

CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 28

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Copies of this Bulletin are available from Officers or from The Wool and Card Shop opposite Charlton Kings Library and Lyefield Road Post Office.

Past Issues available:- Bulletins 6,7,11,12,14-27

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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.

Parish Register I 1538-1634 price £2: Parish Register II 1634-1700 price £3.

A History of Charlton Kings (Published by the County Library in 1988) has been reprinted with corrections by the Society in 1989 and is available from the Society or from The Forge Newsagents, Church Street, and from The Wool and Card Shop and Lyefield Road Post Office.

The Reminiscences of John Bowen are to be published this autumn.

Printed by Top Flight, 93 St. George's Place, Cheltenham, Glos.

Cover picture - Wraxall House, drawn by Ken Venus

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1. DEMESNE LANDS OF CHELTENHAM MANOR IN CHARLTON KINGS

When, about 1060, the manor of Cheltenham was re-organised by Edward the Confessor's reeve, new lands were allocated for the manorial demesne. (See History p.4). The 1294 survey in the Public Record Office (E 106/2/3; Bulletin 15) tells us that all the demesne was leased out; it consisted of 149 acres of arable, 30 acres of meadow, 16s worth of pasture, and 2s worth of wood. Much of this was in Charlton Kings, and of that nearly all in Ham. This confirms the theory that Ham (hamme, meadow) represents new meadow created to replace the king's meadow (Keynsham) and cold meadow (Coltham), converted to arable c.1060. The other Charlton demesne was also meadow, a stretch along the Chelt.

The Cheltenham rental of c 1450 (G.R.O. D 855 M 68; Bulletin 15 pp 14-15) lists 21 tenants who held demesne land in Ham. Acreages are not given, but rents suggests that all the holdings were small, except a pasture called Lordysmersh held by William de Cheltenham at 15s (the later Cheltenham Leasow), pastures called Laverham, Kyngesbecon and Medefurlong, held by Thomas Anford and Thomas Stale for 26s 8d, a pasture on le Hochehille rented at 13s 4d, and Lordisclose held by Thomas Bocker and companions at 26s 8d.

Kyngesbecon and Hochehille may be the modern Warden Hill, Highbreaches, and Briery Hill (TM 123-4,127,129; OS 295).

Okeley and Lordysleyne may be Oakley Ground and Picked Oakleys (TM 110,110a, 109), Upper and Lower Lords Ground (TM 111-112).

Pittesbreche is mentioned in the 17th century as adjoining Cheltenham Leasow.

The two parcels in the Moor called Lady Homme may be Iron Moors (TM 117,120).

So the demesne lands were all on the northern or eastern sides of Ham, on the outskirts of the main settlement. One of the tenants in c 1450 was Thomas Goodrigge, and a Goodrigge still held demesne land at the time of Norden's survey in 1617.

Norden's survey was abstracted in Bulletin 18 and the details need not be repeated. There were 5 tenants for the demesne lands in Charlton Kings; Richard Stewe and Samuel Deighton, both of Cudnall; Edmund Gooderigg and Alexander Packer of Ham; Thomas Nicholas of Ham and Northfield.

Now Mrs Rawes has drawn my attention to a slightly later survey of Cheltenham manor demesnes in 1635 (GRO D 855 M 51), and I am very grateful for this information. The Charlton tenants were:-

Jo(hn) Pates in Charleton by leas

One house backside and 4 little closes called Stewes house lately burnt
and before it was burnt did yeld xls per annum, value 1. 0. 0

One grownd called the greate pittie Breace cont:

5. 1. 19

and other called the little pittie breache & adioyning

1. 0.19

Cheltenham Leasowe 14. 2. 38

value 6.13. 4

value 14.10. 0

(margin) Pasture in several, good and well woodded

The Nether Sillie Holts	5. 2. 20		
The Upper Sillie Holtes	4. 1. 23	value	5. 0. 0
(margin) pasture in several, lately plowd inclynd to firse			
	total 31. 0. 39	total value	27. 3. 4

Samuell Deighton in Charleton by leas

The lower Shake-breache cont.	2..1.30		
The upper Shakebreach cont	2. 0.22	value	1.15. 0

The Hay shooting by the greene lane, fursie	5.1.3	value	1. 5. 0
(note) pasture in severall, Easylye raled, cowlde & unprofitable			
The two fursie butts at Battleton Yate cont	0. 1. 19		
The Moytie of a close called Little Cuttham Butts dyvided by the Cocke lying betweene the Pittie Breaches and Cheltenham Leasowe, & the whole clos cont. 1. 0. 0.			0.11. 8
	total 11.0.34		3.11. 8

Margerie Newman in Charleton by leas

one fursie close called Gorie furlong con'	5. 1. 4		
one other close called the Hilts ferny & fursie, cont	1. 3. 36		
	total 8. 1. 0		4. 0. 0

Alexander Packer gent. in Charleton by leas

The Lords Leynes cont.	14. 1. 30		14.13. 4
------------------------	-----------	--	----------

Not sowlde

pasture in severall

("In severall" ie, not liable to be thrown open for common grazing in winter.)

Who were these tenants?

Richard Stewe of 1617 was the son of Richard the elder and his wife Joyce Linnett (see Bulletin 5 pp 7-10); John Pates of 1635 was his cousin, a descendant of the other Linnet daughter. But the house the Stewes built at the bottom of Stewe's Lane (Brookway Lane) kept their name and in the 19th century the lane was still called Stewe's Lane. The land they held in Cudnall was a strip of meadow on the north bank of the Chelt, running right down to Charlton Mill in Spring Bottom. Norden speaks of their 'tenement', not their 'messuage'; perhaps the house was not built till 1618-20. If so, it had a short existence. Samuel Deighton was another Cudnall resident, living at Charlton House in right of his wife Jane, widow of William Combe (see Bulletins 10 and 12). Margerie Newman replaced Edmund Gooderigg; this suggests that she was a relative and lived at Ham. Alexander Packer was the tenant of Ham Court (see Bulletins 3 and 20) and in 1633 had bought up the land at Northfield which had been held previously by Thomas Nicholas.

In 1629 the manor of Cheltenham was sold by the Crown to John Dutton of Sherborne, subject, of course to any outstanding leases of the demesne and to the custom of the manor as revised by Act in 1625. In this manor, copyhold was inherited. Now, both customary and freehold land was inherited by the eldest son, and the widow's free bench was reduced to a third for her lifetime only. This may explain why Dutton's steward

decided to treat much of the demesne land as copyhold but some of it and Stew's House as freehold, though it would have been more profitable for the lord to continue to grant short term leases for years or lives. For the story of Stew's house, see Eric Armitage's paper.

Cheltenham Leasow, Petty Breaches (1450, 1617, 1635).

John Pates gentleman still held a lease of them worth £150 at the time of his death (see his inventory of 13 January 1646/7). After the lease ran out, Cheltenham Leasow was part of the messuage described as late of Richard Whithorne of Ham whose heir was Edith Welsh spinster. She had predeceased him and on 17 April 1704, Cheltenham Leasow was claimed by her brother Richard Welsh (D 855 M 13 pp 86,136). In 1737/8 Cheltenham Leasow was described as south of Little Cuttham Butts (ibid M 14 p 446).

Cuttham Butts (1617, 1635)

Great and Little Cuttham Butts were surrendered by William Sowthorne and Joyce his wife to use of Walter Whithorne her brother on 14 April 1651 (ibid M 11 f 70). Consequently Great Cuttham Butts were claimed (along with Cheltenham Leasow) by Richard Welsh in 1704. Richard and his wife mortgaged both Great and Little Cuttham Butts in 1716/17 and Little Cuttham Butts was sold to John Prinn on 22 April 1740 (ibid M 14 p 446). One Cuttham Butts (TM 119) was surrendered to use of Richard Freeman on 25 April 1788 (ibid M 17 pp 347-8) and thereafter was known as Freeman's Ground.

All those parcels were customary land. But another Cuttham Butts was freehold. This was sold by John Wright to Samuel Cooper and used by him as part of the endowment of his charity under his will proved 1743. (See History p 153). TM 118 (2.3.22)

Silly Holts (1617, 1635)

Two closes called Sillyholts in 1635 and Little Holts on the tithe apportionment (TM 115 and 116) lie immediately to the west of Cooper's land. They became part of the Glenfall estate and are identified in a deed of 1904 as OS 25" 351 and 358 (4.1.4 and 6.0.26), total 10a 1r 30p, lying between Northfield lane and the road to Glenfall (see GRO D 4858 3/1/6).

Shakebreach (1617, 1635)

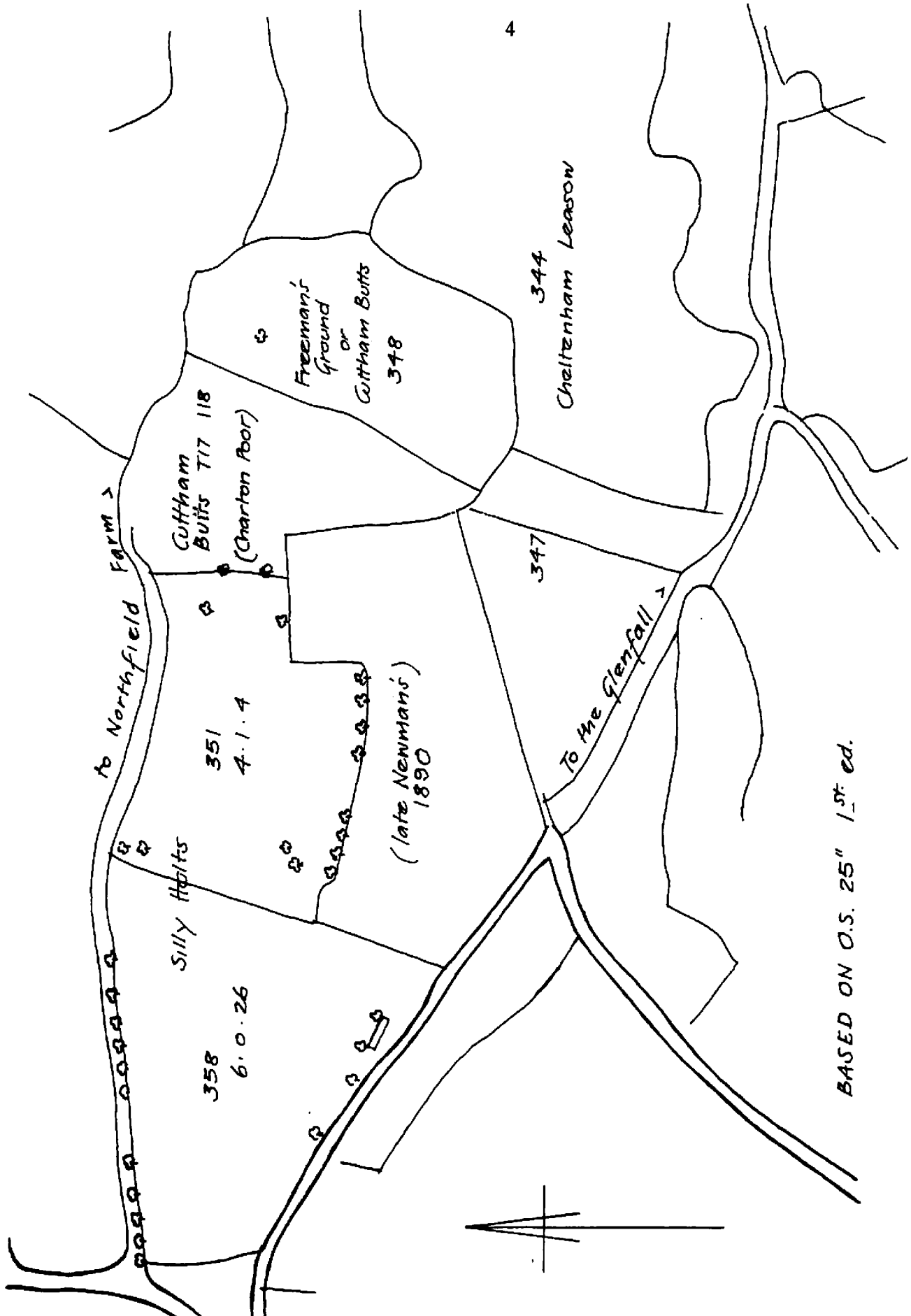
This was pasture with land of Edmund Goodrich on both parts. It was included in the surrender by Walter Whithorne 19 February 1650/1 (ibid M 11 f 72) and on 30 April 1655 Richard Whithorne was granting a 12 year lease of it (ibid M 11 p 154). Leases or mortgages of customary land were always for 12 years, not longer.

Baddleton Yate (1617, 1635)

Customary land (TM 60,61), measuring 3.3.19 and 3.3.9, which was bought by Samuel Cooper from Wright and used as part of his charity endowment.

Gory Furlong (1617, 1635)

By Highbreach Lane. On 2 April 1638, owners and occupiers of land on both sides of the lane called Highbreache Lane in Ham were ordered to scour on both sides, between Balls Croft gate and the corner of Gory Furlonge (ibid M 10 f 168v).



4

BASED ON O.S. 25" 1st ed.

2. STEWS HOUSE AND ADJOINING PROPERTIES DOWN STEWS LANE

Here is the later history of Stew's house, rebuilt in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries

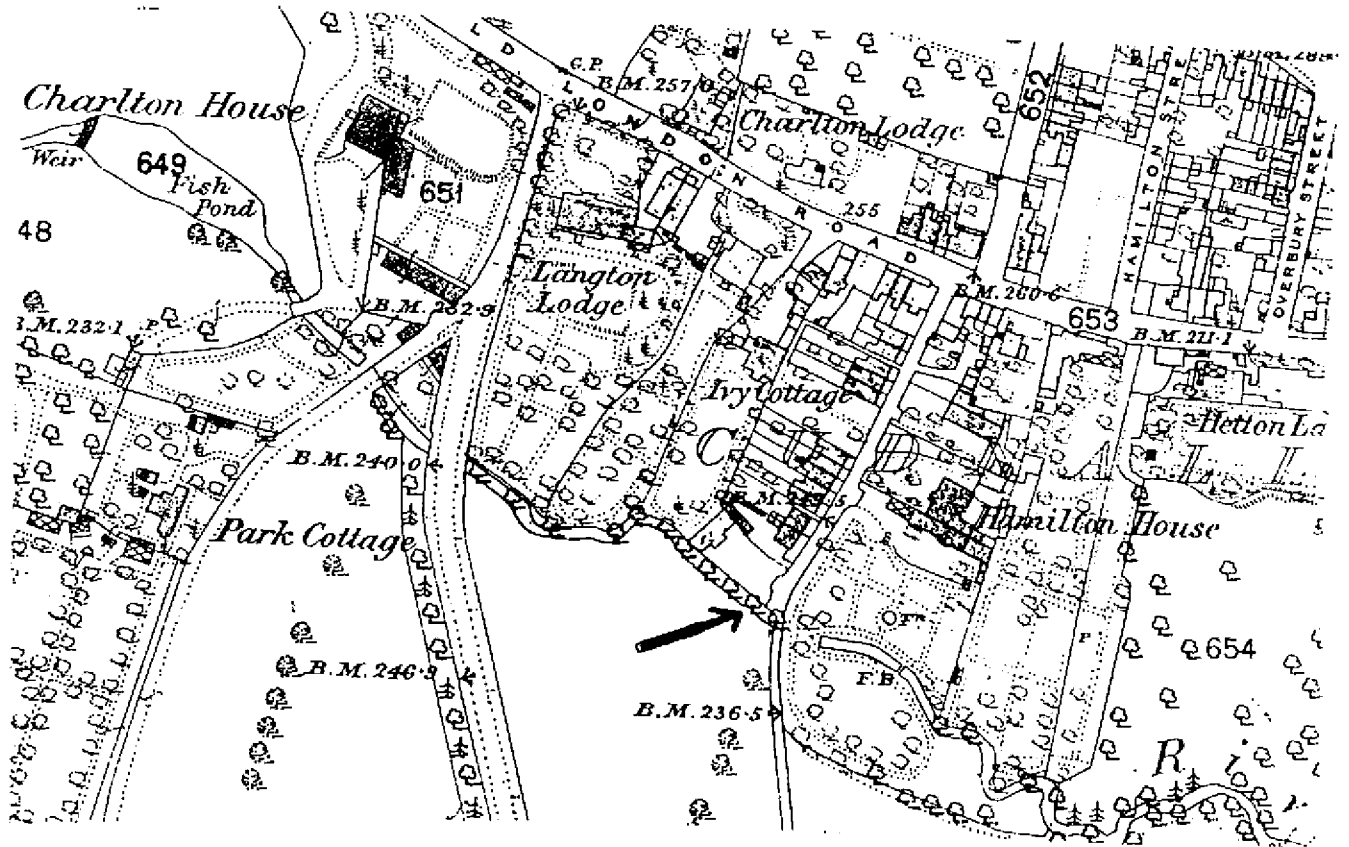
- Property A Wraxall Hse down to Chelt
- Property B Opposite Wraxall Hse on west side Brookway Rd
- Property C In bend of Chelt south of Chelt and on southern end of Wraxall property
- Property D Southern part of Hamilton Hse property

GRO D 2029 Box 29

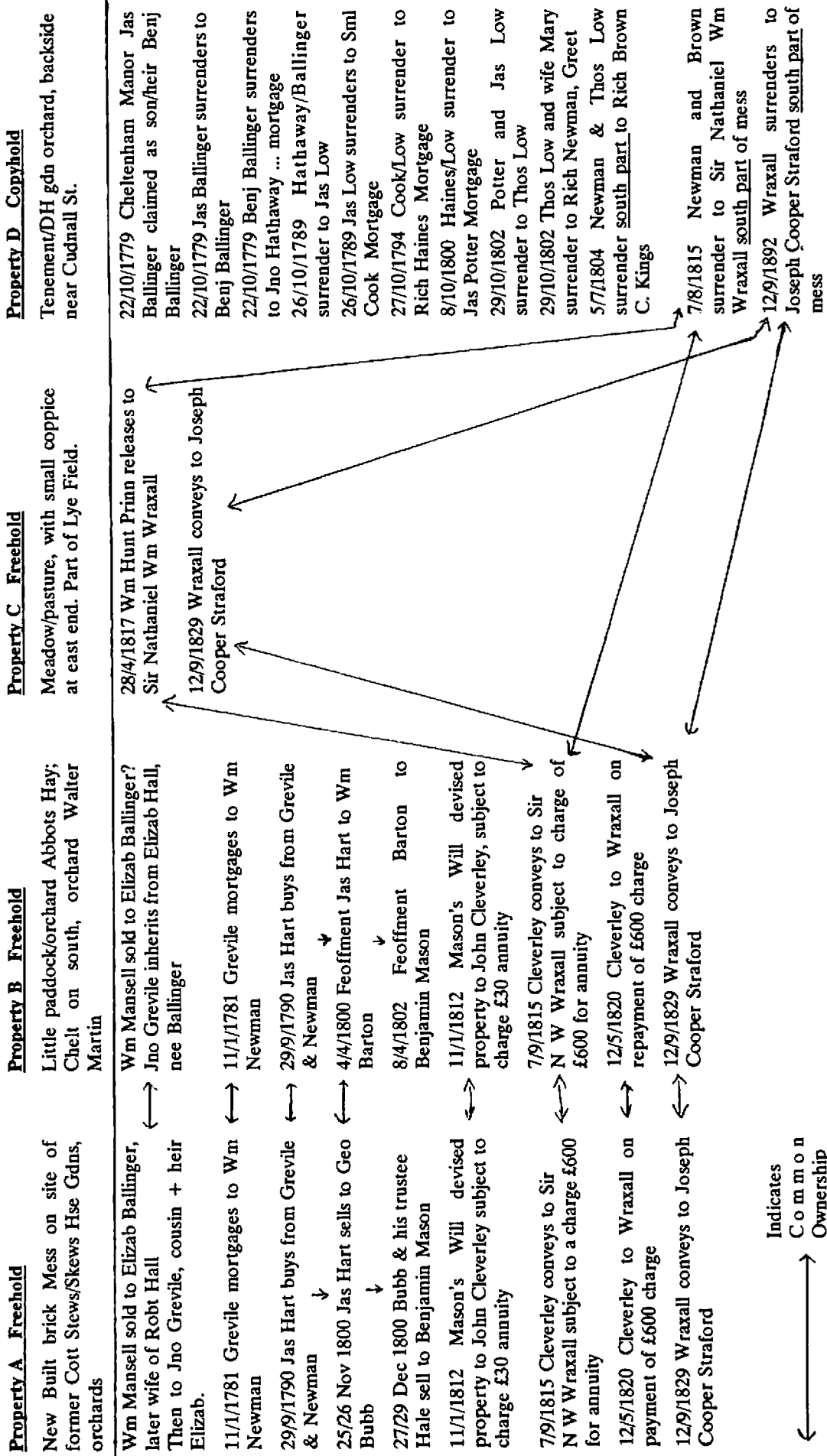
BROOKWAY LANE ALIAS STEWS LANE



Enlargement from Mitchell's Map 1806, showing buildings on the corner of Cudnall Street and Brookway Lane, and Stew's house just north of the Chelt, built right against the road; no houses in between.



OS 25" XXVI/12 (1885). For some reason, Hamilton House is named but not Wraxall. The west side of Brookway Lane is built up.



Indicates
C o m m o n
Ownership

←

Author Eric Armitage

1/9/1832 Straford surrenders to John Maisey Byrch, Cirencester Mortgage

30/5/1844 Surrender Byrch to Straford on repayment of mortgage

3. A LETTER FROM SIR NATHANIEL WM WRAXALL, Walsingham Archives

Charlton Monday 23d Decr 1816

I beseech of your Ladyship to have the goodness to convey to My Lord my best Thanks for the very obliging tone that he has been kind enough to take of my Wife's Marriage Settlement. Nor am I less sensible to Mr Goding's Permission to allow it to remain at their Banking House under their Care.

I trust, My Lord, if he finds, as I hope He will, his strength & Spirits revive with the Return of Spring, will revisit Harley Street, notwithstanding his present Resolutions or Declarations. Lord Lyttleton says of Determinations so formed, that such Perjuries the laughing Gods allow.

I am sorry to find that General de Grey thought Mrs Windham looked so unwell, when he saw her. I had the Favor of a Letter from her, about ten Days ago, & she never mentioned her Health, but she says, that Gen^l Manners writes to Lady Rob^l, that he never was better. I imagine, his waiting commences towards the End of next Month. No doubt, Her Majesty must be regarded as a most fortunate Woman in having so affectionate a Son. His R:H:, whatever Failings He may have, has always been most exemplary in his Attentions to Her. We ask here, Is Princess Charlotte to give Us an Heir? And is the Duchess of Gloucester to accouche in due Time as Lord Carhampton assured the Surry Meeting wou'd be the Case?

I assure Your Ladyship we have an excellent Society here and at Cheltenham, which is in Fact the same Thing, as we are not farther from Cheltenham than from Your House in Harley Street to St James' Street. In this Cottage we sat down eighteen at supper, two Nights ago. Our Weather is severe for the Season, but we endeavour to set it at Defiance. My Wife is most sensible to your Ladyship's obliging mention of Her. She is occupied from Morning to Night with the Workmen employed upon my Chateau, which, tho' built, is not yet finished; nor will be habitable before May or June. We request to be mentioned to Miss de Grey & to Mrs Gosling whenever you see or write to her.

I am sensible that my Letters contain nothing worth Perusal, but being on Lilliputian Paper, they enable me the sooner to subscribe myself, Dear Madam, your Ladyship's Most Obligated Servant. N.Wm Wraxall

(TO) The Lady Walsingham

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The "chateau" was the rebuilt and castellated Wraxall House; the "cottage" in which the Wraxalls were then living probably Elborough Cottage, where the "Regency" style alterations may have been completed by 1816.

It is possible that Wraxall's chateau was not a total rebuilding. Mrs Gillian Kennedy nee Norris, who lived there as a child and young woman, told me that some flagged floors struck her as considerably older than the rest of the house and she felt sure that the east end of the house was merely "improved" in 1816 or perhaps incorporated another building.

Sir Nathaniel Wraxall (1751-1831) is an interesting figure - see his biography in the complete D.N.B. He was the only son of Nathaniel Wraxall (1725-1781) and his wife Anne Thornhill; and the grandson of Nathaniel Wraxall (1687-1731) who was sheriff of Bristol in 1723. In 1769 at the age of 18, the young Nathaniel was sent to Bombay in the East India Company's Civil Service and in two wars in 1771 he acted as paymaster to the forces. After his return to England in 1772, he travelled on the Continent and was involved in diplomatic intrigues in Germany in connection with the Queen of Denmark. He met Bonnie Prince Charlie in Florence in 1779 and then in Naples collected anecdotes from Lady Hamilton. At home he became friendly with Lord North who arranged a payment of 1000 gns to him for his services to the late Queen of Denmark, but this obligation did not prevent him from taking Pitt's side over the India Bill. He was MP for Hindon co Wilts 1780, for Ludgershall co Wilts 1784, and for Wallingford 1790; but in 1794 gave up politics. He was created baronet in 1813.

His claim to fame rests on his writings, chief of which were an anonymous pamphlet published in 1787 which gave offence because of his "frank delineation of the Prince of Wales"; Historical Memoirs of My Own Time 1772-1784 (1815) which caused him to be fined for libel; and Posthumous Memoirs of His Own Time 1784-1790 (1836). In spite of the criticism levelled against him then, his memoirs are judged by the D.N.B. to be "at least as accurate as Croker's", and his stories generally authentic. Perhaps he came to Cheltenham in 1815 to escape the storm raised by the 1815 publication of the Memoirs; and his building a house suggests that he may have thought of living here permanently. But, as the D.N.B. remarks "Practically nothing is known of Wraxall's declining years". Certainly he had sold the "Chateau" some two years before his death at Dover on 7 November 1831, when he was on his way to Naples. He had not lived in Charlton himself for some years before that.

The wife mentioned in the 1816 letter was Jane.e.d. of Peter Lascelles of Knights co Heref. whom he married on 30 March 1769. There were two sons, William Lascelles 2nd Bart (1791-1863) and Charles Edward (1792-1854) who would have been 25 and 24 at the time of the letter to Lady Walsingham. It looks as though at that time, their father was contemplating a fresh settlement, perhaps intending to settle Wraxall House on his wife - a pity the letter is not more explicit.

M. Paget

4. WRAXHALL HOUSE 1923-1953

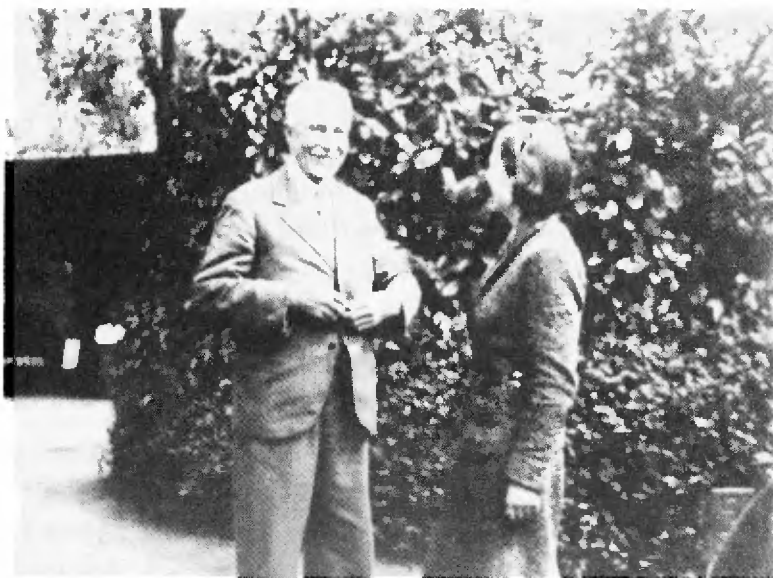
Lieut.-Colonel Samuel Edward Norris, my grandfather, purchased Wraxhall House, (as we used to spell it), in about 1923, when he retired from the regular army. I believe he paid about £1000 for it at the time. Our family lived there until his death in 1953. The conservatory area next to the large room which we used to call the Drawing Room was used by my grandmother as a studio; she was an extremely talented artist, particularly in oils of flower arrangements, and at least one of her paintings was 'hung' at the Royal Academy. During the Second World War my grandfather ran the local Home Guard, or so I believe, and was later awarded the O.B.E. for his services; he had previously won the D.S.O. for gallantry in the trenches in the First World War. My mother, Gillian Kennedy nee Norris, will be remembered by many people in Charlton Kings for her work with and for St. Mary's Church, in a number of capacities, and later with the Residents' Association. She returned to 'Wraxhall' House in 1945, having been widowed in 1942, accompanied by her small daughter who has fond memories of spending her early years in what seemed an

enormous house, full of interesting corners, and a gigantic garden. After the death of my grandmother in 1948 the three of us continued to live at 'Wraxhall', and we must positively have 'rattled around' in the six bedrooms. An only child, I played in the garden and had numerous tree houses and 'hides'; the wild garden on the other side of the Chelt was an absolute paradise for a child. Hundreds of times did I paddle up the Chelt in my Wellington boots, and as I got bigger and bigger the Chelt, oddly enough, seemed to get shallower and shallower, though at first it had seemed like the Thames to me. I fell with some frequency into the fountain in the middle of the rosegarden, and climbed the large mulberry in the middle of the lawn with the aid of a home-made ladder as I couldn't reach any of the branches. In the house itself I particularly remember the problems encountered in wet weather when the spring which rose under the dining room floor overflowed and made large squashy lumps under the linoleum; I also remember my delight, though I do not think my mother felt the same, when various small rodents would emerge in the bathroom and sit on the edge of the bath twitching their whiskers at me. The end of the house now further away from Brookway Road was commonly supposed to be considerably older than the rest of the house; the rooms were on a different level and the 'boiler' room had a flagged stone floor which was most interesting to roller-skate on. There were two boilers, both attended by my grandfather, and the water was usually piping hot. My grandfather was a great D-I-Y man, well before the term had ever been invented. He was a distinguished gentleman of the old school; many people were, I think, a little afraid of him, but to me he was extremely indulgent. In the row of workshops down the side of the garden he taught me carpentry - I made a cupboard of which I was inordinately proud - and together we laid a new flight of stone steps from one level of the garden to another. He died when I was ten years old; we left 'Wraxhall' almost immediately as my mother was very tired of mowing all the grass and setting mouse-traps. I was sad to leave the house, but since we moved temporarily into the old Moored Park Hotel my grief was definitely tempered by being hugely spoiled there by all the residents.

**Alison Luna
29 Lyefield Road West**

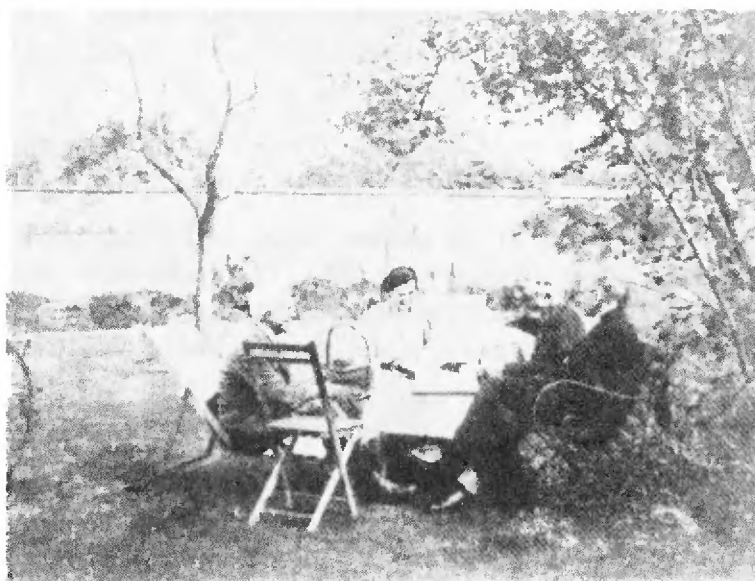


**Colonel S.E. Norris
1940**



Colonel Norris
and daughter
Gillian 1940

Tea in the Garden
1940 with Len Smith
(curate at St Mary's
late 20s - early 30s)



5. CHARLTON KINGS HOME GUARD

I understand that the Charlton Kings Local History Society has no records about the local Home Guard unit and this has prompted me to write this article. Although I was in the Company formed in Charlton Kings my enrolment only lasted about a year, ceasing on my entering the Army in 1942.

The information I present has been extracted from "A Short History of the 1st Gloucestershire Battalion Home Guard" written by Lt.Col.E.F.Eager and published in 1945. I have also included a few personal memories.

The Battalion

On the 14th May 1940 Colonel S.E. Norris, D.S.O. was informed that a Battalion of the Local Defence Volunteers was to be formed in Gloucestershire and that he had been selected to command a Company within the "E" Police Division, which included Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Winchcombe.

Colonel Norris immediately got in touch with retired officers living in Cheltenham including Brigadier-General H.C.Potter, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Brigadier-General B.C. Fellowes, C.M.G., Major A.J. Allardyce, Major C.A. Bamford and many others. The British Legion was also asked to help.

The call for volunteers went out and on the 15 May there was a steady stream of men of all ages from 17 to 65 reporting to Police Stations. In a very short time the number of volunteers reached 1500 and this was the foundation upon which the Battalion was built.

The shortage of weapons was pitiful, about one rifle for every ten men and there were not many rounds of ammunition. An appeal for shot guns was very well received by owners who also provided some cartridges. Some there were who were fortunate enough to possess their own weapons. The Vicar of Holy Apostles Church, for example, owned a Lee Enfield rifle, the standard issue weapon of the British Army at that time. When it was pointed out to him that it had no back sight or fore sight, he replied that it did not really matter, because he could not see anyway!

Copying the Russian partisans the volunteers made Molotov Cocktails. These were bottles filled with petrol and tar, the ingredients being provided by Cheltenham Gas Company. Old silk stockings were used to make the wicks. The result was a very efficient home-made grenade capable of inflicting considerable damage.

There were no uniforms and L.D.V. armbands were made with enthusiasm by the Red Cross, W.V.S., the British Legion Womens Section and students of Cheltenham Art School.

Denim uniforms began to arrive in June, boots and greatcoats in September. Early in 1941 battle dress serge began to be issued. July 1941, rifles were issued in sufficient quantity to arm the majority of men in the battalion. The men were also proud to wear the cap badge of the Gloucestershire Regiment and if I remember correctly the back badge as well.

Gradually more weapons were added and in time, specialists were able to compete with Lewis, Browning and Vickers machine guns. Other teams of volunteers mastered the Northover Projector, Spigot Mortar and Smith Gun. Grenades Mark 36,68 and 75 appeared in large quantities. The Sten gun was introduced in 1942. This was a mass produced hand held machine gun of simple but sturdy design, but it did have tendency to jam, usually at an awkward moment. Towards the end of its existence the Home Guard were issued with anti-tank guns.

The Battalion was formed into 10 Companies totalling 35 platoons. I am unable to give the manpower enlisted because there was a considerable turnover of membership. A large percentage of the men were either young or old. The young men had to leave to join the Services and the older men had to retire through age or infirmity.

The Battalion H.Q. staff were at 188 Bath Road, under the command of Lt.Col. Norris. This officer had to retire under the age limit after two years and for the rest of its existence the Battalion Commander was Lt.Col.E.F.Eager.

"B" Company

The birth of "B" Company was on a beautiful morning in May 1940 when the volunteers gathered at the Vestry Hall, Charlton Kings and met Major C.A. Bamford who enrolled them and said training would start on the following evening in the playground of the village school. There were sixty men at that enrolment meeting and many more came hurrying to join shortly afterwards. Sergeants Hughes, E.Hopcroft, G.W.Enoch and G.F.Ryland were given sections and the Company was soon busy siting road blocks on the main roads, mounting guards on Dowdeswell Viaduct, the Railway Station, patrolling the railway line and posting dusk to dawn look-outs on the village Church tower.

The Company began to take form and resolved itself into four platoons covering the south and east of the town's perimeter. Major J.Haddon came in as second in command and Headquarters were established at the Holy Apostles Vestry. The Leckhampton Platoon was commanded by G.L.Heawood, Headmaster of the Grammar School. Charlton Kings Platoon was led by G.W. Enoch, Holy Apostles Platoon by G.C.Downer and the Prestbury Platoon by W.S. Mackie.

The winter with its raids and threats of raids, its guard duties and fire pickets, was hard going. Many of the Company were on duty one night in four at the Delancey Hospital, Naunton Park Schools and the Council Chambers, while evening training went on just the same.

Later, Major Bamford became second in command of the Battalion and Major Haddon took over command of the Company with Captain G.W.Enoch as his second in command. G.F.Ryland was then appointed Company Sergeant Major but shortly after was commissioned and transferred to "D" Company which was responsible for the northern perimeter of the town. H.H.Jones was then appointed as C.S.M.

The Company Flame-throwers under Sergeant Loud made a name for themselves in the Battalion and their demonstration in the Sand Pits in Sandy Lane was a well attended performance.

Major Haddon resigned and Major G.W. Enoch took command with G.L. Heawood as his 2i/c and when the Battalion decided to number the Platoons No.21 was commanded by Lt.G.Neat, No.22 by G.F.Ryland (back from "D" Company), No.23 by Lt.R.Webb and No.24 by Lt. H.H.Jones, who had been commissioned and his place as C.S.M. take by R.Wasley. The Prestbury Platoon now ceased to be part of "B" Company whilst No.24 which had been formed in the Naunton Park area became the Smith Gun Platoon.

During this period the duties of Company Quarter-Master Sergeant were performed by H.Jarrett-Kerr, but later he resigned in favour of E.Machin. Captain Heawood left the Company to take over the command of Headquarters Company and Captain Ryland became 2i/c of "B" Company. No.22 Platoon was for a time commanded by Lt.Banyard but later by Lt.E.Williams.

The death of Major Bamford was a sad blow to "B" Company, which he had raised and set its standards of efficiency. He was held in great affection and when he was laid to rest in the cemetery at Charlton Kings the Company was proud to supply the guard that paid him final honours.

The formation title of Local Defence Volunteers was changed to Home Guard in September 1940 and as the war progressed men were directed into the Home Guard. This latter decision, as far as "B" Company was concerned, meant the resuscitation of No.24 Platoon and Lt.L.Barnett became its commander.

"B" Company, it is recorded, was a happy Company. The Commanders had a tradition for consideration which was appreciated and respected. The formation was essentially a village company with a sound "esprit de corps" of its own. But its Battalion loyalties were no less strong and it was a source of pride that the only two officers who ever commanded the Battalion were both long-established residents of the village in which the Company was formed.

The Home Guard was "stood down" and disbanded in December 1944.

ILLUSTRATIONS TO ACCOMPANY THE ARTICLE ON CHARLTON KINGS HOME GUARD

PHOTOGRAPH NO.1

The large group photograph shows the whole of 'B' Company which consists of Platoons from Holy Apostles, Charlton Kings and Leckhampton at the time the photograph was taken. Evidence points to it being taken in 1944 at the Withyholt prior to being 'Stood Down' in December of that year.

The following men from Charlton Kings have been identified:

- Cook	H.Peacey	T.Clarkson
H.Grace	R.Snell	T.Slee
F.Bee	J.Staddon	B.Beakes
K.Protherough	R.Smith	G.Ryland
F.Bloodworth	L.Johnson	G.Enoch
S.Barton	T.Protherough	- Schofield
B.Walters	J.Brown	J.Loud
R.Bunting	T.Evans	J.Williams
F.Mason	J.Williams	W.Tipper
A.Cooke	- Jelfes	J.Manning

PHOTOGRAPH NO.2

This group of photographs taken from Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic dated Saturday October 12 1940, shows a church parade by platoons from Charlton Kings and Leckhampton. Plate 2 Charlton Kings Platoon. Plate 4 Charlton Kings Platoon led by Section-Leader J.Hughes (left) and Platoon-Commander G.C.Downer.

DOCUMENT

This certificate was given to members of the Home Guard when it was disbanded probably on the basis of a given length of service. Mr. H.H.Peacey, M.M., served from its formation to disbandment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

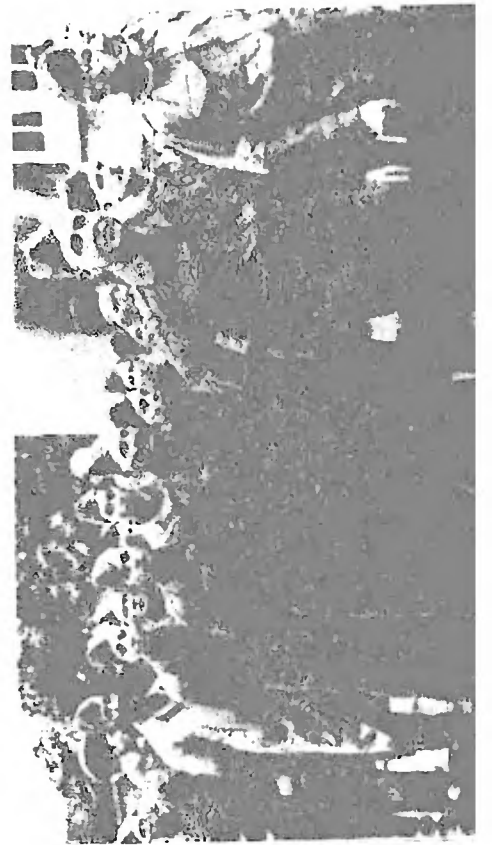
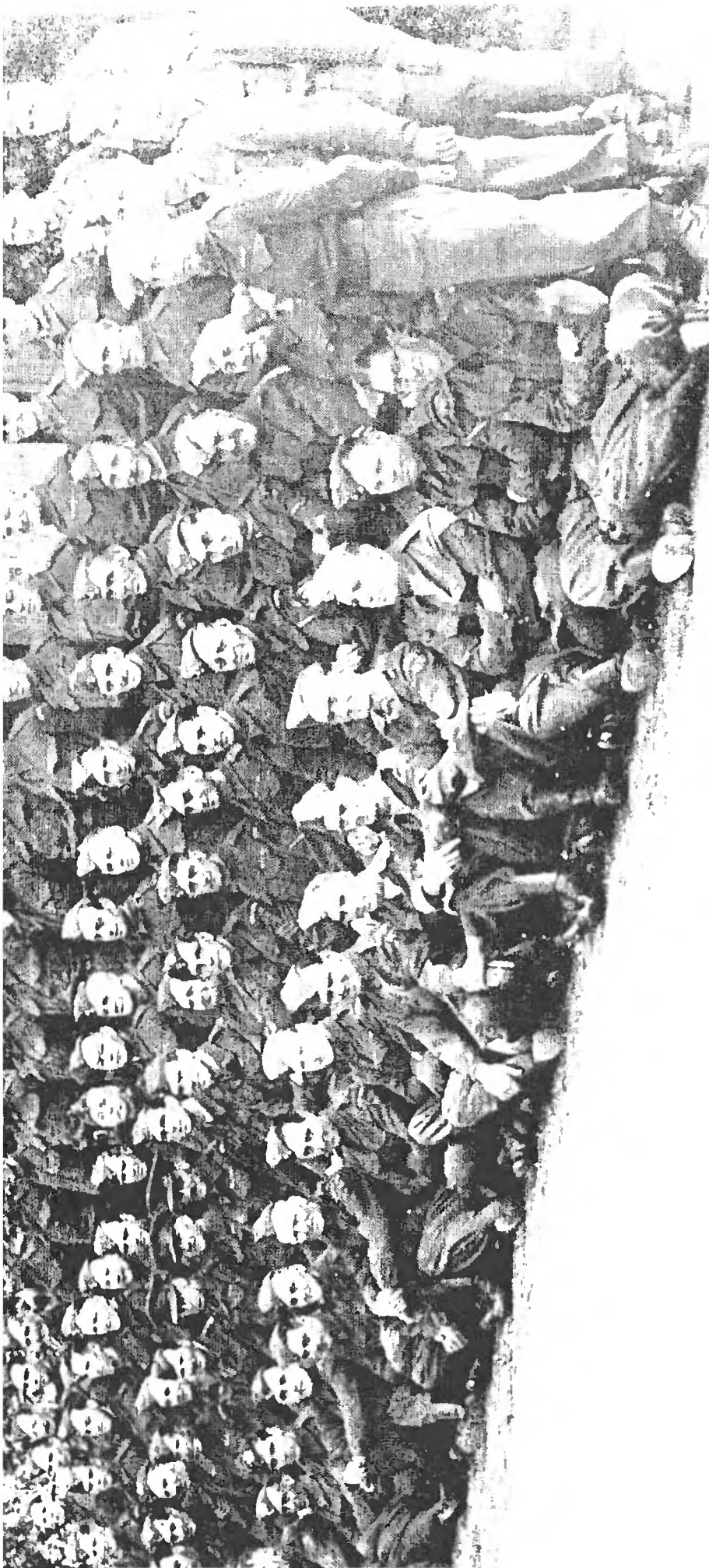
Bibliography

A Short History of the 1st Gloucestershire Battalion Home Guard by Lieut-Colonel; E.F.Eager

Photographs

Mrs I Cummings, Cheltenham

Mr. D.W.Tipper, Ryeworth, Charlton Kings who also identified the individuals.





In the years when our Country
was in mortal danger

HAROLD HOWARD PEACEY M M

who served 23 May 1940 - 31 December 1945

gave generously of his time and
powers to make himself ready
for her defence by force of arms
and with his life if need be.

George R.I.

THE HOME GUARD

Personal Memories

I was 17 years old when I joined the Home Guard. I was living in Sandy Lane at the time and could choose between the Charlton Kings Platoon in which there were a number of people I knew including an uncle, H.H.Peacey, M.M. having lived in Lyfield Road West for most of my childhood or the Leckhampton Platoon commanded by my last Headmaster in which there were a number of teachers and friends from the Grammar School. I chose Leckhampton, greatly influenced by a close friend of the time.

The platoon met in Leckhampton Hall every week and we reported there for other duties when our turn came. These consisted of field exercises, patrols and guard duties. Some of these activities in the winter were boring and miserable but took on a different feeling in the spring and summer.

The military thinking was centred on invasion which would be preceded by spies, saboteurs, agents-provocateur and small military units dropped by parachutes. The Home Guard was to be on the alert for these landings and acts of sabotage.

I remember twelve hour guard duty at Charlton Kings railway station. Six or seven men and an N.C.O. spending the night in a railway carriage shunted into the siding. Two hours on, four hours off. While you patrolled the trains rumbled through the night carrying essential supplies of food, fuel, raw materials and military essentials. Weak flickering oil lamps on the front. May be a flash of fire as the firebox was opened as the engine thumped past and a long line of wagons rattled past. Finally the dim red light of the guard's van disappearing into the night.

There was morning patrol over Leckhampton Hill as dawn broke on a summer's morn. The climb up Daisy Bank in the dark. On up alongside the quarry to the top as light began to creep across the landscape and then down over Lilleybrook. We had no radio, so if we had seen any landing we would have had to run a long long way to a phone. Only two went on patrol together. By the time the world woke up we were on our way home to breakfast and then off to work.

The alternative to a mobile patrol was a static watch from the top of St Mary's Church tower. Wonderful on a sunny spring or summer morning, awful in the wind and rain.

A final memory, of H.Jarret Kerr. He was a retired regular army officer of field rank or higher but in the Home Guard he started as a private, though when I met him he was an N.C.O. He liked to give innocent recruits like myself advice from his long experience as a soldier. I never forgot one piece of advice he gave to me. "Do you know", he said, "one of the most useful items for a soldier to carry is a small supply of toilet paper". When I became a soldier I never forgot, and I still remembered for many years afterwards when I became a civilian again.

When I became a soldier much of what I had been taught in Charlton Kings Home Guard came in useful as did some of the things that I had learned in the 7th Cheltenham Charlton Kings Boy Scouts.

Ian Harris

Footnote

The Short History referred to above, which includes a photo of B Coy (Charlton Kings) is to be found in Cheltenham Local Studies Library (G 355)

M.J. Greet

6. OUR CIVIL DEFENCE



The Charlton Kings Civil Defence Group parading on the London Road, probably on Remembrance Sunday of 1941 or 42. Leading the marchers is William Maude, the Head Warden, who lived with his family at Avalon, Stanley Road, Battledown, from 1932 to 1958. Mrs Jean Toomey, Mr. Maude's daughter, who provided the photograph, believes that the tall lady behind her father is a Mrs. Wiggins. Mr. Maude's notice on the preservation of stirrup pumps was published in Bulletin 25.

D.A. O'Connor

7. THE ORCHARDS, HAM ROAD

The Orchards is rather a splendid Victorian house approached by an attractive drive-way and rather hidden from view of the Ham Road (part of which is a fairly modern road serving the new estate). The house was, until recently, even more than now, 'in the country'.

The Orchards appears to have been built around 1871. First sightings were in the 1871 census, when a Mr. George Tuke, a Barrister, his wife, and nine children and six resident servants were listed.

The 1881 census lists a John M. Read, Late captain 13th Light Regt, his wife, and four children, with three indoor servants; whilst in the 1891 census, the last one released to the public under the 100 year secrecy law, a John James Parker is listed, a widower, who was a member of the Society of Writers to the Signet, Edinburgh. (Chamber's Encyclopaedia

says "The Principal class of Solicitors in Scotland are called 'Writers of the Signet', from their having been originally clerks in the office of the king's secretary, it being their duty to prepare all warrants for charters or grants to be passed under either the Great Seal or Privy Seal, such warrants being called from a period 'Signatives' because they bore the signet of the king"). Parker had three of his children living at The Orchards, and three indoor servants. There is a J.J.Parker listed in the Cheltenham Annales from 1886-1905. He is aged 61 in the 1891 census; by 1904-5, when there is also a Miss Higgs listed (perhaps a resident nurse? or a relative keeping house for him?) he would have been 76, considered a good age for that period.

There must have been many outdoor gardeners and grooms employed with such a good garden and drive; and what is now No.3 The Orchards could well have been the groom's cottage or a coach-house.

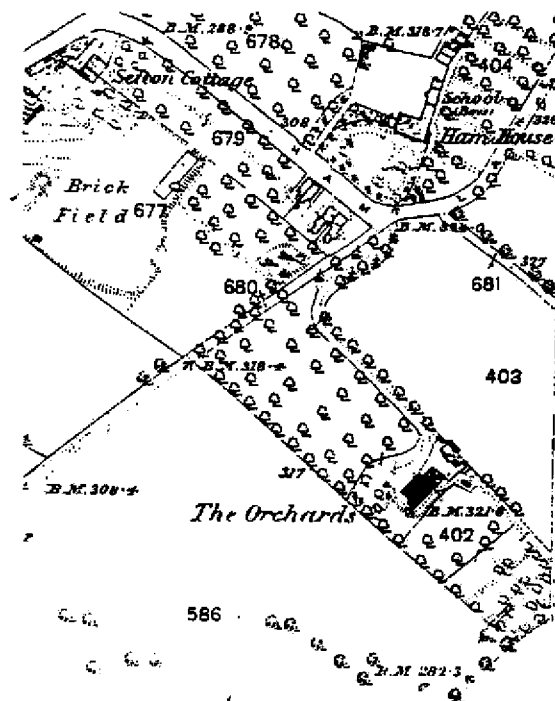
Since 1905, Cheltenham Directories and Annales and the electoral rolls, show that residents' names have changed frequently over the years. The large house appears to have been split into two thirds as No.1, and one third as No.2, around 1959, and the suggested coach-house inhabited as No.3 around 1961.

On the large scale OS map of 1888, the drive-way appears in the shape of hockey stick (with the entrance opposite Ham Pitch), and this was not much changed on the map of 1924. But sometime after Major and Mrs Porter came to live in No.2 The Orchards (c 1962), the curve of the 'hockey stick' was taken away and the drive became straighter. The gate was also demolished at that time - see the drawing of it on the frontispiece of Cheltenham's Ornamental Ironwork by Amina Chatwin (1974). A new house was built on the right-hand side of the drive-way, as one goes in.

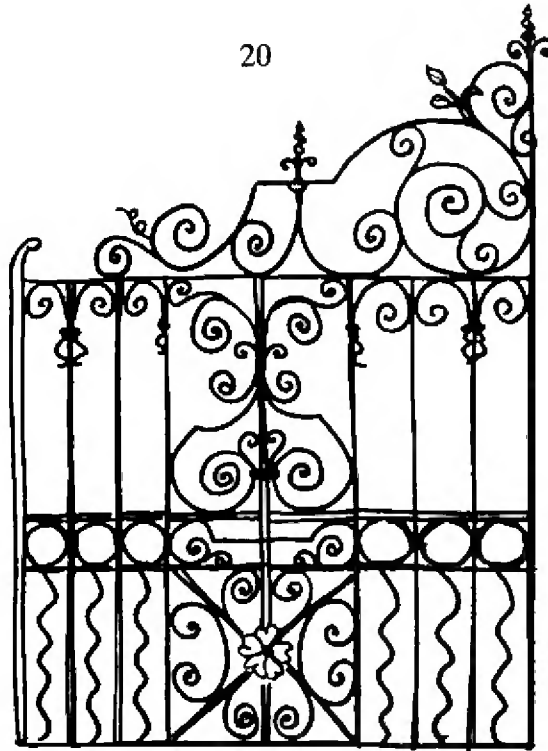
The gardens at the back of the (now) No 1 and No 2 are very attractive and on a very steep slope, with terracing down to a brook. Standing there, one has beautiful views across Charlton Kings.

There are still missing pieces and perhaps there are older residents in the district with more details and dates to add to this article, which would be lovely, as every remembered 'snippet' helps to bring a house to life. Mary Paget holds the complete census details which may be consulted at Crab End.

Detail from 1888 OS 25" map



Dorothy Jones



Drawing from Cheltenham's Ornamental Ironwork reproduced by kind permission of Miss Amina Chatwin.

8. A "VICTORIAN" GARDEN - The Orchards. Photograph lent by G.J.Grinnell



9. A BRANCH OF THE HAMLETT FAMILY IN NEW ZEALAND

Bulletin No.9 included an article on the Hamlett family, written by a descendant - Mrs. Gwendoline Betty Lane. In it she related how the first member of the family to settle in Charlton Kings was Israel, who married Sarah Price at St. Mary's in 1758. Israel and Sarah had six children, the youngest of which was Thomas - the ancestor of Mrs Lane. Three of his children emigrated to America in 1850, and it has now come to light that another Hamlett left Charlton that year, but in this case to New Zealand.

Israel and Sarah's eldest son William had married Betty Brown in 1783. They too had six children, the youngest of which was Robert, born in 1792. Robert married Charity Spickernell in 1820 and the 1841 census shows them living in Horsefair St. with three children - Robert aged 20, Thomas aged 15, and Mary aged 13. Robert senior was a quarryman, and Robert junior a gardener. Robert junior married Lucy Herbert in 1845 and they emigrated to New Zealand in 1850 with their two small children. Mrs Patsy McMillan, a descendant of Robert and Lucy, has sent me an account of their life in and around Christchurch.

Robert and Lucy Hamlett arrived in Lyttelton aboard the ship "Castle Eden" on 7th February 1851, they had with them their daughter Lucy aged 4 and their son Robert aged 1 year. In the passenger list he was noted as an agricultural labourer and in the Electoral Roll of 1853 he was noted as warehouseman of Winchester St., Lyttelton. He and his family were very early settlers at the township of Kaiapoi (about 12 miles north of Christchurch) and he was one of the first to build a house there. His house was licensed as the Kaiapoi Hotel, and in 1857 he was advertising that he would take boarders at "Cheltenham House". The photograph is of this boarding house. Early times here were very difficult, but Robert and his family managed to struggle on until 1862, when the house was sold and they moved into Christchurch. Robert died of cancer in 1867, when only 47 years old, but Lucy reached the age of 83, a particularly good age for the wives of early settlers who had to endure terrible hardships. Their daughter Lucy married in 1863 - the first marriage on the church register of the Kaiapoi Presbyterian Church - and it is from this marriage that Patsy is descended. She does not say whether any more children were born to Robert and Lucy in New Zealand, nor what happened to their son Robert.

The Hamlett family, and their spouses, obviously had the necessary spirit of adventure, but it must also be a reflection of the bad times experienced in 'the hungry forties' that four members of one family left Charlton in the same year.



J. Sale

10. TWO HAMLET FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

(1) Enclosed is a photograph which you may find of interest. It shows Greville with his brother Thomas (born about 1842) and his sisters, Cicely Annie (born 1860) on the left and Elizabeth Rachel (Bess) (born 1852) on the right. Greville's full name was Samuel William Greville and he was born about Summer 1857. He was christened on 30th August 1857 in St. Mary's.

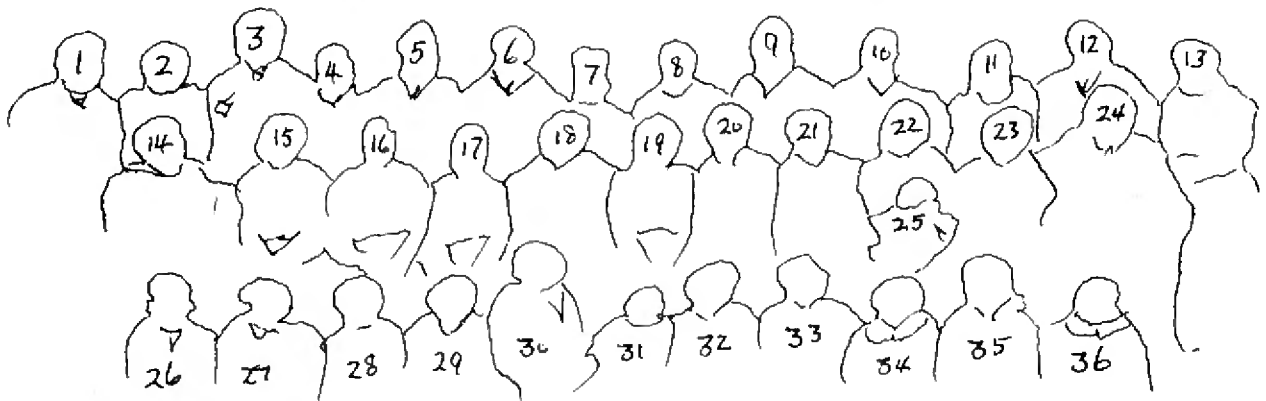
I know very little of Greville or his wife Elizabeth, but I would dearly love to know if you have any information about him or his sisters. It is all so long ago, isn't it?

Elizabeth Rachel married Jim Bowen

Thomas married Annie Bloxsom

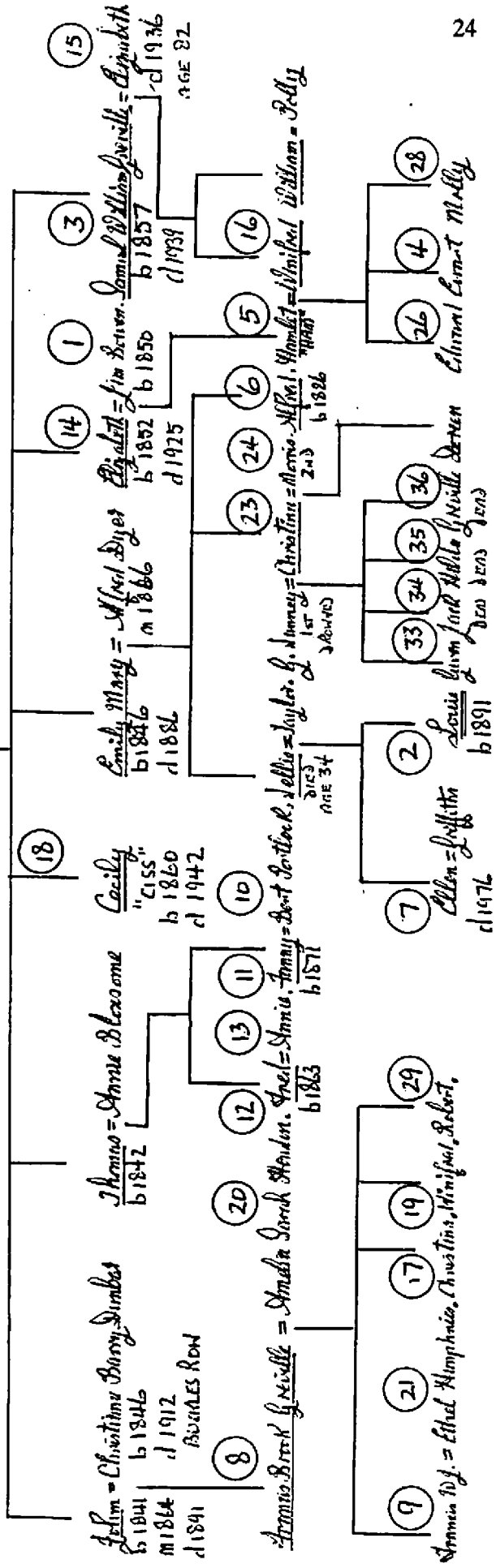
This photograph would be taken at a mourning gathering. The girls are holding crosses.





A PHOTO OF ABOUT 1919 IN THE GARDEN OF CONWAY COTTAGE.

William Hamblitt = Ellen Smith



The Tree is abbreviated to show people appearing on photo.
NOT A PHOTO: ELLEN MARRA ANN

MARRIED WILLIAM J. DYER IN 1863
PARENTS OF ALFRED & NANCY ??

Hamblitt (Annie) Bowen married Cousin Elvira.

Joe Hamblitt girl married two Dyers - Confusing at first.

John Hamblitt and Christie are my best grandparents - They had 3 sons!

And every single person mentioned here was unknown to me until 1975!!

But I had heard of an Uncle Frank - No 9

22 WIFE OF CECIL BOWEN
25 SON OF EMILIE ELIZABETH

27 ALFRED DYER

30 NANCY DYER

31 ARTHURS

32 ONE IS GRAHAM
ONE LOST IN EVE

See Hamblitt. 2 May 1985

11. WHO WAS WILLIAM BOUGHAN OF CHARLTON REGIS GENTLEMAN?

I am indebted to Tony Sale for this extract from the Goldsmiths Company of London Apprentice Book 1 - "John Boughen son of William Boughen of Charlton Regis gentleman apprenticed to Robert Brooke" 1601 and to Betty Chamberlayne for drawing my attention to a Maisemore deed of 8 April 1613 (GRO D 386 T 7), showing William Baughan of Charlton Kings gentleman to have been trustee since 1592 of property leased by the Crown to the Cissell family.

But who was William Boughan and where did he live in Charlton?

He was certainly not native to this village. The name does not occur in the 1557 or 1564 lists of tenants, either under Cheltenham or Ashley. The earliest reference is in the parish register of 1578 when a daughter was christened. And by then William must already have had an eldest son William, the William junior mentioned in 1598.

William Boughen gentleman, buried 2 December 1630

m Mary, bur 28 July 1633, widow

William jr of age by 1598, .. prob born 1576	Tiball (dau) bp 9 Nov 1578	Anne bp 18 Mch 1581/2	John bp 29 Dec 1588 apprenticed aged 12	Edward bp 1 Nov 1590 bur 22 Oct 1594
	Briges bp 25 Aug 1595	Phrancis (dau) bp 10 Aug 1597	Aluned (?Eiluned) bp 13 Jan 1599/1600	

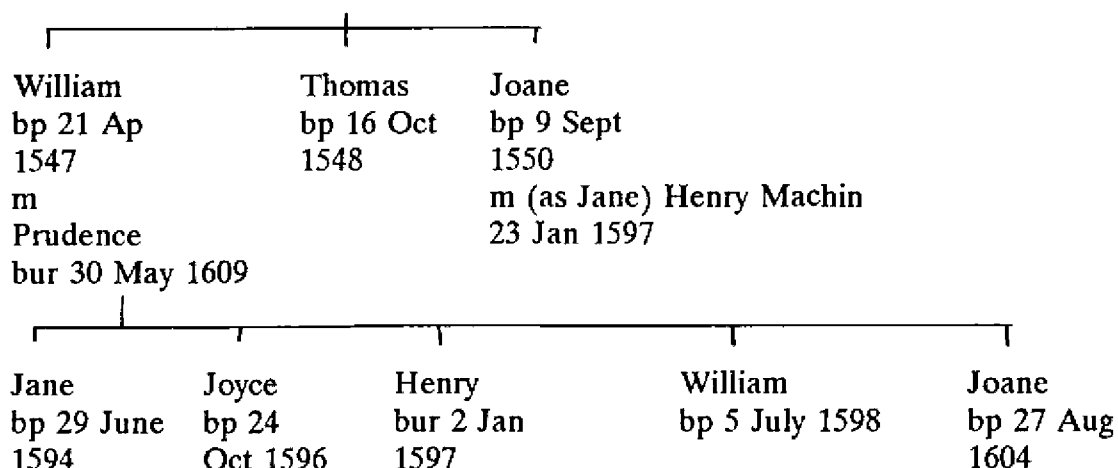
Anne Boughan who married Edmund Harwood on 22 April 1594 may have been William the elder's third child or a sister. There are no references to this family after Mary's death in 1633 and both parents could have been brought back to Charlton for burial.

The name of the last daughter suggests that the family were originally Welsh; Baughan or Boughan could be a variant of Vaughan? And was the elder William (in view of his trusteeship) perhaps a legal gentleman?

Another somewhat mysterious Charlton family becomes involved at this point. William Adams a free tenant on 31 March 1598 sold the greater part of his tenement, part to William Baughan father and son, and part to Thomas Alexander alias Mauncell.

William Addames appears in Charlton marrying a Charlton girl Joane on 30 January 1546/7. Presumably they lived with her parents - He is neither tenant nor sub-tenant of any holding in 1557 or 1564.

William Addames m Joane 30 January 1546/7



The family's chance came when the two largest freeholdings in Charlton were disposed of, Compton's in small parcels, Wye's apparently as a whole. Somehow by the 1590s William Adams (presumably William the son) held 31 acres of field land, 4 closes, and another 2 acres 16 selions - roughly equivalent to Wye's 37 acres (1557 and 1564), with a messuage.

But on 31 March 1598, the court was told that William Adams had disposed of all this land. He had sold to William Baughan senior and junior a parcel of meadow called Cawell, a parcel of pasture called Howbache, another parcel of pasture called Le Bottome, a close of land called Cowltham, and 31 acres of arable with wood and common pasture in Charlton Kings, all part of the manor of Cheltenham for which Addames owed 2s rent to the lord (GRO D 855 M 7 f 79). He had sold to Thomas Alexander alias Mauncell a 2 acre close of pasture in Cudnell called le Harpe and 16 selions arable. Rent 1d (ibid f 105)

Cowell, Coltham, le Harpe and le Bottome point to a freeholding in Cudnall.

Adams was left with the house and garden, and his status was reduced from freeholder to husbandman. On 13 April 1610 the court found that William Adams of Charlton Kings husbandman had converted the eastern part of his house into a dwelling for William Attwell, an act which contravened the statute against building or establishing houses without 4 acres of land, and the byelaws which forbade a tenant to take 'resiants' into his house without authorisation. (GRO D 855 M 8 f 65v). Adams was not proceeded against, and the offence was reported again on 15 April 1612 (ibid f 114v). There were two Cheltenham freeholds in Cudnall; it seems very likely that Adams' house was on the site of Grove House.

William Baughan and his son had bought land but no dwelling. They claimed Charlton as their parish, however, and must have been living not far off, but perhaps in Cheltenham. The land they disposed of piecemeal, and by 1617, the date of Norden's survey of the manor, William Baughan retained only 2 acres. The survey marks several holdings as "late William Adams" - these were

- (1) a tenement, garden, orchard and 4 selions (1 acre) in Le Banke - Edward Hewes (? Grove House)
- (2) a close called Cowell (1 acre) and 1 acre arable in the Breach - John Houlder
- (3) land called Avening (2 acres) - William Bougham

- (4) meadow called Howbach or Howebacke (1 acre) - Robert Machin
- (5) A small close called le Breach bottome, 2 selions in Cudnall fields (3 acres) - John Tytehr
- (6) cottage, garden, orchard and close (2 roods) - Richard Harries

Why did William Boughan still hang on to a 2 acre piece in the open field called Avenalls or Avenhills lying in the angle of Old Bath Road and the London Road (which then ran where Avenalls Parade does now)? The family must have disposed of this last remnant shortly afterwards. It looks as though all the land was acquired as an investment, to be sold at a profit if possible.

Certainly in this manor, freehold land was liable to change hands frequently and be fragmented, whereas customary holdings generally passed to the heir or to a purchaser intact.

So the search for William Boughan involves looking for William Adams too, and may give us a clue to the earlier history of Grove House which (when it appears quite definitely in the record) was a house without any field land and very little garden. Any further references to the Baughan family would be welcome.

M. Paget

12. CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

Miss M. Wilkins says she will be 89 on 20 October next. She was 13 when her father died in the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic. Miss Marriott rang Dr Meyrick Jones for the family and said 'Now remember, if anything happens, you have been called!' and he was round very quickly.

Her father was very strict, couldn't bear any noise from the children. He used to set them to the table to 'Do sums for Daddy' or to do drawings. Her mother thought he was too repressive. But he was a school master at St John's Boys' School and had enough of childrens' noise all day. When he died, her mother had only a very small pension, but the half-brothers were very good and sent her money each month to enable her to bring up the family.

Her father was musical, had a good singing voice. Mrs Trees (who had taught music at the Ladies' College) used to help him. She was very kind, letting him come to her house in Copt Elm Road to rehearse and encouraging him.

Margery Wilkins

13. HILL VIEW, CHURCH PIECE

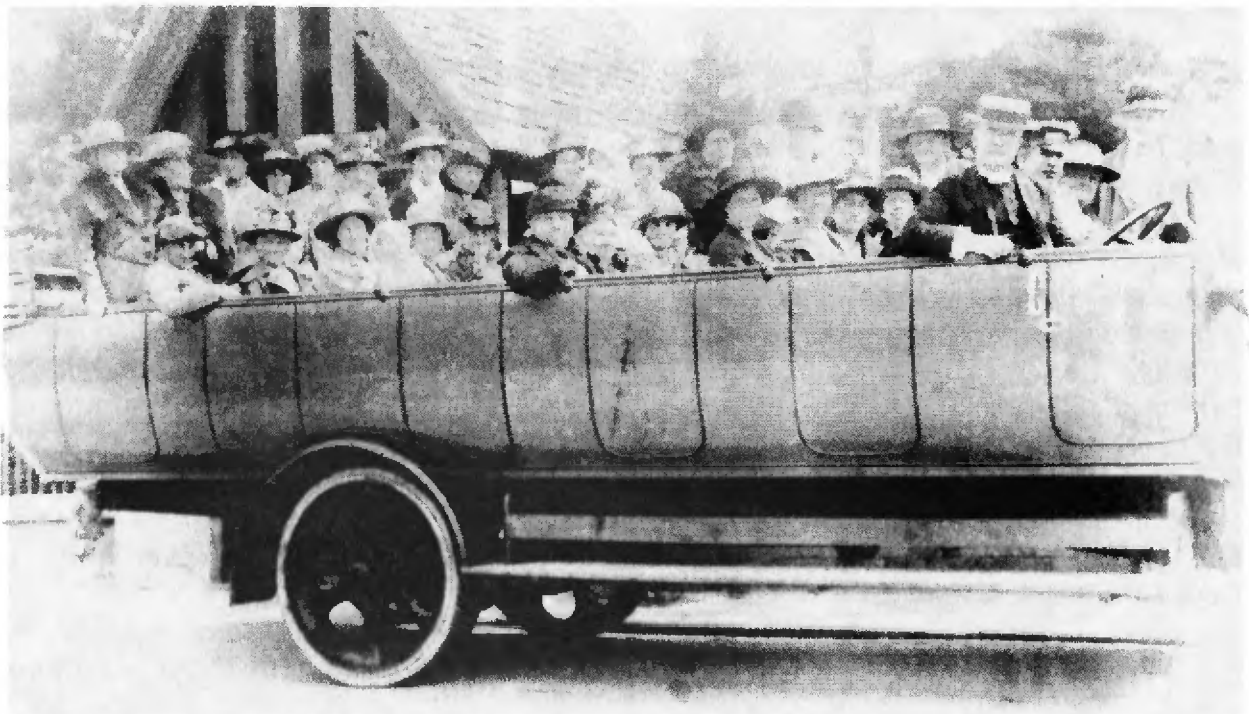


Built 1810, bought in 1950 by Mr. Lancellotte - Now demolished.

Mary Wilcox

14. OFF FOR THE DAY!

Probably a Mothers' Union outing, with the Revd. Edgar Neale



In front of Lychgate	-	Mrs Neather
dark hat in front	-	Mrs Wills
light hat	-	Mrs Smith
behind Mrs Wills	-	Mrs Pansy Weaver
behind vicar (to left)	-	Gran Neather

Mrs Parkes' photograph

15. GROUP AT A SCOUT CAMP



Back Row - - - Fred Mason Edgar Cleveley - - -

Next Row E.J. Fear - - Mrs Cooper Mrs Fear - - - - a scout

Front Row Mrs Homer Mrs Williams - - The Revd The Revd Mrs
of Church Edgar Neale Leonard Protherough
St and daughter Smith of Brevel
daughter Cottage
and Phyllis her
youngest
daughter

Dorothy Williams Mrs Neather -
(now Mrs Bannister) and Hazel
(now Mrs Parkes)

Mrs Parkes' photograph

16. CHURCH STREET - A ROAD WIDENING ABOUT 1700?

When the Church Street sewers were renewed in 1991, a hole was cut in the road opposite 1 Field Cottages; and this revealed unmistakable evidence of a stone vault on the north side of the hole, the stone stopping on the east and west sides just north of the pipe. On the churchyard side of the hole, no such stone was to be seen on any side.

A second hole opposite the north gate of the churchyard produced some bones, apparently displaced from a grave when the sewer was first laid. A Victorian teaspoon (base metal) was also dug up.

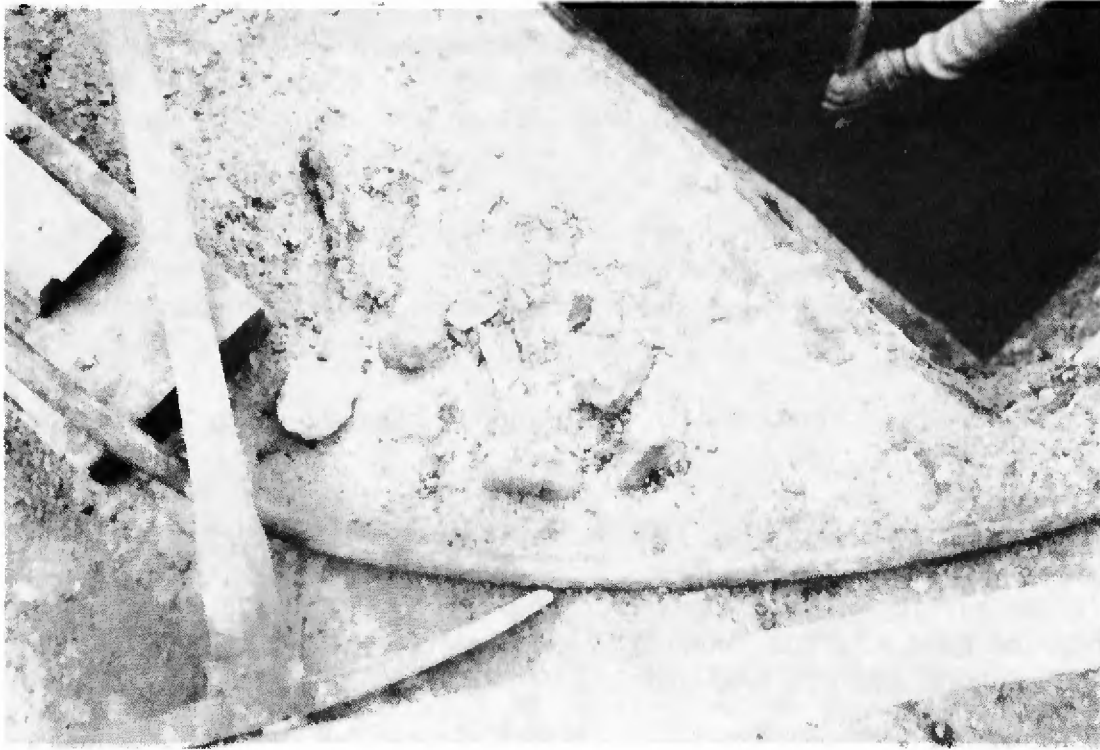
If the graveyard originally extended slightly more than half way across the present road, Church Street would then have been barely wide enough to take a cart. But having regard to the road frontage by St Mary's Cottage, it looks as if when the Field Cottages were built (or possibly before that) the owner of the strip next to the road encroached a foot or two without being pulled up for it.

We know that when the present churchyard railings were erected, there was talk of the desirability of widening the road by taking part of the Field Cottage gardens; but nothing was done.

I think the most likely time for the Vestry to have decided to widen the road by giving up a strip of the churchyard, even though it involved removal of a vault, would have been c.1700, about the time that the south porch was rebuilt and the south aisle re-roofed. The sanctity of burial grounds was little regarded just then.

E
N S
W





The bones found near the North churchyard gate.

J. Paget, M. Paget

17. THE HAMBLING AND HAWKES FAMILIES OF PARK STREET AND RYEWORTH

An enquiry about the marriage of Sarah Simmons and Samuel Hawkes at St Mary's on 31 July 1841 - her parents William and Sarah Simmons of Charlton Kings, his father Joseph Hawkes - has led to this interesting letter from Mr Ivor D Hambling of Morningside Village, New Hamburg, Ontario. He has been reading our History of Charlton Kings.

"I thought I knew a little of Charlton Kings, but after reading your history of it, I now know it was very little indeed. On page 148 you refer to the Crown Inn of (Upper) Park Street as being kept by "A Hambling" in 1857. The 1881 census shows Sophia Hambling, a widow, as the landlady of the Crown Inn. My father and mother lived in Upper Park Street for almost 50 years; my father was also an "A Hambling" - Albert. I have not yet made any connection between our family and the Crown Inn landlord, I doubt that my father knew of the similarities, even though the Crown was his 'local'. My maternal grandmother, a grand-daughter of Samuel Hawkes, also lived in Upper Park Street for many years.

While Samuel maintained a very close liaison with the parish church of Charlton Kings, he rarely lived in the parish itself, at least from what I have learned so far. Samuel was born in the village of Whittington and appears to have had strong connections with Ryeworth. In 1881 he is listed as an Assistant Surveyor and landlord (innkeeper) of the Ryeworth Inn. George Hawkes, son of Samuel, was living in 1881 at 5 Rosebank Cottages, Ryeworth Road, and married to a Mary Gibson of Shire Newton, Monmouth.

Samuel's six children were all christened in the parish church, as were the 8 children of George. As yet I have not learned where George was married. I believe my grand-parents Mary Eleanor Hawkes and Francis Ernest Juggins were married in the parish church, probably about 1898. My mother, Frances Eleanor, was confirmed at the parish church in 1913 at the age of 13 years.

At the time of Samuel's death he owned various properties, including 5,6 and 7 Upper Park Street, a Pilley Cottage, and a Ryecroft Cottage. I am hoping to obtain a summary of these properties, showing values and the rental incloe. This list should make interesting reading".

(If any member has information about these families, I shall be happy to pass it on M.P.)

18A. THE BAGHOTT'S OF PRESTBURY AND CHARLTON KINGS

The 1682-3 Visitation of Gloucestershire shows some interesting links between the Baghotts and three Charlton families. Edmund Baghott (died 15 June 1657) married Katherine daughter of Sir Richard Hyde of Blagrove, Berks, and among their children were

a) Winifred wife of Arthur Packer of Ham

This was the Arthur Packer whose father Alexander Packer I in 1638 cut him altogether out of the estate by giving his daughter Margaret a 21 year interest which would last until Alexander II, son of Arthur and Winifred, had come of age and could inherit. (See Bulletins 3, 20).

b) Dorothy, wife of --- Atkins of Charlton Kings and Cheltenham

This may have been the Henry Atkins to whose use in 1649 Robert Gale jr and his wife surrendered a messuage in Charlton with land adjoining a stream (presumably the Chelt) on the north and a highway on the east. (D855 M11 f.50). They may have had a son Henry.

This Henry had property in Cheltenham and was married to Olife by 1654 (ibid M 11 p 144); he was buried as Henry the elder on 7 May 1688 and his widow Olife on 18 Jan 1696. Their children were Henry Atkins who claimed on his father's death the messuage in Charlton and the land by the stream and highway. (ibid M 12 pp 301-2). They surrendered this to John Parkes and Mary his wife. Henry and Judith had 4 children, John, Thomas and Giles and a daughter Judith who married Leech; John by 1718 had two daughters Elizabeth and Olivia. Henry's sister Mary had married twice, first John Holder on 23 November 1669 and then after his early death John King. (ibid M 12 p 294; M 14 p 95).

c) Margaret, wife of - Cartwright of Charlton Kings

She seems to be the Margaret "Bagge" (ie Baghott) who married Richard Cartwright at St Marys 9 February 1635/6; they had a daughter Margaret baptised 16 February 1636/7 and another daughter Mary baptised 31 January 1642/3. Richard Cartwright was buried 17 December 1661 and Margaret Cartwright widow 19 January 1667/8.

Parish register I shows Richard Cartwright baptised 15 December 1594, so he was a mature man of 42 at the time of his marriage. His parents were Richard Cartwright and Joane Cooke, who were married on 29 June 1584, Richard being the fifth of their 6 children and the youngest son, the eldest son being Thomas (baptised 5 October 1589, probably Thomas Cartwright resident in 1610 - GRO D 855 M 8 f 77v). Richard would have inherited any customary property, but was not a Cheltenham or Ashley tenant in 1626.

d) A son Edward Baghott, born c 1605

JANE SALE, M PAGET

**18B. LAND IN COLTHAM - WILLIAM BAGSHOTT DE-IA-BERE'S
ACCOUNT BOOK (G.R.O. D 1637/E1).**

1734-5

Febr. 4 'I gave Samuel Ellis 5s in Earnest for Purchase of his 10 lands and 1
pick in Coltham Field at 35.0.0'.

1735

Jan 9 'Paid Land Tax to J Whithorne for S. Ellis land 0. 5. 0'

1737-8

March 30' 'Pd. Doctor Welsh 2nd Double Levy per Ellis land to Charleton poor
0. 0. 4½'

1738

June 1 'Pd. Job. Smith Land Tax per Sam. Ellis land 0. 0. 10½'

1739

Oct 19 'Reced. of Thos. Benfield of ye George Inn in Cheltenham being
Purchase of the 3½acres of Land which I bought of Sam. Ellis lying
in Coltham Field parochi (?) Charleton. 36. 0. 0'

JANE SALE

19. LATE FOR SCHOOL: TWO STORIES

- (1) My father Charles Edward Hoddy got a whack every afternoon at school for being late. He never got any lunch; instead he had to go home and collect his mother's jug, go to his aunt Florrie in Chestnut Terrace and collect her jug, get them both filled with beer at the Royal and carry them back without spilling a drop. Then he'd go to Mrs Ryland's in Lyefield Road, The White House; collect her jug, and take it to Kilminster's the off licence in Church Street and get that filled and taken to her.

Consequently he was always late for school and couldn't help it!

Chestnut Terrace was called Bug Alley in those days. My grandmother lived in No 8. There were so many bugs in the walls, you trod on them! My father and mother once persuaded Grandmother to leave home for a week while they fumigated and re-painted the whole house; but in no time the bugs were back again, coming through the walls from the other houses! Chestnut Terrace was condemned three times but never pulled down; and now the houses have been done up and fetch a good price.

Maureen Vernon

- (2) The photo of the watering trough in front of the Duke of York Pub (Bulletin 26) sure brings back memories. Bill Neather Sr lived in the front and Bill Neather jr lived in the back part. He had a little boy I'd play with sometimes. I remember one day going through Duke's Alley when Bill Neather jr had a sick horse and he needed some medication, so he wanted me to go to the drug store for him down by the Co-Op to get it. I ran there and back but was late for school. But he gave me a note I gave to Mr Fry, so I was excused.

Allan Thomas
Wellanport, Ont

20. CHARLTON TREES 4 - THE WITHYHOLT WELLINGTONIA

This specimen, the last of several which once stood by the drive to Withyholt house, was struck by lightning on 28 May 1992 and had to be felled. According to the report in *The Echo* on 4 June, it was 110 ft high, 17ft diameter as base, and the ring count showed it to be 110 years old - if so, it was planted in the late 1880s probably at 5 or 7 years old. Wellingtonias were very fashionable about that time.

Hillier's Manual of Trees and Shrubs 4th ed. says this tree, Sequoiadendrum giganteum, was introduced into England in 1853. The record height for one in 1970 was 165 ft with a girth of 22 ft, so ours was by no means outsize, just average for its age. But is sad that we have lost a local landmark.

The tree in 1982



M. Paget

21. NEFARIOUS GOINGS-ON, OR ELEMENTARY EXPERIMENTS WITH EXPLOSIVES IN COPT ELM ROAD

When I was a Day Boy at College somewhere between 1922 and 1925, my interest in Chemistry really caught me, till it became almost a consuming passion, if a small boy can have such a thing. My parents bought me boxed chemistry sets for birthday and Christmas; but what really allowed my passion to develop, they allowed me to use one of the basement rooms of No 70 Copt Elm Road (where we lived) called the Boxroom. It was the only one with a wooden floor (the rest were tiled) and its sash window looked out into the front garden and thus on to Copt Elm Road. In this room were two large wooden crates (which had originally held china) which when pushed together made a bench, if of a somewhat rough surface, for me to have my experiments on.

Friends and neighbours were soon aware of my absorbing interest and helped me by giving me books on chemistry and odd items of chemical apparatus they happened to have. For instance Miss Lascombe who lived across the way gave me a most beautiful large stoppered glass jar with embossed white letters Potassium Bromide on it. I went round all the chemists in Cheltenham, obtaining any odd items of chemical apparatus like test tube racks, and test tubes themselves - and investigated augmenting the chemicals I had already in the chemical sets, all purchased with my pocket money. In fact, I became so well equipped that I was able to write to my mother who was away at that time "I am now the perfect Stink" (Chemistry at college was called Stinks).

My father gave me a book he had as a boy called The Boys' Own Book of 1875, which had a big section on fireworks of which the most essential ingredient was gunpowder and how to make it. The constituents nitre (potassium nitrate), sulphur, and charcoal, when powdered and mixed in the right proportions formed gunpowder "and the constituents can be purchased at any chemist". This prompted me to go along to Cheshire the chemist in Lyefield Road West with the items written on a piece of paper.

When I presented this piece of paper to Mr Cheshire, the effect on him was electric! "You NAUGHTY little boy, are you trying to make gunpowder?". With a look of rage, he tried to grab me and said "I shall report you to the Police!". I avoided him and rushed out of the shop and so home.

I unwisely told my brother who used to tease me by telling me when a policeman was seen approaching the house. They used to come past as part of their beat (The Police Station was then at No 58A Copt Elm Road) going up toward St Mary's and either Horsefair Street or Church Street onwards. I rushed down to the cupboard under the stairs in the basement and hid among the garden tools as I thought the Police were coming to get me!

The worst occasion was when the Police actually came to our house. My mother used to give them contributions to the Police Benevolent Fund (she thought she obtained extra protection thereby!). I was terrified and hid for a long time in the darkest corner of the cupboard until I was certain they had gone.

Ultimately this threat of the Police receded and so I set about trying to obtain potassium nitrate from the chemists in Cheltenham. I used to present a list of chemicals, 2 oz at a time, to be paid for with my pocket money, and concealed among comparatively harmless chemicals like copper sulphate was potassium nitrate, the critical item! Sometimes I was successful and the packet containing the nitrate was added to the white lettered glass jar

with Potassium Bromide on it (the "Bromide" lettering had a tape with "Nitrate" on it stuck over it), and so my stock started to build up.

But sometimes my intentions were detected and "You Naughty Little Boy, are you trying to make Gunpowder?" greeted me, and I fled without obtaining anything. But at a chemist in Suffolk Parade I was more successful - by that time all other chemists had rejected me with "You Naughty Little Boy etc". I think he liked hearing the sound of his voice and tried to impress me by telling me how he had helped the Gloucestershire Analyst and Science Masters at College and the Grammar School. I let him talk and when he had quite finished dealing with other customers, I presented my list. I suppose, wanting to get rid of me, he gave me all that was on the list; and this occurred three times before on the fourth the penny dropped. After listening to him, I presented my list, only to be greeted with "Your Activities are Nefarious - kindly leave my shop!" So that was that! I realised that my chances of getting further supplies of Potassium Nitrate (nitre) were at an end.

By this time, I had got a fair amount in the glass stoppered wide-mouthed glass jar and so determined to use it in experiments. Now my father had told me that india-rubber (in those days) was compounded with carbon black (similar to charcoal) and cured by additions of sulphur. Here was a source of my other two ingredients, if I could only find a suitable source. Luckily I found a large piece of thick india-rubber sheet in a ditch in Sandy Lane. This I carefully cleaned. Now in those days, if the outer casing of your car tyre got torn, you didn't replace it, you repaired the tear by sticking on pieces of thick rubber sheet - and this was obviously such a discarded piece. Its surface had started to disintegrate, it had obviously been in the ditch a long time.

If I could only cut it up fine and mix it with the nitre, here was a form of gunpowder. So I "borrowed" the grater from the kitchen and, using the side with the oval cutting holes, cut up the piece of india-rubber sheet into small pieces. I guessed the proportions of sulphur and carbon in those pieces and mixed it with the necessary amount of nitre on a large enamelled blue plate that I had been given.

Incidentally I had been told by my mother to keep the door of the boxroom tight shut to prevent any smells I might make getting into the rest of the house, and to keep the sash window onto the front garden wide open to let these out. This was exactly the situation one Sunday afternoon at about 2.45 pm, with the mixture piled on the blue plate, my mother playing with her Quartet in the room above, and families going up Copt Elm Road to St Mary's for the Childrens' Service.

I set fire to the mixture on the blue enamel plate. A huge beautiful red ball was the result, surrounded by a large dense cloud of black smoke which poured out of the open sash window, across the front garden, and still as a large dense cloud, into Copt Elm Road.

The effect on everybody was electric! The families coming to the Childrens' Service thought our house No 70 was on fire. A number of them rushed up the front path and hammered on the front door, shouting "Your house is on Fire!". My mother's Quartet continued playing, completely unaware of what was going on, until the shouting bore in on them and the music sounded as if cut off with a knife. My mother rushed downstairs into the boxroom, only to find no ball of red fire, no black smoke, and just a small black residue in the blue enamel dish - plus an overpowering smell of burnt rubber which filled the house! Henceforward I was banned from anything of a like nature but must do all experiments in the garden.

But the black cloud event was remembered. When I was in Charlton Kings in c 1975, I was approached at the entrance to Charlton Kings Library opposite the supermarket by a charming middle-aged lady who said "Excuse me, are you Mr John Williams? I was a schoolgirl going with my mother up to Canon Neale's Childrens' Service at St Mary's on the Sunday you produced a big black cloud in Copt Elm Road - we all thought your house was on fire, but it was a false alarm!".

A physicist friend of mine said the black cloud I produced was probably ionised and so rolled more or less as an entity across the front garden into Copt Elm Road.

Realising any further experiment with nitre-based gunpowder was a non-starter, I looked for an alternative. Now my father gave me the task of weeding the garden paths and paid me by the yard for paths free of weeds (which augmented my pocket money). I soon found out that either sodium or potassium chlorate were effective weed killers - and this gave me access to a more powerful oxidant than nitre and one which I could obtain either from a chemist or a garden shop (called a Nursery in those days), to be used ostensibly for weed killing. I had learnt from Chemistry lessons at College that to get an explosion all one needed was an oxidant like nitre, fuel like sulphur, and powdered charcoal (as in gunpowder) and that this principle also applied to more powerful explosives.

In those days, cigarette packets were not wrapped in plastic but in a material called cellophane. I soon found out that cellophane when heated in the right proportions with water turned into a jelly-like mass and when dried returned to something like its original form. So it was easy to replace the water with a strong solution of chlorate which I boiled over the family gas cooker (when no cookery was going on!) . Rather a risky business. But when dried it produced an easily handleable explosive. I tried some in the garden but found it somewhat difficult to ignite.

Now I had a friend called John Rigg who was in one of the College Boarding Houses - Hazelwell. Boarders were allowed to come out for a visit to Day Boys' homes on Sunday. I was determined to demonstrate this new explosive to John Rigg.

So I took a small brass canon I had and packed it full of this new explosive of mine, sealing the mouth by ramming in a small piece of doweling that fitted the bore. I then clamped the canon into a retort-clamp mounted on a retort-stand.

The steps down to the basement and back door had a high wall on one side and the wall of the house on the other. On top of the back wall side were large stone steps, and it was on one of these that I mounted the retort-stand with the canon clamped to it.

With John Rigg, I tried to light the explosive through the touch hole but was completely unsuccessful. In exasperation I turned the canon round in its clamp, so that touch hole faced downwards, and put underneath it the base of an old oil bicycle lamp which I lit. The heat from the flame ultimately penetrated to the touch hole, there was a noise like the crack of a whip and the canon disappeared before our eyes! We turned round and in the wall behind us both were imbedded slivers of brass - bits of the canon! We both realised what would have happened to us had we stopped any of the bits!

A lucky escape! What happened to the piece of doweling I don't know. Of course we kept quiet about all this and didn't tell our mothers!

About this time I started to become interested in the opposite sex and in particular two young ladies from families we used to see when we went to Morning Service - Joyce Shelmerdine who lived at Mordiford on the London Road and Peggy Norris daughter of Colonel Norris who lived at Wraxhall House. But they thought very little of me, I wasn't athletic enough! So after church, I said I would fire a rocket in their direction to impress them; they both laughed!

But I was determined to show them. I made the rocket body by rolling damp sheets of paper glued with flour-paste round a piece of curtain pole, and as a nose I used a shaped piece of boxwood cut from the tree in the front garden. The rest of the rocket was conventional, a long tail stick; it was mounted in a glass jar as for Guy Fawkes Night rockets and packed with this new explosive of mine. I used the cycle lamp (as with the canon), to ignite it.

It set off with a stuttering roar from the back garden of No 70 Copt Elm Road, high over the pair of houses (now a Retirement Home) in Lyefield Road West, and disappeared in the direction of Cudnall. I listened carefully to hear anything breaking, but nothing! I waited for several days to see if some irate person came with stories of breakage caused by this rocket - but nothing! I never knew where it went. Joyce Shelmerdine and Peggy Norris, when I enquired if they had seen anything, feigned ignorance. I think they thought I was more crazy than before!

In 1925 (I think it was) I was now into Wireless and had forsaken Explosives. I had built myself a radio set with valves, HT and LT batteries, which was much appreciated as it enabled my father, who was nearly blind, to listen to Daventry 5 XX with a pair of Brandes headphones which gave very good quality music and speech.

One afternoon I had climbed the peartree in the garden with a view to improving the aerial with some white china egg-shaped insulators I had bought from E.J. Fear (the cycle shop in Lyefield Road West which was now selling radio components). My mother came into the garden and called to me to say she must rush into Town to get something for that night's supper, as she was entertaining her Quartet and had forgotten the essential item.

I had just about completed the installation of the new insulators when I heard an explosive roar from the basement - unusual, as it sounded like a series of small explosions, like a fusillade of musketry! It made me wonder if the remains of explosives in the boxroom had been triggered off by some means yet unknown. I climbed down and hurried to the basement where I met my brother who had been studying at the top of the house, heard the explosion, and hurried down to investigate.

An amazing sight met our eyes when we went into the scullery where the gas cooker was. A large saucepan had been left on a burner and had boiled dry. It had been full of eggs for hard-boiling, which had been forgotten and had exploded intermittently (hence the musketry roar) under the heat, and the fragments were everywhere! The most impressive part was on the ceiling, where small pieces of shell with bits of hard boiled egg attached had stuck so the whole looked like a curious hedge-hog!

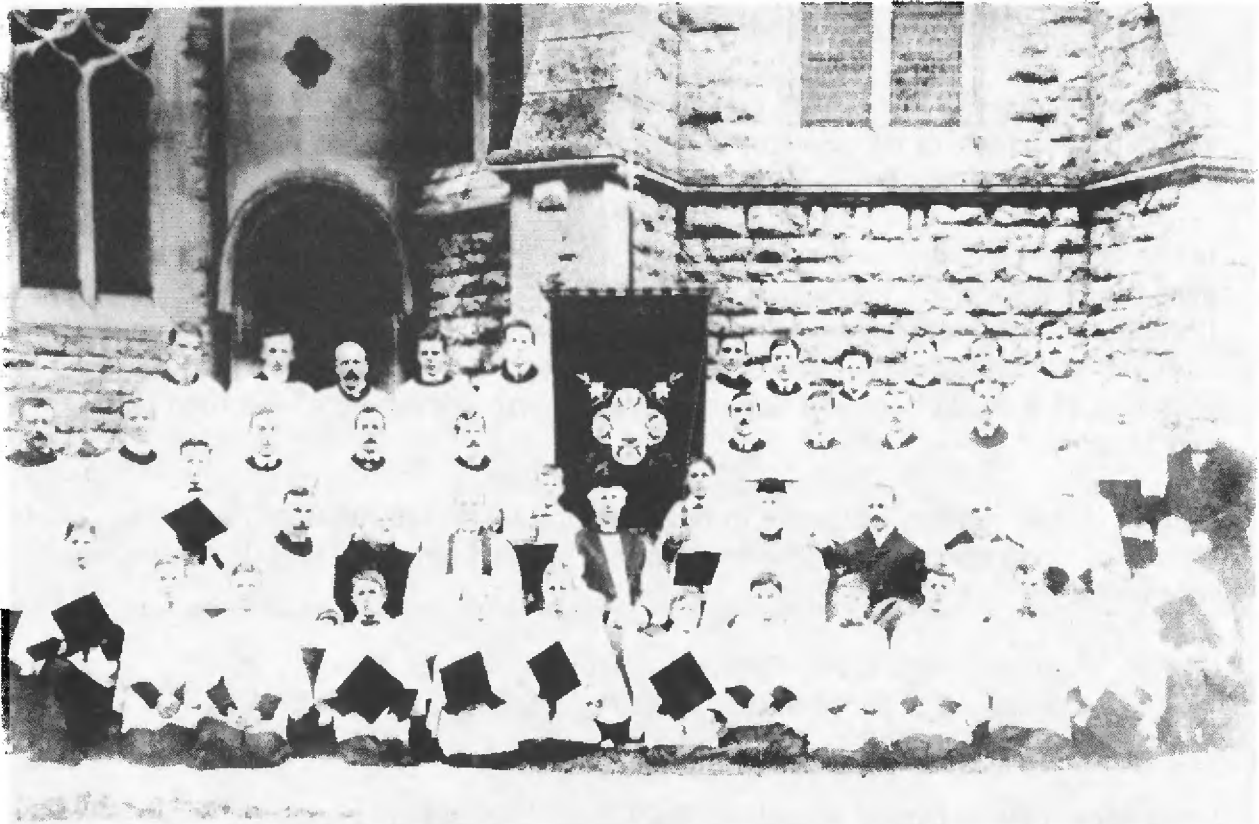
My brother and I spent weeks picking these small individual pieces out of the ceiling, whilst mounted precariously on the top of a step-ladder!

The saucepan was plunged into the sink full of water and quenched. Due to its distorted bottom, it was ever afterwards known as the Egg Saucepan.

John Williams

22. HOLY APOSTLES' CHOIR C 1916

This photograph is undated but was taken during the incumbency of the Revd H A Corke (1904-1919), probably about 1916. My father is the second chorister from the banner in the row of four adults on the right hand side facing the photograph. I very much regret that I cannot identify any others (I was born in 1916). My father was Reuben Arther William Mills born 14 July 1888, died 30 September 1967.



K.A.N. MILLS

23. RESEARCH ON WAR DEAD 1914-1919

164, Old Bath Road
 Cheltenham, Glos
 GL53 7DR
 Tel 522894
 25th June 1992

Dear Editor,

A colleague and I have been working for some months on a project to research those soldiers and airman who lost their lives during the Great War 1914-1919 and who are commemorated on the various memorials in and around Cheltenham.

The object is to publish our findings and to lodge these in the Public Library, County Record Office and other public archives for the benefit of researchers.

The exercise has not been made easy due to the lack of any information other than names and initials on most of the monuments and there are a number whom we have, so far, been totally unable to identify.

In respect of the Charlton Kings memorials - one in the Church and the other on the road near the lych gate, we would like to appeal to your readers through the medium of the Bulletin, for any information, however insignificant on the following servicemen. In addition, should any person have any information concerning how the lists of names were compiled, this would be vitally important, since there are differences in the content of the two memorials.

Finally, if your readers will bring to our attention facts, anecdotes or biographical details about any servicemen from Charlton Kings who died between 1914-1919. this would be very useful for our purposes.

Church Memorial Blunt.F., Causon.S., Hodson. H., Ross. G.,
 Sheepway . D., Simpson.E., Smith.A., Upstone. C., White.A.,
 Wilkes. J.W., Willis. H., Winstone. A.

From Memorial in Road Uzzell. C.2nd Lieut., Wiggin.D.H.Lieut.

Yours sincerely

Graham Sacker

Note:- H Hodson was Hubert Bernard, son of the Revd Thomas Hodson, Private, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, who fell in action at Ypres 8 May 1915.

H Willis was Captain Hugh D Willis R.A.M.C, killed in action near Ypres August 12 1917.

See monuments in churchyard.

M.P.

24. JOHN THORNELY OF LILLEYBROOK, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mr R Newcombe of 59 Painswick Road comments on Bulletin 10:-

"You may be interested in the following information which my daughter's mother-in-law has passed on to me.

John Thornely's grandfather was a cotton manufacturer in Cheshire and his father bought land in Yorkshire (Dodworth and Silkstone) on which he ran a coal mining industry and had two large estates. John helped his father with the coal business until the father died in 1848. He then appears to have sold up everything in Yorkshire and went to live in Lilleybrook. John's father was a J.P. and Director of Barnsley Banking Company. He more or less rebuilt Dodworth Church, where there is a plaque to his memory.

John married Elizabeth Cockle of St Mary le Bow, London on 14 January 1830 and they had no children. It is thought that the three girls who inherited Lilleybrook were the great-grandchildren of John's father's brother Thomas Thornely who came from Hadfield near Barnsley"

So this was how a North Country industrialist come to Charlton Kings and was eventually buried in St Mary's churchyard!

25. NOTES ON CHARLTON TOPICS

(1) Llanthony Priory

Llanthony Priory (Gloucester) had land at Oakley , Charlton Kings, 1155-60 Sources D.Wilkin ed. Charters of the Earldom of Hereford. Camden Miscellany 22-1-76 R. Hist Soc 1964 p44; Valor Ecclesiasticus ii 425, Record Commission See Glevensis 23 (1989) p 17.

(2) Ashley Manor

From the Cheltenham Examiner 30 November 1887, quoted by W. H. Bridgman,

"Court Leet Dinner at Charlton Kings.

In the Manor of Ashley otherwise Charlton Kings, there is, as in most Manors, a yearly festivity following the transaction of Court Leet business. At Charlton this business is particularly small, most of the manorial rights having ceased through the enfranchisement of the property subject to them. The appointment of officers also does not involve considerable expenditure of time or give rise to any feeling of rivalry amongst those eligible to serve.

A "High Bailiff" is the solitary functionary. No Poundmen, no Bell Man, no Ale Kenner, spoil the beautiful simplicity of the arrangement; the Bailiff (under the Lord and Steward) is all in all. Upon him devolves the arduous task "Oyez" at the opening of the court; to him is allotted the vice-chair at the dinner; and to him is entrusted after the repast has been eaten, and before the toast of "The Queen" has been proposed, a responsible duty which it would be infringement of manorial etiquette to name. The present occupant of this distinguished office is Mr G.W. Sadler, who has held it for 20 years".

(3) Whitsuntide festivities

"Whitsuntide met with more general recognition. The Oddfellows and the members of other friendly Societies, arrayed in all the glory of regalia and accompanied by bands and banners marched in precession on the Monday to --- Charlton Kings, listened to a sermon in the Parish Church" - and after marching home dined sumptuously in the different inns. Memoirs of a Social Man W.E. Adams 1903, reprinted 1967, p 52.

(4) Carriers

An article in "Gloucestershire and Avon Life" October 1978, by D H Aldred, refers to the existence of the parcel house at Seven Springs (recently restored). . The New Inn was a pick-up point for the North Cerney to Cheltenham carrier; and there was a pick-up point on the London Road at the Reservoir Inn.

(5) 45 School Road (SO 96592081)

In 1966, following the demolition of a 17th century cottage to enable the construction of the present building at 45 School Road, a small number of medieval sherds were recovered together with a number of post medieval ones. A silver half groat of Edward III (1356-61) was found behind the point where the pottery was recovered. Tentative dates of pottery late 12th and late 13th century. Glevensis No 5 December 1970 GADARG.

(6) A School at Ryeworth (? a Sunday school for the new Primitive Methodist Chapel)

A school was opened in Ryeworth Chapel 11 October 1876, 50 children attended.

Cheltenham Examiner from Bridgman Notes II p 56

(7) Tokens

There is an article on "Gloucestershire Trade Tokens", 17-19th centuries, by J.P. Wilton in Trans Bristol and Glos Arch Soc. 13 pp 130-145.

(8) Charlton families

There are pedigrees of several families eg Maunsell, Higgs, by T. Phillipps in Gloucester Library.

John Greville of Charlton Kings was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1313 and 1415 (Manuscript History of Abel Wantner, on microfilm G.R.O. See Bulletin 8 p 8).

(9) Will 1545/6

In his will 9 March 1545/6 Edward Hawll of Cheltenham left Harry his "sun" one house with "ys Caxton" and all belonging, lying in Charlton Kings. Thomas (Borell) his son-in-law was left 3 acres of land "lying by yond Sanddy Lane".

(10) Sheep v. Barley in Gloucestershire

"There are still some 100,000 sheep on the hills, more for mutton than for wool, but the farms' economy turns on barley. An acre of this limestone soil will raise 30 cwt of barley. One inheritance of sheep-runs is the fact that permanent pasture occupies 56% of the land of the whole county, against 42% as the average for England and Wales".

The Cotswolds C. and A.N. Hadfield (1966, reprinted 1967, Batsford).

(How we have changed in 25 years!).

M.J. Greet

26. MR TAYLOR'S TAIL-PIECE

H.O. Lord, Master of Fox Hounds, outside Lilleybrook House, called a man going up Cirencester Road "Come here, my man, can you saddle a horse?"

"Yes, Sir"

"Then go and catch that mare up in the field and tie her up here"

When he'd done it, H.O.Lord calls the man back "That's no use, you've got the saddle on backwards!"

"That's your fault, Governor, you never said which way you were going!"

F.Taylor