he would be back to the dairy to clean and sterilize all the utensils ready for the next day. The pony would then be walked back to a field he rented in the DIP in Ryeworth Road, and the other pony brought back ready for another early morning start. Grampy did this routine seven days a week until he retired in the late forties.

I married and left home in 1952, and have many happy memories of life in Ryeworth Road; and still live happily in Charlton Kings.



Ryeworth Inn 1977



Hambrook Stores 1977

Mavis Prout (nee Adams)

## 9. HOLY APOSTLES' CHURCH

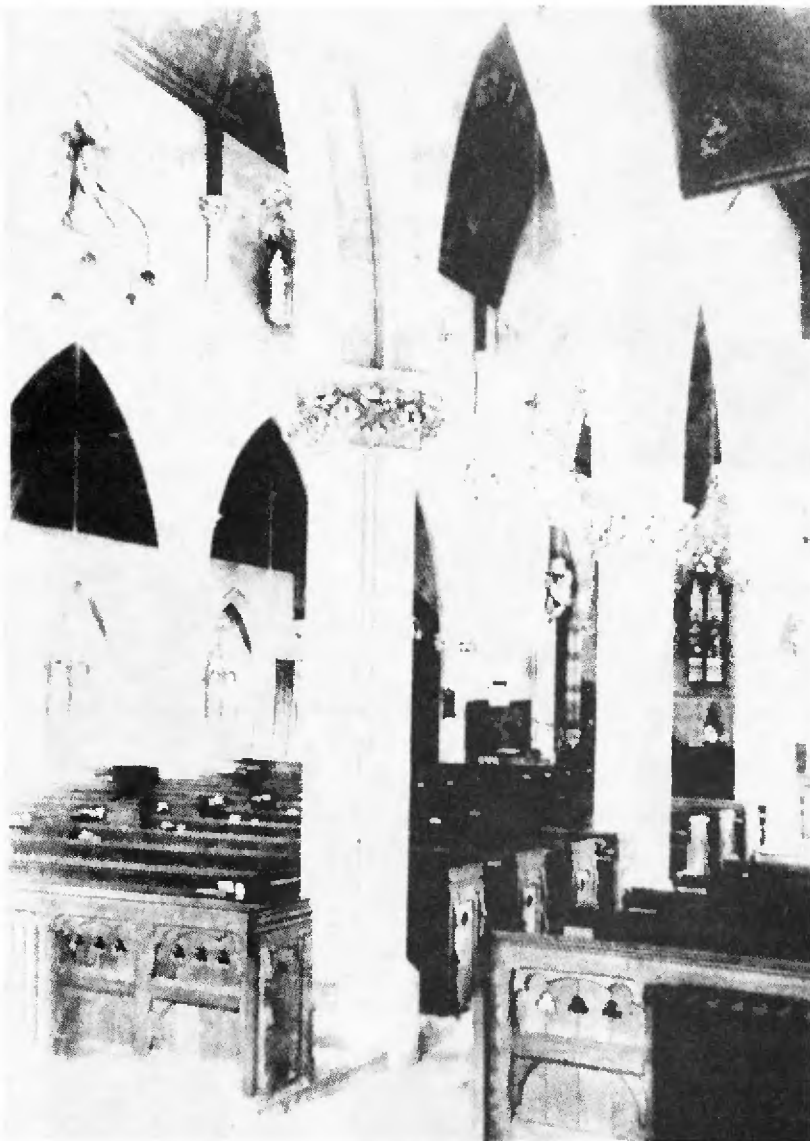
Mr Edgar Stickley has responded to Bulletin 26 by producing a much clearer photograph of Holy Apostles' Choir in 1916, and adding these identifications:-

1st Row (back) on left of banner Arthur Mills, baker in Ryeworth

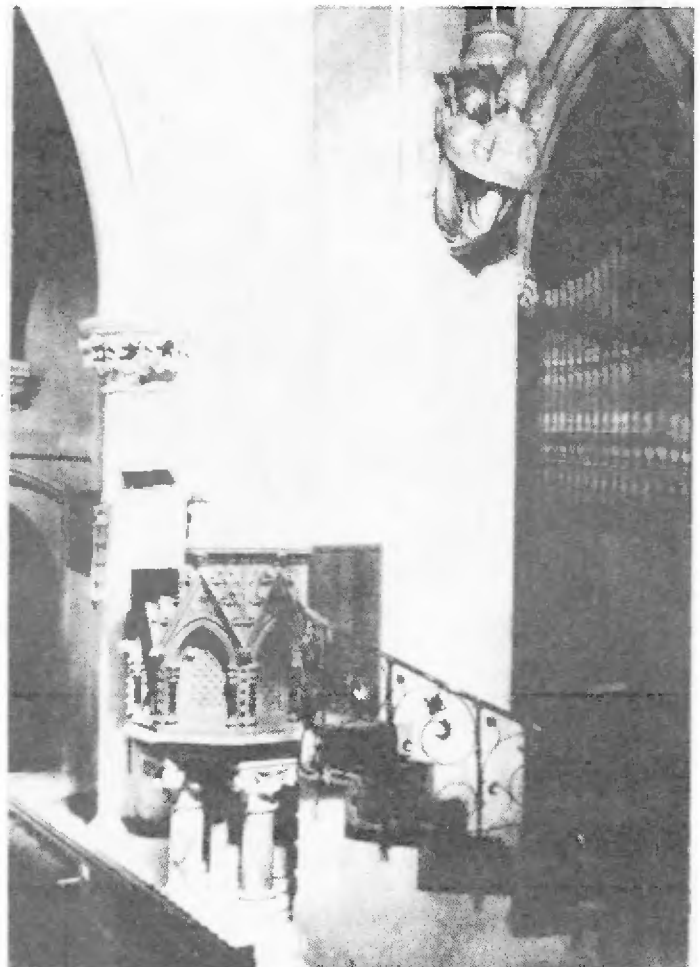
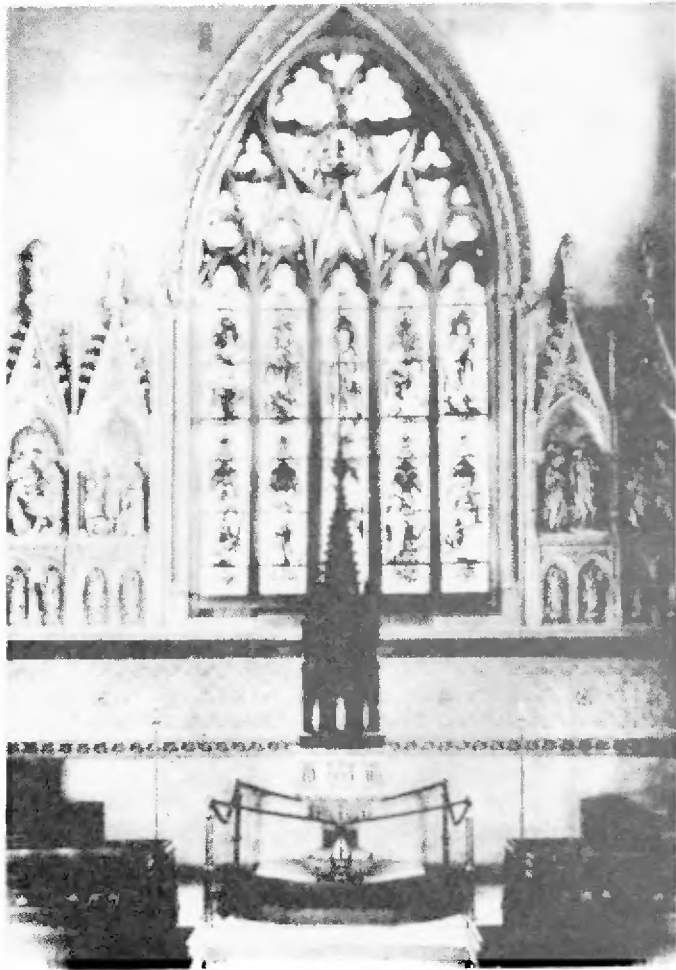
2nd Row next to back - 4 from left Jack Lawrence, solicitor's clerk, Hayward's Road; end of row Winnie Bridgman

3rd Row, first on left Mrs Bert Bridgman, centre the Revd Corke, by him(?) Mr Symonds, jeweller and neighbour of my father and W.G. Brasher in Langton Grove Road, next Mrs Birt of Ryeworth Road, next Miss L.M.Birt daughter of Mrs. Birt, (my mother-in-law Mrs Middleton)

These photographs of the church are from a complete set of seven.







They give a splendid impression of the richness of the carving in this church. Mr Stickley says "I believe that these photos were sold as part of fund raising activities at the time of the building of new vestries at the West End in the 1930s. Prior to that, when I was first a choir boy, the men and boys were packed in a vestry on the south side of the church (later the Memorial Chapel) and the Ladies were packed in a small room below."

### THE STICKLEY FAMILY AND HOLY APOSTLES

Mr Stickley has added these comments and family photographs.

"My father came to Cheltenham in the 1890s from Birmingham in order to undertake audit work in the area. He always stayed at the Pierpont Hotel in Royal Well (hotel owned by a Mrs Edwards and jointly run and managed with her sister Miss Rooke who originated from Blandford in Dorset). My father subsequently married Miss Rooke at Holy Apostles Church in 1897 and they lived in Langton Grove Road. His neighbours at that time were the Brashers, Symonds, and Franklins.

Following the death of his first wife, my father married my mother nee Ellison in 1922 at Holy Apostles Church. My grandfather moved to the UCAL, Cheltenham, from Boots of Station Street, Nottingham, in 1919. As a manufacturing pharmacist he had trained with his wife's family business, Gibsons of Manchester, a supplier to Jesse Boot of Nottingham. Later he took seven men from Manchester to start Boot's medicated lozenge department in Nottingham.

My father's association with Holy Apostles spanned over 50 years and he was superintendent of the Sunday School for 50 years.

I commenced my schooling at Holy Apostles School in 1929. Although the details are rather hazy, I clearly remember the teachers of the four classes:- Miss Small (reception), Miss Dean, Miss Batten and Miss Herbert (headmistress). Miss Herbert lived with her sister in Horsefair Street, opposite the War Memorial. The boy I commenced school with and who still remains a friend is Canon George Smith who is the rector of Leckhampton. George, who lived at East End, used to call for me on his way to school. Our birthdays are on the same date. I have very happy memories of my pre-war years of association in many activities at Holy Apostles Church - Sunday School, choirboy, deputy organist etc.

Prior to going to the Grammar School, I had two years at Charlton Kings Boys's School in the classes of Mr Hale and Mr Elms. I remember purchasing toffee apples from one of the thatched cottages in Lyefield Road East, for the princely sum of ¼d, ½d and 1d!" [Presumably the cottages were the ones in School Road, looking up Lyefield Road East].

- (1) Grandpa Elleson, pharmacist  
photograph taken whilst a manager of UCAL products, Cheltenham.

He died at Lyefield Villas, Copt Elm Road



- (2) My father's first wife and my half-sister Dorothy Lilian Stickley in June 1901



- (3) Father and mother's wedding photograph, taken at Lyefield Villas. They were married at Holy Apostles' Church by the Revd. A.H. Rhodes in 1922.



- (4) My wife's grandparents, Mr and Mrs H.Birt of Elmore, Ryeworth Road, who celebrated their golden wedding 7 August 1944. Mr Birt was Peoples' Warden of Holy Apostles.





(5) Wedding of Lizzie May Birt to Charles Middleton 1922 - Photo taken at 'The Chase', East End, home of Mr. Harris Charles grandfather.



Lizzie May Middleton, Mr Stickley's mother-in-law.

**HOLY APOSTLES SCHOOL - Photographs**

(1) c.1930



Teachers - Miss Batten, Miss Small  
Headmistress - Mrs Cooke

Lent by Mrs. Wynne Gillman nee Winter

(2) c.1932



Lent by Mrs Mavis Prout

## II. HOLY APOSTLES ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

Winners of the Cheltenham and District League (Div 4) 1911-12

Back row:- Mr. W.E.Palmer, Rev.H.A.Corke (president), Mr. W.H.Symonds, Mr. W.J.Lawrence, H.G.Davey, F.Fry, A.J.Hannis, E.A.Hicks, Mr. A.J.Stickley, Mr. W.E.Davey, Mr. F.Satchell

Middle row:- E.Burrows, F.H.Taylor (Vice-Captain), A.Roberts, H.S.Jones (Captain), L.Hart (Hon.Secretary), F.Bridgman, W.J.Chandler.

Front row:- F.French, H.Knight, F.Scrivens, J.Marshall

The photograph was taken by J.A.Bailey of Copt Elm Road.

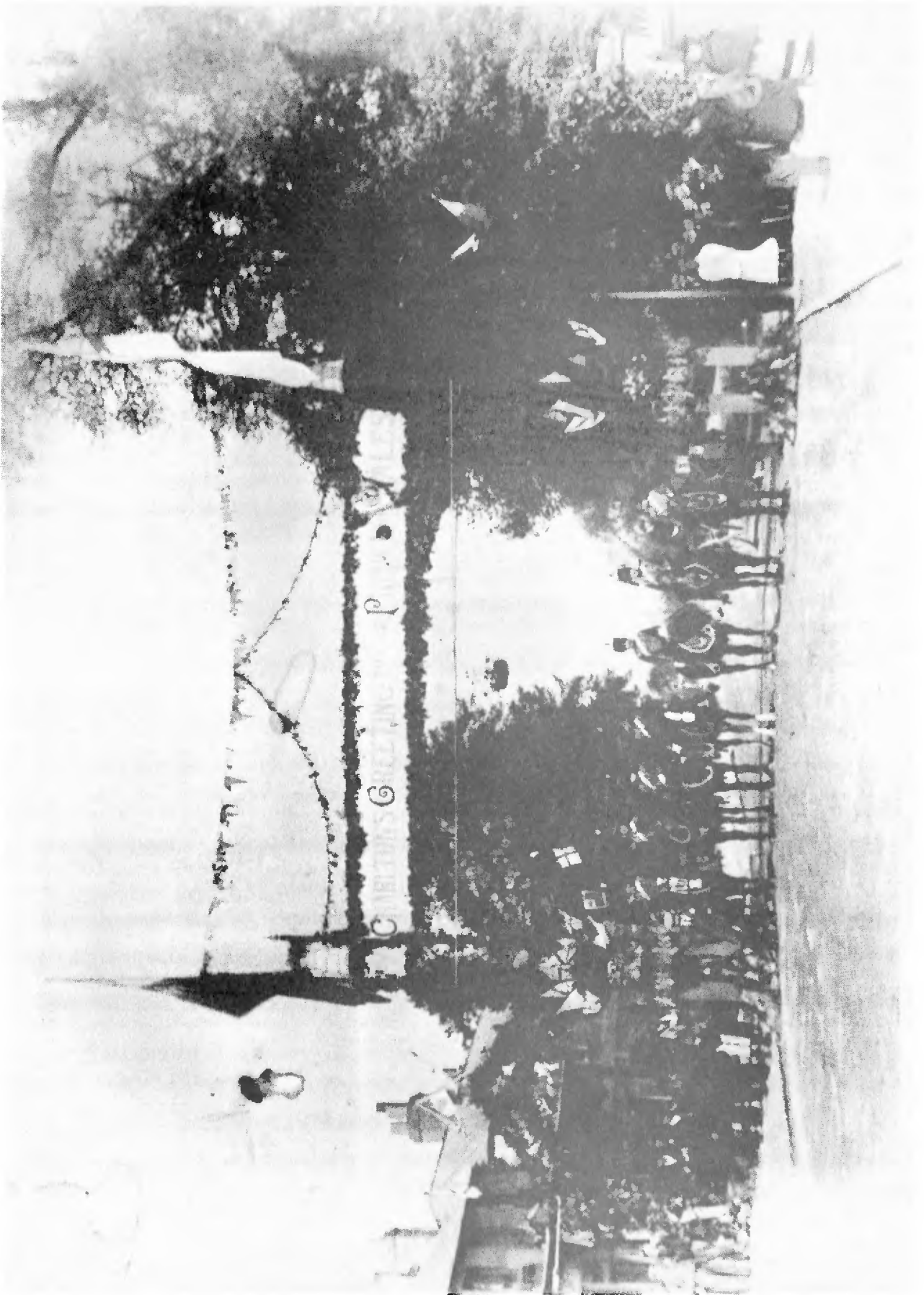
### HOLY APOSTLES ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

WINNERS CHELTENHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE (DIV. 4) 1911-12  
 Match 1911-12 - Wm. H. - 1911-12



Photograph lent by Miss M.Bridgman

London Road 1897 with volunteers





## 12. THE 1897 NON-EVENT: AND THE RANDALL FAMILY

When the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) visited Cheltenham in 1897, Charlton Kings prepared this triumphant arch and loyal message for him. Another photograph of the arch was published in our History p 186 and in Bulletin 7 p 41. But this one, kindly lent by Mrs. Phyllis Williams of Hucclecote, shows the Guard of Honour formed by the Gloucestershire Yeomanry. Third from the left is her father George Randall aged 18. She believes others are Albert Mitchell, George Burrows, and W. Rouse of Hamdays. Sadly, the Prince chose to come via the Evesham Road!

Mrs William's grandfather was Charles Randall, who died in 1931. She quotes this extract from an Echo obituary "Mr Randall's has been a romantic life. The son of a Charlton Kings haulier, he was born at Black Hedge, Leckhampton. At 19 years old, he went to America to seek his fortune, 3 years later returning to England to marry and return to America. After about 2 years, he again returned to England to stay.

His first farm was rented (Little Herberts Farm, Charlton Kings); afterwards he took over Ashgrove Farm and later worked Coxhorne Farm and California Farm together. His only son George married and took over Coxhorne. By this time, with the idea of retiring, he built a house in East End, Charlton Kings."

He did not remain retired for long, he got tired of the easy life and bought The Woodlands, a big farm which included Dowdeswell Wood, which he later sold to the Cheltenham Corporation.

Charles Randall gave land for a children's recreation ground.

Phyllis Williams

The land given for the recreation ground must have been The Rec, run by the Club till c 1919 and now used as part of the Infant School site (See Bulletin 6). Charles Randall or one of the family may have bought the land from Sir William Russell c.1874-80. There were two pairs of red brick houses in School Road (pulled down to make way for the Bob Chick houses) which had a date stone and the initials WR on the fronts. I jumped to the conclusion that WR stood for William Russell, but the late Frank Neather told me I was wrong, it stood for William Randall their builder. I can't yet connect William Randall with Charles. M.P.

## 13. PRUENS ROW

Questions have been asked in The Echo about the location of Pruens Row, Charlton Kings. It was a small court off Church Street, south side, consisting of one very old thatched cottage (possibly the original Ashley Manor Brevell family tenement) and 4 small brick cottages, one up, one down, added c.1876 on site of "Two ruined cottages". Mrs. Bick has produced these photographs of the back of the thatched house, taken shortly before all the cottages were demolished as unfit for human habitation in 1939-40.



14. A MAN OF MANY PARTS, MEMORIES OF FREDERICK ROBERT MARTIN, by his daughter

He was born in Charlton Kings and who died there in 1943 aged 67 years.

He was married to Annie Wakefield Beamish, and was a good father to their 3 daughters, Evelyn, Freda, and Connie.

He was interested in all sports and was a member of the Working Mens Club and their shooting events. He was a keen dancer and was always chosen to start the festivities with his wife by George Maisey who provided the music for the members' Xmas party which was their main social event of the year and was held at the St Clairford Hall.

He was a member of the choir of St Marys and many times stood in for the bass singer, Mr. Finch of Gloucester Cathedral choir, as the soloist in Stainer's Crucifixion which was always sung on Good Friday during the Revd Neale's time as Vicar.

He was Hon. Secretary of the Horticultural Society for many years and was responsible for organising the annual Flower and Vegetable show on August Bank Holiday Monday. We

sisters won prizes for wild flowers - we tramped miles to collect them, and on the Monday morning had to scrub the potatoes, beetroot, parsnips etc. which father was showing.

He was Treasurer of the New Inn public house Benevolent Fund when Mr and Mrs George Eakets were the landlords.

He was a member of the Charlton Kings Fire Service when the engine had to be man-handled and the water pumped by means of a bar worked by 3 men a side - jolly hard work when you had to attend a fire at Ham Hill!!

He was a member of the Brotherhood in Charlton Kings and I well remember the occasion when he promised to take our Concert Party, the Edgworth Nippies, to Chipping Norton Brotherhood to join a show. We started off well enough in convoy but in no time we drove into fog and eventually arrived in Chipping Norton at 5 minutes to ten, just in time to hear the 'King' being played. However we all enjoyed a hot cup of tea and then started back, Father, my sister, and me as passengers in Mr. Tortenes's car; with some misgivings, I must add, because Mr. T. was a "learner driver" in todays parlance. We hadn't gone far before we had to take turns to walk in front of the car with a torch. At Andoversford we managed to walk right on to the platform of the Railway Station! but after finding the main road again, got home at 3.15 a.m.

He was a great Rugby Football supporter and regularly went to the Cheltenham Water Polo matches at the Alstone Baths.

He was employed by the Gas Co as a fitter and started work at 6 am daily, then came home for breakfast at 8 am. Very often he brought some dripping cakes from Gallops shop for breakfast - they were famous; and at Xmas he came home with a turkey draped round his shoulders which he had got from the Market.

After a few years, he became an electrician and his big effort was in wiring all the new houses on the Cirencester Road and Okus Road for the builders, Bradleys of Swindon, Wilts.

All in all, a very fulfilled life and I am very proud of it and him.

Freda Hancock (nee Martin)

## 15. SOME CHARLTON CHARACTERS

It was while working at the Bank of England LONDON that I became friendly with a stone carver who showed me his quirks and chisels made by a genius blacksmith living like a hermit on the bank just below Ryeworth Road, Charlton Kings. The carver always returned these tools when in need of re-conditioning. Ray Merritt the blacksmith was a colourful character, wearing a bowler hat and a sack for apron. To put him in the right mood, he would go down to the London Inn for a couple of pints. Then with several pieces of steel in the forge fire, he would spin them around, hammering them on his anvil, making lovely tools with the familiar mushroom heads, before hardening and tempering them. I have recently learned he did this in horses' urine. My carver friend said he was often offered thirty shillings for one tool, half a weeks wages in those days. A genius, Ray Merritt was.

A lot of interesting people passed by my house in Cirencester Road. One was a Mr Stot Wilmot from Naunton Crescent, a blind organist at Coberley church. Early Sunday morning, he would pass by, a young boy catching hold of his hand, walking all the way to Cobberley Church. Again on Sunday evenings, doing the same journey for the evening service.

A gentleman named Eustace would frequently walk up between the tramlines. A well-off man, over 6 feet, with a thumb stick. We nicknamed him "Tramlines".

Another character was a ginger man with a tray of fish on his head who would pass by on the way to the Coberleys and other villages on the hills. He was often seen in hot weather, freshening the fish up in a stream to make it presentable.

There was a man frequently passing by with a box on pram wheels, collecting moss for wreath-making. He was known as Joe.

Close to our house, gipsy Romanies used to pull up in covered wagons with horses. Salt sellers they were. Although close to me, I could never understand their chatter. They used to live in their wagons and called into the New Inn (now Little Owl) next door for refreshments.

Another character they called the King of Charlton. He had friends that used to go over to Leckhampton Saturday evenings, picking quarrels with the lads in the pubs. Fighting often took place but not with knives and bover boots, as often used today.

A well liked character was Sgt Kaffir Drake, who was awarded the D.S.M. 1st World War. He and his men were buried in a dug-out for one week. Some died but Kaffir kept the others alive by continually singing to them. Kaffir was one of Dad's best men in his gang on the G.W.R.

Kaffir one Christmas Eve won a cockerel in a raffle at the New Inn and plucked it in the bar, feathers all over the floor, sticking the wing feathers all round his trilby hat! Sergeant Hills took him home, singing all the way and carrying the cockerel by its neck. Sgt Hills said he never laughed so much.

Then there was Moses Davis from Californian Farm who always had lovely trotting horses. A tall man, nearly as tall as his horses. He and Percy James (now 91) used to go down by the Gas Works to, I believe, Moses' brother who was a butcher. On a summers evening when the wind was in the right direction, Dad and I could hear them trotting up London Road. Dad would say 'There goes Moses and Percy off home'. The pony always went straight through the gate leading to California Farm.

My grandmother from Needle Hole, Pegglesworth estate, always took the donkey (with my father on his back) shopping to Cheltenham; walking through the woods, down to Seven Springs, down Charlton Hill, and into town, tying the donkey up in the Strand and doing the shopping. Bread then was a baker's dozen, 13 loaves.

Mother had twins when living at Roman Road, Lansdown. My Aunty Julia walked from Needle Hole to Roman Road, picked up my brother Will on her shoulders, and carried him back to Needle Hole. Then she took him each day approx. 2¼ miles at 3 years old to Coberley school where my Aunty was a teacher for many years.

Dad's second man on the G.W.R. was a Bill Jones who could never get near enough to the fire in the Merry Fellow. He stole two of Dad's fog signals, threw them into the fire one evening, and blew the grate and fire all over the bar. Dad shook him next morning and threatened to sack him. Mr Bill Smith from Brevell Terrace witnessed the explosion at the time.

George Powers from Spring Bottom and Snowy Wheeler were two more interesting characters. People in those days were made of tough material!

There was a loveable character in the village of Charlton Kings named Wally. He was very talented with his chalk drawings of cowboys and Indians along the black fence around The Grange, and around many other places in Charlton. Once he entered my father's hut opposite the Signal Box at Charlton Kings railway station. He took a real flag from father's hut, and went on to the railway track, hoping to stop a train. Dad took the flag off him! It was said Wally could march to town in 20 minutes, he imagined he was in the Guards Regiment.

He once took a job at the shop at the corner of Cambray, then a grocers and provision shop. His job was to deliver groceries around Charlton Kings with a 3 wheeled box bicycle. One Wednesday, in Lyefield Road East, the church clock struck one o'clock - he said it was his half day and left the cycle and groceries in Lyefield Road!

There was a barber in Church Street named Horeman or Boreham (Oram). He would half cut a man's hair, leave him waiting, pop down to the Merry Fellow and swallow a pint before finishing his job in hand.

Another interesting character of Charlton Kings used to pump the wind into the organ at the church. Edgar Neale the Vicar was in the habit of preaching a fairly long sermon at evensong on Sundays. This character, who was responsible for keeping up the wind in the organ, always popped over to the Royal Hotel close by during the sermon to take his couple of pints. This particular Sunday, the Vicar gave a very short sermon and the organist found no wind to play. Trevor and I, both choir boys, were sent hurrying round to pump the wind into the organ! The Vicar afterwards gave the culprit a good telling off.

There were a lot of interesting characters around in the past.

F.Taylor

## 16. CHARLTON TREES (3) - THE LAST SPANISH CHESTNUT OF CHESTNUT WALK

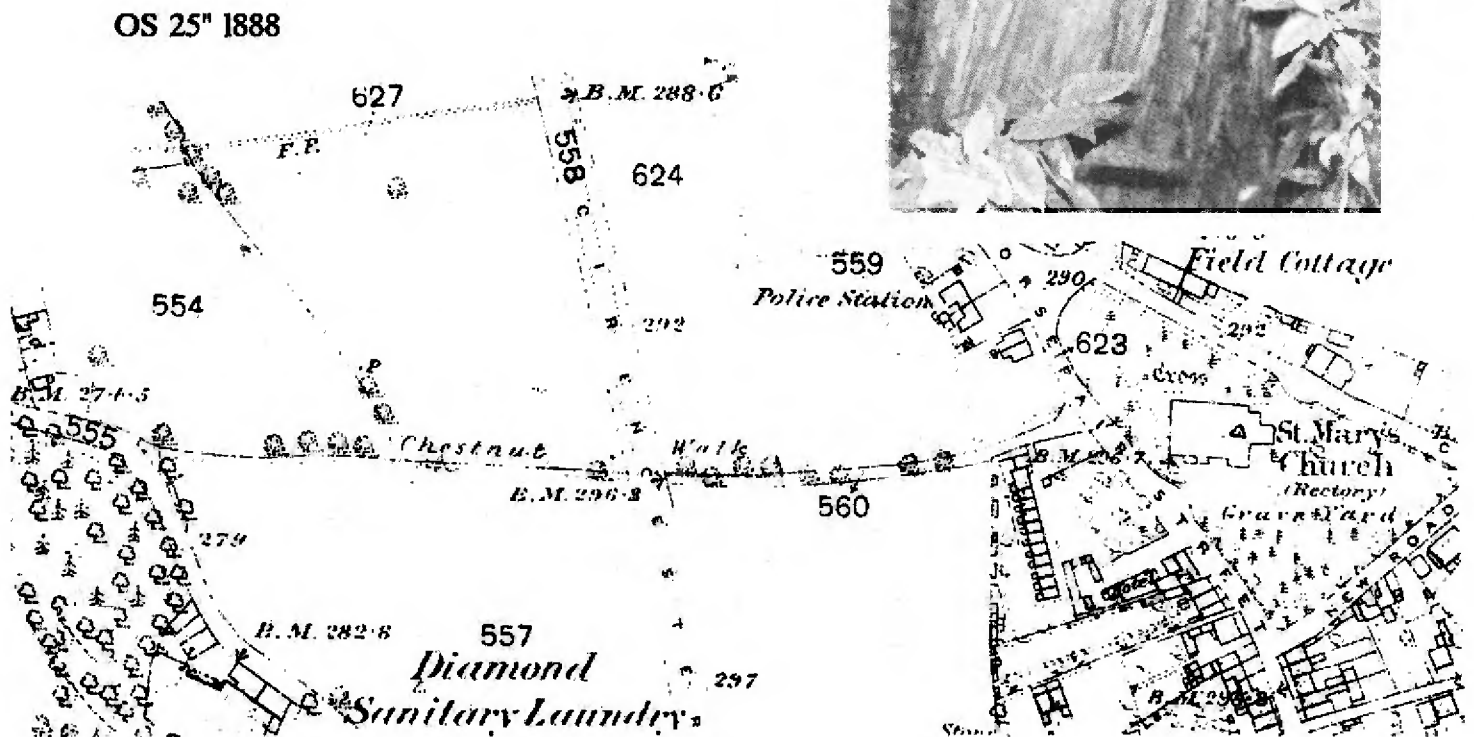
In The History of the Countryside (1986, reprinted 1990) pp 54-6. Oliver Rackham discusses the history of the sweet chestnut, now known to have been brought to England by the Romans. There are some very old specimens in the Forest of Dean. Our tree is a little over 200 years old and is the survivor of a chestnut avenue planted along a footpath from Moorend Street (New Court Road) to the church, probably by William Prinn who died in 1784.

Chestnut Terrace, branching off that footpath, got its name from the Avenue.

Some trees had gone by 1888. The rest, all but one, were cut down when part of the path was widened to make Gladstone Road. This last one was saved in the 1920s by the active intervention of Mr and Mrs Freegard.

It may be the very tree mentioned in the story of George Hessop who in June 1849 had been drinking at the Royal and later collapsed under a chestnut tree on this path. Charles Turk (of the Moorend malthouse, on the site of the laundry) tripped over him! Then Walter Parry (of Emily Place) called out the Assistant Overseer Thomas Karn. This story was written up briefly for The Echo by Eric Armitage, who gave me the fuller version.

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17. NOTES ON ST. MARY'S HISTORY (with Editor's comments in brackets)

(1) Dedication

William, bishop of Hereford, who dedicated Charlton parish church (presumably during a vacancy in the See of Worcester in 1190-1 or 1193) may have been chosen for the task because he held a manor in Prestbury and presumably sometimes stayed there (See Bulletin 8 pp 55-6).

- (2) A Charlton Sermon - an undated paper attached to a report of court paper of February 1553, says the person of Cleve (Bishop's Cleve) preached at Charlton last Sunday.

(3) Survey of Church Livings in Gloucestershire 1650

Charlton Kings, stipend £40 "A constant preacher minister", 40 families in parish. B.G.A.S. Trans 83 p 92 (1964).

(4) A storm in a pew

W.H. Bridgman in his manuscript notes on Charlton Kings, Vol.3, p.30, has quoted the full account of a quarrel between the Vicar, J.F.S. Gabb, and his Parish Clerk R. Arnott, from The Cheltenham Free Press, of 5 June 1841. [The whole story is too long to repeat in full, but may be summarized. For the last half year, Gabb and Arnott had been disputing the right to keep the black cloth used to drape the pulpit, reading desk, and deceased person's pew at a funeral. The interesting part is this reference to the practice, which was kept up for six months or more after the event]. "In October 1839 Mr Cregoe Colmore, living at Charlton, died and was buried at the Parish Church. The Church was in consequence hung with black cloth. About six months after the funeral, the cloth was removed from the pulpit and reading desk and taken to Mr. Gabb, the Parish Clerk keeping that which was upon his own desk. About November 1840, Miss Cregoe sent word to the Parish Clerk to remove the cloth from her own pew, and do with it as he had done on a former occasion. He accordingly removed the cloth and kept it---" Gabb then asked Miss Cregoe "if she intended to have the cloth removed as the usual time of leaving it on the pew had elapsed" and told Arnott to bring it to him. "The clerk refused to do so, as he considered the hangings of a pew were the property of the owner; that the parson had no right to them; and that by Miss Cregoe telling him to remove them, without ordering him to take them to Mr Gabb's or to her own house, she intended him to keep them himself." [In law, Arnott was wrong, but with Ministers staying such a short time here, this practice may have been allowed. Gabb told the Clerk to give up the keys to the Vestry; so Arnott refused to look out the lessons for the service or to shut the pulpit door after the Parson, part of the work he was paid to do]. "He also repeated the Lord's Prayer at the commencement of the Communion Service as had been the custom at Charlton before Mr Gabb came there, but Mr Gabb had ordered him to discontinue the practice". [The Lord's Prayer at the beginning of the Prayer Book Communion service is properly part of the priest's preparation for his celebration. So Gabb would have been horrified to find his Clerk taking upon himself to say the prayer. This was one of the many ways in which St Mary's had developed its own customs quite unlike those of ordinary parishes!]

"In the course of last month, Dr Conolly (the Minister's Churchwarden) convened a meeting of the resident gentry of the Parish, at which it was mutually agreed that the clerk should hold the keys of the church the same as before, and he in return would perform his duties as usual. The clergyman was not successful in obtaining the cloth".

[Arnott had probably sold it back to the undertakers! - This row will remind old Yarlies of a not dis-similar dispute in 1937, after Neale's death, when a zealous curate refused to let an elderly lady remove a hassock which she alleged to be hers!]

The Free Press continues "Another instance of this clergyman's avaricious disposition has come to our knowledge. About Twelve months ago, a Mr Hathaway of Castleton Villa [now Hilden Lodge], Charlton, died and was buried in a brick vault in the Charlton churchyard. On the day of his burial, about a quarter of an hour before the procession left the house, Mr Gabb sent to the Parish Clerk requesting him to go and demand a fee of two guineas although he had no right to any fee for the burial of persons dying in the parish. The money

was paid, and a few weeks after, legal proceedings were commenced against the Rev. Gent. who was glad to refund the two guineas and pay all the costs to prevent it going into court."

[Again, Gabb had come up against the peculiar position at St. Mary's. The whole churchyard and all the brick vaults and the fees were the property of the Lay Impropiator Conway Whithorne Lovesy. The incumbent's normal right to a fee for a burial in a vault did not apply here. In any case his demand was tactless. But how Gabb could be called "avaricious" when his total stipend was £64 it's hard to see! The Free Press of course was a Nonconformist organ, and liked to report anything to the discredit of the clergy.]

#### Paths near Church Burial Ground

See Bridgeman's Notes II 39 in Cheltenham Library.

M.J.Greet