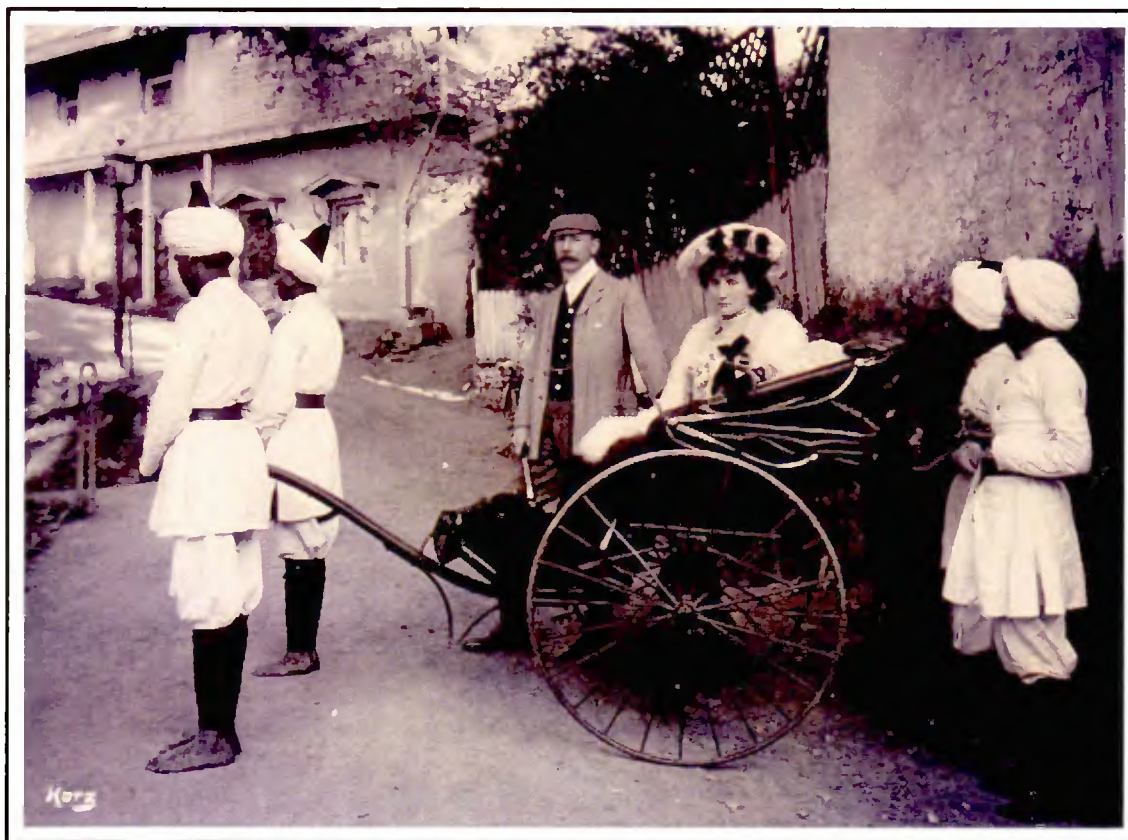


CHARLTON KINGS

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



RESEARCH BULLETIN 50
2004



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Membership of the Society

Membership forms are available from the Hon Secretary. Annual subscription £3.50 or £5.50 for a couple. Meetings are held monthly from September to May at 8pm, and also twice a year in October and April at 10.30am, all in the Stanton Room at Charlton Kings Library.

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Publications: Copies of the following publications can be obtained from the Chairman. Prices apply to society members. Postage and packing for each item £1.

Charlton Kings Probate Records 1600-1800 (2003) - £12
Charlton Kings Parish Rate Book for 1858 (2003) - £4
The Hole in the Ground - Battledown Brickworks (2002) - £7.50
The Dixon-Hartland Family (2000) - £2
Charlton Kings in Old Photographs (1999) - £5
Five More Walks Around Charlton Kings (1998) - 50p
Indexes to Bulletins 18-27, 28-37 and 38-47 - £5 each
Indexed Parish Register Transcriptions for the following years:
1538-1634 - £2, 1634-1700 - £3, 1700-1760, 1760-1812, & 1813-1834 - £5 each

Some copies of past bulletins are available at a price to be agreed with the Chairman.

Cover - Photograph of Reginald and Elsie Burton at Simla in 1902

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EDITORIAL

Regular readers may be somewhat surprised to see a photograph from India on the cover of this bulletin rather than the usual depiction of a local property. It has been chosen to illustrate the main article in this issue - David O'Connor's detailed work on the Burton Family, in particular the father and son Edmond and Reginald Burton. This article is a reminder of the many influential people who held important positions overseas before retiring to Cheltenham and Charlton Kings. Even though we probably do not share their views and may well deplore some aspects of their life, it must be admitted that their world-wide experience brought a different aspect to village life and must have had some effect on the development of the neighbourhood. Owing to lack of space I have had to omit parts of this article, in particular relating to other members of the family. If any reader is particularly interested in this family and would like further information, the author has the complete work to hand.

2003 was an important year for the Society - its 25th anniversary. An inaugural meeting had been held in the Stanton Room on 21st February 1978 at which the first committee members was elected, with Michael Greet as chairman, and the objects of the Society explained. Its initial role was to assist in the collection of materials and information for the *History of Charlton Kings* to be compiled by Mary Paget. That book was duly published in 1988, but by then *Bulletin No 18* had been prepared and edited by Mary, who went on to edit thirty more, before handing over the reins to me.

The Annual General Meeting held on 25th February 2003 provided an ideal opportunity to celebrate the achievements of that initial committee and later ones with a party. The photographs shown below were taken to record the occasion. Five of the first committee are regulars at Society meetings; Alice Johnson, now living in Chipping Campden, made a special visit to join us, but we were unable to trace Mrs N Dickenson, previously of No 24 Buckles Close. Does any reader know of her whereabouts?

The Initial Committee

Derek Copson, Michael Greet (Chairman), Eric Armitage

Suzanne Fletcher (treasurer), Mary Paget, and Alice Johnson (secretary).



The 2003 Committe

Ann Hookey, Pat Pearce, David O'Connor, Jane Sale, Sue Brown, Don Sherwell

Mary Southerton, Mary Paget and Joan Paget.



Various members of the Society gained honours during 2003 and deserve our warmest congratulations:

Sue Brown, who had been our Treasurer from 1989 to 2003, was elected National President of Business and Professional Women UK. This post followed that of President of the Cheltenham and District Club and the Regional President for the South West and South Wales.

Sheila Purnell, a lay reader at St.Mary's church, was chosen to receive Maundy Money from the Queen at a service in Gloucester Cathedral. I am very grateful to Sheila, who despite being in poor health, has written an article for us, see pp 43-45.

Eric Armitage was chosen by the Cheltenham Arts Council to receive their Annual Arts Award for his work for Local History Societies. As well as being a founder member of both Charlton Kings and Cheltenham Societies, Eric has done tireless work transcribing parish registers and recording and indexing newspaper reports concerning Charlton Kings.

Carrie Howse, who wrote the article on District Nurses in *Bulletin 49*, was short-listed for the Bryan Jerrard award for the best article published on Local History in Gloucestershire. Some members will remember Bryan Jerrard, who organised the Local History Committee of the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council. Bryan did a great deal of work helping new Local History Societies to get started, arranging Local History Afternoons around the county, and giving talks to Societies, including our own. He has now moved away from this area and the prize has been set up to encourage local history researchers to write up their work. This year's prize was won by Russell Howes for his article entitled *The Medieval Sieges of Gloucester 1263-65*, published in *Glevensis*, issue No 35, in 2002.

OBITUARY - JOAN PAGET (20.12.1913 - 16.4.2003)

by Mary Southerton

[Only a few weeks after the happy occasion of the 25th Anniversary party, members were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Joan Paget. We were so pleased that she had been able to share in the celebrations and that a photograph was taken of her in her role as a member of the 2003 committee. A Service of Thanksgiving for Joan's life was held at St Mary's on 29th April and the number of Society members present indicated how much we admired her and how much she will be missed. I am grateful to Mary Southerton for this obituary to Joan - Ed.]

On Wednesday April 16th 2003 the Society lost a member and a great friend. Joan had been a founder member of the Society and was still on the committee at the time of her death.

Brought up with boys, her parents running a Dr Barnado's Home, she went on to become a teacher. What a true teacher she was, anyone who has talked to her about those times would soon have realised the love and care she had for her pupils, especially mischievous little boys who needed that extra encouragement. In her retirement Joan spent much time poring over the Log Books of Charlton Kings Boys School, sharing her findings with us in our Bulletins and in talks.

Art and literature were her other loves, she read widely and loved nothing better than to discuss a point from one of the books she had read. Art was her passion, she was gifted at drawing, wood carving and a variety of crafts. She would return from Dillington Hall courses refreshed and full of enthusiasm for her art.

Joan was always ready to help the Society and its members, a stalwart at cooking for the Bring and Buy sales and always having time to talk about projects or problems, never telling one what to do but giving ideas to think about.

She had worked for many years at the Gloucestershire Record Office transcribing wills and inventories of people of Charlton Kings. Those of us who knew of this undertaking felt that she should publish her work. Thanks to Tony Sale, who worked with Joan during 2002-03, she saw her work published. I shall always remember her pleasure when I gave her 'hot from the press' a finished copy of their work. I am sure that she felt that she knew many of the people on whose wills she had worked. I think this work sums up Joan's gift to see into people and to give them friendship, understanding and encouragement in great measure.

We shall all miss Joan, but be the richer for having known her.

THE BURTONS OF HAMBROOK HOUSE AND BAFFORD GRANGE

by David A. O'Connor

Part I - General Edmond Francis Burton

Edmond Francis Burton, the eldest of seven children, was born in the village of Ash, Kent, on 29th June 1820 to Eliza, the wife of the Reverend Charles James Burton, MA. The latter, at that time, was the Rector of St Peter and St Paul, Ash, but went on eventually to be Chancellor of the Diocese of Carlisle. Little is known of Edmond's early life, but at the age of 17 he entered the Military College of the Honourable East India Company (HEIC) at Addiscombe, Croydon.

Until 1857, when the Indian Mutiny took place, the HEIC maintained commercial monopolies and effectively ruled India, though the British Government exercised considerable political control. The country was divided into three Presidencies - Bengal, Madras and Bombay, each with its own Army, and a number of separate areas ruled by friendly princes. The HEIC's troops wore essentially the same uniforms as the British Army, though with some indigenous touches. However, these were two quite separate armies and there was no cross-posting of officers with the British Army in India. The College, founded in 1809, trained cadets for officer appointments in the HEIC's infantry, artillery and engineer units. The soldiers were all indigenous. In 1858, after the Indian Mutiny, the Crown assumed sovereignty over India, the HEIC faded and the British Indian Army was created. However, both before and after this event, there was no love lost between the British and Indian Armies. Many British officers had an intense dislike of those who had seen service in India and some even referred to Wellington, who had first made his name in India, as "that Sepoy general"¹. After 1815, officers serving in India saw much more active service than their counterparts at home; between 1847 and 1913 there were no less than sixty six punitive expeditions mounted on the North-West Frontier alone. For their part, therefore, the Indian hands disparaged officers in England as idle amateurs.

Edmond was commissioned into the HEIC's service on 18 September 1839. Under the regulations then in force, officers could obtain home leave but once in their whole period of service, and that only after ten years served in India². The exception to this was medical grounds: India was not a healthy station and until the 1860s the mortality rate among European troops was sixty nine per thousand. Measures implemented following a Royal Commission on Sanitary Conditions in 1864 reduced it to seventeen per thousand. Graduates from Addiscombe normally sailed from Southampton, the first leg of the journey ending at Alexandria, since there was no Suez Canal. They would join a large canal barge and be towed up the Mahmoudieh Canal for ten hours to Atfieh, on the Nile. From there a steamer took them to Cairo, the journey taking sixteen hours. There they would rest for a couple of days at Shepherd's Hotel, before setting off across the desert for ninety miles in a machine resembling a bathing carriage, drawn by four mules. The baggage was carried on mules, and the journey took eighteen hours. On arrival at Suez another steamer took them on to Aden, where those going to Bombay would change boats. The heat in the Red Sea was often suffocating, and ships sometimes turned to steam against the wind in order to revive their passengers. The steamer would land passengers at Madras before proceeding to Calcutta. The whole journey took up to six weeks. A sea journey round the Cape was seen as much more healthy, but it took between three and four months. Journeys within India were even more wearing. There were few metalled roads and railways were in their infancy. Officers and drafts normally travelled by river wherever possible, but individuals, including wives and families, travelled by dak-ghari, a horse-drawn wheeled vehicle, where the roads were good

enough, and then by palakin or doolie, a rudimentary sort of sedan chair. Passengers were carried throughout the night by eight men, divided into two shifts of four. All eight would be changed after a stage of ten to twelve miles. A good team could shuffle along at three miles an hour, and if there were no delays, forty or forty-five miles could be accomplished before it became necessary to seek shelter from the sun in one of the dak-bungalows, basic Government resthouses erected at intervals along the main routes. Journeys of up to six hundred miles were made in this way³.

On his arrival, Edmond joined the Madras Native Infantry as an Ensign. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 31 March 1842, serving in the field force sent against rebels in Tondiman Rajah's country in 1854. He assumed the post of Quartermaster and Interpreter of the 13th Native Infantry in 1845, becoming the unit's Adjutant the following year and subsequently being promoted to Captain. In 1855 he received a staff appointment as Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General, Southern District and it was while holding this post that, on 17 August 1857, he married⁴. Edmond's chosen wife was Georgiana, the Reverend Charles Burton's niece and Edmond's first cousin. However, as will be seen, there were certainly no genetic problems.

At this stage we must divert from the chronology to embrace the totality of Edmond's family. The first child arrived after nine months to be followed by eleven more, making a total of twelve, nine sons and three daughters. In all, the span of the Burtons' children from first to last covered a period of seventeen years and four months, during which time Georgiana was actually bearing a child for over nine years, that is to say, more often than not. The first was probably born in her family home at Daventry, the second, third and fourth in India, the fifth in Daventry, the sixth in Cheltenham, seven, eight and nine in India, the tenth in Silsoe, Bedfordshire, and the last two in Charlton Kings. Georgiana did not have a restful life⁵. The children were: Charles William Westbrooke - 25/6/58, Clara Georgiana Mary - 28/10/59, Edmund Boteler - 22/4/61, Henry Gerard - 22/4/63 (known by his second name), Reginald George - 8/7/64, Frederic Nuthall - 5/11/68, Richard Watkins - 5/11/68, Constance Maria Louise - 20/4/70, Aubrey de Sausmarez - 29/4/71, Arthur Robert - 15/10/72 (known by his second name), Josephine Emily - 23/10/73 ("Joey"), and Geoffrey - 13/12/74. Josephine and Geoffrey were both baptised at St Mary's, Charlton Kings, in 1874. The parents plainly spent much time abroad, either singly or together. From 1876 to at least 1881, for example, most of the children, from Frederick downwards, but lacking Josephine, were living in Ryeworth House under the wardship of one Isabel Blanche Haultain, an old family friend. There was no sign of a governess as such⁶. This was the Ryeworth House just off the London Road opposite the entrance to Sandford Mill Road, not that shown to the rear of Hambrook House. All the boys must have gone to a Public School, as this was a prerequisite for entering Sandhurst and the Indian Army. Charles went to Wellington, Edmund, Gerard, Reginald, Aubrey and Robert to King William's College, Isle of Man, and Frederic and Geoffrey to Cheltenham College⁷. It is not known where Richard went to school, and no record of where the girls were educated.

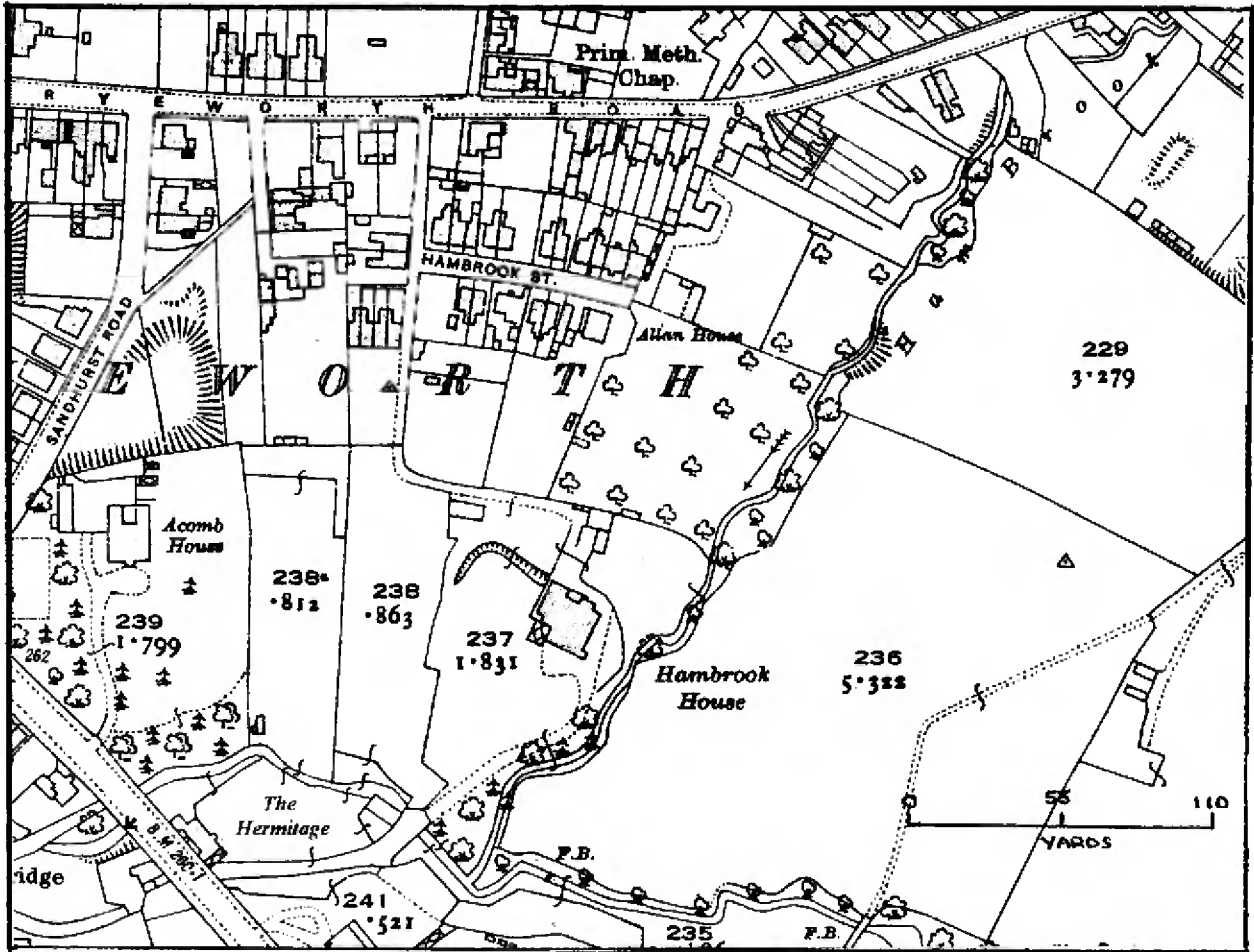
All the boys were following their father, but into the post-Mutiny Indian Army, Addiscombe having closed in 1861. Officer candidates for the British and Indian Armies could therefore choose between the Royal Military Academy Woolwich, for the Royal Artillery and Engineers, and the Royal Military College Sandhurst, for Infantry and Cavalry. None of the Burtons chose Woolwich. The RMC Sandhurst, founded in 1799, had from 1858 trained 16- to 18-year old boys who had had a Public School education. Up to 1871 commissions in the Army had to be bought, except for the first twenty passing out of Sandhurst. Even after Cardwell's Army reforms of 1869-71, officers joining regiments of the British Army required a substantial private income, their monthly mess bills normally exceeding what they actually earned. In addition, a junior officer, who received about £90 per year, had to buy his own horse and his uniform, £70 for the infantry and £300 for the cavalry. For those unable to

afford this, the option was to join the Indian Army. Those willing to assist the Imperial Government and live in India, learn a language and command native troops, were paid three times as much and lived much more cheaply. However, even these posts were keenly sought by cadets, and many were forced to seek commissions in an overseas regiment in a disagreeable station in order to achieve their ambition⁸. One of these, as we shall see, was Reginald George Burton. All the boys got into Sandhurst except Aubrey de Sausmarez, who managed to obtain his commission by the back door method. The Indian Army would not take young officers until they had proved themselves in a British Army regiment for at least a year and probably two. This was effected by graduating from Sandhurst and enduring the still pervasive antipathy of one's fellow officers in a British unit. Aubrey's alternative was to prove himself by obtaining a commission in the Militia. He was well positioned for this by virtue of his name, presumably that of his godfather. The Barons de Saumarez (some members of the family retained the original name Sausmarez, including a branch that lived in Cheltenham) had their seat in Guernsey⁹. Aubrey obtained a commission in the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry (Militia) for two years before transferring to the King's (Liverpool) Regiment for a further two years, and thence to the Indian Army. It was a longer route, but it achieved its aim.

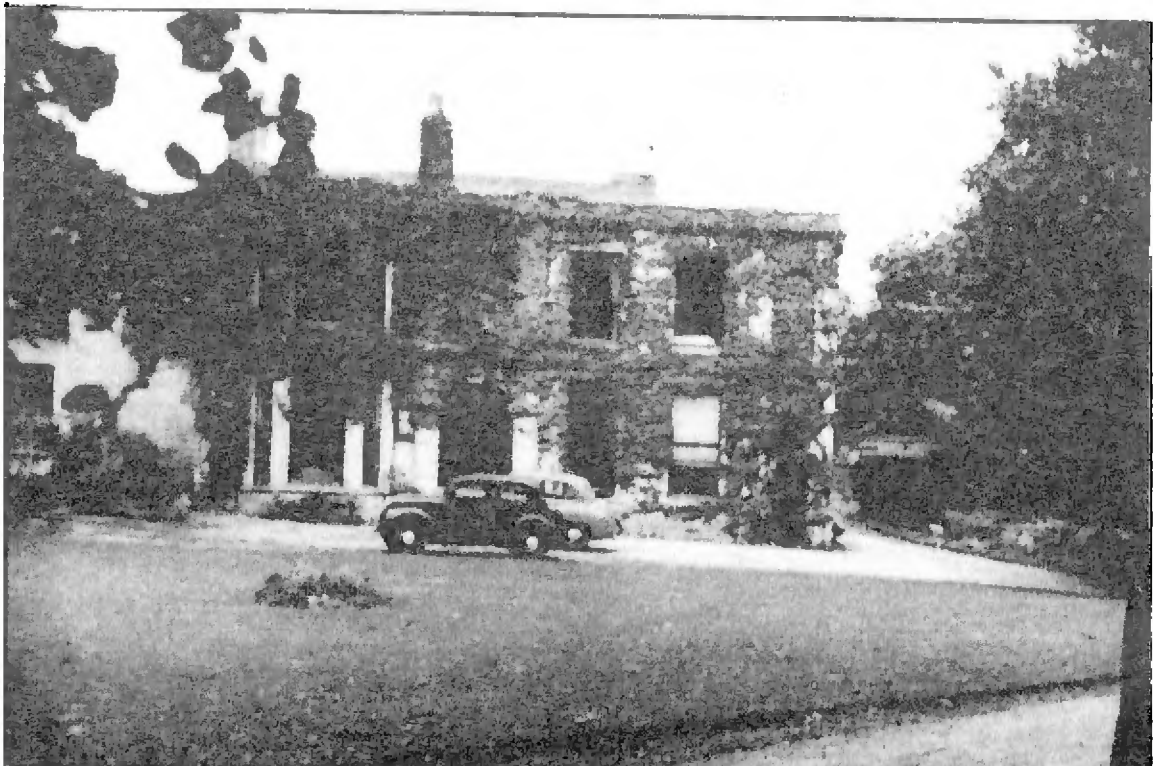
Edmond Burton's military career continued to prosper. A further staff appointment as Assistant Quartermaster-General, Nagpore Force, was followed in 1861 by promotion to the rank of major. In 1865 he was selected for promotion to lieutenant-colonel and took command of his former unit, the 13th Madras Native Infantry, followed in 1866 by a change to command the 4th Native Infantry, and after eight years in this post, command of the 8th Native Infantry. In 1870 he became a brevet colonel and was appointed to the commands, successively, of the Northern District of the Madras Army, the Malabar and Canara Brigade (1878), the ceded districts (1880), the Hyderabad Subsidiary Force (1881) and the British Burma Division (1882), for which last post he was promoted to brigadier general, with the acting rank of major general. He retired from the active list in July 1882 and went on the unemployed supernumerary list as a major general from January 1883. At that time, retired officers on the latter list continued to be promoted as vacancies occurred above them, thus freeing slots for those below them. Edmond was promoted to lieutenant general in 1887 and achieved the rank of full general on 1 March 1891, all without firing a shot in anger. It was, however, a successful career. In addition to his military prowess, he was well known in India as a sportsman, which essentially meant big-game hunting, shooting and fishing. He was an accomplished sketcher and water colourist and produced three books: *An Indian Olio*, an olio being a miscellany of various sketches, poems and other literary pieces, *Reminiscences of Sport in India*, and *Trouting in Norway*. He was much taken with Norway and went there on a number of occasions, essentially for fishing¹⁰.

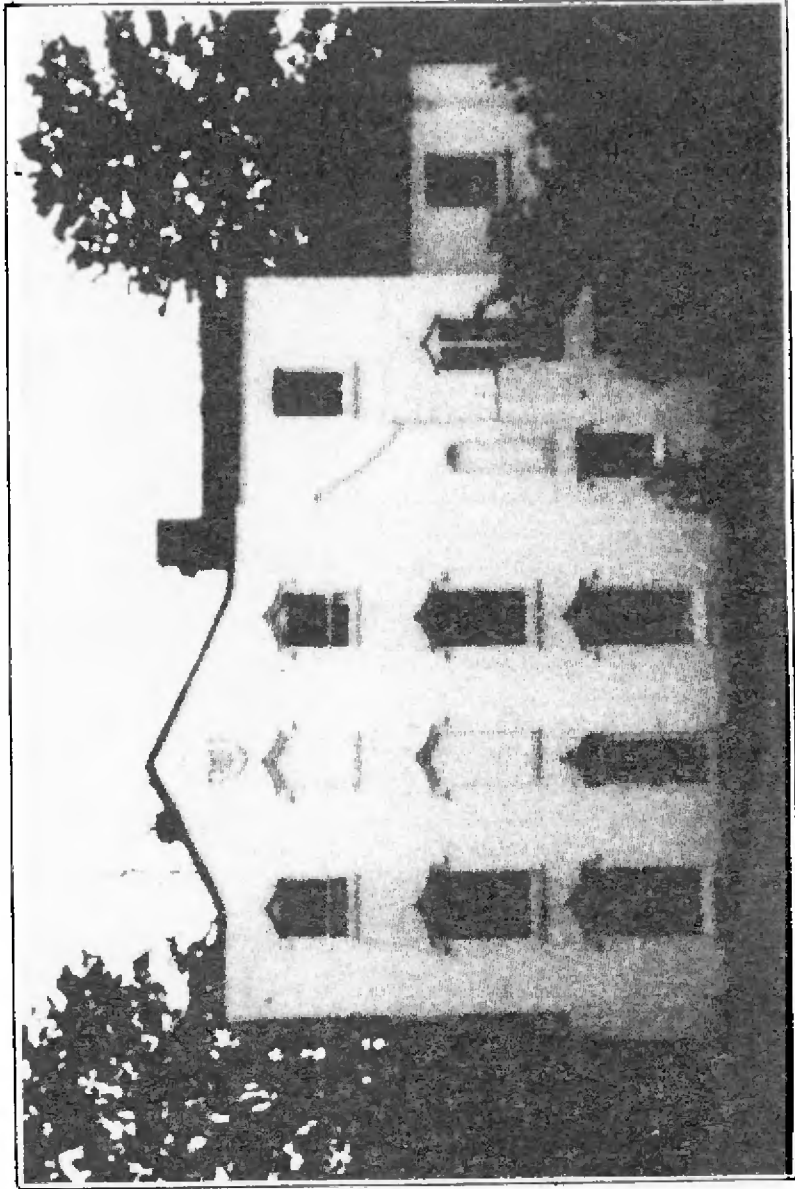
Edmond returned to England in 1883, having spent the better part of forty four years of his life in India. He had bought Hambrook House in Charlton Kings about ten years previously. It is certain that the Burtons had bought the house by January 1874, when the brothers Edmund Boteler and Reginald George Burton entered King William's College and their father's address was given as Hambrook House. The house, built between 1825 and '35, had been up for sale in 1869, when it was described as follows:

Freehold residence, standing 140 yards from the highway on 1½ acres of land commanding views of the Cotswolds - south aspect - timbered drawing room 24ft by 24ft; Dining room 24ft by 15ft - bay windows and large glass plate; Library 18ft by 12ft; 8 bedrooms, bath; Entrance hall; Conservatory with plate glass front - all three heated by hot water. 3 W.C.s; 2nd staircase. Domestic offices; stabling for 3 horses; double coach hse. Apply D Simons, C Kings, builder¹¹.



General Edmond Burton bought Hambrook House, Charlton Kings in 1873, though he did not return from India until 1883. Following his death in 1902, his widow stayed on with her unmarried artist daughter Clara until 1910, when they moved down to The Hermitage, which was part of the Hambrook House estate. The map above shows the two houses in 1923 and the picture below, taken around 1950, is of Hambrook House, which was built between 1825 and 1835. The latter, together with its neighbour Acomb House, was demolished in the 1960s to make way for a modern development called the Hambrook Park Estate.





Above, The Hermitage, built in the period 1825 -1835, was integral to the Hambrook House estate but was often empty or let. It became the home of Georgiana from 1910 to 1914, when she moved to 3, Queen's Parade, Bayshill. She died there in 1922. The Hermitage escaped demolition but is now called Bridge House.



Left, a coloured sketch by General Edmond Barton of the principal animals found in South India. "The mighty elephant stems the river and the tiger roars upon the bank. Bears are under a gold mahur tree, a stag stands beside bamboos, while hison, leopard and wild goat survey the scene from above."

Hambrook House remained in the family's possession until at least 1914. However, the General did not always live there. In September 1884, when Arthur Robert and Aubrey de Sausmarez Burton entered King William's College, their father's address was given as Hopefield, Haddenham, Bucks but this was a temporary address between retirement and re-occupying Hambrook House. They had moved back by 1885, together with the younger members of the family. In 1891 Constance Maria, Aubrey de Sausmarez, then a second lieutenant in the King's Regiment, Arthur Robert, a cadet at Sandhurst, and the 16-year old Geoffrey, a pupil at Cheltenham College, were present and the household comprised a cook, housemaid and a 15-year old footman. However, in 1893 tragedy struck the family.

On 29 August, while on holiday at Happisburgh, a fishing village in North Norfolk, one of the Burton daughters got into difficulties with the strong tide when bathing. Young Geoffrey, then a cadet at Sandhurst, pulled off his coat and went into the sea in an attempt to rescue his sister. He drowned, though she was saved. It was somehow bizarrely ironic that, in a family of eleven soldiers, the youngest was the first to die. The Cheltenham Chronicle reported that he had saved his sister from drowning and described him in purple prose as "one of a family of braves, nearly all of whom are hostages to fame in the military life of the future"¹². Geoffrey was buried in a new Burton family vault in Cheltenham Cemetery. The inscription on the tomb records that he drowned in saving his sister's life. The Times reported the incident, noting that coastguardsmen had reached the sister and with great difficulty managed to restore animation"¹³. In a letter to Reginald in Moscow, Georgie told how her mother had "gone on to the beach while the dear boy was still holding Connie, and poor Joey was there and saw him sink". The Royal Humane Society marked his bravery with a vellum certificate and memorial tablets were placed in the chapels at both Cheltenham College and Sandhurst. What is interesting is that neither paper mentioned the name of the daughter, although it was Constance Maria, nor, in sympathising with General Burton on the loss of his son, did they think to mention his wife, Geoffrey's mother. Women were just not important parts of the story.

In 1901 Constance was still living with her parents in Hambrook House, aged thirty and unmarried. Aubrey, a lieutenant in the Indian Army, was home on leave and the household staff was the same, though different people¹⁴. Just under a year later, on 23 May 1902, General Edmond Burton died at his home, just one month short of his 82nd birthday. He had made proper preparation: a new will had been signed on 11 May. He appointed his dear wife Georgiana and his son Frederic Nuthall Burton as Trustees. To his wife he left his dwelling house, stable and grounds, (including the adjoining premises which he had purchased from Mr Rossiter and Mr Freeman), collectively known as Hambrook House, together with the furniture, horses, carriages and chattels. She was also to receive his share and interest in certain lands situate in Romney Marsh, Kent. The residue was put in trust to provide an income for Georgiana. The will was particularly sensitive to the needs of his daughters, only one of whom, Josephine, was married. He gave the £1000 insurance policy he had taken out on the life of Josephine's husband, Gerard Finch Dawson, to his son-in-law. Following Georgiana's decease, the Trust was to realise the assets and, after making a legacy of £100 to each of the surviving sons, the rest was to be divided into three parts for the daughters. £500 was to be deducted from the share of the married Josephine and added equally to the shares of the two unmarried daughters, Clara and Constance. The will was witnessed by the General's cook, Ellen Screen, and an Edward Rogerson. The gross value of the estate was £5601 and the net value of the personal estate £3368, which would appear to value Hambrook House at something over £2000¹⁵.

Georgiana remained at Hambrook House until 1910 but then moved a hundred yards further downstream to The Hermitage, which fronted on London Road. In the 1891 Census this house, which straddled the Ham Brook, was occupied by one person, David Barradale, a 55-year-old local carpenter. In 1901 the house was vacant and was shown as an integral part of

the Hambrook House property; it may therefore have been one of "the adjoining premises" referred to in the will. Georgiana lived there with her unmarried artist daughter Clara Georgiana Mary, who was professionally known as Clare Burton¹⁶. In 1914 Georgiana moved to 3, Queen's Parade, Bayshill, and Clara to Montpelier Chambers and at the same time Hambrook House was let to Major J G Blgrave and Lady Edward Somerset, presumably separately. It was at Queen's Parade that Georgiana died on 27 January 1922, aged 90. Hambrook House was later demolished to make way for the Hambrook Park Estate. The Hermitage remains today, though it is now called Bridge House.

Part II - Brigadier General Reginald George Burton

Reginald George Burton, the fifth child, was born on 8 July 1864 in Daventry at his uncle's home in High Street. In 1865 the family moved to Segrave Lodge, in the Park in Cheltenham, where his brother Frederic was born in 1866. His parents returned to India in 1867 and Reginald went to live with a cousin in Bedford. While there he contracted scarlet fever, which left him with pain in the ears which never left him during his life, and was much exacerbated by his later military experiences. In 1872 the family rented Fielden House, Silsoe, Bedfordshire, where his brother Robert Arthur was born. Reginald entered King William's College in August 1875, his two older brothers Edmund and Henry already being there¹⁷. He enjoyed the surrounding countryside but thought the school was a hundred years behind the times in every respect: the boys were always hungry and, apart from French, he learned very little. He did not appear to have a distinguished school career, being neither a praepositor nor a member of any of the college teams, and left in 1879 at the age of fifteen. In 1876 his mother went to India with two girls and the rest of the family moved initially to Langton Leigh on the London Road and later to Ryeworth House, Cheltenham, under the care of Miss Haultain, Hambrook House being let¹⁸.

On leaving school, Reginald joined them and was tutored by a Dr Wrigley in Clapham. Reginald had passed the preliminary exam for Sandhurst in 1881 but failed the special competitive examination, his mathematics being very weak. After further coaching in Brighton, he just failed again in 1883 but was offered a place as a candidate for the West India Regiment. He accepted and passed into the Royal Military College at Sandhurst in 1883. Reginald could apparently not afford a Home commission and he was therefore forced to look for an overseas regiment in a less attractive station. Such a vacancy existed in the West India Regiment, then very much the Left of the Line, and after two months' leave at his mother's new home "Hopefield", Haddenham, Thame, Reginald joined the 1st Dorsets at Chatham for his preliminary training. He left Southampton for the West Indies in April 1885, on the R M S Moselle. During this early period of his life, Reginald saw little of his father. The latter was home from 1872 to 1874, but from then on he did not see him once from the age of ten until he was nineteen. His mother was also absent from his life from 1876 to 1881.

The West India Regiment was nothing to do with the Indian Army. The first two battalions were raised in 1795 to serve in the West Indies, and eventually twelve battalions were raised. After 1815 the Regiment was reduced to two battalions only, consisting of West Indian soldiers and British officers. In the early days it was involved in much fighting against the French. It was widely employed, fighting campaigns against dissidents in the West Indies but also in North and South America, the latter against rebellious native Indians threatening the British colony of British Honduras, now Belize. It was also used in the 1878 Ashanti Wars in Africa. The main reason for the unattractiveness of the station was not so much the enemy but the threat of disease; yellow fever and the other familiar tropical diseases killed many more men than did the bullets. Reginald served in Jamaica and Barbados for two years before leaving for India. He arrived there on 26 June 1887 as a lieutenant, and was appointed to the Indian Staff Corps on 9 July of the same year, having succeeded in passing the necessary

Higher Standard exams in both Urdu and Hindi. The Indian Staff Corps was a misnomer: it had nothing to do with staff training but was a means of putting all officers of the Indian Army on a common roll for pay and promotion purposes¹⁹.

After a number of short attachments, including a month up the Khyber Pass, Reginald was appointed in 1889 to the 1st Infantry Regiment of the Hyderabad Contingent. This was a force recruited and financed by the Nizam of Hyderabad, but quite separate from the latter's private Army. It was trained and commanded by British officers and was available to the Government in time of need. Forces such as these were known as Imperial Service Troops and were distinct from the Armies of the three Presidencies²⁰. Reginald served with this unit for eight years as a lieutenant, being variously stationed at Mahidpoor, Nowah, Hingoli and Jalna. During this time he qualified at the School of Musketry and passed courses in the machine gun, equitation and transport. He took his leave out of India from November 1891 to December '92, during which time he took an elementary examination in Russian in October 1892. He did not return to India but went to Russia on 6 December 1892, travelling by rail from Paris to Marseilles, and thence by steamer to Athens, Smyrna, Constantinople and Odessa, finally proceeding by train to Moscow. Passing through the Dardanelles, Reginald noted the "threatening batteries, bristling with guns, whose position seemed to render the Straits impassable to any hostile fleet". He was to learn much more of these twenty three years later.

He stayed in Russia until 30 September 1893, studying the Russian language and taking a special interest in following the route of Napoleon's invasion in 1812. He later published three volumes on Napoleon's campaigns. Reginald was not impressed by Russia, particularly by the oppressive lack of freedom. Prophetically, he wrote as he left: "There must surely be a limit to the patience of the long-suffering Russian peasant, and it is probable that a day will come when he will understand something more than 'God and the policeman' and strike for freedom"²¹. He returned to England via Warsaw and Berlin for a further five months of specialist, probably Intelligence, training and to sit the Interpreter's Examination. He was awarded a 1st Class Interpretership in October 1893 and went back to his regiment in India in March 1894.

Reginald began writing regular articles for Indian and English newspapers on hunting, natural history, travel, military strategy and foreign military affairs. An article of his on *The Combined Operations of Land and Sea Forces* was printed in *The Times of India* but rejected by the authorities with the comment that the War Office and the Admiralty had nothing to learn on the subject, a view which twenty years later was found to be in need of urgent revision. However, Reginald's writing brought him a welcome income of around £100 a year. He was promoted to captain in 1895 and qualified for the Army Staff, gaining a special mention for his papers on Fortification, Military Law and Tactics.

In India Reginald alternated regimental duty with staff appointments. He was posted to the Intelligence Branch of Army HQ at Simla, but typically, not to the Russian Section. He was put to work to write about a country he knew nothing of. He counted this no loss, since he could see that the work in the Russian Section was not practical, nor were there chances of promotion. Years later he was seconded to the External Affairs Department of the Indian Government: even this appointment did not appear to have any Intelligence input, though the External Affairs Department directed among other things a foreign propaganda division of considerable efficacy. Though he needed staff appointments to obtain advancement, and was plainly an accomplished staff officer, Reginald did not like Simla at all. Army HQ was run by cliques and preferment was achieved by patronage, not merit. While some of the work was interesting, he did not consider his talents were made use of. He disliked the frantic social round in the summer and preferred the place when it was empty. He could not wait to get back to the plains of the Deccan and the sport of hunting that he loved²².

Reginald's next leave out of India was taken in 1897, when he was a captain, and lasted for twelve months. After visiting Italy, he returned to Hambrook House. At dances in Cheltenham he met again the Lumb family and was greatly attracted by Eliza Mary, known as Elsie, whom he had known as a child. She was the second daughter of William Wilkin Lumb, a solicitor of Whitehaven, Cumberland. In April they became engaged, but in October he was due to leave for India, so it was a question whether he should marry Elsie before leaving. However, he had no house for her and decided that it was better to make a home and return for her the following year. In fact it was two years before he saw her again. In March 1901 he returned to Hambrook House, where he found his father, then 81 years old, greatly fading. On 30 April he and Elsie were married at Christchurch, Cheltenham. Reginald was 37 and his bride at 24, thirteen years his junior. Reginald later wrote "Elsie was the most beautiful bride who had ever been seen there. The perfection of her features, her soft grey eyes, her colouring of complexion and bright hair were the admiration of all ... while her beautiful figure with its perfect sloping shoulders and her gracious dignified bearing, conspicuous at that time, have grown with the years". They honeymooned at Symonds Yat, Monmouth, in London, the Isle of Man and St Bees. Returning to Hambrook House, they bade farewell to General Burton, then very feeble but full of spirit. The couple left for India in September 1901, just eight months before the General died.

Reginald was promoted to major in August 1902. In 1903 Lord Kitchener instigated a reorganisation of the Indian Army which resulted in the renumbering of most of the units and the 1st Infantry Regiment was renamed 94th Russell's Infantry. In 1907 Reginald became a lieutenant colonel and assumed the post of Commandant of the Regiment in which he had served for twenty years, a position he held for five years. The Regiment was stationed at Poona, Fort Sandeman, Baroda and Bolarum. During this time he took periods of leave out of India in 1901, 1904/5 and 1906; these were of the order of eight months each time and were arranged to avoid the summer period in India. On 5 December 1908 a son, Reginald William Boteler, was born. As often occurs with parents from a large family, he was the first and only child. Two months later the Burtons returned to England with the heir for another period of eight months leave.

On 15 June 1914 Reginald completed his tour as Commandant of the 94th and was placed on the Unemployed List, with permission to live in England. Apart from his dedication to soldiering, his major interests in India had been both sporting and literary: he was, like his father, a keen and constant big-game hunter who had killed many bear, tigers, leopards, panthers, jaguars, bison, deer and even crocodiles, not to mention the lesser beasts. He was a leading authority on the big cats. However, he stuck to a strict code of conduct with respect to wounded tigers and other big cats, which were invariably aggressive and dangerous. A wounded animal could not be left in the jungle. His view was that a sportsman who was not ready to encounter the necessary danger incurred in following up wounded tigers on foot should not go tiger-shooting, and that beaters should not be put in after such animals. Hunters, even those with the necessary nerve to follow up a wounded animal did not win all such encounters. In 1904 Reginald was severely mauled in a gory encounter with a wounded panther, barely escaping with his life. Typically, when describing the incident in *Sport and Wild Life in the Deccan*²³, he referred to it as "unpleasant". He was not the only member of the family to be so attacked, since he wrote in the same book how his brother, Colonel Richard Watkins Burton, had been seized by the head by a bear and had his jaw broken, one eye nearly gouged out and his leg bitten. However, he was not merely a hunter: he was deeply interested in Natural History, particularly ornithology and entomology, and had been a corresponding member of the Bombay Natural History society, contributing articles for their journals. He wrote his first book, *Tropics and Snows*, as a captain in 1898. It covered his travels and hunting exploits in Jamaica, India, Russia and Norway, and was illustrated by his



2/Lt, 1st West India Regt, 1886



2/Lt, 1st Regt Hyderabad Contingent, 1890



Russian Language Training, Moscow, 1893



Lt, 1st Regt Hyderabad Contingent, 1896

Reginald George Burton



Eliza (Elsie) Mary Burton nee Lumb and Reginald William Boteler Burton



Fiancee, 1900



1914

With son Reginald, aged 6, 1914



In March 1918 Colonel Reginald Burton, having been invalided from Gallipoli, went back to India as Commandant of the Cadet College at Wellington in his existing rank. This was a matter of great disappointment to him, since he had sought a promotion to brigadier general, despite his somewhat shaky state of health. The picture to the left shows him in colonel's uniform. The medal is that awarded to those participating in the King's Durbar at Delhi in December 1911, which he was surprised to be awarded. Note the monocle, which he wore in uniform, though he wisely wore spectacles for tiger-hunting. In August 1918 he was appointed to be General Officer Commanding the Defended Port of Madras, in the rank of brigadier general, as shown to the right. The appointment was short, since the war ended in November and Brigadier General Burton retired on medical grounds in 1920 after 37 years' service.

artist sister Clare Burton. His other main love was Military History; in addition to the previously mentioned work on Napoleon in Russia, he had published *The History of the Hyderabad Contingent, Wellington's Campaigns in India, Revolt in Central India, Napoleon's Campaigns in Italy* and *From Boulogne to Austerlitz*²⁴. He had acted as examiner in Military History for the Staff College examinations in India. He was, therefore, an accomplished writer.

On 1 August 1914 Reginald volunteered for service at the War Office and the India Office but there were no offers. He and Elsie returned to Cheltenham and went into rooms in Royal Well Terrace. In October the War Office ordered him to join HQ 13 Division at Tidworth as Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General in the rank of colonel. Reginald found that the available guns had no sights: before the war all the sights had been made in Germany and were no longer available. The same was true of much of the communications equipment. A frustrated Reginald wrote in his diary "There is no sign that any responsible person in this country has yet grasped the magnitude of events, or risen to the greatness of the occasion. We have not raised sufficient troops, only universal training will meet the case. Politicians should be deposed and the country divided up into military areas under military officers, who should have the power to organise, equip and train all in their areas."

13 Division moved to Aldershot in February 1915 and in April the British Government decided to mount a joint Army and Navy expedition to force the Dardanelles. On 25 and 26 April a large force of British, Australian, New Zealand and Indian troops was landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula, to find a hostile terrain and ferocious opposition²⁵. By June Colonel Burton was with the Divisional HQ at Cape Helles and took part in August 1915 in the last big battle of the campaign to capture and retain Hill 305 in the Sari Bair ridge. He wrote of "the many thousands of these gallant men killed on the heights of Sari Bair, whose bodies I saw filling the sides of the hills and ravines of those sinister mountains"²⁶. Colonel Burton was invalided from Gallipoli in November 1915, suffering from earache and discharge from the right ear and was certified unfit for service on the Peninsula. He left on the hospital ship *Nevasa*. He was Mentioned in Despatches for "Gallant and Distinguished Service in the Field", his certificate being signed by Winston S Churchill, the Secretary of State for War²⁷. After a series of medical boards and hospital stays, during which he went stone deaf and suffered a paralysis of the face, he was removed from the Active List.

On his return to England, Reginald was admitted to Millbank Hospital for two weeks and then sent on leave. He was offered a post as Military Attache to the Russian Army in Persia and accepted it, but the War Office decided his medical condition was not up to campaigning. In December 1916 the Burtons returned to Cheltenham to set up a new home. Hambrook House and The Hermitage had been sold. They moved into rented accommodation in the shape of Abbotsford, at the start of the Old Bath Road, on the left before the junction with Sandford Mill Road, which Reginald described as "a small house". He was offered a post at Cheltenham College to teach Russian, which he took up, and diversified into teaching French, English, History and Literature. However, this lasted only six weeks, since the Government of India asked for his services. Although still unfit and suffering from crippling rheumatism in his leg, Reginald was bored by inaction and set off back to India on 28 March. Elsie remained at Abbotsford, since their son Reginald William Boteler was to start at Cheltenham College in January 1918. Reginald's new appointment was as Commandant of the Cadet College at Wellington, in the rank of colonel, a fact which disappointed him greatly, since he had asked for a brigadier general's appointment. The College trained English boys for commissions in the Indian Army. Reginald found the scenery sublime and the work interesting but he was already becoming strangely homesick "for the enchanting fells of the Lake District or the beautiful villages of the Cotswolds ... the restless soul will find calm and peace only in the homeland when the spirit of adventure has departed".

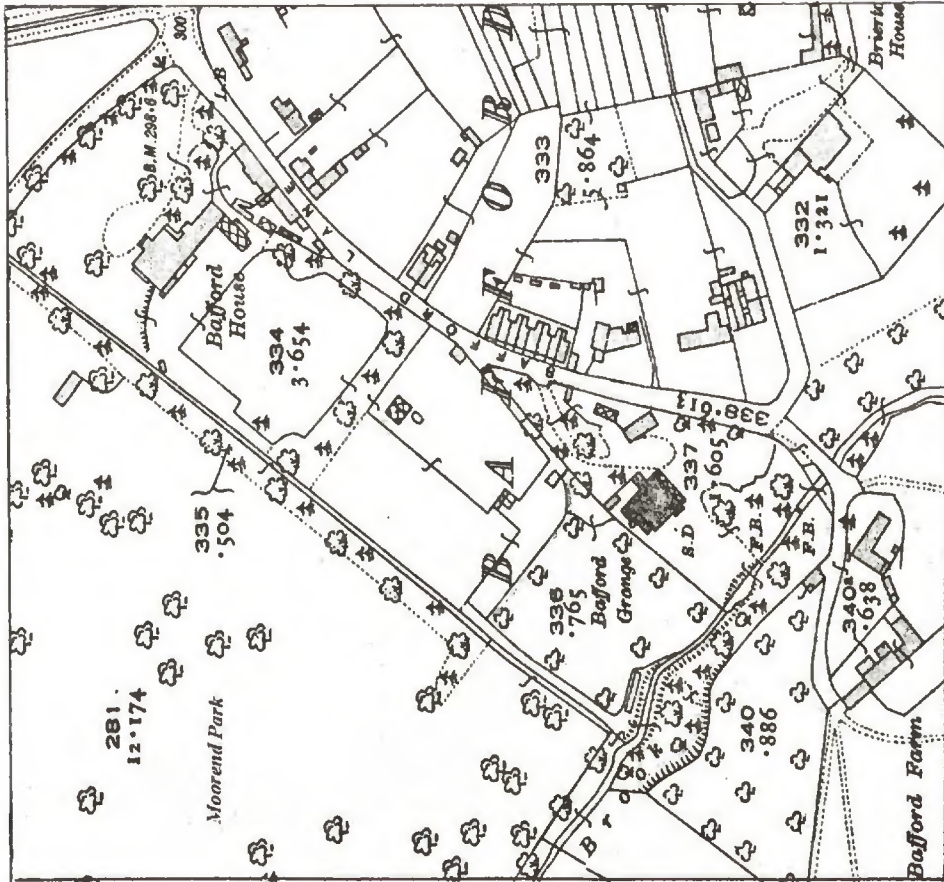
In August 1918 Reginald was appointed to be General Officer Commanding the Defended Port of Madras, in the rank of brigadier general. It was lower pay than Wellington, and a hotter climate, but he was pleased to receive the rank. The appointment was short, however, since the war ended a few months later and Madras ceased to require defence. Reginald, who for many years had been highly critical of the professional standards of the careerist senior officers at Army HQ, was appalled by those who remained at Simla during the war, collecting honours which might have gone to more deserving men. He vowed he would not put his son into such a Service and decided he would retire at the end of the war. His health, and that of Elsie's, had suffered greatly from frequent bouts of malarial and enteric fever and he found sub-tropical heat difficult to bear. The last straw was the death in Basra of his brother, Robert, who had served with him in the same regiment²⁸. It was a sad end to the career of a highly dedicated officer.

Reginald Burton retired on medical grounds in 1920, after thirty seven years service. His military career in India and during the first World War had been a successful one, certainly no less than his father, though at first sight it might not seem so. By the time Reginald retired, the system of automatic promotion on the inactive list, which his father had enjoyed, had been abolished and he was not to advance in rank. He landed at Plymouth on 2 April 1919, thirty four years to the day since he first left for the West Indies. The Burtons lived at Abbotsford until purchasing Bafford Grange, off the Cirencester Road. They announced their removal to their new home on 20 December 1919²⁹. Bafford Grange was an old house, built c1710 and originally known as Bafford Cottage³⁰. In his 1928 book on *Wild Life in the Deccan* Reginald, then sixty four years old, wrote an epilogue entitled *Wild Life in a Cotswold Garden*. It was introduced by a rather melancholy quotation from a poem by George Crabbe:

"But when returned the youth? The youth no more
Returned exulting to his native shore
But in his place there came a worn-out man"

Reginald wrote that he could see at the end of his Cotswold garden a patch of bamboo which he imagined might well afford good cover for a tiger or a leopard. In the hall and library of Bafford Grange there were skins and heads, as well as the old rifle that had been his companion for so many years. He still had the old stained maps which he had intended to hang upon the wall, but they lay on a shelf. The days that were no more would arise with such poignant memories that he thought them better hidden away.

However, he loved his new home. The garden comprised four acres of flower garden, rock garden, orchard and arable land, well wooded with a variety of trees and shrubs, and with the Lilley Brook flowing through 150 yards of its length. It adjoined Moorend Park and was situated at the foot of a spur of the Cotswold Hills. It contained all that was favourable for bird and insect life and was visited by foxes, badgers, squirrels, otters and rabbits. But there was to be no more shooting: Reginald gave up shooting in 1927, from what he described as "a growing distaste for taking life". Strangely, however, his publications on Military History were written before he retired and those on big game hunting afterwards. The 1928 book was followed by *A Book of Maneaters* (1931), *The Book of the Tiger* (1933), and *The Tiger Hunters* (1936). Possibly the writing of his books brought home to him just how many hundreds of fine animals he had hunted and killed; and the effect of the butchery he had witnessed at Gallipoli, which was quite unlike anything he had seen in his soldiering in India, must also have been a factor. It might equally have been that taking on a rabbit was no great thrill to a tiger man. Instead he concentrated on bird watching, and collecting English butterflies and moths which filled cabinets inside the Grange. It is noticeable that in this last chapter he talks for the first time of "we", though he never mentions his wife by name.



Above, Bafford Grange as it was in 1923, when it had some four acres of land, including a stretch of the Lilleybrook. Reginald Burton bought the property in 1919. After his death in 1951 the house was divided into two flats and much of the land sold off for development. Right, two views of the fine house in 2003, after its reunification. The house is based on a cottage built in 1710. The Victorian glass and wrought iron porch along the front is in the early stages of its restoration.



Above, Brigadier General Reginald Burton presents a commanding military figure on the occasion of the visit of the Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery to Charlton Kings on 10 March 1923, when he presented honours for services rendered to members of the Vassar-Smith Habitation of the Primrose League. Brigadier Burton, a natural Conservative, rose to be its Deputy Ruling Counsellor. Below left, Reginald William Boteler Burton, the Brigadier's only child, on the occasion of his marriage in Beccles to Miss Hester Wood-Hill in August 1937. Reginald Burton Junior had a distinguished academic career, retiring in 1976 as Vice-Provost of Oriel College, Oxford. Below right, an oil painting by Clara Georgiana Burton of a woman in a diaphanous dress. She painted under the professional name of Clare Burton and exhibited widely. [Picture courtesy of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museums]



In his retirement at Bafford Grange, Reginald Burton played a part in the activities of the local community. He was a natural Conservative: in his 1928 book he described the activities of a group of Langur monkeys and commented "I called them 'the Labour Party', by reason of their idleness and irresponsible chatter". He joined the Vassar-Smith Habitation of the Primrose League and he and his wife were prominent at its social gatherings. By 1928 he had become a Knight and its Deputy Ruling Counsellor. In 1920 he became a Member of the Board of Management of the Cheltenham General Hospital, rising to become its Vice-chairman before retiring in 1929. In 1922 he became a Manager of the Charlton Kings Council Schools, a post he held until 1947. He inaugurated annual Empire Day Sports and instituted school prizes. On 27 January 1926 he made a stirring speech to the pupils on the occasion of the presentation of a Union Flag by Lady Dixon-Hartland. He was also Chairman of the Scouts and visited their sports and camps on many occasions. His interest in young people reflected his concern that the rising generation should have the same values and virtues as his own, and his fear that they would not. As a member of the Royal Society of St George, he wrote to local newspapers every year on 23 April, England's Day. He firmly believed, on what he saw as good evidence in his time, that the English were a superior nation, and had little time for the Scots, Irish and Welsh, let alone other European nations. On 26 June 1943 he rejoiced when *The Times* referred to "The King of England" in a leading article. He did, however, admire the Indian peasants and "their long-suffering, their devotion to their duties, their kindness and their gentleness. Their whole nature is in general far more loveable than that of Western peoples".

He became Chairman of the Cheltenham and District Middle Classes Union and subsequently enrolled as a special constable at the time of the General Strike, receiving a certificate of thanks from Stanley Baldwin at its close. He remained on the roll and in 1936 was awarded the Special Constabulary Long Service Medal. He played a leading part in the establishment in 1923 of the Charlton Kings Infant Welfare Centre, where any mother could obtain minor advice as a preventative to more serious illness. Reginald's own doctor, Arthur Barret Cardew of Keynsham Lawn, a former Army doctor with a Military Cross, took on the role of the medical officer. The Welfare Centre was a great success and survived for over sixty years before being taken over by the Health Authority in 1986³¹. He supported St Mary's Church and was instrumental in the reconditioning of the old Vestry Hall, which had fallen almost to ruin³². Reginald wrote "it had been proposed to build a new hall in Cirencester Road. This seemed to me, a Church member born in Charlton Kings and a church-goer in infancy from 1873, to be a pity, the old Hall being the property of the Church and its character being in close resemblance. I was elected to be a Member of the Church Council to put forward this project ... There was in the old Hall a rather dilapidated canvas oil painting of the Royal Arms, dating from 1661 ... this was restored at a cost of £10, defrayed by Mrs Butler".

Brigadier General Reginald Burton enjoyed his life, despite its turbulence and painful experiences. He ended his 1928 book by writing "so most of us forget the evil times through which we have passed and only the glamour remains. Thus filtered by the sands of time, the pleasant waters run clear into the well of the memory". He was taken ill in 1949 and died of cardiovascular degeneration at Bafford Grange two years later, on 2 February 1951, aged 86. His son was with him when he died. A funeral service was held in St Mary's church, Charlton Kings, on 7 February and was followed by a private cremation. His widow Elsie asked for no mourning or flowers³³. In his will, made six months previously, he made three bequests: to his son Reginald William Boteler £1000, to his gardener, Joseph James Cox, £400, and to his doctor, Arthur Barrett Cardew, £50. The residue of his property was left to his wife. He did not die a wealthy man, the net value of the estate being £7453.13.8³⁴. After his death his widow divided Bafford Grange into two flats, in one of which she remained until her death in 1954. Much of the surrounding land was sold off for development, though Bafford Grange, now 34 Bafford Lane, remains a charming house in an attractive setting.

There is a Burton Family vault in Cheltenham Cemetery, to the left front as one faces the chapel, in an area in which the Indian Army is well represented. Not all the family is commemorated there, but the absence of Brigadier General Reginald George Burton is surprising. We cannot know whether he or his widow found the Victorian memorial to the family and to the Indian Army, built sixty three years previously, no longer to their taste. However, it seems unlikely that it was not a conscious decision and maybe an acknowledgement of the personal, political and cultural changes which had occurred over the those years.

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- ²Field Marshal Earl Roberts of Kandahar, *Forty One Years in India*, London, 1908, p1
- ³Ibid
- ⁴British Library, India Office Collection, Indian Army Lists/Governor General's Order 876/1877
- ⁵1881 Census
- ⁶Ibid
- ⁷Cheltenham College Registers/King William's College Isle of Man Registers 1833-1904 and 1833-1927
- ⁸Gresham Publishing Co.*Book of the Home*, London,1904, Volume IV Careers
- ⁹Burke's *Peerage and Baronetage*, 1858
- ¹⁰The Times, Obituary 26 May 1902
- ¹¹Cheltenham Chronicle
- ¹²Cheltenham Chronicle 9 Sep 1893
- ¹³The Times 30 August 1893
- ¹⁴1901 Census
- ¹⁵Will Probate granted 20 Jun 1902
- ¹⁶*History of Charlton Kings* ed M Paget. Charlton Kings Local History Society 1988, p192
- ¹⁷King William's College Register, 1833-1904
- ¹⁸1881 Census
- ¹⁹Field Marshall Earl Roberts of Kandahar,*Forty One Years in India*, London,1908, p271
- ²⁰British Library, India Collection, Indian Army Lists
- ²¹Capt R G Burton, *Tropics and Snows*, 1898
- ²²See also Field Marshall Robert's *Forty One Years in India*, p269; he had an equal dislike of life at Simla
- ²³Brig Gen R G Burton, *Sport and Wild Life in the Deccan*, Seeley, Service & Co, London, 1928
- ²⁴Publications listed in *Who Was Who*, 1951-60
- ²⁵John Keegan, *The First World War*, 2001, p234; Corelli Barnett, *The Great War*, 2003, pp70 et seq
- ²⁶Burton's critical account of the Battle of Sari Bair was published in the National Review of 7 Sep 1928 under the pseudonym of 'Hellespont'. He wished to avoid controversy.
- ²⁷London Gazette, 22 Sep 1917
- ²⁸Sacker and Devereux, *Leaving All That Was Dear*, 1997, p79
- ²⁹Cheltenham Looker On, 20 Dec 1919
- ³⁰*History of Charlton Kings*, ed M Paget. Charlton Kings Local History Society, 1988, pp72,73
- ³¹Ibid p183
- ³²Ibid p129
- ³³Gloucestershire Echo 3 Feb 1951, death notice 4 Feb 1951
- ³⁴Will of 29 Aug 1950, Probate 3 Apr 1951

The personal views and experiences of Brigadier General Burton and some of the family information in this article are drawn from the memoirs he wrote after retirement. Based on his detailed diaries, which are not themselves available, these are hand-written, amount to some fourteen hundred pages and are bound in four volumes. They are held privately by his granddaughter and are not open to public scrutiny. For brevity, these have not been annotated individually.

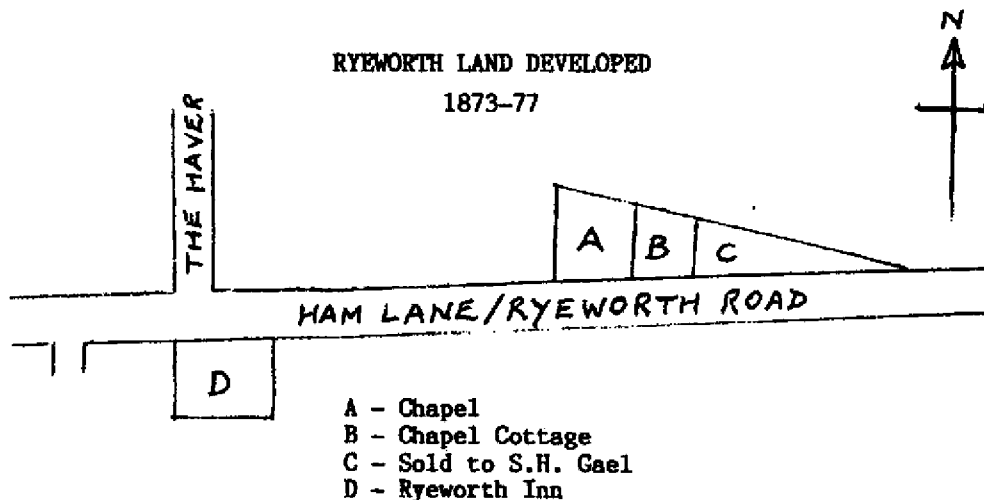
THE CHAPEL AND CHAPEL COTTAGE, RYEWORTH ROAD

by C P LOVE

The owner of Chapel Cottage, Mr W Clifford, has kindly allowed me to see the deeds of his property and make some notes from them for our records. There are three documents, two on parchment, which reveal interesting information about the site on which the former Chapel and the Cottage now stand (see plan), as well as touching on some of the people associated with it, both owners and tenants.

In the early summer of 1873, three cottages stood on the triangular piece of land shown, in the 'respective occupations' (as tenants) of Mr Perks, Mr Russell and Mr Stephens, the frontage of the whole site on the Ham (Ryeworth) Road being 163 ft. Whoever drew up the conveyance in question twice confused east and west, but the land on the west of the site was owned by Benjamin Caudle, that on the north and north-east being owned respectively by Mr Samuel Higgs Gael and Mr John Jones, though it would appear that Gael had only recently acquired his holding from Caudle (see below). The owner of the three cottages and their gardens was Joseph Chalke, of Victoria Street, Cheltenham, but on the 12th June 1873 he sold them to Benjamin Bubb, builder, for a 'valuable consideration', though the amount is not given, as the conveyance is only a recording title. Bubb pulled down the cottages, which were presumably of considerable age, but one wonders what happened to their three occupants, who were abruptly forced to find alternative accomodation through no fault of their own. (The 'Ryeworth clearances'?)

MAP



By an indenture made on 12th September 1873 between Benjamin Bubb, the Trustees (see below) and Richard William Burnett, of the third part, the western end of the land on which the cottages had stood was sold. The Trustees were those of what was to be the Primitive Methodist Chapel, their names being: George Musgrove, John Mustoe, William Mills Telling, Jeremiah Stringer, Thomas Frederick Webley, Eli Lodge, John Morris and Joseph Sims. There is no further mention of R W Burnett, who may have been standing surety for the Trustees. Again, the price paid is not given, but the land 'situate and being in Ryeworth Field in the parish of Charlton Kings' had a frontage of 40ft on the road, was also 40ft wide on the north, and ran back 41ft on the west and 34ft on the east, all measurements being qualified as 'or thereabouts'. The land on the north is noted as being owned now 'or late' by Caudle and John Jones. Bubb retained the land east of the Trustees' plot, but on 25th September he sold to Samuel Higgs Gael Esquire the triangular eastern part of the land on which the cottages had stood. The price is not given but the frontage on Ham Lane was 99ft 6in; it ran back 26ft 6in on the west and the remaining side, which was 96ft 6in, bordered land already owned by Gael and thus gave him access to the road.¹ However, the total frontage of the land on which the three cottages and their gardens had stood had now grown by 6ft, if one adds the three together, so that either the original measurement was very much 'thereabouts' or Gael's newly-acquired plot was shorter than he thought, which seems unlikely.

Bubb did nothing with the plot he had retained for four years: he must have been busy and one wonders if he had been employed to build the Chapel. [Eric Armitage's index of newspaper cuttings provides the information that Bubb had indeed built the chapel at a cost of £400. It was opened on 15 May 1875. - Ed] The Indenture providing these details is dated 29th September 1877 and it notes that he had 'recently erected' on the site a brick-built cottage [Chapel Cottage], which he offered for sale by Public Auction by Messieurs Villar and Sons at the London Inn, Charlton Kings on 15th September 1877. George Bark made the highest bid and for £115 'in hand' became the new owner of 'the said piece of land Cottage and premises ... with all roads ways hedges ditches rights of lights sewers drains Members easements (?) and appurtenances ... appertaining.' The cottage was freehold; its frontage was 29ft 6in, the boundary with the chapel was 34ft and the boundary on the east, joining the land S H Gael had bought in 1873, was now 27ft 3in. The land which the plot bordered on the north had now passed from John Jones to David Newberry.

This document has forty eight and half lines, each 25in long, and the last twelve are devoted to making absolutely sure that Benjamin Bubb or his heirs etc had no further claim to the property, so that George Bark and his heirs and assigns might 'hereafter peaceably and quietly posses and enjoy the said hereditaments and appurtenances', which one hopes they did.

However, just over ten years later the property was up for sale again, as an indenture of 23rd May 1888 shows. This was made between William Bush of Charlton Kings, builder, and the Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Permanent Mutual Benefit Society: Bush was a member of the Society, having subscribed for two and a half shares (Nos 32394), thus being entitled to receive from the Society £125, the value of his shares, for sixteen years from 6th June 1888, to be repaid at 7/5d (37p) per share 'upon the condition that the sd Mtgor should give & make such security on the sd heres & pres as was therein contd,' i.e. the Chapel Cottage land and premises. The Cottage had lately been occupied by Stephen Brown, as tenant, but at the time of the indenture the tenant was Mr Lamer. A 'Proviso & Declaration' warned that if 'the sd Mtgor his hrs exs ads or assigns' failed to make the agreed payments for three calendar months or meet the other requirements laid down by the Society, then the property could legally be put up for public auction or sold by private contract, without the consent of 'the sd Mtgor'.

The third of these deeds, dated 23rd May 1894, is a parchment Conveyance of Chapel Cottage by the Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Permanent Mutual Benefit Society to Mr Charles Horwood, a retired Fish Dealer, who lived in the London Road, Charlton Kings. It restates the conditions to which William Bush had agreed and notes that he 'under and by virtue of various other documents further mortgaged and charged the said hereditaments and premises (with other premises) to secure large amounts to the said Society.' the Society was now owed a sum 'far exceeding the amount of purchase money hereinafter mentioned' and Bush had failed to pay the monthly instalments due 'for three calendar months and upwards.' Accordingly, the society had foreclosed and Charles Harwood acquired Chapel Cottage for £98, apparently with vacant possession, for it was noted as 'formerly in occupation of Mr Lamer as Tenant.'

Apart from their interest to the owner of Chapel Cottage itself, these documents also throw light on the origins of the Chapel, which opened in the spring of 1875², well within two years from the sale of the three cottages and their gardens, and they establish the date when the site was acquired by the Primitive Methodists³ as 1873. [An article on p5 of *Bulletin 31* implies that an earlier chapel had been on the site of the Primitive Methodist Chapel, but it seems we must look elsewhere for the site of this earlier chapel - Ed]

The deeds tell us no more, but in 1918 tragedy struck the occupants of Chapel Cottage. On 26th April that year, 39697 Pte Charles Ernest Sidney Fry of the 1st Bn Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) was killed in action, aged 18, during the desperate fighting to contain the German breakthrough in Belgium. His address was Chapel House (sic), Ryeworth Road, and he was the third son of Thomas and Julia Hannah Fry. Like scores of thousands of others, he has no known grave, but is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing (some 8km north east of Ypres). His memorial plaque (the 'Dead Man's Penny') was also placed on the grave of his father, who had been a Regular soldier, in Charlton Kings Cemetery. Six other men from Ryeworth also lost their lives in the Great War⁴.

The Fry Headstone in Charlton Kings Cemetery



Mr Clifford, of Chapel Cottage, remembers Mrs Fry and another of her sons, the brother of Private Fry. He was known as "Professor Boffey" and had a Punch and Judy show. He used to go round the local villages with it in his small van, which he kept at the end of Hambrook Street. Brenda Love also remembers "Professor Boffey" performing in Montpelier.

Footnotes:

- 1 Samuel Higgs Gael owned Ryeworth Farm and a good deal of land in various places. See *Bulletin 47* p31.
- 2 *A History of Charlton Kings*, ed Mary Paget (1988) p139.
- 3 *ibid*
- 4 *Leaving All That Was Dear, Cheltenham and the Great War*, Joseph Devereux & Graham Sacker, Promenade Publications (1997) p204.

[Being unfamiliar with the term 'Dead Man's Penny' I asked Pat Love to expand on this term for us - Ed]

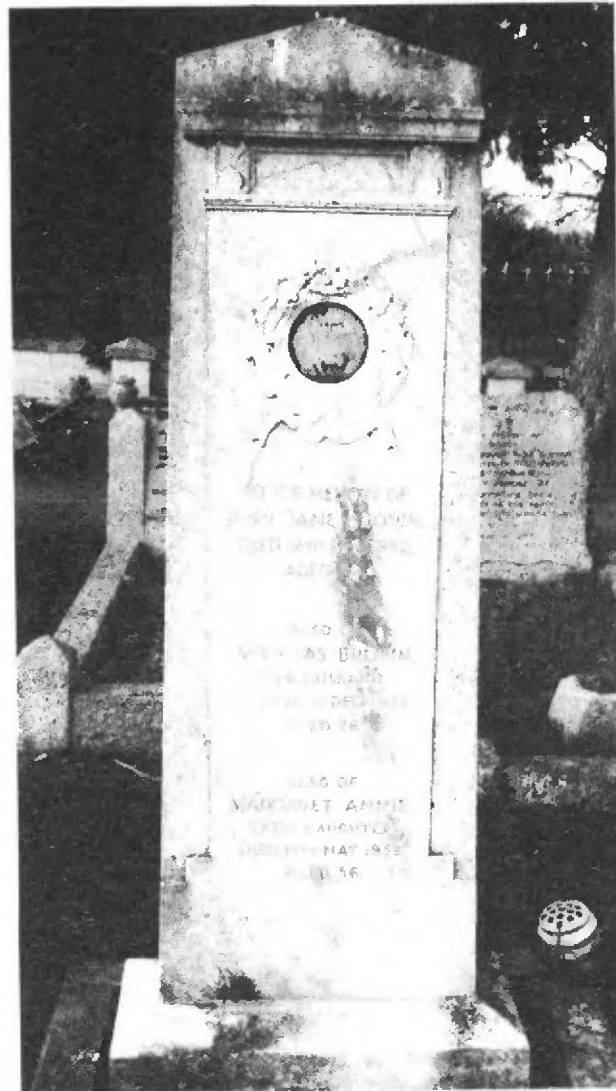
DEAD MAN'S PENNY

This bronze memorial plaque was sent to the next-of-kin of all service personnel who lost their lives in the Great War, together with a commemorative scroll. Distribution began in 1919 and 1,150,000 of each were distributed, accompanied by a letter from King George V which read "I join my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War. George R I". The plaque is 4 inches in diameter and the obverse shows Britannia standing with her left arm extended over a tablet, on which is the name of the dead man, or woman, in relief. In front of Britannia is a lion described as 'striding forward in a menacing attitude' and round much of the edge are the words 'HE (or SHE) DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR'. The reverse shows a lion slaying an eagle, symbolic of the Central Powers. It was designed by E Carter Preston, who had won the competition opened by the Government in August 1917, as well as the first prize of £250, then a considerable sum. (He later designed the DFC, DFM, AFC, the General Service Medal 1918-62, the 1939-45 War Medal and the Korea Medal.) The wording on the scroll was suggested by Dr Montague Rhodes James, Provost of King's College, Cambridge, after he had been approached by the committee concerned.

It was not uncommon for the plaque to be fitted to a family headstone and there is at least one other in Charlton Kings Cemetery, which, in this case, appears to have dictated the design of the stone itself. It commemorates 12300 Pte William Mathias Brown, 8th Bn the Gloucestershire Regiment, whose parents lived in Gladstone Road. He was killed on the Ancre Heights, north of Albert, on 25th October 1916, aged 28. Like Pte Fry, he has not known grave, but is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, not far from where he would have fallen. (See J Devereux and G Sacker, *op.cit.*)

[I am grateful to Tony Sale who took the photographs showing the Brown headstone and the 'Dead Man's Penny' - Ed.]

The Brown Family Headstone and Close-up of the 'Dead Man's Penny'



EVICTED TENANTS

by Mary Southerton

In the above article on Ryeworth Chapel and Chapel Cottage, Pat Love wonders what happened to the tenants living in the three cottages which were demolished prior to the chapel and cottage being built. He gives their names as Perks, Russell and Stephens. In the 1871 census these three tenants were shown in the following order from the London Road end of Ryeworth Road:

Russell	Elizabeth, widow 79, laundress, born in Painswick		
Stephens	William	47	labourer, born C.K.
	Mary	47	born C.K.
	David	13	"
	George	11	"
	James	9	"
	John	7	"
	Albert	4	"
	Francis	1	"
Perks	Henry	37	labourer, born Cheltenham
	Elizabeth	34	born C.K.

I hoped a search through the 1881 census would reveal what had happened to these families. It seems that Elizabeth Russell and the Perks family moved away from Charlton Kings, as I could find no trace of them. The earlier census of 1851 showed Elizabeth Russell at Nelmes Row, a laundress, already widowed with two daughters living with her - Elizabeth aged 17 and Emma 14. It is possible that she moved in with one of them.

The search for the Stephens family proved more successful. In 1861 they were at the same address as in 1871 with two older children - William aged 10 and Alice aged 6, both of whom must have been away from home in 1871. The 1881 census shows that Mary is now a widow and is living at 2 Ham Square with David, now a farm labourer, George a gardener, John an excavator?, Albert an under-carter and Francis still at school. The 1891 census shows Mary living at 7 Clifton Place, in Ryeworth, with her youngest son Francis, now aged 20 and listed as a labourer. Next door to her, at 6 Clifton Place, was George, aged 31, a builder's labourer. He is recorded as married but no one else was at home on the day of the census. Further down the road at 4 Westmon Cottages is David, also a builder's labourer, with his wife Mary Ann. They do not appear to have any children, unless the two Stephens girls, Mary Kate Elizabeth aged 15 and Annie Beatrice aged 10, who are living with their grandparents Mr and Mrs Coombe, are their daughters. Westmon Cottages are very small. James Stephens is not far away, somewhere in Ham Lane, but no actual address given. He is a gardener, aged 28 with a wife Margaret, who had been born in Scotland. Their children are William aged 4, John 2 and David 7 months. We know that another son James was born in 1893, so they certainly kept the family Christian names going.

So after the original cottages were demolished in 1873, no trace has been found of Elizabeth Russell or Henry and Elizabeth Perks. But several members of the Stephens family stayed in the Ryeworth or Ham area. It is interesting to note that two of Mary's sons were builder's labourers, I wonder if they worked for Benjamin Bubb, the builder, who had been the cause of them having to move out of the home they had lived in 1861 and 1871.

A COUNTRY HOUSE SALE

by Jane Sale

In the autumn of 1994 Sotheby's held a four day sale of the contents of Stokesay Court, a large Victorian house near Ludlow in Shropshire. The house had been built by John Derby Allcroft, a wealthy glove manufacturer whose father had been in partnership with the Dent family of Worcester. We would not expect this sale to be of much interest to us as members of the Charlton Kings Local History Society, but in fact the opposite has been the case due to the link between the Allcrofts and the Russell family of Charlton Park.

Sir William Russell, 2nd Baronet, who inherited the Charlton Park estate through his mother's side of the family in 1839, had a daughter Margaret Jane, known as Cissy, born 31st August 1867. It was she who married Herbert John Allcroft, the heir to Stokesay Court, in 1900 and thus formed the link between the two families. Herbert died in 1911 at a relatively young age, leaving Cissy as 'chatelaine' of Stokesay until her death in 1946. A vigorous and energetic character she directed the estate, catalogued its contents and added many Russell family heirlooms to the Allcroft chattels.

Thus we find that the sale included portraits of members of the Russell family, together with silver items, ceremonial military accoutrements, medals, coins and guns which had belonged to them - material that adds greatly to our knowledge and understanding of this important Charlton family.

I am indebted firstly to Antony Davies, who alerted me to this sale and sent me the coloured photo-copies, and secondly to Sotheby's for allowing me to reproduce parts of their three volume catalogue to the sale, in particular to Pippa Cairns at their Cheltenham office for all her help.

Portraits and Miniatures:

Lot 506 - a pair of portraits in oil on canvas, painted in 1827 by John Lucas¹, of Cissie's grandparents Sir William Russell 1st Bt and Lady Jane Eliza Russell née Sherwood. The baronetcy was conferred on William Russell in 1832 for services in the London cholera epidemic of the previous year. Before his retirement in 1831, Dr William Russell had been working with the Indian Medical Service in Calcutta, where his six children were born, and where these portraits were presumably painted. After Sir William's death in 1839 his son, Sir William 2nd Bt., inherited Charlton Park and his widow took the title Lady Prinn. See p30.

Lot 507 - a pencil and wash portrait of Sir William Russell 2nd Bt as a child. The work is signed and dated 'Adam Buck 1828'². See p31.

Lot 510 - a watercolour portrait of Sir William Russell 2nd Bt in military uniform, thought to have been painted about 1860. This portrait may have been commissioned to mark Sir William's appointment as an extra member (Military Division) of 2nd class Knights Commander of the Order of the Bath on 15 May 1859³. See p31.

Lot 614 - a full length portrait of Margaret Jane Allcroft, nee Russell, (Cissie) painted in oil on canvas, signed and dated 'H Riviere 1910'³. By 1910 Cissie and her husband had been married for ten years and had two children John and Jewell Allcroft. See p31.



**1776 Portrait of Doddington Hunt
by John Smart**



**1827 Portrait of Sir William Russell 1st Bart.
By John Lucas**



**1827 Portrait of Lady Jane Eliza Russell
By John Lucas**



**1828 Portrait of Sir William Russell 2nd Bart,
By Adam Buck**



**Circa 1860 portrait of Sir William Russell
2nd Bart**



**Circa 1815 Miniature portrait of Jane Eliza
Russell by M.B.B.**



**1910 portrait of Margaret Jane Allcroft by
Hugh Goldwin Riviere**

Lot 1161 - a miniature portrait of Doddington Hunt signed with initials for John Smart and dated '76'. This must be 1776 as Doddington died in 1803. He is shown with powdered hair *en queue*, wearing a turquoise coat and figured waistcoat. It was Doddington who inherited The Forden from his father-in-law William Hunt Prinn in 1784 and renamed it Charlton Park. See p30.

Lot 1165 - a miniature portrait of Dr William Russell, later Sir William, by George Chinnery⁴ about 1810.

Lots 1167, 1172 and 1173 - three miniature portraits of Jane Eliza Sherwood, later wife of Sir William Russell 1st Bt. They were painted about 1815 by an unknown artist with the initials M.B.B., perhaps at the time of her engagement to William. One shows Jane Eliza playing the harp. see p31.

Lot 1189 - a miniature portrait of Lady Russell, nee Margaret Wilson, painted about 1870. Margaret married Sir William Russell 2nd Bt in 1863 and was the mother of Cissie.

Footnotes on the artists:

¹ - John Lucas (1807-'74) is known particularly for his portraits including ones of such eminent persons as Prince Albert, the Duke of Wellington and William Gladstone.

² - Adam Buck (1759-1833) was born in Cork, the son of a silversmith. He moved to London in 1795 and specialised in small full length portraits.

³ - Hugh Goldwyn Riviere (1869-1956) was the son of Briton Riviere. See Mary Paget's *A History of Charlton Kings* p192 for more information on Briton Riviere and p49 in this bulletin.

⁴ - George Chinnery (1774-1852) exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1792 to 1846. From 1802 he was working in India including Calcutta where Dr Russell was living at this time.

Presentation Silverware:

Lot 928 - A Victorian silver salver made by Edward Barnard & Sons of London in 1854, with an engraved inscription:

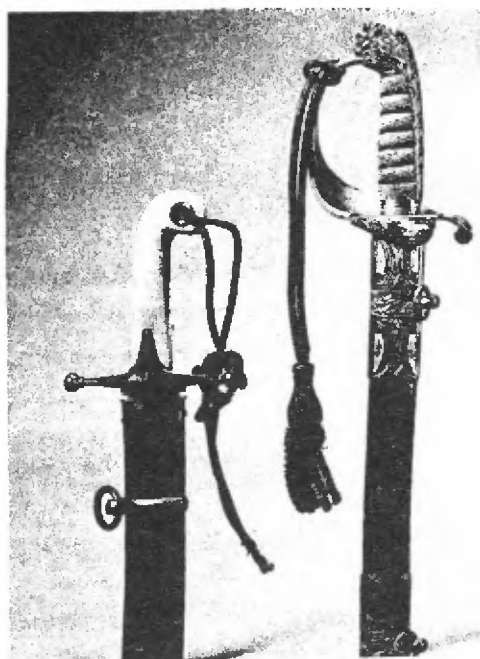
Presented to Sir William Russell Baronet by the inhabitants of Charlton Kings as a small token of the high estimation in which he is held amongst them and for the uniform kindness with which he has promoted the welfare of his poorer neighbours April 1855.

The salver was presented to Sir William prior to his departure for the Crimea.

Lot 949 - A Victorian silver presentation spade made by G W Adams for Chawner & Co of London in 1864, with the following inscription:

East Gloucestershire Railway Presented to Lady Russell on the occasion of her turning the first sod of the East Gloucestershire Railway at Charlton Kings March 31st 1865.

Engineers Charles Liddell and Edmund Richards Contractors Wythes & Co.



1230

1231

1230

A mameluke sword, belonging to Lt. General Sir William Russell, 2nd Bt.

with curved blade with false-edge decorated with foliage, crossed sword and baton and crowned VR, hilt with gilt-brass guard, ivory grips and sword knot, brass scabbard with two loose rings

Provenance:

Lt. General Sir William Russell, 2nd Bt. (1822-1892)

See footnote to lot 1221

£200-250

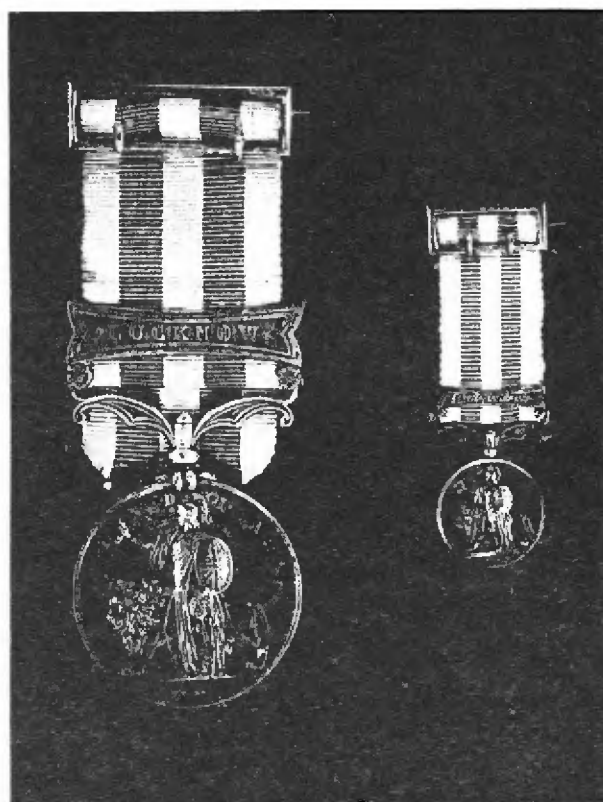
1231

A Heavy Cavalry Officer's undress sword

with slightly curved blade inscribed *PRESENTED TO SIR WM RUSSELL BART BY O DARBY GRIFFITH*, crowned VR and foliage, steel scabbard with two loose rings with its chamois leather bag

The Darby Griffith family lived at Leap Castle

£300-400



1264

1264

Campaign Medal:

Indian Mutiny, 1857-58

one clasp LUCKNOW, officially impressed *Lt. Col. Sir Wm. Russell, Bart. 7th Hussars* [with 'C.B.' subsequently added by engraving] (extremely fine), in original named card box of issue; together with a contemporary dress miniature (3)

Provenance:

Sir William Russell, 2nd Bt., saw active service in India, 1857-8 and played an energetic role in supporting the rebels £300-500

1270

Coins:

Great Britain, Edward VII, Coronation, 1902, mat proof set of 13 coins, comprising gold five-pounds two-pounds, sovereign and half-sovereign, silver crown to maundy penny (good extremely fine, in card case of issue, leather display case lacking) (13)

Provenance:

Sir William Russell, 3rd Bt. was Secretary to the Committee for the organising of the Coronation of Edward VII £800-1,000

MILITARIA

1221

A fine bell-topped shako of the 7th Hussars
bearing trade label of *Cator 56 Pall Mall*

worn by Lt. General Sir William Russell, with leather crown, body of black beaver, with broad band of gold lace around crown and on peak, front large silver bullion rosette, gold bullion boss, lion head bosses and gilt chin chain, with its original tin carrying case; together with a tin containing a plume

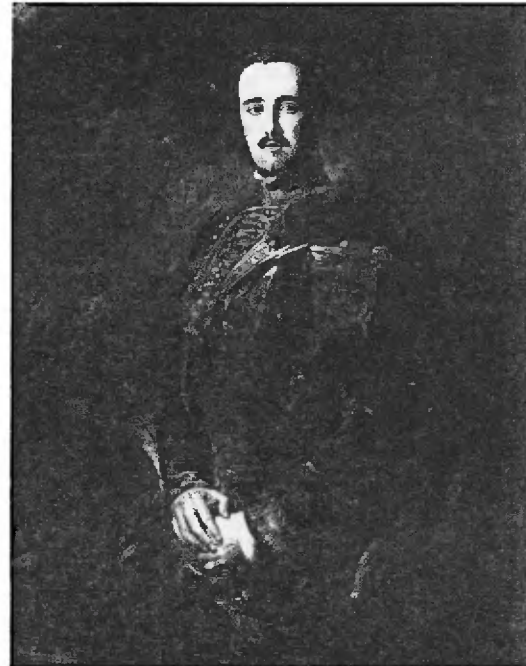
25.4cm diameter at crown; 10in; 19cm high; 7½in (2)

Provenance:

Lt. General Sir William Russell, 2nd Bt. (1822-1892)

Sir William Russell was born in Calcutta in April 1822, the only son of Sir William Russell, M.D. He commissioned a Coronet in the 7th Hussars in July 1841. He was made a Lieutenant in February 1846 and then rose rapidly through the ranks becoming Captain in April 1847 (when he was Master of The Horse (1849-50) and then Aide de Camp (1850-52), Major in August 1857 and Lieutenant Colonel of his regiment in November 1858. He was made C.B. on 11th May 1859 and received the India Medal with clasp. He was made Lieutenant General in July 1881.

The 7th Hussars saw much service during the Indian Mutiny where his regiment joined the force under Outram at the Alambagh in February 1858, and on to the Siege of Lucknow and the actions at Baree, Nawabganj, and Sultanpore. Later in that year they distinguished themselves in 'the pursuit of the enemy to Raptce'. In 1859 the regiment helped drive the rebels into Nepaul. £5,000-7,000



Lt. General Sir William Russell, 2nd Bt.

1223

An Victorian Officer's full dress sabretache of the 7th Queen's Own Hussars
bearing the trade label of *Hamburger & Co, Covent Garden*

worn by Lt. General Sir William Russell, with its cover and tin case; together with a sword belt with sword and sabretache straps (2)

Provenance:

Lt. General Sir William Russell, 2nd Bt. (1822-1892)
£800-1,000

1222

A Victorian Officer's full dress Sabretache and two dress back-pouches of the 7th Queen's Own Hussars

worn by Lt. General Sir William Russell; together with a horse boss of the 14th King's Hussars, of brass with leather backing, with tin carrying box (4)

Provenance:

Lt. General Sir William Russell, 2nd Bt. (1822-1892)
£1,000-1,200

1224

An Officer's full dress sabretache of the 7th Queen's Own Hussars

with note stating it *belonged to Sir William Russell 2nd Bt.*; together with an officer's full dress sabretache of the 14th King's Hussars with battle honours, with its leather cover, both in tin carrying-case; together with a blue jockey cap and coat also worn by Sir William (4)

Provenance:

Lt. General Sir William Russell, 2nd Bt. (1822-1892)
£1,200-1,600

1225

An Officer's busby of 14th King's Hussars

brown fur and yellow bag and its tin carrying case with note stating it was worn by Col. Sir W. Russell, 2nd Baronet

Provenance:

Lt. General Sir William Russell, 2nd Bt. (1822-1892)

As Lt. Colonel, Sir William Russell exchanged from the 7th to the 14th Hussars in 1861 £600-700



1221

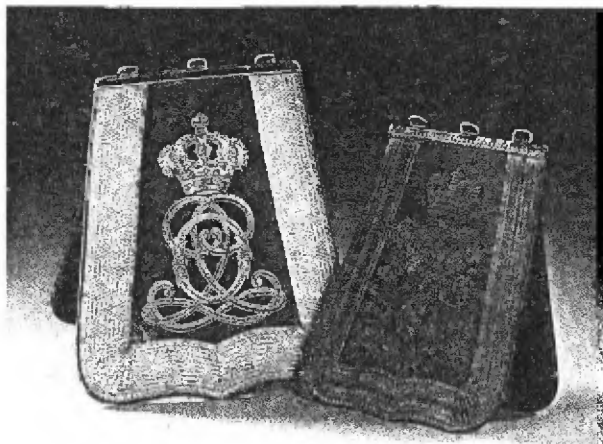
1226

A Royal Artillery shabraque, belonging to General Rotton

with edging of red and gold lace, with crowned GRV and motto *Ubique* and gun; together with a shabraque of the 7th Queen's Hussars, blue with red triangulated border, crowned monogram, owned by Lt. General Sir William Russell, 2nd Bt.

(3)

£300-500



1227

A cocked hat

with six strand bullion tassel front and back, side button with crossed sword and baton, in its original case with note stating it belonged to Sir William Russell 2nd Baronet, with red and white plume in its can (2)

Provenance:

Lt. General Sir William Russell, 2nd Bt. (1822-1892)

£300-400

1228

A scarlet tunic

the buttons with crossed sword and baton, together with a pair of brass jack spurs; a white patent leather sword belt the clasp with UNATTACHED and VR, gold bullion lanyard; and a pair of blue trousers with broad gold stripe in rectangular tin marked Major G Sir William Russell (5)

Provenance:

Lt. General Sir William Russell, 2nd Bt. (1822-1892)

£200-300

1229

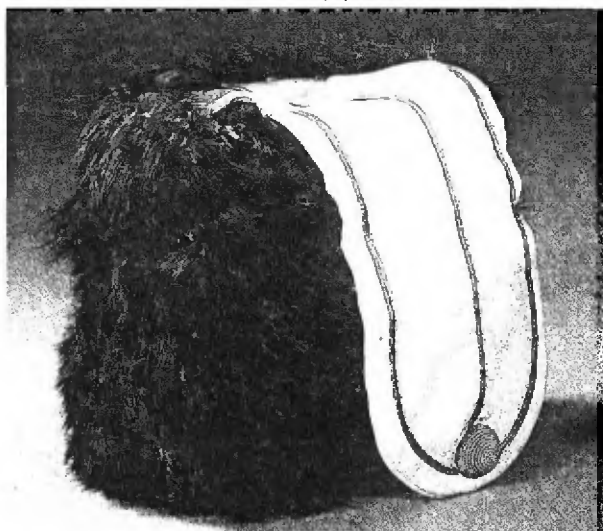
A bag containing sundry items of horse furniture, spurs and a pair of Victorian epaulettes

together with a collapsible military camp bed

Provenance:

Lt. General Sir William Russell, 2nd Bt. (1822-1892)

£150-200



1225

1246

A cased pair of percussion travelling pistols

the 14cm; 5.5in barrels of 12 bore with front sights and grooved rear sights, platinum lines and plugs, locks with engraved foliate scrolls and signed *W & I Rigby*, full stocks the butts with traps and covered by hinged bar, three compartments for paper cartridges, iron furniture, trigger guards with pineapple finials; green baize lined case containing bullet mould, small powder flask, brush, large nipple key with ebony handle, turned ivory box with spare nipples, lid with *Rigby* trade label and paper label on side signed *Sir W^m Russell 15/103*
the case 39.5 by 22 by 7cm; 15½ by 8½ by 2½in

See footnote to lot 1221

£1,000-1,500

1247

A cased double barrelled percussion sporting gun
circa 1854

the 63.5cm; 25in round side-by-side Damascus barrels with green baize lined keepers, with front sight and grooved rear sight, central rib engraved *HOLLIS 346 HIGH STREET CHELTENHAM NO 5757*, back action locks with *HOLLIS 5757* and engraved with scrolls and game, action with built-in safety catch set in bottom of small, half stock with slightly lengthened butt, wooden ramrod; case with red lining and many cork wads, ivory handled brush, powder flask lacking covering, turned wooden box for patches, metal oil bottle wad cutter, turn screw, small leather wallet containing combined nipple key and tool with small pocket for spare nipples; and a game licence for *Sir William Russell Bart* dated 1854

the case 84 by 25 by 8.5cm; 33 by 9½ by 3½in

See footnote to lot 1221

£1,500-2,000

1248

A cased percussion rifle

the 51cm; 20in octagonal watered barrel with platinum line at breech and plug, engraved on top flat *WESTLEY RICHARDS 170 NEW BOND ST LONDON* and stamped underneath with *WR GT 5510* with Birmingham proof, lock plate engraved with dead game and scrolls, sliding bolt safety catch, half stock with horn fore-end tip, chequered small, cheek rest, wooden ramrod, blued furniture and trigger guard with *5510*; brass bound case with green baize lining and containing powder flask lacking covering, quantity of cast lead balls, cylindrical wad tin, wad cutter, wooden hammer, ramrod, bullet mould, nipple key and pricker, small leather wallet inscribed *5510*, sprue cutter, leather sling and sundry small fittings; an enclosed note states that the gun was *property of Sir William Russell 2nd Bart*

the case 76 by 24 by 8.5cm; 30 by 9½ by 3½in

See footnote to lot 1221

£2,000-2,500

1249

A cased pair of percussion duelling/target pistols

the 23.5cm; 9¼in octagonal blued barrels with fixed sights, top flat engraved *HOLLIS CHELTENHAM*, gold lines and platinum plugs, lock plates engraved and signed *HOLLIS 3751*, sliding bolt safety catches, half stocked with slightly unusual semi-spur shaped upper sections, chequered butts, flattened pommels with inset oval escutcheon plates with monogram *WR*, trigger guards and belt hooks blued (one lock slightly defective); the brass bound green baize lined case containing cleaning ramrod, nipple cleaning tool, ramrod, cap dispenser, bullet mould, nipple key; lid with circular trade label for *W. HOLLIS 46 HIGH STR. CHELTENHAM*; case with folding handle and *WR* monogram

the case 49 by 24 by 7cm; 19½ by 9½ by 2½in

See footnote to lot 1221

£2,000-2,500

1250

A cased percussion rifle
circa 1854

the 75cm; 29¼in octagonal watered barrel with 10 groove rifling, the top flat engraved *HOLLIS No. 346 HIGH STREET CHELTENHAM No. 3719*, silver front sight and three leaf rear sight, the lockplate engraved with foliate scrolls and engraved *HOLLIS 3719*, half stocked with chequered small the lengthened butt with trap with hinged lid engraved with hound and boar, trigger guard with scroll, butt plate engraved en suite with lock, wooden ramrod; case lined with green baize and containing metal oil bottle, two bullet moulds, combined hammer and ramrod, brush, powder flask lacking covering, wad cutter, cap dispenser and various fittings for ramrod

the case 85 by 25.5 by 7.5cm; 33½in by 10 by 3in

See footnote to lot 1221

£2,000-2,500

1251

A cased percussion pepperbox revolver

the 9cm; 3½in barrel block with six chambers with small engraving around the nipples, butt with action heavily engraved with scrolls and *W^m & In Rigby Dublin*, the fittings blued but slightly worn, chequered wooden scales, top hammer with sliding safety bolt, barrel block detachable by pressing two side-mounted catches, in green baize lined case containing bullet mould, japanned tin, combined hammer and ramrod, three way powder flask by *Dixon & Sons* the base section for caps and top for balls, circular plate with six loading containers, the lid with trade label for *W^m & In Rigby Gunmakers 24 Suffolk Street Dublin*

the case 26 by 16 by 6.5cm; 10½ by 6½ by 2½in

See footnote to lot 1221

£1,500-2,000

Footnote on William Hollis - Cheltenham Gunmaker

Carolyn Greet kindly reminded me of an article entitled *Gunmaking in Cheltenham since 1815; an outline chronology* by Chris Howell, which was published in the Cheltenham Local History Society's Journal No 4 in 1986. In it he writes interestingly about William Hollis (1798-1867) and his involvement in the Radical movement in Cheltenham.

The Charlton Park Estate Map

Lot 1971 - One of the final lots of the sale was a large Charlton Park Estate map measuring 9ft 7½ins. The map retracted on rollers and came in a Victorian mahogany case. This item was withdrawn from the sale, and later presented by the Allcroft descendants to the Gloucestershire Record Office. Our Society has recently contributed £500 towards the cost of its restoration and in 2003 we had a fascinating talk by the conservator on the work involved.

THE COURT HOUSE - Some Extra Information

by Jane Sale

Mary Paget, writing in *Bulletin 9*, gives a detailed history of this house under its earlier name 'New Court', alongside an architectural report by Linda Hall. In it Paget states that the name 'New Court' was in use by 1620. She surmised, from Hall's interpretation of the architectural evidence, that it was a new house erected in the middle of the 16th century. It was freehold of the manor of Cheltenham within the tithing of Bafford.

Hall believes the main alterations to the house took place in the late 17th or early 18th centuries when the hall block was totally rebuilt. These alterations are thought to be the work of John Prinn who completed the purchase of the house on 13 January 1696/7 after taking over a mortgage on the property on 5 August 1695. At this time John Prinn was steward to the Manor of Cheltenham and presided at the manorial courts which were usually held in a room over the corn market in Cheltenham 'for the service of the Lord of the Mannor for the keeping of his courts'¹.

Now a further study of the court book for the period from 1692 to 1698¹ has shown that the court was occasionally held in New Court/The Court House. On 16 August and 4 September 1695, the court proceedings took place 'in Charlton Regis at the mansion house of John Prinn Esq in the tithing of Bafford'. This must refer to New Court as Prinn held no other house in Bafford at that time. Later entries for 27 April 1697 'at Charlton viz. in the house of John Prinn Esq.' and 7 May 1698 'at the mansion house of John Prinn' are also likely to refer to New Court as he had not yet purchased 'The Forden', his home from 1701.

I am grateful to James Hodsdon for drawing my attention to these entries.

Reference: ¹ - GRO D855 M12

25 YEARS AGO - 1979

by Ann Hookey

By 1979 the redevelopment in the centre of the village had been completed. A supermarket, some small shops, the Library, Stanton Room and public W.C.s were established in the precinct and Church Piece was a carpark. However, this was all at the cost of demolishing the homes of a number of residents living in that area. It was alarming, therefore, to the tenants of the last remaining five (of the original eleven) cottages in Buckles Row, to be told that applications had been made to pull down their homes and replace them with new houses.

The following excerpt is taken from the *Gloucestershire Echo* dated 24 April 1979:

Elderly tenants worried about their future.

Elderly tenants who live in a row of old cottages in Charlton Kings, are worried for their future, a Baptist minister has claimed. The Rev. Basil Hill said today repeated planning applications during the past two years to demolish the five cottages in Buckles Row and replace them with five new homes have been made. "The tenants have been unsettled by the applications. They have not been told what the owner intends and they have been left in limbo, not knowing what the future holds" explained Mr Hill, who lives in Grange Walk, adjacent to the row of cottages. "There is nothing wrong with the cottages; they are perfectly habitable, and the tenants have spent a great deal on them over the years to make them comfortable" added Mr Hill.

Attractive

"I cannot see there is anything to be gained by demolishing these rather attractive cottages but the tenants would be losing their homes. These are some of the oldest cottages in Charlton Kings and should be preserved" he said. "In any case, if they were demolished where would these people find somewhere to live? Certainly it is unlikely they would find anything in the village where they have lived for years."

He has written objecting to the planning application made by Property Solutions, which will be considered by the Cheltenham Borough planning committee on Thursday. The planning application is listed as being made by Mr R Gowing of Property Solutions of an address in All Saints' Terrace, Cheltenham. However, an Echo reporter calling at that address was told that Mr Gowing did not live there and that his address was not known.

Horror

Ernest and Jessie Sallis have lived in their cottage for 52 years and brought up their family there. Mrs Sallis was born in one of the cottages. "I would hate to leave this house" said 71 year-old Mrs Sallis. "I have not got long to go now and I would like to live out my days here." Walter and Eva Stone are nearing retiring age and have lived in their cottage next door for 15 years. They view the prospect of having to move with horror. "We have not been told what the landlord plans. We are obviously concerned about our future. If we have to leave here, we have nowhere to live" claimed Mr and Mrs Stone. "We have spent a lot of money on our cottage. We put the bathroom in at our own expense."

However, the Horror turned to Happiness as the planning applications failed, and the following year, a photograph appeared in the *Gloucestershire Echo* of Mr and Mrs E E Sallis, at 1 Buckles Row, celebrating their Golden Wedding. They had been married in St Mary's Church, brought up two sons and now had three grandchildren.

Mr and Mrs Sallis continued to live in Buckles Row until Mrs Sallis died in 1981, thus fulfilling her wish. Mr Sallis remained there until 1984, when he moved into a Home, where he died in 1987.

Mrs June Sallis, their daughter-in-law says that when she married their son, David, she remembers some of the neighbours: Mr and Mrs Stone (No 2), Miss Peart and her brother (No 3), Mrs Vera Shaw (No 4) and Mrs Sutton (No 5).

It is pleasing to know that the cottages Nos. 1 to 5 Buckles Row are still in existence and occupied.



Nos 1 - 5 Buckles Row - January 2004



MERRYFELLOW SOCIAL CLUB MEMBERS 1956-7

by Mary Paget

This photograph was rescued by the late John Williams - he probably saw it on a skip when a new manager cleared out most of the old photographs from the Merry Fellow skittle alley. John Williams gave it to me some twenty or twenty five years ago for the use of the Local History Society. The names have been identified by Bryan Bee and friends at the Working Men's Club; the only face I was certain about was Mr Sallis of 1 Buckles Close. [see Ann Hookey's article on previous page]

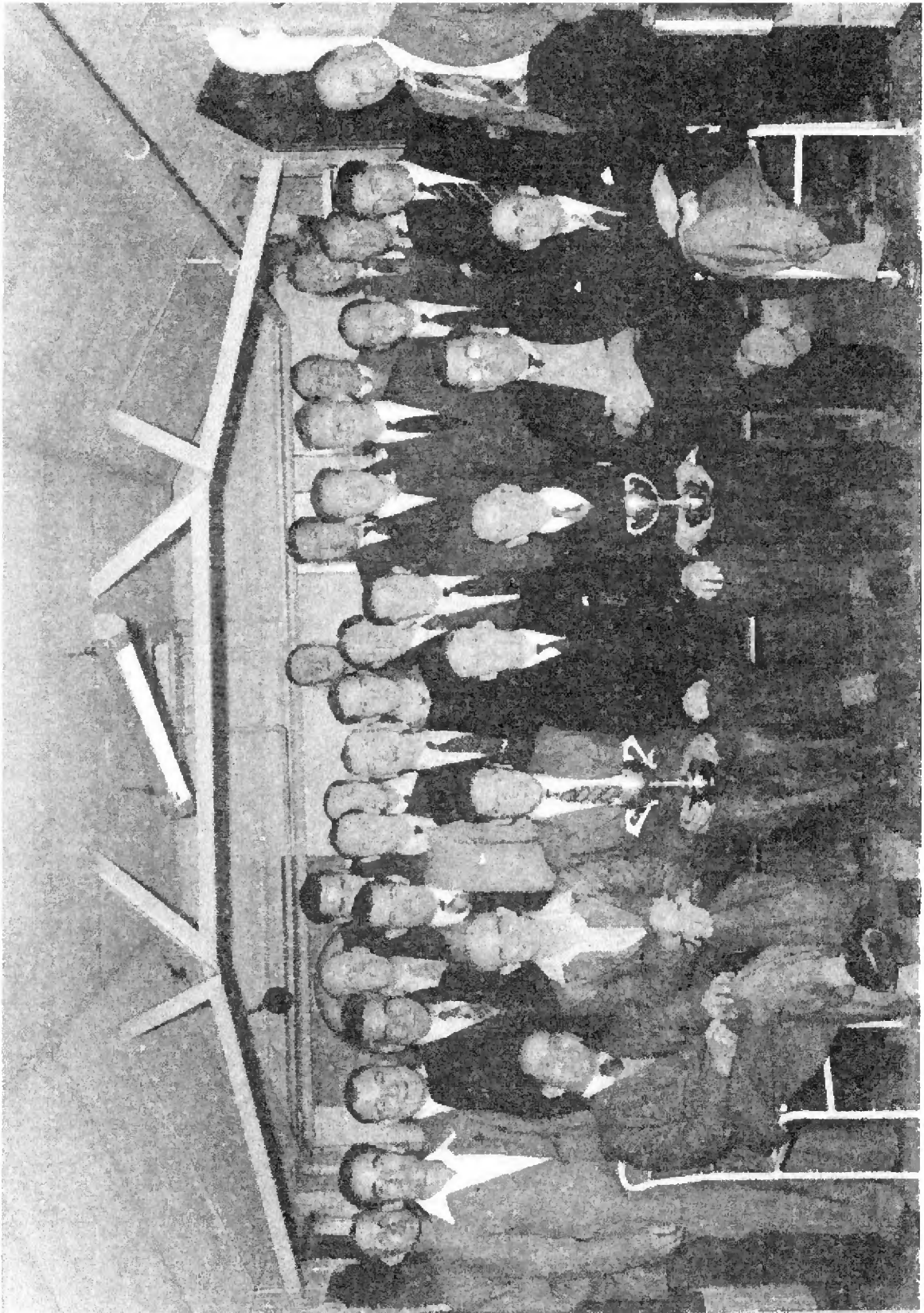
The names of those standing from left to right are:

- (1) Tim Green; (2) Syd Organ; (3) Pat Child - landlord; (4) Harold Drake;
(5) thought to be Arnold Pittaway ; (6) Ernie Drake; (7) standing behind (6) Frank Evans;
(8) Ken Chamberlain; (9) unknown; (10) Bert Middlecote; (11) Stan Hawling;
(12) standing behind (11) and (13) Gerry Protherough; (13) Ken Hopkins;
(14) standing partly in front of (13) Doug Green; (15) 'Duke' Bloxham;
(16) Tom Gaskins; (17) Bert Gwilliam; (18) Ted Critchley; (19) Trevor Robinson;
(20) Bill Evans; (21) Ron Thomas; (22) Tom Greatbanks; (23) unknown;

The names of those sitting in front from right to left are:

- (24) Tommy Joynes; (25) Ernie Sallis; (26) Ruben Smith holding a cup; (27) Alan Perret;
(28) Hubert Drake holding a cup; (29) George Turner; (30) thought to be Ron Jones

[If any reader knows the name of Nos (9) and (23) or can confirm the identities of Nos (5) and (30), I would be pleased to hear from them and will include the information in the next Bulletin - Ed.]



COOK/WIGGINS WEDDING

Bulletin 49 included an article about the development of housing on the south side of Croft Road, in particular with Hazledene, the present home of Elizabeth Macnamara, who had kindly loaned her deeds to the Society. These showed that the property had remained in the hands of the Cook family until the death in March 1959 of Edith Mary Cook, when it passed to Ethel Mary Wiggins. I queried whether Ethel may have been Edith's daughter.

Olive James, née Hatherall, read this article and remembered that she had been a bridesmaid at Ethel Cook's marriage to Geoffrey Wiggins at St Mary's in April 1936. Not only did Mrs James remember the occasion, but she had a photograph of it too. She is the six year old bridesmaid in the centre. Ethel and Geoffrey lived at Golden View, Bradley Road (a new build), which is the house next to the footpath that runs through to Croft Road. Ethel Wiggins died in 1999.

I am very grateful to Mary Wilcox who acted as 'go-between' and arranged for the photograph to be re-printed. Does anybody recognise the other bridesmaids? - Ed



THE MAUNDY SERVICE AT GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

by Sheila Purnell

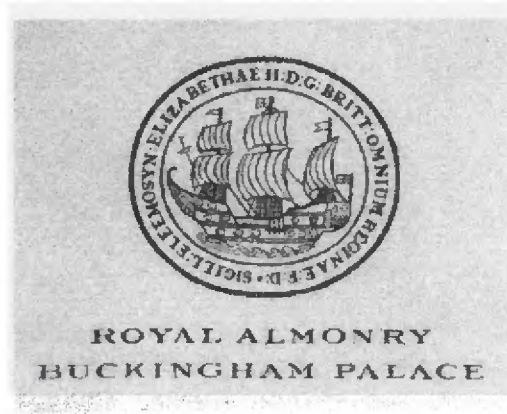
The Ceremony of the Royal Maundy is a very ancient one: it is referred to by St Augustine c AD 600, but is thought to be older than that. It commemorates the gracious act of humility which Jesus Christ performed at the Last Supper on the night before his crucifixion. In the beginning it was solely a church rite by senior clergy carrying out the 'mandatum' of Our Lord in which he commanded his followers to love one another. It is from the Latin word 'Mandatum' that the word 'Maundy' derives.

The earliest record of the monarch taking part in the service is its distribution by King John at Knaresborough in 1210 and at Rochester in Kent in 1213, where he also gave 13 pence to each of 13 men. It was in the reign of Henry IV that the custom began of relating the number of recipients to the sovereign's age so that the number would gradually increase during the reign. The service thus became known as the Royal Maundy and those to whom this service was rendered were the aged poor. Gradually during this time the gifts of clothing, food and money were added and called 'Maundy'. Some of the monarchs went further and Queen Mary, for instance, is known to have given the gown she was wearing to the one who "was the poorest and most aged of them all". This custom caused trouble and Queen Elizabeth substituted a gift of money which could be shared by all the recipients and to this day they still receive money as a redemption for the royal gown. King Edward VI had also done this because his child's robes would be of no use to the recipient.

In the early days the recipients were chosen according to the sex of the monarch and it was not until the reign of William and Mary that both men and women were honoured (but not equally). In 1693 gifts were made to 43 men and 31 women which corresponded to the sovereigns' ages.

Until the 18th century the 'pedilavium' was an integral part of the service when the feet of the poor were washed and kissed as an act of humility. The recipients feet were first washed by a 'laundress' who took a silver bowl and linen towel and washed, crossed and kissed the feet. Then followed the Lord High Almoner, the sub-almoner and finally the monarch. In 1731 George III was present but did not take part and the Lord High Almoner presided at this part of the service. By 1737 the 'pedilavium' was omitted and this situation has prevailed to this day. A connection is retained, however, with the towels with which the Lord High Almoner and his staff are girded and in the provision of the nose-gays which are carried by all the principals in the ceremony. Originally the towels were given to the poor, later to the wearers and still later they were retained to be laundered and re-used. The present towels have been in use since 1883.

The ceremony seems to have been carried out each year with minor variations until the later years of Queen Victoria's reign when, perhaps owing to age and her reclusiveness, it became of less significance. Its revival seems to stem from the reign of George V when it was held at Westminster Abbey each year. It was our present Queen who decided that it should be held in different parts of the country and she chooses where she will go. The service, even when held outside London, remains a Chapel Royal service and the choir of the Chapel Royal is always in attendance. The origin of the six wandsmen is unknown. Their job today is to organise and give assistance to the recipients on the day and this they do - very efficiently. They have been used since Victorian times to help with the large number of recipients. The Yeoman of the Guard are the Queen's Bodyguard. The crossbelts they wear distinguish them from the Warders of the Tower.



The Lord High Almoner is presently the Bishop of Manchester and it is his duty to be in attendance on, or represent, the Sovereign. The names of the Lord High Almoners can be traced back to the early 12th century. In the reign of George I it was his duty to collect fragments from the royal table and distribute them to the poor. The Royal Almonry is part of the Royal Household and is now allied to the Privy Purse at Buckingham Palace. The present seal of the Royal Almonry is thought to stem from the seal of Stephen Payne who was Almoner to Henry V from 1414-1419.

From the 15th century the number of Maundy recipients has been related to the years of the sovereign's age and whereas in early times the recipients were of the same sex as the monarch since the 18th century they have numbered as many men and women as the sovereign has years of age. In 2003 there were 77 women and 77 men. Once they had to be in financial need but are now recommended because of the Christian service they have given to the Church and the community, although enquiries are still made as to income.

The Maundy money is also related to the sovereign's age: the Maundy coins proper are 1p, 2p, 3p and 4p pieces specially minted from sterling silver and are, in fact, legal tender though their value is far greater than their face value. There are two purses: the white one contains the Maundy money, 77 pence in 2003; the red one contains coins to the value of £5.50, being £3 in place of clothing formerly given, £1.50 for the provisions and £1 for the redemption of the royal gown. In 2003 it contained the £5 coin issued for the 50th anniversary of the Queen's coronation and a 50 pence piece issued to commemorate 100 years of Women's Suffrage.



The purses are tied together by their long leather strings and placed on large alms dishes. The silver gilt alms dish was made in 1660 and is part of the Royal Regalia normally housed in the Jewel House in the Tower of London. In 1971 the two altar dishes known as the 'fish dishes' were brought into use. Another dish was later introduced which dates from the reign of Edward VII. This year (2003) because there were so many purses a fifth dish had to be used.

In 2003 I was lucky enough to be nominated as a recipient - a very great honour. I shall never forget the day with the excitement, the pageantry, the magnificence of the setting in Gloucester Cathedral, the wonderful singing and the service itself. A truly memorable day.

[I am grateful to Tony Sale for taking these photographs - Ed]

RIOT IN CHARLTON KINGS - A STAR CHAMBER CASE

by Jill Barlow

[This case was heard in the seventh year of the reign of Edward VI i.e. 1553. The Star Chamber was a court of law, so called because it was held in a chamber in the royal palace of Westminster which had a star-painted ceiling. The court evolved from the King's Council in its function of hearing subjects' petitions in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. It was brought to prominence by Henry VII who used it to curb the disorder that continued after the Wars of the Roses. He and subsequently Wolsey and Cromwell extended its jurisdiction encouraging plaintiffs to bring their grievances before it in the first instance rather than to regard it merely as a court of appeal. Its extensive use by Charles I during his years of rule without parliament brought about its abolition by the Long Parliament of 1640-60 Ref. *Collins Dictionary of British History* - Ed]

The bundle of papers (PRO STAC3/3/25) contains the original bill of complaint by Richard Machyn and Richard Stewe; two separate answers by Francis Grevyl and William Pate, a declaration signed by William Pate that his answer is true and in order for the case to be heard at Westminster. What the outcome was is not revealed.

The complaint:

In most humble wise sheweth unto your most royal majesty your true and faithful subject and daily orator Richard Stewe, an infant within the age of 21 years ... under the rule and governance of Richard Machyn his near kinsman That where one Thomas Lynett late of Charleton in the county of Gloucestershire deceased had and held for the term of his life and 12 years after his death according to the custom of the manor of Cheltenham, 4 meases or tenements with certain lands, meadow and pasture lying and being in Charleton and Cheltenham ... of the nature of base tenure. Within which manor the custom is and out of time of mind hath been that if any person or persons having any land, tenement etc within the same manor of the nature of base tenure be minded to dispose of the same by his will or otherwise he must give the same base tenure to such use as he is minded before certain of the customary tenants holding lands and tenements of the same nature of base tenure...

And Thomas Lynett did in 1548 give and dispose the said lands before Nicholas Holder, William Keke, Walter Coryar and other customary tenants to Alice his wife for the term of his life and 12 years after... In the same year Thomas made his will leaving the same lands and tenements to Alice and made her his executrix... After his death she entered into the lands and tenements and enjoyed the same for the space of 3 years ... before she made her will concerning the said meases... and she willed unto your said orator before certain of the same customary tenants two of the said meases and land belonging to the same that is to say the house where Thomas Lynett lived at the time of his death and the tenement called Coppyns in Charleton for six years after her decease parcel of the same 12 years and further willed that the same Richard Machyn should have the governance of your said orator during his minority as also of the 2 meases and the land. She made Richard Machyn and Thomas Whythorne her executors and in the month of June last past in the fifth year of your reign Richard Machyn entered into the said two meases and took into his governance the body of your said orator.

On 3 July last past by the means of Richard Pate and William Pate "divers riotous persons viz Walter Pate, William Pate, Richard Mayles, John Smyth, Robert Cockes, Thomas Brockebank, William Aperye[?], Edmund Kynge, Robert Symones, George Baylenger, William Raynolds and others to the number of fourteen arrayed with swords, bucklers, daggers, staves, bills and other weapons both invasive and defensive forcibly broke and entered into the messuage ... and broke open the doors of the chambers and did such things as they pleased". Richard Stewe, John Whithorne and John Machyn felt themselves in great danger.

The rioters went away but eight or nine of them returned later "riotously arrayed as aforesaid" and despite the intervention of William Lygon and Ralph Norwood, justices, "and notwithstanding that your constables and other of your majesty's watchmen commanded the riotous persons to depart away from the said house in your majesty's manor whereon the riotous persons nothing esteemed or regarded but still assaulted the same house continually until 12 of the clock".

On 3 September by means of Richard Pate and William Pate, Robert Goodridge, Francis Grevyll, Raufe Eton, William Sycell [?] - to the number of twelve, broke in with an iron bar and put Edith Machyn and Roger Bell in great fear and danger of their lives.

On 28 September by the command and means of Richard and William Pate "with force and violence" they broke open doors and windows and "violently expelled" Edith and Reynold Machyn and kept possession of the house and all the goods and chattels.

The several answers of Francis Grevyll and William Pate to the bill of complaint exhibited in the name of Richard Stew.

The defendants say as to the supposed unlawful assembly and all other crimes alleged ... they are not guilty and further Richard Machyn is not guardian to Richard Stew nor hath any lawful authority to pursue the said complaint in the name of Richard Stew and William Pate being uncle to Richard Stew and Francis Grevyll have the rule and custody of the same Richard Stew and Richard Stew never did assent that the bill of complaint should be exhibited.

The defendants say that within the manor of Cheltenham and the manor of Charleton [Ashley] another custom is that if anyone having land in base tenure take any woman to wife and the wife surviving her husband shall have all the lands and tenements to her and her heirs for ever. Alice Lynett therefore inherited the property on her husband's death.

Another custom of the manor is that "the youngest son and for lack of issue male, youngest daughter of any tenant dying seized of lands in base tenure" should inherit. The complainants say that Alice gave 2 meases to Richard Stewe, but the day after the grant she died intestate without issue male. [This we know to be untrue as an official copy of her will is in GRO, was it being deliberately hidden? - Ed] William Pate therefore claims the land by right of his wife Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Alice Lynett.

Because Alice died intestate [supposedly] the Reverend Father in god John Bishop of Gloucester committed the administration of the goods and chattels of the said Alice to William Pate and Nicholas Rogers and their wives in the right of their wives, daughters of the Alice Lynett, charging them to make a true and proper inventory and present it into his keeping before the Feast of St Bartholomew, by reason whereof William Pate and Nicholas Rogers declared and required Richard Mailes, John Smith, Richard Cockes, Edward Kynge, Robert Symondes and George Ballynger to go with them to the said mease where the most part of the goods and chattels of Alice Lynett did lie indifferently to praise [appraise] the said

goods to which intent they ... went in peaceable manner with William Pate and the wife of Nicholas Rogers and entered the house the doors being open. By the consent of Richard Stewe then having possession thereof and without any resistance viewed the goods and made an inventory according to the order of the law in such case and quietly and in peaceable wise then departed.

Richard Stewe was in possession of the mease where the riot is supposed to have been done and Richard Machyn by unlawful means got the possession of the said house and expelled the complainant Richard Stewe and kept the possession thereof by wrong done on Richard Stewe whereupon William Pate and Richard Stewe made suit to Francis Grevell one of the defendants being lord of the manor of Ashley to which the meases and lands belong being held by copy of court roll and to Sir Anthony Kingeston knight chief steward of the said manor to have a court holden at the manor whereby the right and inheritance of William and his wife and the interest and term of years granted by Alice to Richard Stewe might be enquired. Such a court was held on 3 September last in this present 5th year of the king ... and the homage upon their oaths presented that the right inheritance of the said 4 meases ought to descend to William Pate and Elizabeth his wife ... and also that Alice had granted the mansion place and the other called Coppyns in Charleton to Richard Stewe for 6 years to begin immediately after her decease.

William Lygon and Ralphe Norwood esq two justices of the peace hearing that the house where the riot is supposed to be made was kept with force by Roger Bell, Edith Machyn and others by the maintenance and procurment of Richard Goodriche and being required by the deputy steward to remove the same force the justices, deputy steward and homagers went in peaceable manner to the house and offered to put Richard Stewe in possession of the house and because Roger and Edith and others kept the house with force and would not suffer the deputy etc to give peaceable possession to Richard Stewe ... cast out at them scalding water with violence and force by the commandment of Richard Goodriche there present... and when the justices, deputy steward and homagers departed from the house the justices advised the defendant to stay and attempt further to get possession thereof saying they doubted not but that Roger Bell and Edith Machyn ... would later on better advice suffer the defendant to have quiet possession.

... Edith and Reynold eventually left "without resistance or denial' but all the appraisers found was 'one bed and some grain in the barn".

[Mary Paget, writing in *A History of Charlton Kings*, explains the significance of cases like this: "By the sixteenth century, there was no real difference between base and freehold tenure except in the matter of inheritance; this was why the Grevills and a few gentry families wanted to change the custom. A man like Thomas Lynnet who died in 1548 had found himself obliged to divide his property, the freehold going under his will to his elder daughter Joyce and her husband Richard Stewe [or their heir young Richard Stewe], but the customary going willy-nilly to his younger daughter Elizabeth who had married William Pate; and there was a real problem when a widow remarried and had more children. So all tenants agreed to make a change, some not very whole-heartedly. Willing or not, however, the tenants of both manors paid for a private Act in 1625. Primogeniture was in future to replace ultimogeniture, and the wife's portion (if not settled on her at marriage) was to be a third of her husband's estate as allotted by a jury". See *Bulletin 5* pp 7-10 for M Greet's article on this dispute and *Bulletin 28* pp 1-16 for more details about Stews' house in Brookway Lane, on the site of the present Wraxall House - Ed]

BRITON RIVIERE'S GIFT TO THE ROYAL ACADEMY

by Jane Sale

In November 2003 Tony and I were among a small group who were privileged to be taken behind the scenes at the Royal Academy to see some of the pieces of silver which had been donated to the Academy by distinguished academicians. Among the pieces was this teapot presented by our local artist Briton Riviere. The teapot had been made in 1802 by Peter, Ann and William Bateman, the sons and daughter of Hester Bateman one of the best known women goldsmiths, but presented to the Academy in 1882.

In *A History of Charlton Kings* Mary Paget wrote 'though not born in Charlton Kings Briton Riviere may be claimed as a Charlton artist'. He was born in London in 1840, the youngest child of William and Ann Riviere. William (1806-76) was one of a family of artists descended from Huguenots who had come to London from the Bordeaux district after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. William's father was Daniel Valentine Riviere (1780-1854) and his brothers were Henry Parsons Riviere (1811-88) and Robert Riviere (1808-82). William, an excellent landscape painter in oils and water colour, first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1826. He was appointed Drawing Master at Cheltenham College and under his guidance the art department gained a high reputation - "Probably the best school of art outside London".¹ Briton attended Cheltenham College, as a day boy from 1848 to 1858². During this time the family lived in Charlton Kings - as tenants of Porturet House on the London Road³. I wonder if they realised that their house was named after Jacob Portret, another Huguenot descendant.

Cheltenham Art Gallery holds an impressive collection of the Riviere family's paintings and sketches: eleven by Briton, three by his father William, two by his uncle Henry Parsons, one by his grandfather Daniel Valentine, one by Briton's wife (Mary Alice Dobell) and three by his son Hugh Goldwyn (1869-1956). Only one is currently on display - a painting by Briton entitled "Lost or Strayed", which shows a frightened-looking dog in a crowded town scene.

Briton Riviere is best known for his studies of big cats, which he is reputed to have studied at London Zoo. The Royal Academy holds one - "The King Drinks" depicting a lion at a pool.

He was elected an Associate of the Academy in 1877 and made an Academician in 1880, two years before he presented this handsome, Adam-style, teapot.

I am grateful to Dr Helen Clifford for the photograph.

References:

¹ *Dictionary of National Biography*

² *Cheltenham College Register 1841-1927*

³ *Charlton Kings Parish Rate Book for 1858*

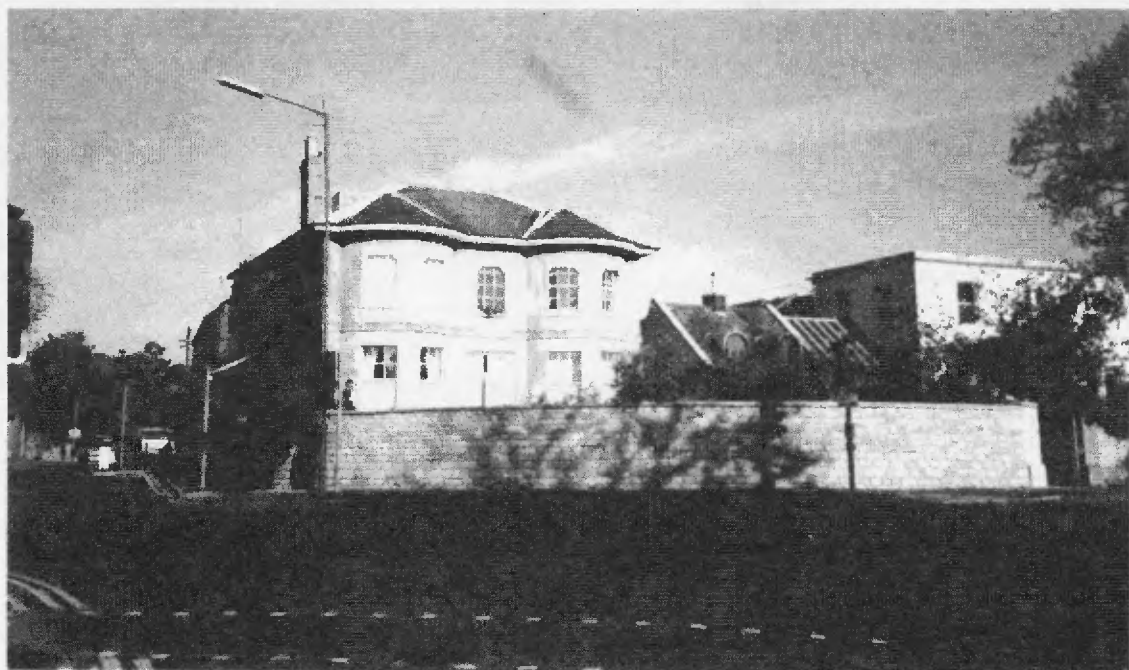


THE WRITING ON THE WALL

by C P Love

Whatever one's opinion about the work carried out at Sixways junction during the summer of 2003, it was a considerable technical achievement - and completed on time at the beginning of September. However, the most impressive piece of work there, to my mind, was the rebuilding of the old stone wall between Greenway Lane and Ryeworth Road, which appeared almost incidental to the main project.

Because the wall was 'listed' it had to be rebuilt as exactly as possible, allowing for its having to be set back several feet. Massive new foundations were put in, but the actual rebuilding was delayed, one understands, because the original contractors had not finished another job. When another contractor was brought in, the work was so unsatisfactory that the county council had it stopped. Mr G A Garness was then engaged, his trial panel was produced exactly as specified and the work proceeded, after he had had to remove and clean up the stones already laid. As much of the old stone was re-used as possible, the new material going into the back of what is, in fact, a double wall, and some new coping stones had to be cut. The final result is certainly a credit to Mr Garness, and his skill in producing it, with the coping so level atop thirteen courses of uneven stones, can be admired from Copt Elm Road.



The original wall presumably dated from c1798, when the house behind it, Roadlands (formerly Elm Villa or The Elms), was built. Even then, it might have incorporated some re-used material, as some of the stones carry chiselled markings, all but one of which remain unexplained. Although bench marks are now redundant, having been replaced by electronic devices, the large stone bearing the bench mark has been replaced as near as possible to its

original position and the 1888 1:2500 map shows the line above the arrowhead recorded a height above sea level of 286.9'. (En passant, this map shows a profusion of bench marks and other spot heights, e.g.: three bench marks on the south side of Ryeworth Road between Six Ways and the Ryeworth Inn; three bench marks and two spot heights along the London Road between Six Ways and Bridge House, formerly the Hermitage [see the map and photograph on pp 9 & 10 - Ed], and three bench marks and two spot heights between the top of Copt Elm Road at Six Ways and Lyefield Road.)

Other, unexplained, marks on various stones in the rebuilt wall are: another arrowhead, P xxv Ft, and what may be the number 681, but this is very indistinct and can only be seen in a certain light. Two other marks, in different places on the wall, are said to be bridge marks, but nobody seems to know anything about them, even whether or not they are now the right way up. As they now appear, they are in the form of inverted Ys, one having a minus sign to the left of the upright stroke. So, if you want to test your powers of observation, go and see how many of these marks you can find!

Much of the original wall had been leaning outwards for several years and part of it at the Ryeworth Road end collapsed at the end of October 2001, weakened by traffic vibration and the pressure of earth and tree roots behind it. However, the present structure should last for a good few generations - and it is worth noting that it was completed two years, almost to the day, after the partial collapse occurred.

Mr Garness putting a coping stone into place



EXTRACTS FROM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES

by Mary Paget

1. LYEFIELD ROAD WEST

D113 100/16 - 13 September 1927 Council approves extension to shop in Lyefield Road West for Mr Fear. (It had been no more than a shed selling cigarettes)

DA3 100/18 - 13 June 1933 - Plans for shop and showroom for Mr Fear at Aston Villa, Lyefield Road West approved

[Mr Fear told me that about 1929 or 1930 the vicar Edgar Neale asked him to make some simple radios which could be given to the old people in the Church Street almshouses. This he did. The vicar paid the initial cost and Fear supplied the batteries and did any repairs free. When Neale died in March 1937, Fear continued to keep the radios in order and give new sets to new residents and supply batteries. I understand he did this till the almshouses were demolished to make way for Coopers' Court - MP]

2. RATS

DA3 100/16 - 13 March 1928 - The Council received a letter from the Gloucestershire Dairy Co. (which owned Bafford Farm) "drawing the Council's attention to the plague of rats they were suffering from at Bafford Farm and asking the Council to do something to abate the nuisance. The Clerk was requested to reply that the Ash-tip was now clear of Rats.

13 April 1928 - The Clerk read the correspondence which had passed between him, the County Land Agent, and the Corporation with reference to the allegation that this Tip was infested with Rats. It was resolved that the correspondence "lie on the Table".

12 June 1928 - The Sanitary Inspector reports another complaint of Rats from the Ash Tip invading backs of houses on the west side of Cirencester Road. "There are certainly signs of Rats there and as there is no water there now they would travel to these houses for water". Ash Tip letters had been received from the Diamond Sanitary Laundry, Mr Freegard and Mrs Price. The Clerk to reply that the matter would receive immediate attention. A sub-committee was appointed to inspect. They recommended that the grass be cut to enable the Rats to be destroyed. [Mr Freegard lived at the house now called Baunton Gables; Mrs Price in the next house south - MP]

11 September 1928 - A letter was read from Mr Idiens of Moorend Park Hotel complaining that the Rats at Moorend came from the Council's rubbish pit. The Clerk was instructed to reply that the council did not admit this but were taking steps to exterminate any Rats found in the Ash Tip. A letter was read from Miss Haymes of Oakhurst, London Road, complaining of the Rats at her house. Letter to "lie on the Table".

3. REVIEW OF COUNTY DISTRICT

DA3 100/18 - 16 August 1934 - Question of merging Charlton Kings with Cheltenham Council was discussed. It was unanimously agreed that it was in the best interests of Charlton Kings that it remain independent.

4. OVERCROWDING AT HAM

DA3 100/18 - 13 November 1934 - 3 Hamfield Cottages, occupied by Mr Griffin, had been visited by the Surveyor and Medical Officer. The premises were occupied by the father, mother and six children. "This is certainly somewhat crowded but what is sufficient space is left to the judgement of the Medical Officer of Health ... very little is available as a guide". "I have had quite a number of complaints of rats ... this is hardly unusual". "Mr Griffin given notice to abate the nuisance by reducing the number of inhabitants."

DA3 100/19 - 9 April 1935 - 3 Hamfield Cottages - Mr G H Griffin thanks the Clerk for the offer of a Council House but says the rent and rates very much more than he could to pay. No further action.

5. MILK IN SCHOOLS

DA3 100/18 - 13 November 1934 - The supply of milk for school children was reported on:
Infant School - 48 children pay for milk and 6 receive it free.

Boys School - Third of a pint to be supplied at ½d to children who require it. Free milk will be supplied to necessitous children by the County Education Committee provided the net income of the parent falls within specified limits in proportion to the number of dependant children.

Girls School - 2 pupils are at present receiving milk free.

"Prior to embarking upon the Government Milk Scheme, Horlicks Malted Milk was supplied as from January and necessitous children were supplied free of cost".

DA3 100/19 pp20-21 - 8 January 1935 - School milk to be sent to the Hospital for a bacterial count.

p42 - 12 February 1935 - The Committee thinks that County council should arrange for school milk samples to be taken from time to time.

6. NUISANCES AT BATTLEDOWN

DA3 100/19 p4 - 11 December 1934 - The Sanitary Inspector reports a complaint of nuisance at Rose Orchard, Mill Cottage and Kings [blank], Battledown. He "found that it was not only a bad nuisance and injurious to health, but that it was very urgent". Since then new drains have been installed at each property, old drains and septic tanks dismantled and foul earth carted away. The Nuisance now abated. Premises are dependant on wells and beginning to find a shortage.

p60 - 12 March 1935 - Broken and badly blocked drain at Greenacres, Battledown.

[so Nuisances were found in very respectable areas - MP]

7. GLYNROSA SEWAGE DISPOSAL

DA3 100/19 - 14 May 1935 - Complaint had been received of sewage getting into the stream from a septic tank.

[One of the allotment holders, who had the last strip down the bank adjoining the Nursery Ground, thought he would make a pond and grow watercress for sale. As the allotments only owned half the stream and the other half belonged to my father, Philip Rowland Hill of

Glynrosa, this was an encroachment, of which he had taken no notice. The house had been built by Edwin Attwood, grocer and wool dealer, in 1892. So the septic tank had been there a long time before my father bought the house in August 1910. When I remember it first, the tank was covered with a slate lid, but in the 1930s this had been replaced by a heavy lid (oak I think). I could only just lift it up. We emptied the tank with a bucket on a long handle twice a year and the solids were dumped on the slope down to the stream to fertilise the fruit trees. There was no smell, and none of the allotment holders on the opposite bank had ever complained. The Council decided that as the house would not be put on main drainage, and as the original sanitation had worked admirably for so long, they would leave well alone.
- MP]

A DEED OF 1350 (GRO D9709)

by Michael Greet

[At a meeting of the Cheltenham Local History Society on 18 November 2003, Julie Courtney spoke about recent acquisitions at the Record Office. Among these was an early deed which had been purchased with money raised by the Friends of the Archives. I am grateful to Michael Greet for following this up and providing a transcript of the deed - Ed.]

"Be it known to all men now and to come that I, John Le Wymplare of Cheltenham, have given, conceded and by this present charter have confirmed to Walter Culverhouse¹ of Westhal, 1½ acres of land with appurtenance in Cheltenham in the field of Newnton², whereof one acre lies between the land of Walter Le Hale on the one part, and the land of John Tommes³ of Arle on the other, and the half acre, namely six buttes, lies next to the land of Agnes atte Forde⁴ of Chorlton; and the said Walter and his heirs are to have and to hold the aforementioned land, with appurtenances, of the chief lords of the fee for the services owed and accustomed. And I, the said John and my heirs will warrant and defend forever all the forementioned and, with appurtenances, against all men. In testimony of which I have placed my seal on this present charter. The witnesses are William of Westhal; Walter Le Hale; William Whymyly⁵; John Le Forthey of Alveston; William atte (W)ade. Done at Cheltenham on the Thursday next before the Feast of [St] Lucy the Virgin in the 24th year of the reign of Edward the Third after the Conquest". [9th December 1350]

Footnotes:

¹A William Colverhouse was a Charlton taxpayer in 1327. (P Franklin. *The Taxpayers of Medieval Gloucestershire* 1993)

²Holdings in Naunton were also mentioned in *Bulletin 23* pp26-29

³A Thomas Tommes held land in Pylford in 1423. *Bulletin 13* p6

⁴An Agnes atte Forde was noted living in Charlton in 1353. *Bulletin 8* p21

⁵A man of this name was a tax collector in Cheltenham in 1327. (Franklin. *Ibid*)

AN EARLY CASE OF 'LOSING THE SHIRT OFF ONE'S BACK'

by Jane Sale

Mary Paget writing in *Bulletin 11*, outlined the various ways our forefathers got into trouble with authority in the form of the courts held by the hundred and manor of Cheltenham. She quoted examples from the court books between 1585 and 1635. Now the 'Latin Group', a small group working under the guidance of Jill Barlow of the Cheltenham Local History Society, can relate some further examples taken from court rolls of the 1520s.

The problem of trespass and breaking into closes was particularly relevant. Disagreements arose over who had the legal right to property, or where the actual boundaries lay. An example is a case brought to court on 1st October 1520 when John Whitfare accused John Colyns of breaking down the hedges of a six-acre close in Charleton. Colyns responded by claiming that the close belonged to John Goderich, gentleman, and that he was acting as Goderich's servant, whereupon John Whitfare claimed that the close was in fact the property of the Abbess of Sion, the then Lady of the Manor and that he was acting on her behalf. No outcome of this dispute is recorded, only that the jury would visit the site before the next court, but it is an example of the confusion over ownership that could occur when pieces of land were intermingled rather than in separate blocks. See *Bulletin 28 pp1-4* and *Bulletin 46 p2* for information about demesne lands of Cheltenham manor in Charlton Kings. Some were in the Cudnall area but most in Ham, and as the Goodrich family are mostly associated with Ham the piece of land being disputed may have been there.

Similiar cases were those between Johanna Welles and William Keke brought to court on 3 December 1528 regarding a three acre close within a parcel of land called **Milkwell**¹, where both men claimed tenancy of the land; and again on 15 March 1528/9 when William Keke paid 6d to the steward for a jury to look at the boundaries between his land called **Frekenhall**² in Bafford tithing and land of Thomas Kemet alias Smyth called **Brodelesue**², and to decide where the hedges should run.

Time and again we read of closes being broken into by 'force of arms', crops being carried away or pasture being consumed by someone else's cattle - evidence of a definite feeling against enclosure *per se*. This occurred throughout the manor, in all the tithings equally. An example in Charlton was at the court held on 17 August 1529 John Dowdeswell accused Robert Hawthorn of taking away, on 6 August of the previous year, eight sheaves of barley previously growing in his close in Charleton.

There were strict rules governing the grazing of livestock - sheep must not be allowed in common pasture set aside for oxen or cows, cows could not graze cornfields except at specific times of year and pigs must be ringed when foraging 'at large'. A case was brought to court on 1st October 1520 against the Charleton tenants, Walter Balynger and John Grevell, had grazed their cattle in **Le Cornfield above Les Hewens**³ against a specific order and were consequently fined. These rules were particularly strict in our three tithings of Assheley, Bafford and Charleton compared with other tithings such as Swyndon and Leckhampton - an indication of the growing importance of livestock farming within our parish and the subsequent shortage of suitable pasture for them.

It was important for all concerned that ditches and water-courses should be maintained and tenants were brought before the court for failing to do so. In November 1527 Robert Hawthorn had obstructed the water-course at **Wellinghay**⁴ which resulted in the road being flooded 'to the common harm of the people'. He was ordered to correct the situation

before the next Easter day or be fined. He obviously failed to comply as in June 1528 it was reported that Robert Hawthorn had not yet stopped the flow of water over the King's highway at **Welynhay**⁴ so he was fined four pence. Another case was reported at the court held on 4 May 1529 concerning a ditch in **Harborde Lane**⁵ 'as far as Lilleyforde and Elcots Breach being the fault of Nicholas Holder on behalf of Shuttlebroke; and another ditch at **Goldwells Green**⁶ 'up to **Whateman's Gate** on the one side' being the fault of Thomas Stubbe, William Ballinger, John Whithorn, Thomas Stile, Thomas Whithorn and Simon Whateman, and on the other a 'ditch by the road to **Goldwells Green**⁶ up to **John Whithorn's gate**' the fault of Nicholas Holder. This case illustrates how it was the responsibility of those with land adjoining the road to keep the ditches clear.

Tradesmen such as bakers, brewers and millers were regularly fined at court for overcharging or producing goods of below the standard weight or quality. The recording of these fines give us names of Charlton residents which is valuable in a period which pre-dates parish registers. In 1520, for example, John Body from Tewkesbury and Henry Roberds were bakers and making loaves which were less than the standard weight, while William Yate held a grain mill and charged an excessive toll on the grain he ground; they were each fined two pence. In 1528 we learn that Henry Roberts, Thomas Balynger and Edward Shilde were brewers and paid six pence each for a licence to brew for a year.

Lastly an interesting misdemeanour - Mary Paget listed 'Night Walking' and 'Illegal Games' as two ways in which the law could be broken; the following case involved both - at the court held on 28 November 1527 the jury presented that Henry Nedeham of Shipton Solers in the county of Gloucestershire, chaplain, Giles Westby of Charlton in the county of Gloucestershire, gentleman, and George Goderich of Charlton in the county of Gloucestershire, yeoman, were common revellers at night, playing illicitly at cards and other games and persuading diverse servants of the lord king in Charlton and elsewhere within the Hundred and Liberty of Cheltenham to play cards, dice and other games prohibited by the king and his council. On the last Monday of October they encouraged one William [name illegible], aged not more than eighteen, to play for money and when William lost his money they told him to sell his tunic for two shillings and eight pence. Giles and George took his money and sent him away naked except for his shift and hose. Is this the earliest record of 'losing the shirt off one's back'?

The documents studied are currently housed at the Public Record Office at Kew. The cost of photographing these records has been shared between the Cheltenham and Charlton Kings Local History Societies and the 'Latin Group' are very grateful for their support. Recently a contribution has been received from the Leckhampton Society to pay for photographing some 15th century court rolls, which I hope to report on in the next bulletin.

Footnotes:

¹ 'Milkwell' is not shown on the Tithe Map, but Charlton Park maps show it to have been in the vicinity of Vineyards Farm. The name goes back to at least Elizabethan times.

² 'Frekenhall' is probably the field shown on the Tithe Map of 1838 as Fracknell (no. 212) but 'Brodelesue' is harder to pin down - it may be 'Furzen Leazow' (no. 210) or 'Ravensgate Leazow' (no. 208). These fields are part way up the hill south of Sappercombe.]

³ 'Les Hewens' is described as 'The Hewings' on the Tithe map (no 29) It lies north of the London Road in the direction of Cheltenham.

⁴ 'Wellinghey' and 'Welynhay' was in the area of the present Wellinghill Farm to the north of the London Road in the direction of Oxford.

⁵ 'Harborde Lane' is an early name for the present Little Herberts Road

⁶ 'Goldwells Green' is the old name for the small triangle of grass at the top of Little Herberts where the track to Timbercombe and Vineyards Farm starts.

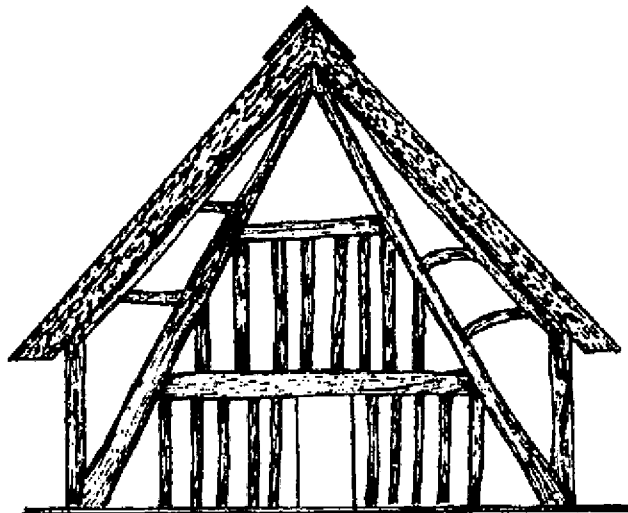
CHARLTON COTTAGE and CRAB END COTTAGE

by Mary Paget

In *Bulletin 43* pp 13 & 14 I postulated that these two houses together made up the Ashley freehold of 1557 held by William Hicks with 5½ acres, the former being built in the fifteenth century and improved in the sixteenth; the latter being an alehouse.

I now find I have a note from Bridgeman which reads: "when Crab End Cottage was demolished in 1953, it was shown to be a Cruck house". This makes it definitely the older of the two - 14th century at least. If only it had been properly recorded!

[Crucks are long curved timbers, framed together in pairs and joined by a tie beam or collar, which rise from ground level to support the roof purlins of a building ... The crucks carry the roof load to the ground, and the vertical walls are usually subsidiary frames which depend on the crucks for stability and support ... Some crucks are smoothly curved or nearly straight, others are sharply elbowed, the shape depending on the shape of available trees. Generally a tree would be sawn in half to give a pair of crucks of identical profile ... Not all crucks reach far enough to support the ridge piece: again this usually depended on the size of timber available. Most crucks are oak, but other timbers were occasionally used ... In the midlands and south most crucks are probably medieval: during the sixteenth century cruck building dwindled. This was a change of fashion, but it may possibly have been aided by the heavy demand for curved oak for shipbuilding ... The roof trusses which superseded crucks are of the type having heavy principal rafters which support trenched purlins and (usually) a ridge: crucks support the purlins and ridge in the same way and, to that extent, the carpentry tradition was unbroken.' - Ed]



C15. Straight crucks & vertical walls -
Glos.

References:

Information on crucks from *Discovering Timber-Framed Buildings*
by Richard Harris, Shire Publications Ltd, third edition 1993, reprinted 1995.

Illustration taken from *Old Farms An Illustrated Guide* by John Vince, 1982

PLACE-NAMES IN ASHLEY TITHING

(1) by Michael Greet

In the Cheltenham Manor Court Roll (PRO SC 2/175/25) for 1334 appear two previously unidentified place-names which seem to lie in the Ashley tithing of Charlton Kings, as they appear in the report of the Ashley tithing-man. (A tithing was a grouping of local inhabitants aged twelve and above mutually responsible for keeping the peace). Two malefactors had damaged the King's Highway at **Herstreet** and **Broadway** ("in regia via apud Herstret" ... "in regia via apud Brodeway").

According to *The Place-Names of Gloucestershire Part IV* by A H Smith, (1965) p138 "her-straet" has the Old English meaning of "military highway" (cf Hare Lane, Gloucester); while "brode" (p104) is the Middle English term for "broad or spacious" way. At present little more can be said definitely about these names, the locations of which are unknown, though there is a Broadway Drive (presumably a modern place-name) off Copt Elm Road.

The term "King's Highway" has not previously been noted in Charlton Kings, to my knowledge, except to describe the road up Harp Hill etc (see *Bulletin 9*, p49) though the term has been noted applied to some medieval roads in Cheltenham. It presumably would apply to an important medieval road e.g. to London.

If this is so, one suggestion for the location of a "military highway" could be the old London Road at Cudnall Street. In *The Age of Arthur* by John Morris (1995) on pp293-5 and 630, Cudnall is said to derive from the name of a Saxon leader Cuthwulf, "called Cutha for short", who led an army c568-571 in Southern England. A H Smith says Cudnall comes from "Cuda's Hill" (Volume II, p97)

(2) by Jane Sale

In another Cheltenham Manor Court Roll, for 1417, Walter Alysaunder pays 6d to the lord of the manor as a fine for a view by the court as to whether the lord of the manor or John Gryvell [lord of Ashley manor, see *Bulletin 8 p8*] held the sole rights to 'the mill pond of Gatersmill'. It was decided that the whole tithing of Ashley should give their opinion at a later date.

The name 'Gatersmill' is not mentioned in Smith's *Place-names of Gloucestershire*, nor has it appeared in any of our previous bulletins, though two members of the Gater family are listed as base tenants of a messuage and land in Charlton tithing. [see Cheltenham Manor Rental of about 1450 in *Bulletin 15 p12*.] It could be that they ran the mill, but where was it? It is not thought to be Charlton Mill in Spring Bottom, as that was in the Charlton tithing rather than in Ashley, nor is it thought to be Bafford Mill in the Bafford tithing. That leaves the possibility of the mill in Ham, which used to be in Mill Lane, and was powered by the Ham Brook. The early name for Ham Brook was 'The Gutter' (see *Bulletin 12 p10*) - sufficiently similar to 'Gatersmill' to make another possible reason for the name. If any reader has come across the name anywhere else I should be very pleased to hear from them.

AN UPDATE ON THE BUTCHER'S TILES

In my article in *Bulletin 49* about the Butcher's Tiles uncovered in the old Magpie shop in Lye field Road West, I stated that an attempt had been made to remove some of the tiles, but this had proved impossible without breaking them up. It was therefore a pleasant surprise when one of our members, David Broad, arrived at the March meeting clutching one of the tiles. He and the builder, John Lewis, had managed to prise it loose without damaging it.

There was a clear Minton mark on the back of the tile, together with the letter 13, an M, and another mark which I could not make out. Sophie Wilson, of the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, suggested that I should write to Miranda Goodby of the Potteries Museum in Stoke-on-Trent enclosing a photograph of the back of the tile. Miranda's reply was very helpful:

"The various marks on the reverse of the tile should give us a date of production. They occur in sets of three - month letter, potter's mark and cypher. This would suggest that M is March; I think that 13 is the potter's mark; and the other mark is the year cypher. I enclose a copy of the Minton year cyphers. The only one which looks close to yours is the 1913 hatchet mark."

From the photograph and the chart it appears that our tile had the hatchet mark stamped twice, which makes it difficult to identify. The date of 1913 ties in well with the first entry in the Cheltenham Directories being 1915. It seems that the tiles were put in at the time of building. My thanks to David Broad for persevering with getting this tile off the wall, and to Tony Sale for taking a photograph of the marks on the back.



1899	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73
74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81
82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97
98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105
106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113
114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121
122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129
130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137
138	139	140	141	142			

REVIEWS

Charlton Kings Parish Rate Book - 1858 by Mary Paget was published during the summer of 2003. With her usual generosity to the Society, Mary paid for this book to be published and presented fifty copies to be sold in aid of Society funds. Its price of £4 is therefore very modest and the book should appeal to all those interested in mid-nineteenth century Charlton Kings.

The original rate book had been rescued from a skip outside the Council Offices when the UDC moved from London Road to Lexham Lodge. Joan Paget copied it out and returned the original to its finder Mr Kilby. Since then it has been a very useful source of information which Mary Paget has often used in her many bulletin articles.

Now Mary has indexed it, both under People and Places, making it very 'user-friendly'. It helps to fill the gap between the 1851 and '61 censuses, and in addition gives information about each property - whether it is a cottage or house, whether there is land attached and whether the occupier is the owner or tenant.

Images of England CHELTENHAM Volume II by Elaine Heaseman. Price £12.99

In this, her second volume of old photographs of Cheltenham, Elaine has widened the area covered. There are sections on 'Leckhampton and Charlton Kings', 'Prestbury, Cleeve Hill and the Racecourse' and 'Hester's Way, Arle and Swindon Village'. Among those of Charlton Kings is a photograph of a 'deer roast at Southfield manor in the 1950s, showing Mr and Mrs Arthur Gardner and their guests. Might any of our readers have been among the guests?

QUERIES

1. **Bucklehaven Almshouse** - several people have asked me about these almshouses, which lie between Bafford Farm and Sandy Lane Road. All I have gathered is that the main block was built in 1911 by a Mr Buckle of Clifton, Bristol. Can anyone please add anything to this?

2. **Bill Leonard Court** - when walking down Hamilton Street from the London Road towards Cudnall Street, one passes a group of houses called 'Bill Leonard Court'. Does anybody know who Bill Leonard was and what he did that warranted his name being perpetuated in this way?

3. **Evelyn Close** - this group of houses lies at the end of Greatfield Drive off Sandy Lane. According to James Hodson's *Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham* these were originally housing for war widows, developed by the Officers' Families Association. Does anybody know more about them, when they were built and why they are so named?