

CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY



BULLETIN 31

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Membership forms are available from the Hon. Secretary. Annual subscription £2 or £3 for a couple. This will be increased in 1995 to £3 and £4.50. Meetings are held monthly from September to May in the Stanton Room at Charlton Kings Library.

The Bulletin is published twice a year. Indexes are available, to Bulletins 1-7 price £2, to Bulletins 8-16 price £5. Parish Registers: I 1538-1634 price £2; II 1634-1700 price £3; III (to be issued this March) 1700-1760, price £5.

Cover picture - Church Cottage, Horsefair, drawn by Ken Venus

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1. THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE MILITARY SURVEY OF 1522

Local historians in this area owe a debt to the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for deciding to publish as Volume 6 in their Record Series The Military Survey of Gloucestershire 1522 edited by R. W Hoyle (1993).

The 1522 tax returned to the old practice (exemplified in the 1327 Lay Subsidy) of assessing the individual rather than charging the parish or township with a fixed sum to be raised. But this time land was to be taken into consideration as well as movables (goods, money, leases). The text is set out in four columns, the name of the tax payer, income from his land holding if any, his goods, and his liability to provide military equipment. A superscript "a" indicates that the man was fit for active service. Thus the 1522 survey tried to combine evidence of resources for fighting a war and available man-power (as it were, an income tax return plus Men and Armour).

The Charlton Kings section comes on pp 46-7; Cheltenham on pp 44-5, with Westall, Sandford and Naunton, which were in Cheltenham parish, separately on pp 47-8. The Cheltenham information is vital to an understanding of Charlton because for ecclesiastical and manorial purposes we were still, to a large extent, part of the old ex-royal estate. The church as a major land-holder was not exempt from taxation; even the endowments of chantries and property or cash held for parochial purposes had to be declared.

So the first two entries under Cheltenham read "the abbess of Syon is lord and/has/lands worth £70". "The abbot of Cirencester has the rectory there which is worth £70".

To deal first with the church. Charlton was a chapelry of Cheltenham and so included in the abbot's £70. In fact, Cirencester took all tithes, fees, and oblations; there was no glebe and no parsonage; the parish was not even left with the means to buy communion elements, bell ropes, or strewings.

Cheltenham parish church had two chantries, valued at £4.13.4 and £4 respectively. In addition, the churchwardens had 15s worth of property; and a chaplain had for stipend £6.13.4. This is the first indication (so far) that the Cirencester canons were employing a chaplain to do part at least of the parish duty (see also p. 30). Charlton had a chantry too; this is not mentioned as such but the churchwardens are credited with 10s worth of property, the chantry endowment for which they were trustees. We know what it consisted of from the 1548 return when chantries were dissolved (see History p. 151); then it brought in 19s 4d, from which was deducted 9s 4d to repay money lent by the Grevills, leaving the chantry priest only 10s, as stated here.

William Balle's 5s assessment shows that he was holding the half acre of land in Naunton field which had been given to the church for maintenance of a taper. In 1548 this land was held by Thomas Dowdswell who paid 6d a year to the church, perhaps to buy the paschal candle.

How accurately did Cirencester's £70 reflect the real value of their rectory? A hundred years later it was estimated to bring in £600. But that was after the dramatic inflation of the later 16th century. The 1522 assessment may have been a

reasonable figure then, bearing in mind that the money came largely from tithes and a bad season could reduce their yield drastically.

The £70 received by the abbess of Syon came from manorial incidents, market tolls, court fees and fines, due from the whole of her manor, including two-thirds of Charlton which was still part of the manor of Cheltenham. The £20 at which Sir Edward Grevell was assessed, and probably the £4 entered under the name of Margaret Swynerton, represent his Ashley manor and its court, roughly the other third. Edward Grevell had obtained possession of his manor in 1515 (G.R.O. D1224 No. 13) but subject to mortgages, and it seems likely that Margaret Swynerton was the 1522 mortgagee. (See Bulletin 8, p. 10) Grevell had other property elsewhere. So like the abbess and the abbot, he and his mortgagee were non-resident and could not be assessed on any movables in Charlton.

John and Joan Goderich were assessed at 20s and 10s; this was for the sub-manor of Ham which had its own mill but no court. If Joan were a widow with free-bench, this mini-manor was definitely undervalued at £1.10.0. Like Grevell, they were non-resident in 1522. The family had held Ham from c. 1400, and were to sell it in 1574 for £400, but by that date it had been improved (See Bulletins 3 pp. 6-7 and 20 p. 16).

Why were there no other property holders in our parish? The answer is simple. All houses and land were held as freehold or customary tenements from either Cheltenham or Ashley manors or were part of Cheltenham's manorial demesne; and so are covered by the assessments for those manors. Customary tenements here were inheritable and subject to few burdensome incidents, so there was no great distinction in practice between copyhold and freehold. Charlton contrasts with Cheltenham only because the town (though not a borough) had burgesses who were outside the manorial system.

This means that, in respect of property, the Military Survey is less informative than we might have hoped.

But we still have a list of all the most substantial parishioners.

The wealthiest was Richard Alexaander, assessed at £50. After him come John Brevell, Thomas Lynett and William Keke, at £20; Walter Belyngar at £16; John Taylour junior at £13; John Hyxe, Richard Whitehorne, William Pate and Thomas Taylor at £12; John Alexaander, John Lovar, Walter Gorle at £10.

Below this figure come John Hewes and Robert Barne (of Barns Hay) at £7; John Wheler and Robert Rogers at £6; Robert Hauthorn £5; Thomas Kemet, Henry Robertes and John Elborough senior £4; and all the rest at £2 - John Taylor, John Wheler, John Elborough junior, Thomas White, Walter Crompe, Walter Goslyng, John Cleveley, Walter Miller, William Holyng, Walter Currar, William Lane, Thomas Reynoldes, Thomas Hawthorn, Thomas Fayraunter and Thomas Bleke.

Many of these surnames occur again in the 1557 inclosure list (See Bulletin 30 pp 17-19), and there is obviously a certain correlation between the sum assessed in 1522 and the acreage held by the same family 35 years later. For instance, the wealthiest man in Charlton in 1522 was Richard Alexaander; his successor Robert Alexander

with a partner held 109 acres in 1557. But it does not look as though the amount of land held had been taken into account when Robert was assessed at £50; he is bound to have had a good deal of stock and been well equipped.

The smallest holding in 1557 was Henry Clively's 5 acres; in 1522 John Cleveley was among the men assessed at the lowest figure, £2. Hoyle believes that taken as a whole, the 1522 assessment under-recorded those who had £2 or less worth of goods. In Charlton we have no idea whether there were in fact any cottagers who held only a garden or garden and croft, or craftsmen without land who might have been rated at £1 or less. By 1557 the wheelwrights in Church Street certainly held land as well as their forge, house, and garden and John Wheler is assessed at £2. Walter Miller (i.e. Walter Martin of Charlton Mill) is also included in the £2 list. All the evidence from the lay-out of the houses (as far as it has been established) is against the existence of very small cottages. In the town where there was plenty of employment in trade, a good many men were set down as holding property worth between 2s and 10s. Custom on both manors which gave the widow her husband's tenement for life plus 12 years and then made the youngest son the heir, ensured that other sons worked on the family holding or moved away altogether.

As a survey of military equipment and men fit for service, 1552 for Charlton was very sketchy. Richard Alexaunder had to find harness complete for two men and Thomas Lynett for one man. No one else was charged. John Alexaunder, Henry Robertes and John Wheler were the only men declared fit. Compared with the 1609 Men and Armour (See Bulletin 1) this return was clearly inadequate. But in 1522 the king was intending to fight in France, which was nobody's business; by the 17th century the Armada had made men aware of the possibility of foreign invasion.

M. Paget

2. THE 1327 LAY SUBSIDY

Comparison has been made in the previous paper between the 1522 Survey and the Lay Subsidy of 1327. A new edition of the text of the Subsidy with an analysis has been published in 1993 - The Taxpayers of Medieval Gloucestershire by Peter Franklin. This is an improvement on the old text from Sir Thomas Phillips' edition (out of which the Charlton, Ham and Northfield portion was taken for Bulletin 7 pp 35-7). In the 1993 edition, Cheltenham, Charlton, Ham and Northfield will be found on pp 37-8.

M. Paget

3. CHARLTON CHAPEL

Some further information about the erection and use of this chapel (believed to have been in Ryeworth on the site of the Primitive Methodist church built in 1874) has come to light through the work of Mrs Sylvie Pierce for her history of Cambray Baptist Church. This puts the building of this chapel forward by at least 12 years. It is described as "recently erected" in 1852, so it seems to have been built either in 1852 or the year before, by the Reformed Wesleyans (a break-away group from the Cudnall Street Methodists). Why they were unable to make use of it themselves is not clear; the problem may have been lack of suitable lay preachers or inadequate finance.

The Baptist Church from whose minutes Mrs Pierce quotes (below) was then meeting in King Street. The church gave up Charlton Chapel when Cambray was opened in April 1855.

Incidentally, I warmly recommend the history of Cambray available price £4.50. I have copies for sale if members will contact me.

M. Paget

Extracts from Church Meeting Minutes 1847-1855 (G.R.O. D 2766/1/1)

December 14th 1852

"The reforming Wesleyans having offered us the use of the little chapel recently erected at Charlton Kings, at a small yearly rental, the brethren Sims, Smith, Harper, Morgan and Crook, were appointed a committee, to enquire, decide and if they take it, to make arrangements for carrying on the Sunday School and preaching of the Gospel there. To report also to the church the steps they have taken in the matter at our next meeting."

December 21st 1852

"The Charlton committee reported that they had agreed to take the chapel there for one year, at a rent of five pounds, to commence at Xmas Day".

The chapel at Charlton seems to have been run like a mini-church with the services and Sunday School run by willing King Street workers and deacons.

January 10th 1854

"Also, that the chapel at Charlton would be kept on at present, as the expenses had been met and good appeared to be doing".

All three entries are in James Smith's own handwriting. (He was pastor in Cheltenham 1828 - 1841 and 1852 - 1862).

Sylvie Pierce

Please correct A History of Charlton Kings p. 139.

4. PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL

The dates of the building of the Primitive Methodist chapel at Ryeworth have been ascertained from newspapers.

The foundation stone was laid in 1874, it was built by Bubb of Charlton Kings at a cost of £400 and held 150. When it was opened in May 1875, half of this sum had been raised.

This information should be added to History p. 139.

Eric Armitage

5. CHARLTON KINGS BOYS' SCHOOL - THE CURRICULUM

In Bulletins 29 and 30 some account has been given of the work and development of Charlton Kings Boys' School. The purpose of this article is to trace the widening of the curriculum to meet the demands of the various Education Acts and the changing social and economic conditions of the country.

After the school moved into its new buildings in 1873, changes came slowly - the first to appear in the Log Book is the introduction of singing lessons. In 1878 a copy of Stewart's School and College Song Book was ordered and in April there appeared a list of songs prepared for H.M. Inspector. From then on such lists occur regularly. The songs chosen exhibit a curious variety. There are old favourites like "the Minstrel Boy" and "The Bluebells of Scotland", there are what might be called Drawingroom Ballads such as "Neath the White Waves they have laid him" and "Down in a Green and Shady Bed, a Modest Violet grew". There are patriotic pieces like "Hurrah, Hurrah for England"; and there are what appear to be songs intended to instil good habits into the young singers. "To be in Time is a necessary Rule" appears frequently, but the Log Book does not suggest that the pupils took its teaching greatly to heart. Some sound like the result of wishful thinking "Good Children should never be caught in a Quarrel" (was it all right to quarrel if they were not caught?) and later "Our Youthful Hearts for Learning Burn" - well, judging by results, some did. The only comment on the singing by an H.M.I. to appear was that the singing was too loud and needed greater modulation. It would be pleasant to know which song out of his list he had chosen to hear - he hardly had time to hear more than one.

In 1891 another new subject was introduced, namely drawing. An entry for 27 May reads "Received drawing circular from Mr Crabbe. Began teaching the subject on Tuesday last. The boys liked it and take to it very readily as far as they have gone". On 2 September of that year we find that Mr Carrick began teaching drawing, so presumably an outside teacher came in - probably necessary, considering how short-staffed the school was. These drawing lessons were supported by the Science and Art Department which also examined the work done and gave a grant towards it. In 1892 "The School was examined in drawing by Captain Stone"; and when the drawing report was received from the Science and Art Department, the results appear to have been good. The Head added "I Returned a claim for Grant from the Department for 11/12 of the School Year". Art in the school continued to be of a high standard. The late Mr George Ryland, whose many delightful sketches enlivened our earlier Bulletins and who received his early training there, before going to Art School, and who afterwards taught Art in Charlton, bore witness to its excellence. Clearly, later on, painting was added to drawing, for a stocklist of 1903 records "Reeves water-colours and brushes" being purchased. (By that date, the school was no longer under the School Board).

Again after the move into the new school, there was some attempt at physical education, made possible by the existence of play-grounds. There are infrequent mentions of "drill" and "military drill". But in 1901 there was another important innovation. Any entry for 1 May states "A number of the elder boys this afternoon paid a first visit to the Alstone Baths, 45 boys. They left school at 3.30 and were under the charge of the Assistant Mr Robertson". These visits became regular and the next term 54 boys went. The ratio of staff to pupils sounds shocking to modern

readers, but there were no disasters. But by July 1903 the number attending "had dropped to 24", "probably owing to the long distance the bath is from the school" Mr Fry, the Headmaster explains. It may be noted that by then a prize was offered for swimming.

Mr Fry obviously approved of sport. On 1 July 1903 he noted in the Log "As a reward for Good conduct and regular attendance, I allowed some boys to go to the Vicarage field (now Grange Field) to play cricket during the last lesson this afternoon". I am told that later he organised football for boys on Mr Attwood's field at Glynrosa.

Changes in the content of academic teaching came slowly, and much time was always given to basic elementary subjects which were necessary for practically everything else. By 1895, however, certain classes were receiving "Object Lessons", i.e. lessons in which a single subject was discussed, if possible with an example of the object in class to illustrate the points made. The first group of Objects mentioned are varied and in most cases pictures must have been used. For example Standard III had lessons on (1) Camel (2) Horse (3) Whale - 2 lessons (4) India-rubber (5) Elephant (6) Cocoa.

By 1896 the list of Objects for 96-97 had been sorted into a logical order (1) Dog (2) Horse (3) Cow (4) Sheep (5) Camel (6) Lion (7) Reindeer (8) Elephant (9) Ostrich (10) Eagle (11) Tea (12) Coffee (13) Cocoa (14) Sugar (15) Cotton (16) India Rubber (17) Flax (18) Hemp (19) Cork (20) Oak Tree (21) Whale-bone (22) Soaps (23) The Eyes (24) The Orange (25) Dew (26) Rain (27) The Atmosphere (28) Leather (29) Coal (30) Iron

Other such lists follow for later years and there is a fairly complete schedule of work for 1897-8. It has not been included in this paper, since that for 1898-9 is more complete and of greater interest.

There is a schedule for poetry:-

Standards I and II	"Wynken, Blynken, and Nod"	Eugene Field
Standard III	"Napoleon and the English Sailor"	Campbell
Standards IV-VI	"The Kindly Fisher Folk"	Victor Hugo

(It is to be presumed that this was in an English translation)

There is a mention of Geography but it lacks detail.

Then come class subjects.

Class Subject I Elementary Science and Geography combined.

Standards I and II Land, Distribution of: chief divisions. Form of the Earth. The sea and its sub-divisions, the Sea and its uses, Hill and Mountains, their parts; Hills and Mountains, their uses (all these 4 illustrated from the district and the map of England). Valleys, Rivers, their parts, their uses (illustrated as above).

Elementary Science:- (1) Cotton (2) Whalebone (3) Cork (4) Blotting paper (5) Sponge (6) A Fire (7) Tallow (8) Wax (9) Candle (10) Oil (11) A Lamp (12)

Water (13) The Action of Water on Sugar, Slate, and Chalk (14) Evaporation and Filtration (15) Salt

Standard III Geography:-

- (1,2,3) The first three topics of the list above
- (4) The Equator, Diameter, Parallels and Meridians
- (5,6) The Sea, as above
- (7) Hills, with special knowledge of the district
- (8,9,10) Mountains, as above
- (11) Rivers, their parts; Chief Rivers of England (12) Special knowledge of Thames and Severn (13) Their Uses (At that date Gloucester was still a lively Port).
- (14) Valleys, their formation (15) Valleys, special knowledge of the district.

Elementary Science:

- (1) The Senses (2) Classification of Bodies into Solids, Liquids and Gasses (3) Chalk (4) Crystallized Solids (5) Tempering (6) The Surface of Liquids, the Spirit Level (7) Water finds its own Level (8) Action of Liquids on Common Solids (9) Effect of Heat on some Common Solids (10) Coal Gas (11) Carbon (12) Oxygen (13) Carbonic Acid Gas (14) Nitrogen (15) Components of Air

Any boy who knew and understood all this by the time he was 12-14 would be remarkably well informed - and it all had to be taught by two certificated teachers, an ex-pupil teacher, and a pupil teacher in his second year.

By 1900 a list of History subjects and the Principles of Agriculture had been added. It is no wonder that in 1901 in his end of the year summary, Mr Fry noted "The New Subjects taken up were History, Agriculture, Mensuration; a good start has been made in each. Owing to the time taken from Elementary subjects for these new items, the former have necessarily suffered somewhat. To remedy this, we have adopted a scheme of Homework during the winter months, with very good results."

In 1902, the School had passed into the control of the County Council and a new chapter in its history had opened.

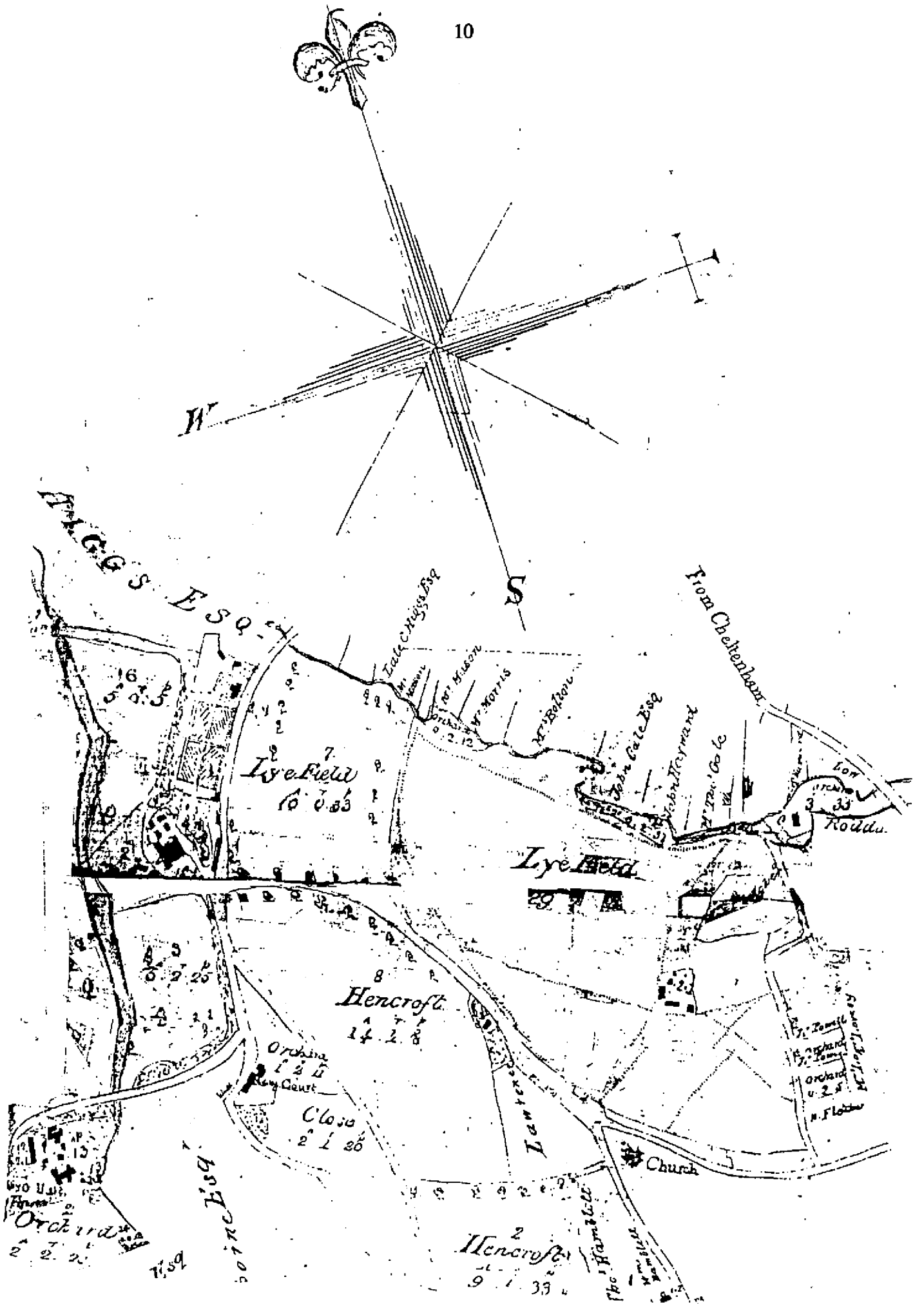
J. Paget

6. ROADS IN 1811 - EXTRACT FROM A CHARLTON PARK ESTATE MAP

This extract from the 1811 map of Charlton Park estate gives us a view of roads through the centre of the village before the present Cirencester Road, the two Lyefield Roads, Copt Elm Road, and the eastern half of Moorend Road had been created.

To start from the church:-

- (1) CHESTNUT WALK (on the site of Gladstone Road) is shown with its row of Spanish chestnut trees. It crossed Hencroft and the 16 or 17th century byepass (east of New Court) which was meant to cut off the muddy windings of Moorend Street (New Court Road). However, the street survived and the straight cut was abandoned



after 1826-7. Until the field behind New Court/Court House was built on, a line of elm trees marked that road. I believe even now a pair of gate posts, which for years stood out in the open meadow, remain in someone's garden! Mrs Eve Stuart (nee Freegard) remembers the rookery in those elms and how Charles Maisey used to be allowed to shoot rooks every year to keep the numbers down. Chestnut Walk ended in 1811, as it does now, in New Court Road.

(2) HOLLOW LANE, (now called Horsefair Street), west of the church, ran into THE HORSEFAIR and continued through the top half of Brookway Lane. There it swung west to finish in the then Cirencester Road, now Charlton Park's back drive. The present front drive demonstrates by its depth that it was originally a hollow lane. Before 1784 this road had continued past Charlton Park house, over the stream, and into Old Bath Road.

The trees marked on the 1811 map as bordering Hollow Lane between Hencroft and the Lyefield were elms. Most of them disappeared when the lane between the new Cirencester Road and Brookway was closed; the last were storm-damaged in the winter of 1917-18 and I saw them being cut up and removed by German Prisoners of War then housed at Charlton House (Spirax Sarco).

(3) THE OLD CIRENCESTER ROAD (the back drive) continued south from its junction with Hollow Lane, over what is now grass, into New Court Road by New Court/Court House. A branch ran west over the stream and into Sandy Lane at Withyholt (part of our Moorend Road); this was the new road cut by Dodington Hunt through his own land in 1784. The rest of Moorend Road dates from 1826-7.

(4) CHARLTON PARK with its stables and walled garden, and the old farm house converted into two cottages for Steward and Head Gardener (Park or Garden Cottages) are marked on the west side of the old Cirencester Road. On the east side was Lyefield, divided by BROOKWAY LANE into two big closes, 10.0.33 and 29.1.16 acres.

(5) CHARLTON MILL sitting across the Chelt and MILL LANE/SCHOOL ROAD are shown as now, with William Fletcher owning the house then HAWTHORNES, now King's House. The house marked J. Powell was the thatched cottage demolished in 1950s (site of flats). LYEFIELD ROAD EAST (c.1897-8) starting opposite the flats now runs right over the site of the cluster of buildings shown in the middle of Lyefield - they were called WOODRUFF and had CHURCH WALK on their western side (see Bulletin 7 pp 38-9)

(6) Back in the HORSEFAIR, POUND COTTAGE or THE ANCHOR is marked as an encroachment on the open space (see pp 12-13). Opposite, another intrusion on the Horsefair, is the KING'S HEAD, demolished c.1848.

At the bottom of the street on the same side a house is marked as belonging to Charlton Park. This was a rebuilding of the HOME FARM which before 1784 had stood by the main house (see Thomas Robins' picture of c.1748). The new farm in its turn had gone by 1900, though Mrs Helen Bennett said she remembered its barn standing on the new Cirencester Road until Chosen House replaced it.

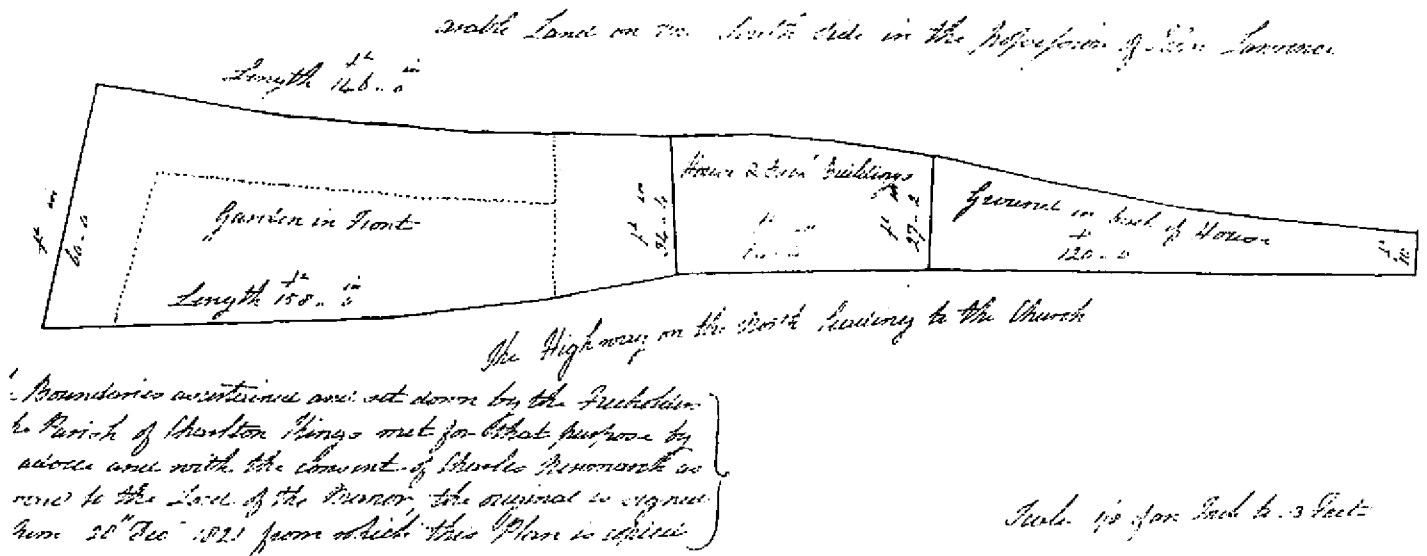
M. Paget

7. POUND COTTAGE AND CHURCH COTTAGE, THE HORSEFAIR

The site of these houses (and of those on the other side of The HORSEFAIR) was once part of "the manorial waste" of the manor of Cheltenham; the manorial pound was and is here, and it seems likely that in medieval times horse sales did take place, though the only known sale was in 1919 when army horses were disposed of.

Mitchell's 1806 map shows a substantial building on the far side of the street below the church, but nothing on the north-east side. However, the Charlton Park 1811 map (see page 10) does indicate a building here though it was an encroachment without official existence. It was not till 1814 that Francis Welles as lord of the manor conveyed to Giles Ashmeade yeoman an eighth of an acre near the church "as lately set out by meerstones". As this was manorial waste, the Cheltenham commoners had to agree because technically they had grazing rights! (GRO D 2216 Box 26)

The accompanying plan shows that Giles Ashmeade had built himself a house in the middle section, POUND COTTAGE or THE ANCHOR. The site of the Church Cottage is shown as garden.



But I think the man who copied this plan got North and South somewhat confused.

This Giles Ashmeade was a breeches-maker according to his will of 13 August 1829. He left the property to his son Giles, and gave money legacies to his sons Thomas, Richard, and John, his married daughter Esther or Hester Finch, and his other daughter Ann. Giles the younger married Amy Hobbs of Woolstone in 1843 and on

7 February 1843 he settled cottage and buildings on her for life and after to their children. However, Giles died 23 October 1849 childless.

Before that date the Tithe apportionment suggests that the couple had passed Pound Cottage to brother Richard. He was living in it, and they were living in another cottage built against the back boundary of the garden, ie Church Cottage (see Cover). This gives a pretty good indication of its date; stone building was rare in Charlton until the mid 19 century.

CHURCH COTTAGE appears to be in three sections; there is a blocked doorway near the present front door, and the north end has obviously been added a good deal later, probably as a laundry. However, although the building may have been designed to serve as two dwellings if necessary, it was a single dwelling in 1848.

At the time of the 1851 census, one district started in The Horsefair at Richard Ashmead's beer house (The Anchor) and continued up Church Street to The Plough at East End.

By the 1858 Rate book, however, Richard Ashmead had been replaced by the widow Amy, while Church Cottage was occupied by a third Giles Ashmead, Richard's son. The Pound was estimated to be worth to rent £9.9.0. and Church Cottage £8.0.0.; the intermediate house, Rosedale, had not yet been built. It appears in a Directory of 1881-2.

M. Paget

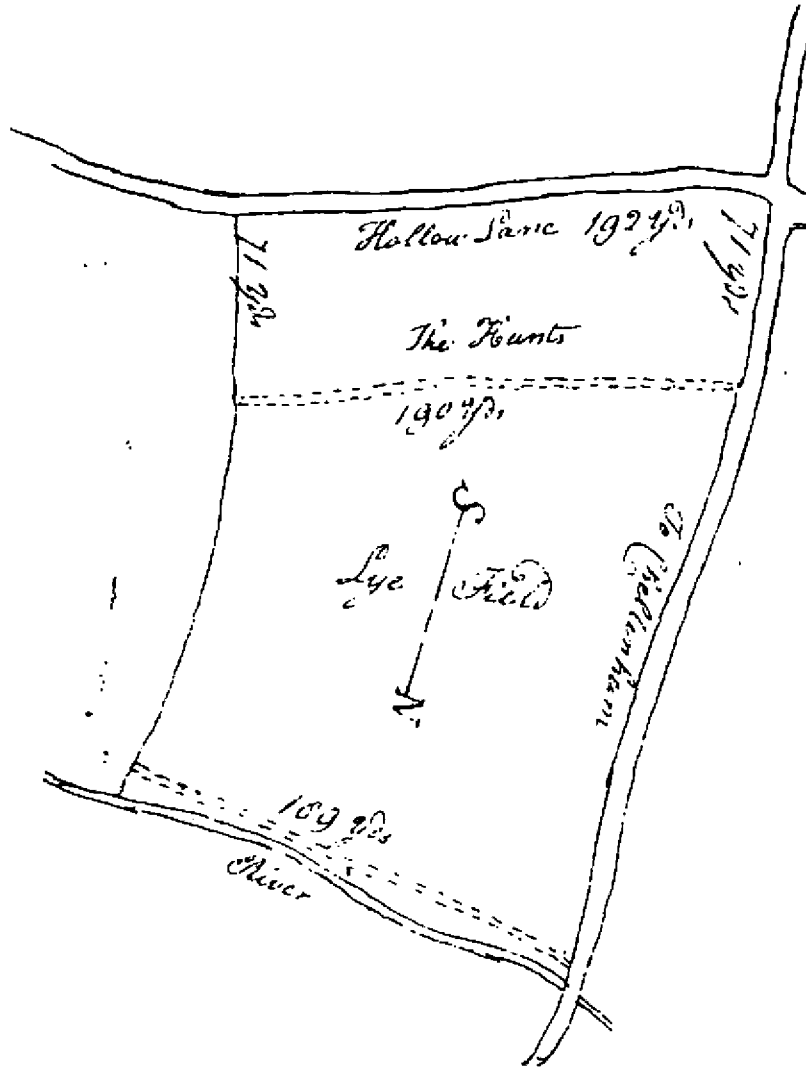
8. PRICE OF LAND IN THE 18th CENTURY - THE HUNTS

A plan of 1787, showing a footpath across a close called The Hunts which was to be closed, helps us to locate a two acre piece in the Lyefield. It lay to the east of the road to Cheltenham (now the back drive of Charlton Park) and to the north of Hollow Lane (the present front drive of Charlton Park continued across the (new) Cirencester road and into what we call Brookway Lane and Horsefair Street). It was the field known in 1910 as Walker's Field.

We know a good deal about the history of The Hunts. In the 17th century it belonged to Giles Grevill and was part of the Grevill property sold with Ashley manor to Edward Michell in 1696⁽¹⁾. From Michell The Hunts passed to John Tanty, and from him in 1743 to William Prinn, who paid £40 for the 2 acres ⁽²⁾. So it would seem that £20 an acre for land in the Lye field was a fair price in the mid 18th century. An adjoining plot, Tobacco Close, changed hands for 40 gns in 1725, and that too would have been about 2 acres. Both had been arable once, but by this time were pretty certainly down to grass, grassland always commanding a higher price than arable or field land.

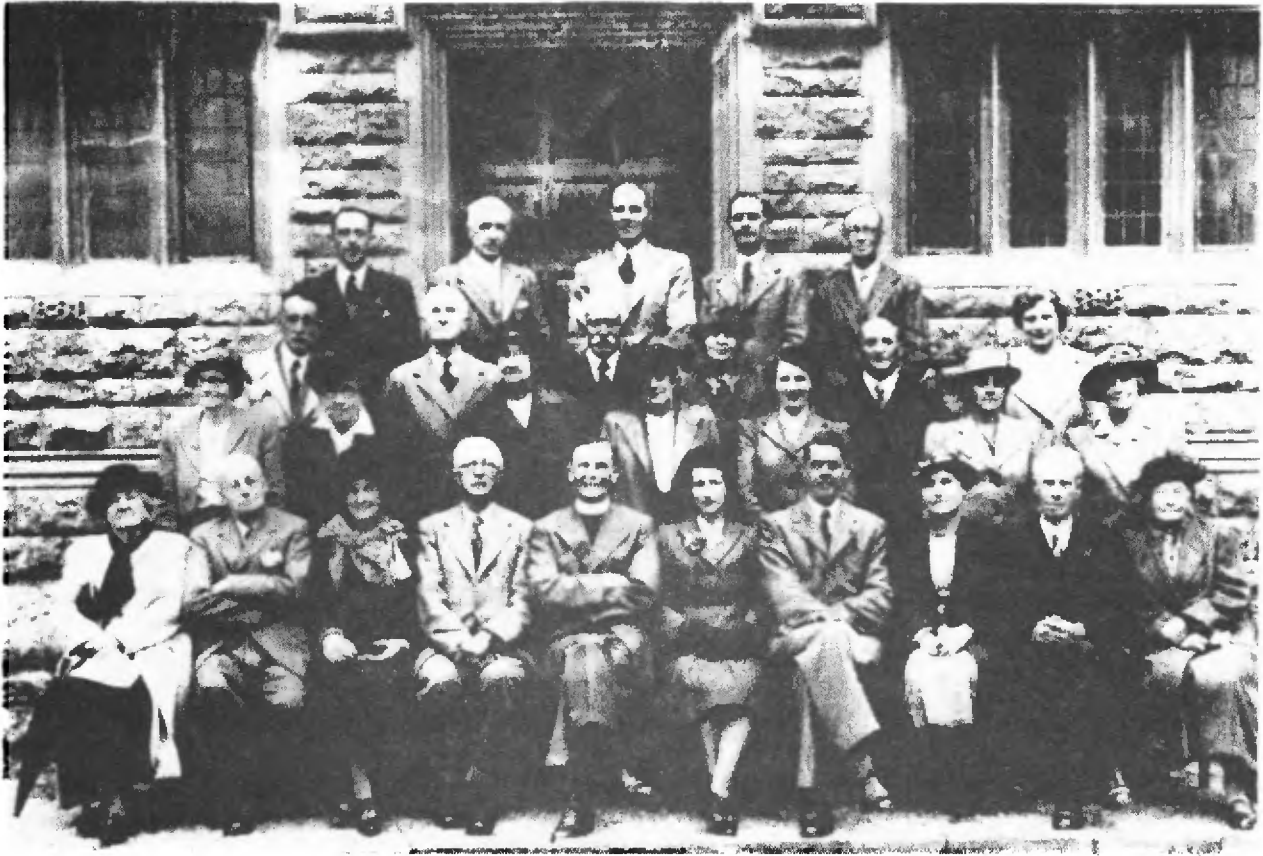
(1) GRO D 1224

(2) GRO D109/1



Q/SR H 1787 8/1

M. Paget

9. HOLY APOSTLES CHURCH COUNCIL August 1948

Can you fill in the gaps in the names?

<u>Back Row</u>	1 ?	2 ?	3 Bob Beekes	4 ?	5 Arthur Mills
<u>2nd Row</u>	1 Capt Everard	2 ?	3 Mr Fuller	4?	5 Mr Maude
	6 Miss Castle				
<u>3rd Row</u>	1 ?	2 ?	3 ?	4 ?	5 Myself
	6 Miss Winter	7 ?			
<u>Front Row</u>	1 Mrs Beresford	2 Mr Lynes	3 ?	4 ?	
	5 Revd Charles Peers	6 Mrs Peers	7 Mr Assolon	8 ?	
	9 Mr Birt	10 Mrs Birt			

Lent by Mrs Prout

10 THE C.H.A.D.S

I joined the C.H.A.D.S. (Church of the Holy Apostles Dramatic Society) in 1947. It was formed by members of the church but open to anyone interested in dramatics.

The Vicar at that time was the Revd Charles Peers, assisted by a curate the Revd Peter Baker.

Our first production was in 1948, a pantomime called "Goodie Two Shoes", written, devised and produced by the curate. It was a great success and was put on in the Church Hall for three nights, programmes price THREE PENCE were on sale. We all had great fun helping the Wardrobe Mistress Mrs Beryl Galpin (assisted by Mrs Large and Miss Lewthwaite) in making our costumes. Much rummaging in attics and jumble sales was done. It was really amazing what people were able to produce, bearing in mind clothes were rationed at the time, obtained only by clothing coupons.

THE CAST OF GOODIE TWO SHOES



Back Row, L-R Ruth Franklin, Brenda Parr, Wyn Winter, Beryl Galpin, Arthur Parr, Mickey Heath, Vera Slack, Arthur Slack, Bob Beekes, Fred Soule, Bill Cottle, Joyce Jenning
Front Row (sitting) Jean Williams, Sylvia Bayliss, Rita Soule, Mavis Adams, Margaret Walkely, Kathleen Dex

I was usually in the chorus, leaving the main parts to the more talented among us.

Our next production was in the Spring of the same year, "C.H.A.D.S.' VARIETY SHOW".

In 1949 another Pantomime was produced called "JACK AND THE BEANSTALK", and this was put on for five nights!! and was even more of a success.

Then on 1 July 1950 we put on "THE C.H.A.D.S MAYTIME VARIETY". Soon after that I left the Society to get married, leaving me with many happy memories of my time spent with the C.H.A.D.S. The Society I believe continued for many more years.

Mavis Prout née Adams

The programmes of all these productions and photographs of the sets were put on display at the January 1994 A.G.M. of the Local History Society. I am sorry not to be able to include them all here.

11. CHARLTON KINGS INFANT WELFARE PARTY

A party held at Holy Apostles' Hall about 1959. Miss Statham (who taught in St Mary's Sunday School till she was 90 and lived to be 93) is standing centre back.



Photograph lent by Mrs Prout

12. WINTER MEMORIES

"... We've had a very cold old fashioned winter, it brings back many memories when I first came to Canada, also it brings back a memory of the one and only snowfall I ever saw in England when I lived at East End, it snowed where the snow was about a foot deep and a man from the works department came along the London road with a big horse pulling a V-shaped plow to make a road through the snow, as no other mode of transportation could get through because of the depth. Two boys near Steeles Alley had a sleigh and they went up to Colgate farm sleigh-riding and I think every boy in East End was up there with them, taking turns riding on the sleigh. The snow was quite packy and we'd start a snowball down the hills and when it got to the bottom it was huge and some hit the trees and what a sight to see the huge ball disintegrate on contact! I wonder what year that was ? it must have been 1924 or 1925. The temperature here this winter has been as low as 11° below zero Fahrenheit ... "

Allan Thomas, Wellandport, Ontario

I can't exactly date that snowy winter, but I remember that I and my brother and the three Freegards made a big snowball and pushed it all the way from Glynrosa down Moorend, up Greenhills Road, over Pilley Bridge, and up the top half of Old Bath Road till we couldn't push it further and had to abandon it outside the pub there! And I don't recall that we met any traffic on the road all the way.

M. Paget.

13. LYEFIELD ROAD POST OFFICE AND EDMUND BOND

Until c.1922, the Post Office was kept by Mr Edmund Bond in the shop now the Chemist's. This photograph shows him and Gertrude Annie Bond (the donor's mother) in the doorway. It was taken in 1916.

Copy from original presented by ^{Mrs Joyce} ~~Mr Jasper~~ Philpott of Bexhill.

Besides having the Post Office, Mr Bond sold toys, especially hoops and tops.



**14. THE PARISH HOUSE - CHURCH STREET, NORTH SIDE (1) -
LABURNAM COTTAGE**



By studying 19th century prints, one showing in the far distance the front of this building and the other the eastern end, Ken Venus has been able to reconstruct the appearance of this parish house with a high degree of probability, and I am very grateful to him. It stood in Church Street on the site now occupied by the Club and was not demolished till 1854. The distant view across the churchyard (see History p 114, second house from left) shows a three light front and apparently a thatched roof with dormers. The dormers are confirmed by the end view (see Bulletin 1, cover). The windows would still have been casements for the parish is unlikely to have spent money improving the look of the place; and I assume it to have been timber-framed under its plaster since we know from Norden's Survey that it belonged to the parish by 1617 (Bulletin 18 p 37). Such a house could have been divided into 9 units, as Norden says, each a single room since this was intended for the homeless poor, usually widowers or widows or aged couples, for whom that would have seemed quite adequate accommodation.

When was this house or "longe rainge" built and by whom? Not, certainly, by the parish. It had been erected at the west end of the first strip in the Lyefield, and its garden (included in the purchase) ran from the house to Trigmerry/Mill Lane, now

School Road. We don't know who could have held this land and built himself a house on it, or from whom the trustees listed by Norden bought it; but it is unlikely to have been a very new house when they did so. So it may have been built somewhere between 1550 and 1600, when a good deal of building went on in Charlton. It was the first house on this side of the street.

The thatched cottage Ivy Cottage which stood till c.1970 behind the house called Milverton or Roses was built at the other end of the second strip a little later, say c.1600 (see Bulletin 13 p 37). No more building took place on this side of the street till c.1750 when St Mary's Cottage was erected outside the north entrance to the churchyard - it was a single dwelling in the early 19th century and I believe it to have been the beer house called The Blue Boys. Field Cottages followed c.1815 (see Bulletin 19, 21) and the workhouse (on the site of the Nursery School) and almshouses in 1826.

Adjoining the almshouses was Laburnum Cottage (demolished 1974). The site was part of the Charity land, a small piece out of a yard which was let by the Trustees to a blacksmith John Humphris. On 1 May 1832 he and his wife transferred their business to a relation Edwin Humphris. The story goes that Edwin was a mason who built the stone cottage just before his wedding. He was married on 31 October 1833 (not Boxing Day as tradition has it) and after a wedding breakfast of boiled bacon and beans, he rushed back to the still unfinished house to put the slates on part of the roof so that he and his bride could sleep there that night! (Information from Mr J. Humphris). This seems to have been done with the tacit approval of the Trustees but no explicit agreement was entered into. The 1858 Rate book gives Laburnum Cottage as owned by the Trustees and occupied by Edwin Humphris, gross estimated rental £2.

By 1914 the Humphris family had become convinced that they actually owned the property, subject to a payment of 2s 6d a week ground rent to the Charity. The difficulty facing the Trustees is described in the Minute book (kindly made available by Mr Maslin in 1981) under 7 July 1914.

"The Acting Trustee reported that the tenant of Laburnam Cottage Mr Humphris had stated the Property belonged to him - that he wishes to leave it to his nephew Mr H. Humphris That the rent paid to the trustees had been ground rent only. Beyond an agreement of transfer of the business of a Blacksmith dated May 1 1832 from John Humphris and his wife to Edwin Humphris upon certain terms, Mr Humphris had no evidence to prove his claim.

The Acting Trustee had an interview with the family including Mr F. Humphris, his nephew, nephew's son, wife - and strongly urged the necessity of Producing every scrap of evidence they could in support of their claim. This they promised to do. On the 2nd of July, the A.T. received a letter from Mr H. Humphris stating "We have come to no other decision than that you already know".

The Trustee went very fully into the matter but could find no evidence whatever to justify Mr Humphris' claim.

Resolved that the Acting Trustee be instructed to send the following reply to Mr Humphris "The Trustees of Cooper's Charity this morning considered your claim to

be the owner or leaseholder of the cottage known as Laburnam Cottage and occupied by you for many years as their tenant. The trustees fail to see in the copy agreement you gave me anything to show that the John Humphris mentioned in it was the owner and they wish me to say they cannot recognise any claim to be owner by you or any member of your family. I would point out that you have always paid rent to the Trustees and they have from time to time done the necessary repairs to the Premises.

The Trustees have no desire to disturb you and if you wish it will accept your nephew as tenant on the same terms you now occupy, viz at a rental of 2/6 per week. Before a new tenancy is created, the Trustees think it desirable to have a written agreement".

This position must have been accepted by Mr Humphris and his nephew, albeit reluctantly, and on 14 December 1915 the Trustees resolved to refloor the front room of Laburnam Cottage, occupied by Mrs Humphris, at a cost not to exceed 5 gns. Mrs Humphris (who was the Church cleaner at that time as predecessor to the redoubtable Gertie Bates) still could not accept that the cottage was not hers and the Trustees had to threaten legal proceedings to get possession when she died in 1925.

In 1946 "heavy rains and wind had rendered the wall at the back of Laburnam Cottage Church Street, quite unsafe, it was likely to collapse at any time, suggested it should be taken down and rebuilt the whole length of the scullery and coal houses". This was done, the builder's estimate being £36.7.4. Further work to cure damp in the front wall was found necessary in 1947, after the death of Miss Bates: bushes had been allowed to grow against the stonework and of course the cottage had no damp course. The bill should have been £7.15.6, but was settled for £5. Miss Bates' rent had been only 10s a week, inclusive of rates, so the Charity was losing, not gaining, income by ownership. Then in 1949 one bedroom was partitioned and a new window made in the west wall to accommodate a family with children; and this time the rent was increased from £1 to £2. Laburnam Cottage had no water laid on till 1950 and this sounds dreadful to us. Yet those who lived in the house remember it with affection and still regret it.



Photograph from
original lent

by Mrs Kilminster

M. Paget

15. OVER THIRTY YEARS OF TEAS

My parents Councillor John Hughes and his wife began to organize teas for OLD FOLKS at St Mary's Hall long before the War - they celebrated their Silver Wedding at a tea in St Mary's Hall and their Golden Wedding at another in Holy Apostles' Hall. Later these teas developed into much larger affairs held at Cheltenham Town Hall.

The first photograph shows the Mayor Alderman Bettridge and his wife presenting a lamp to Mother and Father when they had been organizing the teas for 30 years.



The second shows helpers at the Town Hall c.1959 - Councillor Hughes and Mrs Hughes sitting (centre).



In the back row are Miss Keen and Mrs Winter; in the middle row from the left myself, Miss Jenkins (from Pates who retired to Ryeworth Road). John my son then about 14, 4 unknown, Mrs Dye, 2 unknown, Mrs Muckleroy, 2 unknown, my sister-in-law Kathleen Hughes.

Gwen Bray née Hughes

16. EDGAR NEALE, THIRTY YEARS VICAR OF ST MARY'S,
remembered by his great-nephew

Uncle Edgar was one of seven children and was second youngest. The parents were Jane (nee Edkins) and Jonathan William Neale and their children Caroline (1861 - 1870), Mary Jane (1862 - 1917), Elizabeth (1865 -) Thomas 1867 - 1951), William (1868 - 1959). Edgar (1872 - 1937), Herbert (1873 - 1937). So Edgar was the first of Jane Neale's children to be born after Caroline's death. He must have represented much in hope and restoration. His was a very difficult birth on 5 December 1872, due to the large size of his head. It is amazing that both mother and baby survived.

Edgar had at least his brothers' share of brains, but was different in many respects. His undoubted gifts were contained in an open enthusiastic and friendly nature which rendered him open to people, and which found him on occasion, described as naive and gullible. There was, however, a razor sharp mind at work, combined with a delightful humour, a glorious sense of the absurd which my mother and aunts recall with huge pleasure.

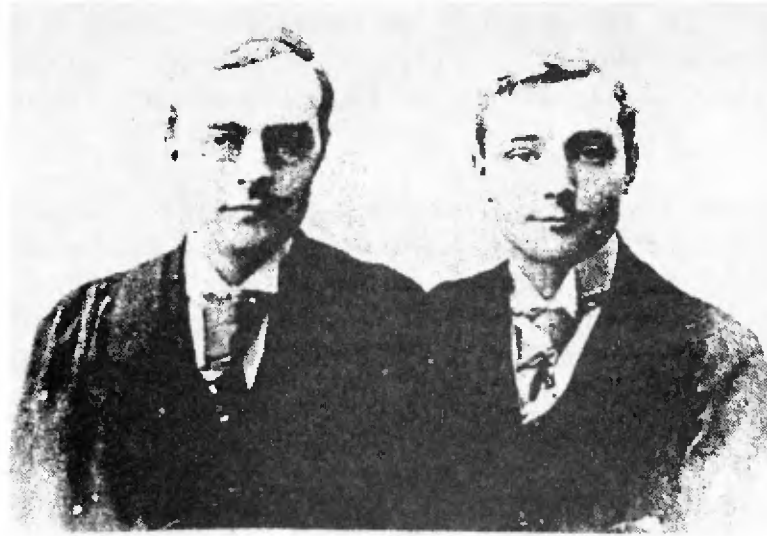
Edgar decided at the age of four that he wanted to be a parson. He seemed to see life in another light and another sense from the rest of the family. He was, according to my mother, "larger than life" - and certainly seemed so, in all senses, as he later became very plump! He was extremely musical and learned to play the organ beautifully. As he grew up, he joined in amateur theatricals with his younger brother Bertie, perhaps his best friend. They were conspirators in humour and anarchy!

He shone academically at Bromsgrove School, particularly in Classics, gaining a Classical scholarship. He showed a real ability to understand and his behaviour was described by his Headmaster as "uniformly good". Edgar followed Tom to Worcester College, Oxford, where he studied Theology and gained an M.A. After a 10 year curacy at Tewkesbury Abbey, he was appointed Vicar of Charlton Kings in 1906. In the next thirty years he was to transform the parish, and he soon became known for his interesting and thought-provoking sermons. He trained and played for his own choir, raising it to such a standard that it competed in the Hereford Three Choirs Festival.



Herbert
and
Edgar (seated)

Edgar
and
Herbert



He was absent minded and trusting to a degree. Nora and Vera, his two indulged nieces, much enjoyed staying with him at Charlton Kings, and were very conscious of being seen as "the Vicar's nieces" at Church services. The whole family were involved in fetes and concerts. By all accounts, Edgar was great fun.

When he died in 1937, the parish felt enormous loss and there were queues outside the Church at his funeral. He was buried close to his beloved Church



Edgar (centre) at a Pageant

For such an apparently extrovert character, he was extraordinarily sensitive to atmosphere. The following story has always intrigued me, as my Mother who told it was a very down-to-earth sort of person and she never spoke of the supernatural or ghosts except to relay the story of Uncle Edgar, which I believe happened in the early 30s.

Uncle Edgar was paying my Grandfather Herbert a visit at his home at 12 Queen's Avenue, Christchurch, Hants. The house which still stands is situated on the Quay at Christchurch and the Priory is between the Quay and the town and railway station. Edgar was due in on a train which arrived at approx. 10 pm, but for some reason missed his connection and was not on the train when Herbert went to meet it. The last train arrived in at around midnight but Herbert had not gone to meet it, believing Edgar would probably be arriving the next day.

When Edgar did arrive at the house at around 12.30 - 1 am, he mentioned calmly that during his short-cut through the Priory churchyard, he had looked to his left towards the main doors of the Priory and had seen what appeared to be a monk pass through the closed wooden doors. My grandfather made some remark that Edgar had obviously been enjoying one tipple too many and treated it as a joke, although it seems Edgar was not his usual jovial self about it and was adamant he had witnessed it.

Many years later (around 1970) I told the story to the then wife of the current Vicar of the Priory, and to my amazement she was in no way surprised and in fact had seen the monk on numerous occasions. She described herself as a Night-Owl, she frequently dressed the Altar with flowers after midnight. On the occasions the monk was present, she said, she would know instantly as on entering the Priory she would be aware of a strong smell of incense and would look towards the Altar to see him kneeling there. After a short while, he would rise, bow to the Altar and turn to the right and disappear! Perhaps Edgar had not had a tipple too many after all!

Barry Ray

17. THE WILL OF WILLIAM HAWKES, GENTLEMAN, MADE ON 10 FEBRUARY 1880

William Hawkes died on 3 May 1880 at his home, Milton Cottage, Charlton Kings, having made his will some 11 weeks previously. The latter shows him to have been a wealthy and successful man whose Boot and Shoe business in The Promenade had enabled him to invest in property in Charlton Kings and become a member of the Local Board of Guardians. It provides considerable information about the property and its tenants as well as about his extensive family.

The Hawkes Family

There is no mention of a wife or of children in William's will and it must be assumed that he remained unmarried. This cannot be said of the rest of the Hawkes family. He had two brothers, Thomas, who had five daughters, and Samuel, to whom he was plainly closer. Samuel was the owner of The Ryeworth Inn and the Assistant Surveyor to the Charlton Kings Local Board. Samuel had six children, five daughters like his brother, of which the youngest was Elizabeth, and a son George. William left property to a number of named nieces and one nephew:

Elizabeth Hawkes, Samuel's youngest
 Ann Turner, wife of Henry Turner
 Frances Ann Robinson Bick, wife of John Bick
 Mary Beavan, spinster, of The Griffin Inn, Monmouth
 George, Samuel's only son

but it is not possible to say whether these were all his brother's children or even those of an unnamed sister. Mary Beavan was the daughter of Margaret Beavan, and Margaret's sister Susan's daughter, Ann Reece of Swansea, was also a beneficiary. William liked to look after the ladies, it seems: Georgianna Rice, the wife of William Rice of Tewkesbury, corn merchant, was left a considerable amount of property, including his Battledown land, as was Elizabeth Kilby, wife of Thomas Kilby of Tivoli Street, gardener, who received the small round faced clock in the parlour and 7 cottages. Ann Woodyatt, who was Mary Beavan's aunt, received an annuity of £18 per year to be paid from Mary's bequest, and her brother John Woodyatt, labourer of the Forest of Dean and Thomas, his son, were also remembered. The bulk of the estate went to brothers Thomas and Samuel, but all their ten combined daughters were to have a share in any residue. One non-family bequest, perhaps an echo of William's youth, was to Mr. George Muller's School in Bristol.

The Property

At the time of his death, William Hawkes was possessed of:

his home, Milton Cottage, Charlton Kings;

a cottage in Ryeworth Field occupied by James Lawrence;

Greenway Villa, Charlton Kings, with the yard and land occupied by John Mustoe and the Charlton Kings Local Board;

land adjoining Greenway Villa in the occupation of Benjamin Bubb and William himself, bounded by Mustoe's yard to the south, Mr Walter's land to the west and Mr Hartland's land to the north;

half an acre of Battledown land fronting the property of Sir Brook Kay, occupied by brother Samuel;

a house, stables and land at Cudnall occupied by Charles Smith;

three cottages at Pilley occupied by Rook, Hawker and Hunt;

seven cottages in Exmouth Court, Bath Road;

two cottages in Mill Lane occupied by Clutterbuck and Cooper;

dwelling house and premises in Moreton Terrace, Charlton Kings, occupied by Mr Stephens;

a cottage and premises in Pilley occupied by James Baylis;

a cottage and premises in Sherborne Street, occupied by Tovey, a sweep;

a cottage at Ham Pitch, Charlton Kings, let to Reverend H. Potter;

Nos. 16 and 17, Albert Street Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham;

and of course, the small round faced clock in the parlour at Milton Cottage, which he specifically excluded from the bequest of the house to his nephew George to give to Elizabeth Kilby. How she must have liked it!

David O'Connor

18. A CHARLTON CHILDHOOD

My late husband's grandmother was Charlotte Hamlett, and her sister was Fanny Wood who lived at and kept the Nursery in Church Street; I used to go there to buy tomatoes for my mother.

They had a daughter Dolly who worked at the office at the Diamond Laundry. She used to provide all the choirboys with bunches of primroses on Easter Sunday to pin on their surplices.

I am now almost 86 so I feel a bit wonky!

You mentioned 'The Garsons' in Ham Lane. When I was five years of age, the man caught me up a tree in his drive, taking nuts, and he said he would hang me! I can't remember his name. He had a family of girls and then his wife had a son and was very ill, and my mother was asked if she would be his wet Nurse. We lived at Ham Cottage and I remember his nurse bringing him to be fed. Thereafter his father used to pat me on the head!

We moved when I (was) seven years old to East End Road in Charlton Kings and after 4 daughters mother had a son and was attended by Nurse Newdick from Charlton.

I remember Mr Parker who kept Pigeons, he lived up Duke's Alley which I used to go round from East End Road into London Road to Mr Parslow's shop. He also had a small piece of land opposite Lemon Cottage where we lived. There he kept hens. He was a very nice man.

When we lived in Ham, we had a long walk to school down through Ledmores and across the main London Road, and we always felt quite safe. Opposite Ledmores Alley there was a house (Hilden Lodge) and I think the Miss Browns lived there with their father a retired clergyman who carried a silver-headed cane. The Miss Browns were very kind to the cottage children from Ham and used to bring us out some cake on our way home and always brought us lovely presents at Christmas when we lived at Ham.

The only car we ever saw was the huge Daimler which used to take the Mitchell girls from Glenfall to the Ladies' College.

My only brother Wally Herbert (now sadly passed over) sang at Diana Gresson's wedding "O for the Wings of a Dove". He was very popular at the Boys' School in

School Road, and no doubt he is remembered by some of the old boys of the village.

My cousins the Masons lived at Longleat in Horsefair Street. My grandson Brian Hamlett was in Brevil Row (sic) and his son Robert is Israel Hamlett's g-g-g-g-great grandson. My grandson Russell Campbell's mother kept the Nursery School in Church Street. He saw the Hamlett vault and saw 'Israel Hamlett solicitor' and said 'That is what I shall be' and he is!

Marjorie Hamlett

Comments

We published Nurse Newdick's portrait, Bulletin 18 p 32. She never forgot any of the numerous babies she had helped into the world!

I too remember the Revd E.A. Brown of Hilden Lodge - he had an invalid wife he used to wheel to church in a genuine Bath Chair. My father heard him speak at a public meeting in the Village c.1919, pointing out the impracticability of getting effective action by any League of Nations (then about to be set up) - an opinion sadly borne out by events!

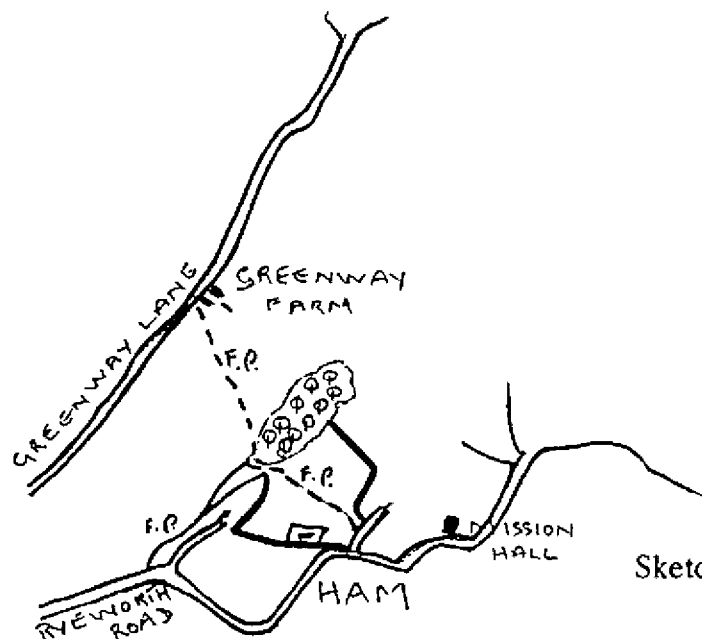
After his death, his daughters moved to Ryeworth Road and were active in collecting for the S.P.G. and in supporting Ham Mission Room. It was not given up till after Miss Brown's death because she would have been so upset.

M. P.

19. THE LOG

The Society has been asked about the origin of this name for two fields and several footpaths between Greenway Lane, Ryeworth Road, and Ham. Mrs Pringle consulted Mrs R. Collier and Mrs A. Waite, and has produced the accompanying map. The three footpaths shown meet on the site of Ham Mill (abandoned in the 18th century but still mentioned in sale particulars of 1824 - see Bulletin 20 p 23).

The name Le LOGGE is found in the 1557 inclosure survey. Several tenants were to inclose land there (see Bulletin 30) So it is as old as the 16th century at least.



"The log field boundary" _____

"The log footpath"

N.B.P.25.8.93.

Sketched from O.S. 6" to 1 mile, 1921

Info. supplied by Mrs R. Collier and Mrs A. Waite

I asked the Place Name expert Dr. Margaret Gelling for suggestions and this is her reply, 11 October 1993.

"I think your place-name must be simply the word log, though obviously I don't know in what sense the word is used - perhaps a single massive fallen tree. If we had only the 16th century spellings, Logge would have been explained as 'lodge', but it is most unlikely that the development to modern Log would have occurred if that were the source"

So probably a fallen tree! However, it is worth remembering that on Hollow Lane near Timbercombe, we have Little Herberts, formerly spelled Harbour or Harbord, apparently from OF herberge, a lodging. Slight mounds near the huge oak tree there were considered by Michael Aston to be the possible site. So there could have been some 'lodging' near Ham for the workmen who cleared the area between Ham and Greenway Lane and the sides of Ham Hill in the 14-15 century. The 'lodge' could not be Lodge in the modern sense of gate-keeper's house.

20. AN EXTRA CURATE FOR CHARLTON 1532

Nicholas Orme in Education in the West of England 1066-1548 (Univ of Exeter 1976) adds one name to our list of curates who served Charlton and Cheltenham. He says (pp 123-4)

"In 1548 the town of Cheltenham had a parish church, an estimated population of 600 communicants, and 2 chantries. St Katherine's, the more valuable of the two, was worth £5. 18. 11, of which the incumbent Edward Grove aged 60 had £5 for his yearly stipend. He was 'charged by special covenant between the parishioners of the town of Cheltenham and him, always to teach their children', the town being 'a market town and much youth within the same, near whereunto is no school kept' (P.R.O.Exch. Augm. Chantry certificates E 301/23 no.53; English Schools at the Reformation 1546-8 A.F. Leach (1896) part ii pp 85-6; Sir J. Maclean, 'Chantry Certificates. Gloucestershire' T.B.G.A.S. VIII (1883-4) pp 283-4)

It seems likely that here as elsewhere the chantry priest had come to be expected to teach as well, during the years just before the Reformation.

The school was evidently a grammar school, for the Chantry Commissioners ordered that it should continue and Grove went on receiving his stipend of £5 from the Crown until at least 1554 (P.R.O.Exch. Land Revenue LR 6/28/1).

He himself was a typical member of the lower ranks of the parish clergy, having been curate of Charlton Kings in 1532 and of Cheltenham itself in 1540. (Hereford and Worcester Record Office MS ref 802 pp 53, 93)".

M.G. Greet

21. EAST COURT - 1993 ALTERATIONS

The kitchen wing of East Court was demolished during 1993, as part of the re-development of the house and stables. OS Sheet XXV 12 shows that (contrary to the belief of some) this addition to the original house had been made before 1888, presumably by the Potters.



22. THE END OF CHURCH PIECE

John Coates has given us colour photographs of the destruction of the houses by fire in 1974. Unfortunately these won't reproduce. They were on display at the 1994 AGM.

23. J J W RIGLEY, BOULTON VILLA, CHARLTON KINGS; i - A STORM AT CHARLTON KINGS EASTER VESTRY MEETING 1854

Prior to Easter 1854 J J W Rigley, gent, only merited a mention in the Fashionable Intelligence columns of the Cheltenham Press, marking his departures from and arrivals at his residence, Boulton Villa, Charlton Kings. For example, he is shown as having left Boulton House for London in the issue of the Cheltenham Examiner

of 22 February 1854, and arriving at Boulton Villa from London in the 22 March issue.

Rigley's attendance at the Charlton Kings Easter Vestry meeting in 1854, gave him several inches of reporting space in the Cheltenham Examiner issue of 19 April 1854. One of the purposes of the Easter Vestry was to approve the Churchwardens accounts, after presentation and discussion. Rigley proposed that the accounts be passed. Almost in the same breath, he made the complaint that the outgoing churchwardens, S H Gael and Hancock, had left a larger balance than necessary, or than they ought to have left, if they had done their duty. This charge of neglect by the churchwardens was made more specifically at S H Gael, and was based on one particular incident when snow was allowed to accumulate, at Christmas time 1853, on the roof of the Parish Church. As a result of the snow remaining on the roof, the building became quite damp, and Rigley and others in the congregation suffered in health.

Rigley had complained to Gael by letter, which Gael apparently ignored. Rigley appealed to the other churchwarden, but he did not know what to do. Between the two churchwardens, the whole affair was neglected. Gentlemen should not take office if they are unable or unwilling to perform their duties, said Rigley. Gael replied that he did all that was required of him, as Vicar's churchwarden, in that he called the attention of the Parish churchwarden, Hancock, to the snow. Gael went on to say that he was told the dampness in the church was due to the snow drifting between the roof slates, which were not properly pointed - this was remedied as soon as it was possible to do so. The churchwardens were in no way to blame. Gael cared not for the censure as he had always done his duty in the offices he held.

(Over the past years, Gael had used his abilities conscientiously and most actively in the interests of Charlton Kings, Cheltenham and Gloucester County. For example, he had campaigned vigorously for something to be done about the impassable cesspit of Coltham Lane, until it became the fine carriage way Hale's Road; he attended Board of Guardians meetings, ex officio as a magistrate, when there was no compulsion for him to do so, providing advice and help whenever necessary; he helped behind the scenes in promoting the new Cheltenham Town Act; and he was assiduous in performing his duties as magistrate at the Quarter Sessions and Assizes in Gloucester.)

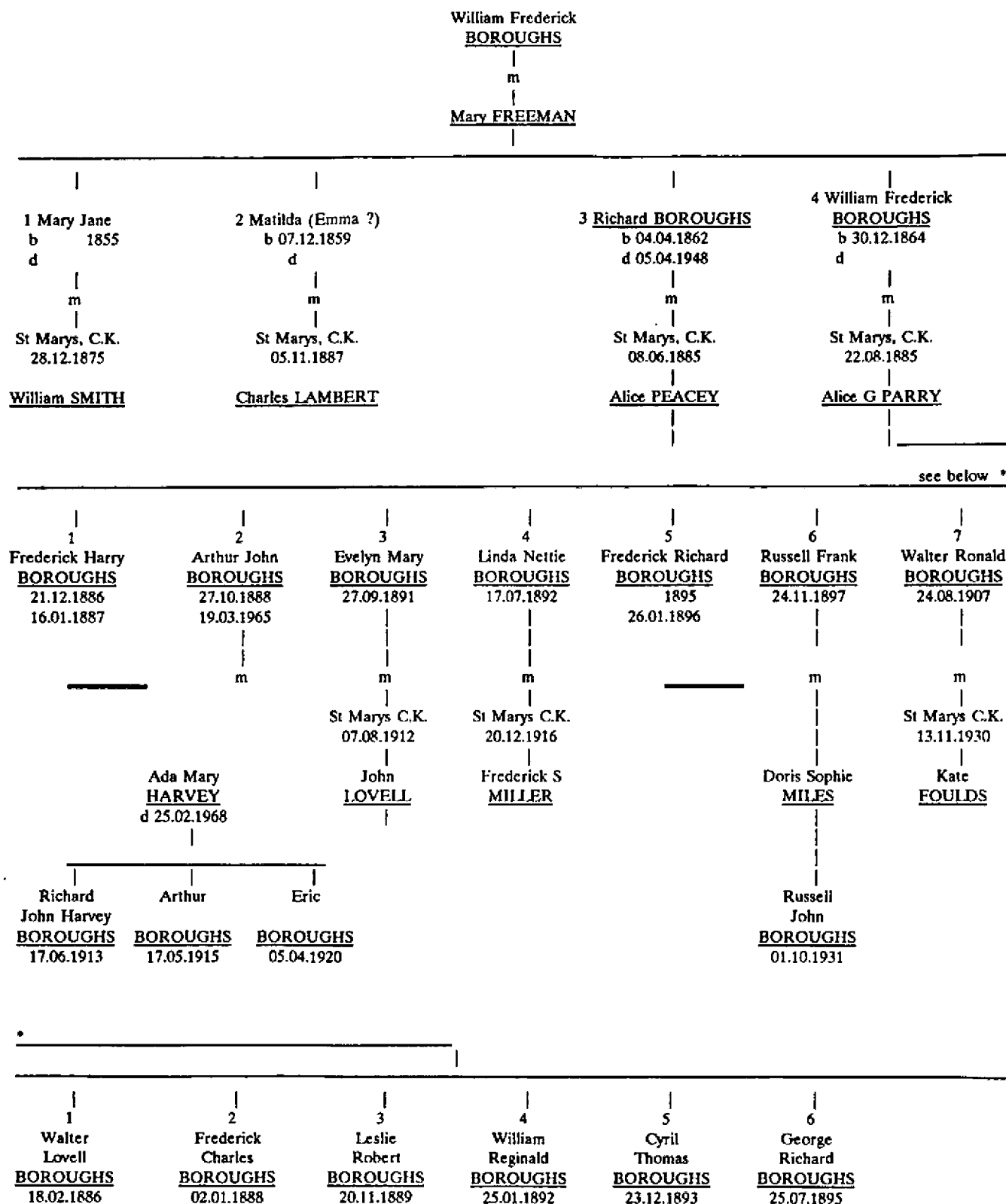
Rigley asked why should Gael act as dictator to Hancock. In that, Gael had not done his duty. "Had I been churchwarden, I would have acted on a broad principle, but you (Gael) act in a narrow and confined way".

Gael - "I was not addressing myself to you, sir".

Rigley - "I shall see, whenever you are in office, you shall do your duty like the others".

The chairman Rev J F S Gabb ended this fracas there and then; and re-appointed Gael as his churchwarden.

Rigley - "I am sorry for that".

25. THE BOROUGHS FAMILY OF CHARLTON**Mrs Pert née Boroughs**

References to this family have been collected by Mrs J. Sale; the result is too lengthy to print here but may be consulted on contacting the Editor.