

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RESEARCH BULLETIN 52

2006



Auntie Beatrice's Sketches

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Membership of the Society

Membership forms are available from the Hon Secretary. Annual subscription £4.50 or £6.50 for a couple. Meetings are held monthly from September to May at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church in Church Street.

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Publications: Copies of the following publications can be obtained from the Editor. Prices apply to Society members. Postage and packing is extra. Some copies of past bulletins are available at a price to be agreed with the Editor.

Charlton Kings Probate Records – 1600-1800 (2003) - £12.00

Charlton Kings Tudor Wills – Supp to Probate Records (2004) - £2.50

Charlton Kings Parish Rate Books for 1858 (2003) and 1882 (2004) - £4.00 each

Charlton Kings Registers of Electors for 1832/3, 1842/3 and 1862 (2004) - £1.00

The Hole in the Ground – Battledown Brickworks (2002) - £6.00

Charlton Kings in Old Photographs (1999) - £4.00

Lives Revisited (2005) - £6.00

Indexes to Parish Register Transcription for the following years:

1538-1634 - £2, 1634-1700 - £3, 1813-1834 - £5 each

Indexes to Bulletins 18-27, 28-37, 38-47 - £5.00 the set.

Cover - Coloured sketch by Beatrice Vassar-Smith

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EDITORIAL

The cover of this issue is a water-colour by Beatrice Vassar-Smith. She was the daughter of Sir Richard Vassar-Smith, the subject of Mary Southerton's article starting on page 5. My thanks go to Sir John Vassar-Smith for allowing us to use the painting. Beatrice lived at Charlton Park for over twenty years, then at Shiel in Sandy Lane Road, before finally moving to Brookway, where she died in 1965. Some readers probably remember her and it would be interesting to know more about her, she seems to have been quite an artist.

This issue does not contain any coloured centre pages as there was no suitable material to warrant the additional expense, but it has some extra pages, so I hope you will feel it is still good value for money. Next year I hope to reproduce some of Vic Holman's watercolour views of Charlton Kings and they will be in colour. I would welcome any information about him to accompany the illustrations.

2005 was an important year for the Society, our rising attendance figures at meetings meant that we needed a new home. The committee was delighted when the Baptist minister offered us the use of his church, complete with comfortable chairs and a good sound system.

The theme for the 2005 Local History Meeting in Gloucester was 'The Napoleonic Wars and Their Effect on Gloucestershire'. Mary Southerton put on her usual informative and colourful display and the committee was very pleased when a member of the Cranham Parish Council asked to borrow it for their 'Trafalgar Day Supper'. The information gathered for the display has been put together as an article starting on page 11.

I am pleased to report that Tony Sale was chosen by the Cheltenham Arts Council to receive their annual Arts Award for Local History Studies. His work over the past twenty years has led to publications concerning Gloucestershire Goldsmiths, Cheltenham Probate Records, Charlton Kings Probate Records in conjunction with Joan Paget, and most recently Charlton Kings Tudor Wills.

Sadly the Society has lost some good friends during 2005, foremost among them was Eric Armitage, and I am grateful to Mary Southerton for her obituary to him and to Margaret for the accompanying photograph. Eric's enormous amount of research work will not be lost to us, as his wife invited the committee to collect all his papers. These are now stored in a filing cabinet in my garage at Pine Trees and Society members are welcome to make use of them. Included are indexes to Ashley Manor archives from 1750 onwards; notes on the Whithorne and Lovesy families and their properties; Bridgman's notes on Charlton Kings; extracts from the Cheltenham Annuaire for the years 1837-1910; and extracts from Cheltenham Free Press for 1849 and 1850.

Other friends lost were Frank Stygall and Rhoma Hickman, both long standing members and very regular attendants at meetings, also Dr Leslie Yoxall who had been a member for many years but had not been to meetings recently because of poor health. We shall miss them all.

2006 will see some changes to our committee. After twenty seven years of sterling service on the committee, twenty four of which were as editor of this bulletin, Mary Paget has decided to retire. She remains our President and will continue, I am sure, to be our guiding light. Mary Southerton has also decided to retire as chairman after six years in the post. Her term of office has seen the Society go from strength to strength, not least as a result of her friendliness to all members and her sympathetic leadership of the committee. We are particularly pleased that Mary has agreed to stay on the committee which will carry on in the safe hands of Ann Hookey as our new chairman. Ann has been on the committee for four years and for three years has been responsible for organising the speakers at our meetings. Her excellent choice of speakers has played a large part in our increasing attendance at meetings.

OBITUARY - ERIC ARMITAGE (1917-2005)

By Mary Southerton

The Society was sorry to learn of the death of Eric on the 8th July 2005. He had been a stalwart member since its inception. Always interested in history, when the idea of starting a History Society was suggested in Charlton Kings, Eric came forward and was ready to serve on the committee. Seeing the success of Charlton Kings Local History Society, Cheltenham decided that the town should have a similar Society, again Eric came forward to give his help and encouragement to the project. He has proved an enthusiastic and supportive member of both Societies over the years.



All this time Eric was busy with his own research and writing articles for the Echo under the general title "The Way We Were" by the Odd Man Out, recounting interesting events from Charlton Kings past. For many years Eric could be seen in the Reference Library working away at his researches checking through the local newspapers extracting any information referring to Charlton Kings. He worked on the years 1834 to 1875 covering people, property, council minutes, the criminal courts and the poor house etc. All these items were checked, indexed and cross referenced to form seven volumes containing forty years of newspaper reports in a readily accessible format.

In 2003 the Society was very pleased to receive the results of Eric's labours and make them available for members' use, and we were delighted for Eric when the Cheltenham Arts Council chose him to receive their Annual Arts Award for that year in recognition of all his work. The newspaper indexes have already proved invaluable, saving many hours of work at the Reference Library trawling through the papers. Five minutes looking in Eric's indexes and all is revealed. We shall miss seeing Eric at meetings but be grateful for what he has left with us.

SIR RICHARD V VASSAR-SMITH – A TRUE GENTLEMAN

by Mary Southerton

Around 1885 Albert Brassey of Heythrop, Oxfordshire, the then owner of Charlton Park, set in hand extensive refurbishment and repairs to the house and grounds. Mr Clowes was the tenant at this time but the property was described as “not being suitable for a modern establishment”. It sounded as though the house was in a poor general state both inside and out. Kitchen and bathrooms needed to be upgraded, decayed wood and doors replaced, ceiling cracks repaired, windows and stairs renewed. The layout of some rooms was changed, outbuildings and cottages were brought up to standard, a conservatory built and the garden put to rights. Mr Brassey was going to a lot of trouble to get the house ready to let but he had already found a new tenant – Mr Richard Vassar Vassar-Smith of Ashfield, Great Malvern. Although living in Malvern at the time, Richard came from Gloucester where the family had a business. He was very involved in local Gloucester matters and probably already knew Albert Brassey. Charlton Park would make an ideal home for his growing family, especially as he intended to educate both his sons and daughters in Cheltenham. He proved himself an unusual man for his time and one worthy of our interest.

Richard was born on 11 July 1843 to Richard Tew Smith and his wife Emily at 5 Newgate Street, London. The birth was registered in the city of London and the father’s occupation given as Inn Holders clerk. Richard Tew Smith had been born in London on 1 May 1815 and married Emily Vassar, daughter of Jabez Vassar of Shipdham in Norfolk. The Vassars were Huguenots who came to England from France. A James Vassar farmer, most probably brother of Jabez, was described as a dissenter from Tuddenham in Norfolk, not far from Shipdham. James Vassar’s two sons went to America and their descendants prospered there. One of them founded Vassar College in 1865, the only college exclusively for women at that time, another became famous as a preacher for the American Tract Society and another built a dam on the Cass River and a town founded there was called Vassar. That these men were related to Richard’s mother seems certain as the present Sir John Vassar-Smith has information about the American branch among his family’s papers.

So when Richard Tew Smith married Emily he married into a family who were liberal in outlook and ambitious by nature. Richard’s father was obviously happy to be connected with the Vassar family as he gave his son the name as a second Christian name.

Richard was his parents’ eldest child, a sister followed before the family moved to Birmingham where another daughter was born. By 1849, when a son Edward was born, the family were settled in Gloucester. The 1851 census shows them living in Clarence Street, Gloucester, Richard, the father, was described as a General Carrier and they had one living-in servant. Emily sadly died in 1852 and was buried in the churchyard of Christchurch Spa Church, Gloucester. The 1861 census shows the family at Wotton Hill House in Cheltenham Road, Gloucester, with a governess and three house servants. The father’s business must have been flourishing. Richard

entered Kings School Gloucester in 1856. We can assume that his school days were reasonably happy for, in 1912 when an Old Boys Society was founded, Richard agreed to become its Vice President.

Richard's father's business was in Newmarket Street and Northgate Street, from where he ran his carrier's business under the name of Smith R T & Co., general carriers, railway and shipping agent, furniture removers and town car man - obviously a far-sighted businessman and Richard was to follow in his father's footsteps. He also set his son an example in doing one's civic duty. He was both a city councillor and magistrate, becoming Mayor of Gloucester in 1856. It seems likely that Richard senior must have had connections in Gloucester before the family moved there.

Richard Tew Smith died in 1870. It was reported in the Gloucestershire Chronicle that the Mayor referred to the late Mr R T Smith before ordinary business at the Police Court "we meet under a deep sense of affliction in the loss by the death of a gentleman who occupied on this Bench a very important position". The family asked for the funeral to be conducted as quietly as possible, but the newspaper reported "the procession was met at the Cross by a detachment of Police, the Blue Coat School boys and their master, the Master of St Bartholomew's Hospital, the Mayor and city magistrates, charity trustees, directors of Gloucester Wagon Co., the Gas Co. and many more". It notes that Mr R V Smith was unable to attend through illness. The city obviously felt the need to pay its respects: shops in the main street were closed for part of the day, the bells of four or five city churches were tolled and flags at the docks were flown at half mast. He was buried with his wife at Christchurch Spa churchyard. The family attended St Mark's church and the west window there is a memorial to Richard Tew Smith.

We can see then that Richard was brought up in a family where hard work, coupled with civic and charitable duties, was the expected norm. Richard's father would not have been disappointed in his son, who not only took over the business but was both a city councillor and magistrate in Gloucester. Like his father he sat on a number of boards of both a business and charitable nature.

On 30 August 1866 at St Luke's church Cheltenham Richard married Mary Holmes Partridge, daughter of John and Sarah Partridge of Great Malvern. John had been grocer and tallowchandler at 127 High Street, Cheltenham and Mary was born in Cheltenham..

Mary and Richard began married life at Eastbank, Hereford, where a son Richard was born. Little is known about this son except that he later went to Capetown and died there in 1899. the family moved to Lorraine house, also in Hereford where John was born on 10 December 1868, a daughter was also born there but she only lived one month. By 1871, just after Richard's father had died, Richard and Emily were living at Wotton Hill House, the family home in Gloucester and Richard was running the family business. Edith was born in November of that year. By 1874 the family had moved to Great Malvern to live in a house called Ashfield where three more children were born: Beatrice on 16 August 1874, Margaret on 6 February 1877 and Charles on 5 June 1881. Perhaps Richard and Emily felt that Smith was a little ordinary for a gentleman who was doing so well, for in 1883 he had a royal licence granted to assume the name Vassar-Smith. He was now Mr Richard Vassar Vassar-Smith. Another daughter was born at Ashfield, but again

sadly she died, only surviving one day. The family were still at Ashfield when John entered the Gentleman's College in Cheltenham.

In business Richard was making good progress and had obviously gained a sound reputation. In 1886 he joined the Board of the Worcester City and County Bank and later, in 1889, when the Worcester City Bank merged with Lloyds Bank he became a director of Lloyds. Wotton Hill House was still in the family, Richard's sister who had married Henry Bruton was living there, but with a growing family Richard and Emily felt the need for a bigger house. Later that year the paper reported "Mr R V Smith has acquired the tenancy of Charlton Park and will enter occupation at Michaelmas, 29 September". Their youngest daughter Dorothy was born there.

Below is a drawing of the family made by Beatrice in 1889 when she was fifteen. Going by their ages I suggest it shows Edith at eighteen on the left, then 'Pater', Charles about eight, Margaret about twelve and John about twenty one. They are presumably walking into Cheltenham from Charlton Park.



Richard's reputation seems to have gone before him as he was soon on the local council, becoming chairman of the Charlton Kings UDC, chairman of Pates Governors and on the boards of both the Gentleman's and Ladies Colleges. The local branch of the Primrose League was named the Vassar-Smith Habitation.

In 1891 a great sadness struck the family, the death of their daughter Edith. 1896 saw a window installed in St Mary's church, depicting "Raising of Jairus' daughter" and was in memory of Edith. In the same year Charles entered the Gentleman's College. John had gone on to Trinity College, Cambridge in 1887 and gained a BA in 1890. Charles went straight from the College into the army and was commissioned into the Shropshire Light Infantry.

The South African Boer War saw the boys in action, both gaining the Queen's medal, John with four clasps and Charles with five. A worrying time for the Vassar-Smiths. Happier times were to follow with three family weddings: Charles married Emily Rathbone in 1908, Margaret married Colonel Fairlie Ozzard in 1910, and in 1913 Dorothy married the Revd Marriot who had been a curate at St Mary's. The *Looker-on* reported of Dorothy's wedding "after the ceremony Mr and Mrs Vassar-Smith held a reception at Charlton Park attended by 400 guests ... it is hardly necessary to say they carried it out perfectly".

The other very notable event at this time was the appointment of Richard to the position of Chairman to Lloyds Bank, then the largest bank in England. His appointment marked a significant break in banking tradition, Richard did not come from a banking family nor had he been Deputy Chairman of Lloyds. However he must have proved himself a very effective chairman, he negotiated the mergers with the Wilts and Dorset Bank in 1914 and the Capital and Counties Bank in 1918. He was chairman of the committee of London Clearing Banks and of the Central Association of Bankers in 1916 and 1917. He was also at times Chairman and then President of the Council of the Institute of Bankers.

The family had further personal worries during the Great War. John fought with the 27th Canadians in France and was wounded, while Charles (now a major) was still with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and was wounded at St Eloi in 1915. He was invalided out of the army in 1917 and went to Manchester to work for the Ministry of Pensions. Charles died on 25 November 1920.

The Great War was to prove a busy time for Richard, he was appointed to serve on the Treasury Committee of Financial Facilities (in other words raising money for the war) and in 1917 he became Chairman of this committee. It was for this work that his baronetcy was conferred. He became Sir Richard Vassar Vassar-Smith of Charlton Park in 1917. The *Looker On* sent a reporter to interview Sir Richard just after he had received his baronetcy and described him as deeply interested in their campaign for better housing conditions with a better standard of living and education for the children of the workers. I think this says more about Sir Richard's ideas than that of the *Looker On*. The paper also reported that the staff of Lloyds Bank had presented Sir Richard with a car to celebrate his baronetcy. In hopes that this event might have been photographed I wrote to Lloyds Bank but they had no record of the event.

Richard continued with his many duties which entailed much travelling abroad to Berlin, Petrograd, Moscow, Vienna etc. Another director who accompanied him recorded that "when they entered a room Sir Richard's personality was such that everyone looked round and whispered 'The Englishman'".

At about this time Sir William Orpen, a leading portrait painter of the day, painted an official portrait of Sir Richard.



Perhaps Sir Richard began to feel that Charlton Park was too big for himself, his wife and the unmarried John and Beatrice. Perhaps he had worries about his health which had in the past given cause for concern. Whatever the reason they decided to look for a smaller house to buy and settled on Shiel in Sandy Lane Road. It seems that they named the house with their eldest son Richard in mind as he had died at Cree Shiel in South Africa.



Lloyds Bank had a flat for the Chairman's use above 16 St James Street in London. It was here that Sir Richard died on 2 August 1922. There was a very brief death notice in *The Times* and we know that he was buried in St Mary's churchyard in Charlton Kings. A memorial service was held at St Paul's Cathedral on 9 August and although Lady Vassar-Smith did not attend the rest of the family were there. A notable number of titled gentlemen attended and many representatives of banks, businesses and charities. The event was noted in the court circular in *The Times* on 10 August. Richard's son John succeeded to the title.

Sir Richard had been born into a family that believed in hard work and doing one's civic duty. On his mother's side the family worked hard and looked for opportunities to do well. Having succeeded they put their wealth to use for the general good. There was also a background on both sides of strong religious principles. During my research I have built up a picture of a gentle but firm man, hard working, confident in his own ability but not at all arrogant, always considerate of other people. He declined many offers to stand for Parliament, feeling that politics implied posturing, a retreat from his standards of honesty and frankness. His banking achievements were eclipsed only by his dedication to the welfare of Lloyds Bank staff. It is said of him "this concern was unaffected, rooted in Christian liberalism and comes over in the warmth and sincerity of the tributes". It was also said that he lived in an atmosphere of goodness and nobility and had an irresistible charm which no one could forget. He had started a Widows and Orphans fund for the bank staff and when he died the staff contributed £10,000 to the fund in his memory. In 1923 the Vassar-Smith Fund was set up to be used for the relief of staff, pensioners widows or children in difficult circumstances. It was still active in 1985. I feel sure that Sir Richard had much in his life to be proud of, but perhaps it is this for which he would most like to be remembered.

What of the family after Sir Richard's death? They continued to live at Shiel and Lady Vassar-Smith died on 9 October, 1930 and Sir John in 1942. Beatrice continued to live in Charlton Kings until her death in 1965. Some readers may well remember her living in Brookway and she is mentioned in Ann Hookey's article on 'Evacuees', as hosting two little girls for a while. Sir John had been succeeded by his nephew Richard, Charles' son, until his death in 1995 when his son John Rathbone Vassar-Smith took the title. Our Society was pleased to welcome Sir John and Lady Vassar-Smith with their younger son David to our meeting in 2004 when the subject was Sir Richard - a True Gentleman.

Sources:

GRO D2593 - Collection re Charlton Park from Eric Armitage's papers

GRO D7063 – Richard Tew Smith's will

The Looker On

The Gloucestershire Chronicle

Kings School Gloucester Records

Cheltenham Gentlemen's College Records

Cheltenham Ladies College Records

Lloyds Archives

THE NAPOLEONIC WARS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE OF CHARLTON KINGS

By Jane Sale

The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1792 – 1815) arose because of the threat that the example of the French Revolution posed to the established powers of Europe and from Napoleon's attempt to dominate the Continent. British involvement, under Pitt the Younger's leadership, was brought about by the French invasion of the Austrian Netherlands, a move that endangered our maritime security. By 1795 Britain was threatened by invasion from Napoleon's French forces across the Channel ¹. It was this threat of invasion, only removed by Nelson's famous victory over the French navy at Trafalgar, coupled with the cost of the wars, that most affected the general population of England.

Unlike during the two World Wars of the 20th century, there was no general conscription into the army or navy. But there was a requirement to serve in the Local Militia, a part-time force similar to the Home Guard of the 1939-45 war. An Act of 1757 had already set out the procedures for raising the Militia: Officers were appointed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County and lists were drawn up by parish constables of all able-bodied men aged between 18 and 50 (later reduced to 45) ².

An undated document in the Gloucestershire Record Office is headed: Cheltenham Volunteer Infantry and continues as follows:

We whose names are hereunto subscribed considering it expedient to form A Corps of Infantry to be trained to the use of Arms, for the Service of our country in the town of Cheltenham and its Vicinity; do agree to associate under the following conditions and Regulation.

That we will provide ourselves Severally with an Uniform (hereafter to be Approved of by a Committee) and all the Necessary Accoutrements and Arms, unless the same are found by Government, or by the Aid of a Subscription intended to be entered into toward Lessening the Expences of Individuals.

That we will meet at such place and hour as shall be hereafter determined upon, and will apply ourselves diligently to Learn the Exercise, under the Instruction of proper Officers, during two Hours each time of Meeting.

That we will be ready to serve on any Occasion when the Necessities of the country may render it necessary at any place within Eight miles of Cheltenham. That we will avoid all unnecessary Expences in our Dress, and other Accoutrements, likewise all Expensive Meetings.

That after the company is formed, No person shall be admitted into it without the ballot and consent of the Company ³.

We can see that this was very much a “local” force operating within eight miles of Cheltenham, and sounds almost like a club with its proviso that admittance was by consent of the Company.

More general instructions were sent to the Lord Lieutenant of the County in 1803⁴. These stated that each Company should consist of not less than sixty and not more than a hundred and twenty privates with one sergeant and one corporal to every twenty privates. There should normally be one drummer to every company, but two if called into actual service. Daily pay rates were 1s per man, if taking part in twenty days of exercise, but if called upon to act in cases of riot or disturbance the rates were 1s 6d for sergeants, 1s 2d for corporals and 1s for privates and drummers. An allowance for clothing was 20s per man once every three years, the whole to be clothed in red. Every officer and man to take an allegiance to His Majesty. Arms supplied were Muskets with accoutrements, Swords for drummers, Spears for Sergeants and Pikes for any man not otherwise armed.

Unfortunately, we do not know whether any men from Charlton Kings belonged to the Cheltenham Volunteer Infantry, though that would have been the logical group for them to join.. The only records remaining tell us about those who chose NOT to join, but instead to pay for a replacement.

The system was that a ballot was held of the men listed by the parish constables to decide which of them should be called upon to serve or else “pay for a replacement”. Such an option seems surprising, but was readily accepted at the time. Michael Greet, in his article in *Bulletin 2*, quotes from a directive, dated 20 January 1783 to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the parish of Charlton Kings, demanding them to pay to any man who has found a fit substitute to take his place a sum not exceeding £5 “as shall be half of the current price then paid for a volunteer in the county”.

In the examples shown on pages 14 and 15, the substitute fee for Richard Rogers was 4 guineas, and he was refunded half of that sum. The Overseers of Charlton Kings were also having to refund the Overseers of Bisley who had been supporting the family of the substitute, Edward Restall, at the rate of 5s per week for forty two weeks. Other Charlton men who elected to find a substitute were: William Hamlett in 1783, who was refunded £5, and William Francis, George Walcroft, Henry Ashmead, James Heart and Henry Russell, who were each refunded 2 guineas in 1797⁵.

The other major factor which affected everybody in the country was the cost of the war, which became evident both through higher taxation and the rising cost of food.

By November 1797 the national debt had grown by nearly 50%. It became necessary for the Government to collect far more through taxation and Pitt trebled the ‘assessed taxes’ - those levied on windows, servants, carriages, horses etc. He also introduced the idea of a graduated scale of income tax, thus introducing the fore-runner of tax assessment as we know it today. Income Tax was introduced in 1798 at the following rates:

Below £60 p.a.	Nil
£60 - £200 p.a.	Graduated
Over £200 p.a.	2s in every £

It was repealed in 1802, when a temporary peace was agreed, then revived in 1803 at the continuation of the war, before being repealed again in 1816. From 1842 it became a regular source of income for the government.

A Legacy Duty Act had been introduced in 1796 which was extended in 1805 and 1815. A duty on succession has been payable since 1853.

Land Tax had been a regular 18th century form of taxation assessed on the value of land and buildings at the rate of 4s in the £. In 1798 a new system was introduced which enabled landowners to pay a lump sum equivalent to fifteen years tax and then be exonerated from further payments. This provided the government with an immediate, if short term, increase in tax revenue ⁶.

These increases in taxation would not have affected many of Charlton's residents, at least directly. Considering that farm labourers were earning about £12 - £15 per year in the 18th century, most workers would have been well under the £60 tax threshold. The landowners would have been affected and this may have had a trickle-down effect on their tenants.

The increased cost of food was a much more serious matter for most people. The price of wheat rose dramatically, though this was partly due to poor harvests, particularly in 1799 and 1802.

Year	Price of wheat
1785-94	47s per quarter
1795-1804	75s per quarter
1805-1814	93s per quarter ⁷ .

Charlton's farmers did not benefit from these gains as much as some in other parts of the country. They were predominately stock farmers, with most of their arable crops being grown for stock feed, but the increased corn prices no doubt helped them to meet the increased tax payments and parish rates. The workers however were seriously affected as wages did not keep up with the increasing bread prices. Charlton Kings Vestry accounts for Poor Relief show the extra amounts collected through the rates and paid out to the needy ⁸.

Year	Collected	Paid out
1794	£216	£206
1798	£281	£253
1802	£541	£441
1806	£311	£284
1810	£262	£240

WE hereby certify that *Richard Rogers*
of *Charltonings*

_____ in the County of *Glocester*,
was drawn to serve as a private Man in the Supplementary
Militia of the said County, and that he paid the Sum of Four
Guineas to provide a Substitute, which Substitute was on
the *eight* Day of *January* 1797, sworn and
inrolled to serve in the said Militia; and the said

Richard Rogers
is therefore, under and by Virtue of the Statute in such
Case made and provided, intitled to receive of the Church
wardens or Overseers of the Poor of *Charltonings*
aforesaid, the Sum of Two Guineas being Half the said Sum
of Four Guineas.

Given under our Hands the

Day of

1797.

William Hiles

Sam. Pickering

Glocestershire.

The Overseers of *Charlton Kings*

To the Overseers of *Bisley* — Drs.

From
Mar. 9. 1799

to
Jan. 2. 1800

For *12* Weeks Pay, at *5* per Week,
paid by the Order of _____

one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the
said County, to the Family of *Edward*

Restall — now serving in the Militia
thereof as a Substitute for *Rich Rogers*
_____ of *Charlton Kings*
aforesaid.

£. s. d.

10. 10. 0

To the Overseers of *Charlton Kings* in this County

THE above Account having been this Day verified upon Oath before me, one
of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said County, you are hereby
required to pay the Amount thereof to *the bearer hereof*
who is duly authorised to receive the same.

Given under my Hand *the 28 day of March 1800*
J Hollings

Gentlemen,

YOUR ready Compliance herewith will prevent much Trouble to, and confer
a great Obligation on, your most humble Servant,

Overseer.

Printed by R. Raikes, Southgate-street, Gloucester.

*1800 April 2nd Recd the above
of me Saml Darnell Overseer*

It is interesting to note that in spite of these difficulties there was evidence of a certain level of prosperity in Charlton Kings, particularly apparent in the building work being carried out. We can list the following new builds and rebuilds⁹:

1798	Roadlands
1799	Ham House and south gallery added to St Mary's church
1805-11	East Court
1805-12	Hamilton House
1805-13	Charlottesville (now Langton Lodge)
1808	Buckles Row (11 cottages)
1809	Charlton Mill rebuilt
1810	Charlton House rebuilt

To sum up then: there may have been a few men who served in the forces, but those who had been balloted to join the Militia were able to buy their way out with help from the parish. Bad weather, resulting in poor harvests, continued to have a greater effect on most peoples' standard of living than international affairs. There was still money enough for the wealthy to invest in building work. Taking these various factors into consideration, it seems that the Napoleonic Wars did not have any great impact on the people of Charlton Kings at the time. However, taxation brought in by Pitt's government to fund the war set a pattern that we are all familiar with today.

References and Footnotes:

1. *Collins Dictionary of British History*, published by HarperCollins 1997
2. *The Oxford Companion to Local and Family History*, OUP 1996
3. GRO D149/X21/58
4. GRO D149/X23
5. *Bulletin 2* p20
6. *William Pitt The Younger* by William Hague, published by Harper Perennial 2004
7. *English Farming* by Lord Ernle, published by Longman, Green & Co., 1922
8. GRO P76 VE 2/1
9. Various Charlton Kings Local History Society Bulletins

HISTORY OUT OF SIGHT – MILL LANE

By John Bromley

Last year I wrote about some of the metal-detecting finds made at Ryeworth Field (see *Bulletin 51*). Since then I have focused my detecting search on another ridge and furrow paddock, this one being off Mill Lane in Ham as illustrated in fig. 1. I am grateful to Mr and Mrs Wilson for their permission to carry out a search.

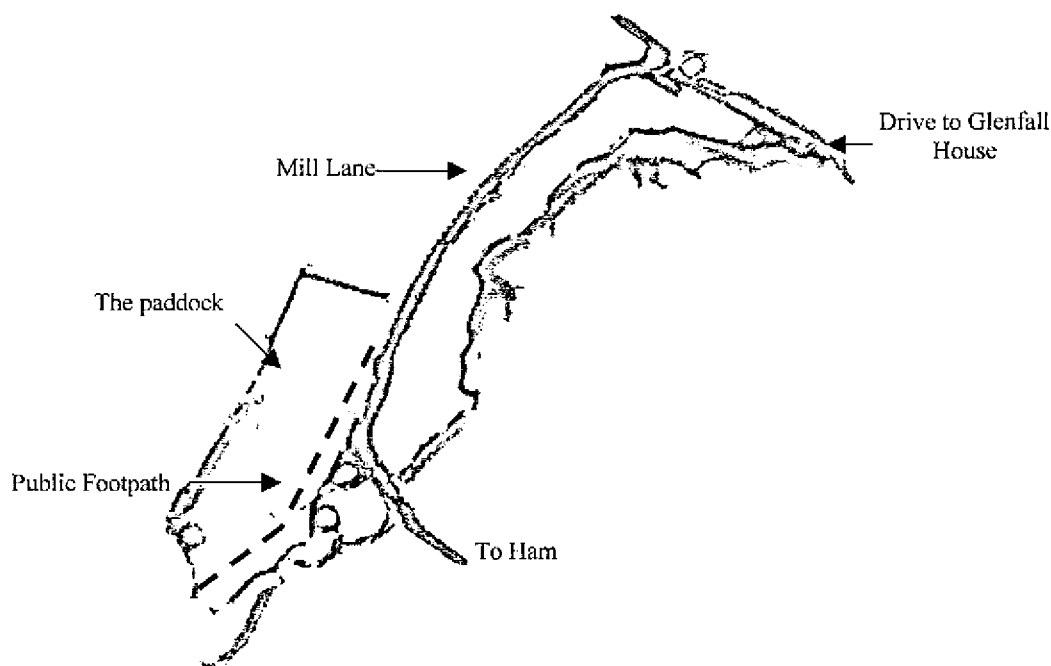


Fig 1: Rough plan of the paddock searched off Mill Lane

At their closest points the Mill Lane paddock is just over 300 metres from Ryeworth Field, yet it yielded a totally different array of finds. Some of this can be put down to the fact that there is an old footpath running through the paddock, but the rest would imply that it has seen a rather different agricultural history to that of its close neighbour.

Coins, Buckles and Buttons

This paddock produced a wide range of copper and silver coins dating from George III (1760) through to Elizabeth II, along with numerous buttons and buckles. As similar items were covered in some detail in *Bulletin 51*, I will not go into any more details except to mention that the Mill Lane paddock produced just 75 coins compared with a final total of 300 from Ryeworth Field. The majority of the Mill Lane coins came from the reigns of George V to Elizabeth II. Not surprisingly most of the finds came from the line of, or close to, the footpath which runs along the Mill Lane boundary. The exceptions are as follows: a very corroded bronze coin measuring 17mm diameter but there is no detail left to make an accurate identification. However, the coin is very similar in size and thickness to small roman

coins of the 4th century. I also found a single farthing of Charles II dated 1672 (Fig.2) and a halfpenny of William III.

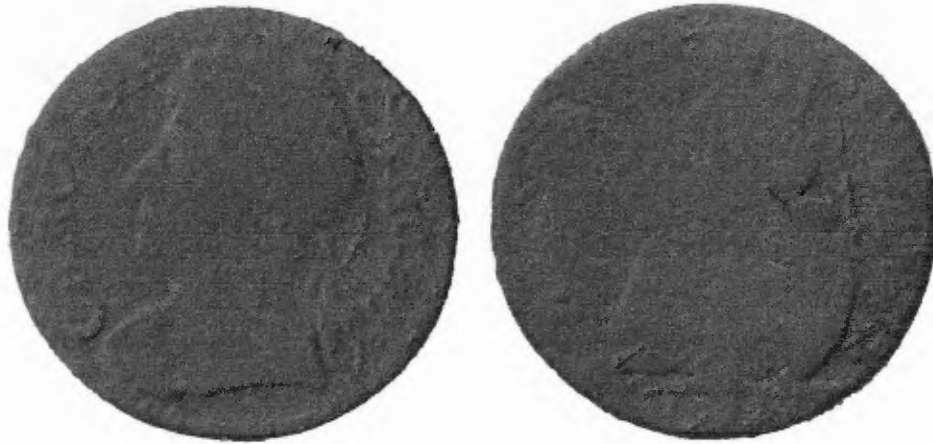


Fig 2. Charles II Farthing 1672

One of the oldest items found is a spectacle buckle (Fig 3), so called after its distinctive shape. Fortunately a lot of research has gone into buckles with many publications in print to help with dating them. This particular buckle, shown on the left, is dated 1500 – 1600. It is made from bronze and measures 49 x 37mm. The pin would have been made from iron but they nearly always rust away so finding a complete buckle of this age is fairly unusual.

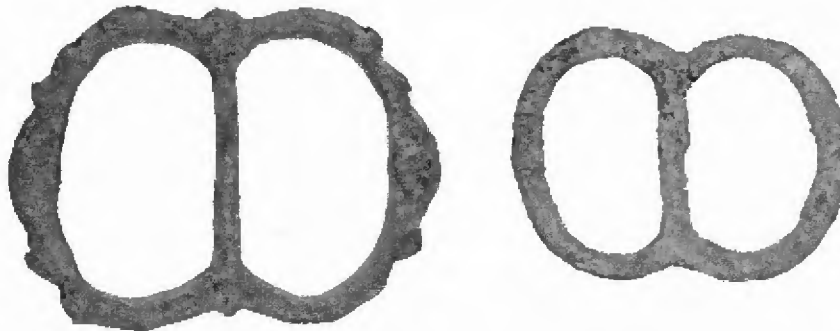
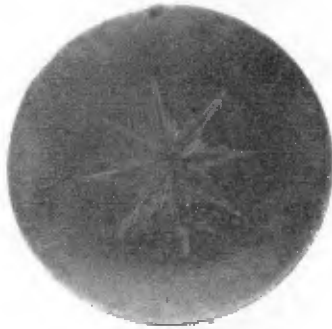


Fig 3. Spectacle Buckles 1500 – 1600 & 1250 - 1400

The right hand buckle (found near Tewkesbury) measures 37 x 27mm. It is also a spectacle buckle but is dated 1250 – 1400. We can see how these items have evolved from a ‘necessity’ into a ‘fashion item’, an indication of growing wealth. This trend can be illustrated by examples of more modern buckles found near the footpath, shown in Fig 4. all three are dated 1660 – 1720 and are shoe buckles. The centre one measures a healthy 63 x 45mm, with the outer ones measuring 32 x 25mm.



Fig 4. Shoe Buckles 1660 – 1720



A typical selection of buttons came to hand with the best being an 18th century 'tombac' button engraved with an eight point star ¹. It has a 25mm diameter so would have come from a jacket or waistcoat. Engraved tombac buttons are fairly common finds with a bewildering array of designs. This button would have been one of a set of six or eight of this size and perhaps been accompanied by a number of smaller ones for cuffs. In the mid 1700s this engraving would have been done by hand by a craftsman, so this is another indication of growing wealth

Fig 5 Tombac Button

Leaden Tokens

This is where the similarity between the finds from the two fields starts to draw apart. The presence of a footpath meant that the Mill Lane field was used as a thoroughfare to the old mill. Proof of this comes from the finding of several leaden tokens in the field. Two such tokens can be seen in Fig 6.



Fig 6 Leaden Tokens

The left one measures 22mm in diameter and has a circular pattern based around a central cross in a circle with a raised centre. It can be argued that this depicts a mill wheel and many similar designs are found on leaden tokens located close to old water mill sites. Symbols depicting windmill sails are common finds from around sites of old windmills. It is suggested that they were used as tokens or tallies between the miller and farmer. The right hand token measures 19mm and has ten pellets on it, perhaps given in return for 10 sacks of corn?

The collecting of leaden tokens (paranumismology) is a rapidly growing area. They are prolific finds with a considerable range of designs. There are currently thirty two different categories. Another consideration for their widespread distribution is because they were probably used as small change. It is known that halfpenny and farthing coins suffered chronic shortages for many centuries. Prior to the late 16th century it was not cost effective to mint such coins, but later in the century copper was being used for halfpennies and farthings, and a massive volume of forgeries appeared. A leaden token with a known design became more reliable a form of currency.

Many attempts to outlaw leaden tokens were undertaken by Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and James I but could never succeed while legal small change remained scarce. It was not until the reign of George III, when 2.5 million copper halfpennies and farthings were machine minted that the use of leaden tokens as coinage stopped. They remained in use into the late 19th century as agricultural tallies to record work done by a labourer on piece work.

Jettons:

I found a single French 'jetton' in the field, dated 1667. It differed significantly in design and usage from the jetton discussed in *Bulletin 51*.

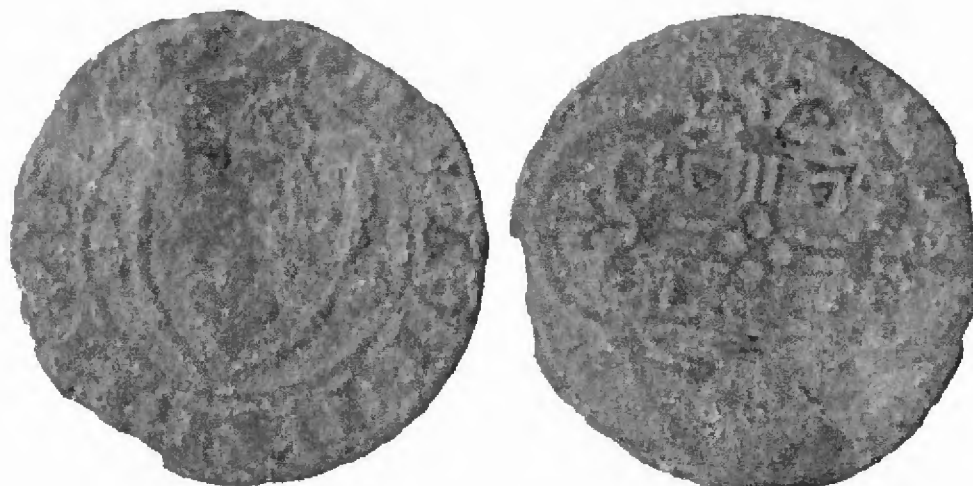


Fig 7. French 'jetton' mid 17th Century

These jettons are thought to have been used as reckoning counters. A reckoning board with lines across it would have been used to produce accounts as illustrated in Fig 8. The lines

represent values in Roman numerals and the jetons would have been placed on the corresponding line to represent money owing or due.

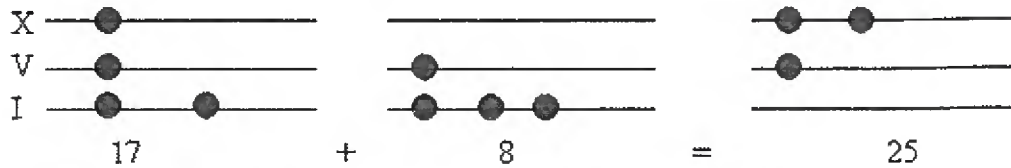


Fig 8 Example of Reckoning Counters in an addition

Although I only found a single jeton in this field, they are fairly common detecting finds. It can be argued that these French or German bronze and brass 'coin-like' jettons were also circulated as small change in the way the leaden tokens were used.

Thimbles:

Thimbles have been well researched and are very easily dated. The ones I found all date from the 17th (left image) to 19th (right image) centuries.

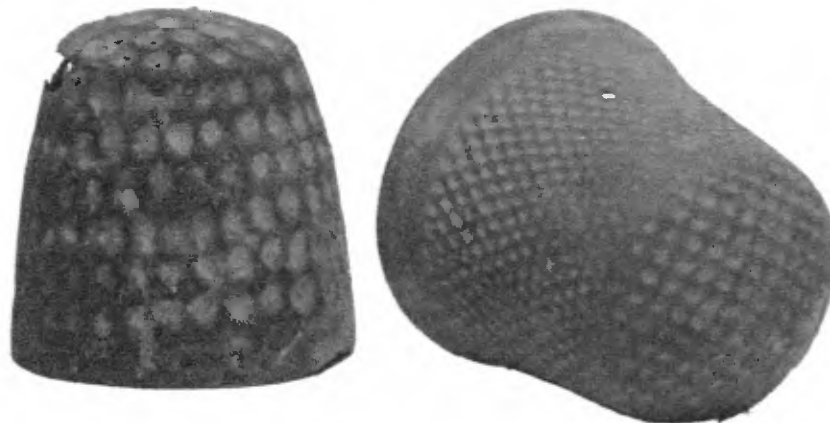


Fig 9 Thimbles

Surprisingly thimbles are a common find from agricultural land which raises the question as to why they frequently appear in the middle of a field. Were labourers mending their clothes while out in the fields, or repairing torn sacks? It seems more likely that travelling craftsmen or peddlers might have dropped them as they journeyed from village to village.

Miscellaneous Finds

The field also yielded a large number of musket balls. Many were seemingly undamaged so may have been dropped or used for target practice against straw-filled targets. Several were flattened meaning that they hit something a little more solid, perhaps a branch in a tree.

Musket practice was once compulsory so finding a site with a large number of musket balls is not uncommon.

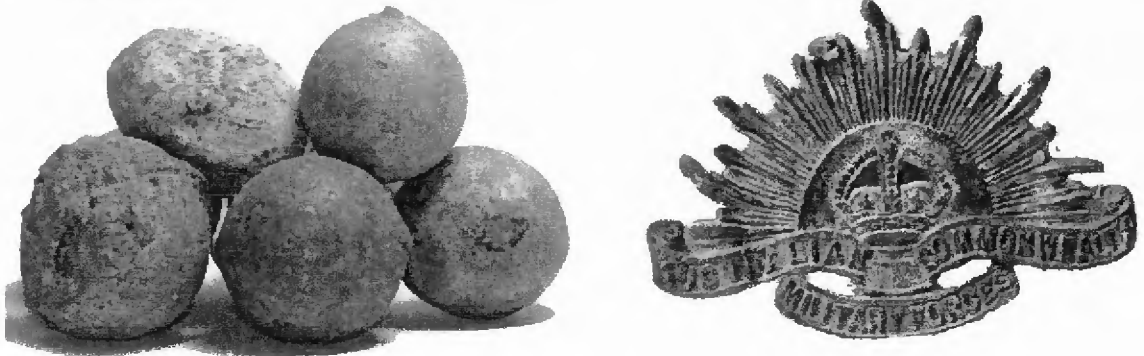


Fig 10 Musket Balls & ANZAC Cap badge

Staying with the military there I also uncovered a single cap badge with the legend “Australia Commonwealth Military Forces”. This badge was part of the ANZACs (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps) uniform but I am unable to date it accurately so cannot tell if it is early or mid 20th century.

Footnotes:

- ¹ ‘Tombac’ is an American term for a copper and zinc alloy. It contains enough zinc to give the object a shiny silver finish but was much cheaper than silver-plating,

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Buttons & Fasteners 500BC – AD1840 by Gordon Bailey ISBN 1-897738-218

Buckles 1250 – 1800 by Ross Whitehead ISBN 1-897738-17-X

Leaden Tokens and Tallies Roman to Victorian by Edward Fletcher

Mr K Adams, Finds Liaison Officer, Gloucestershire County Council

Mr D Knightley B.Sc Military Historian ISBN 1 897738 250

More about the Hare Coursing Ring

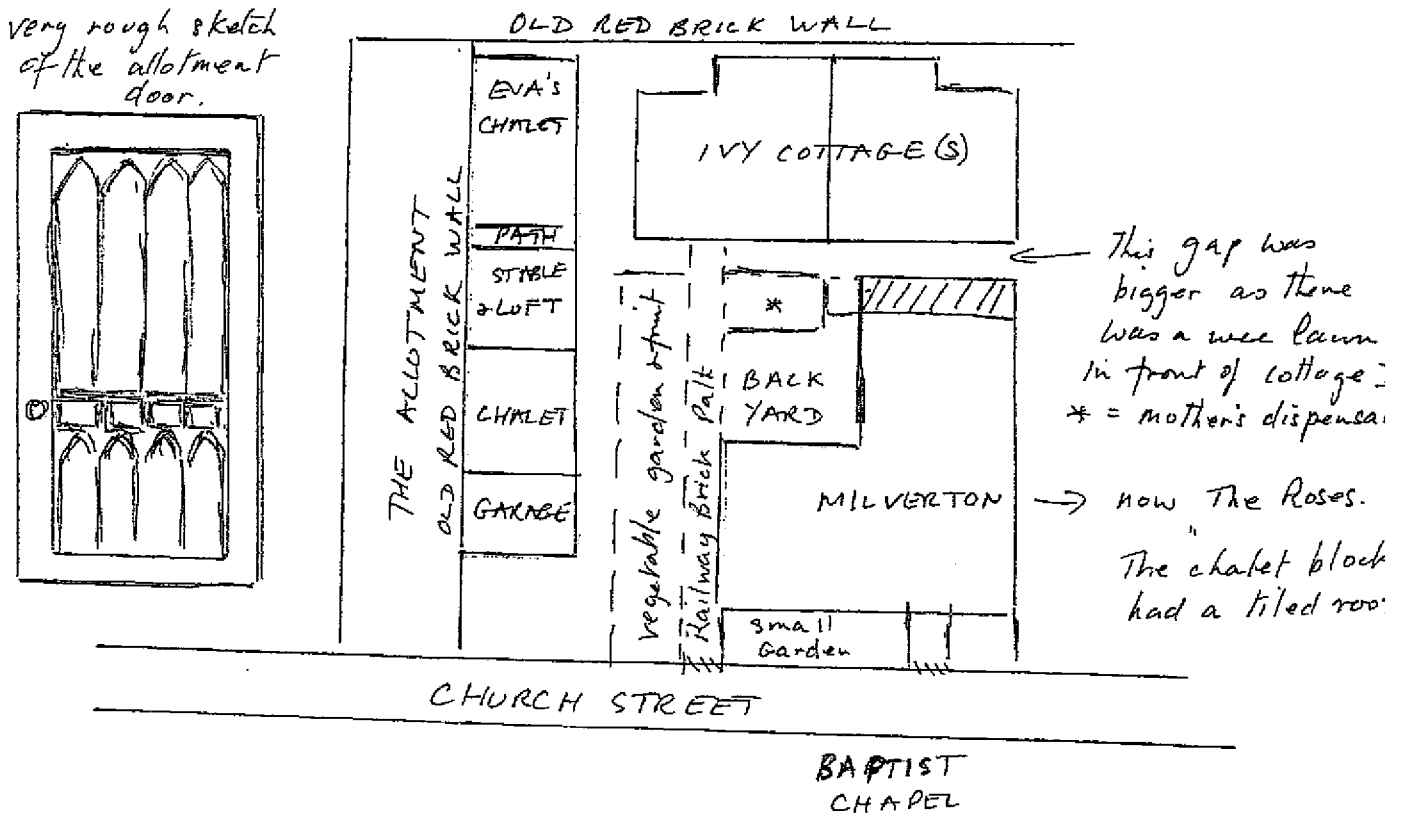
Since writing my article in *Bulletin 51* I have been able to find out some information about the maker of the Hare Coursing ring. The librarian at Goldsmith’s Hall identified the mark as that of John Whitehorn senior, and he sent me an excerpt from a book by John Culne entitled *A Directory of Gold and Silversmiths, Jewellers and Allied Traders* which gave the following information about the firm of Whitehorn and Son: “The firm began as goldsmiths, making the gold jewellery favoured in the Victorian age, when precious stones being comparatively rare, the art and skill of the manufacturing jeweller was put into fashioning the gold. Heavy gold brooches, bracelets, lockets, pendants and chains were the main products of the workshops, and for one line, signet rings, Whitehorn’s were specially known ...”

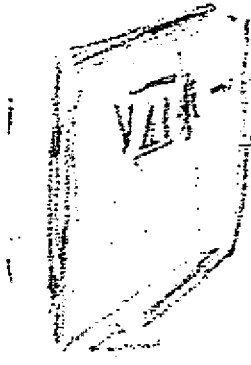
MEMORIES OF MILVERTON

By Frances Stobart

[Milverton was the earlier name for The Roses, the red-brick house opposite the Baptist chapel. Frances Stobart has written in the past about her adoptive mother Doctor Rivington and her memories of life at Milverton and also of Ivy Cottage which was part of the 'Milverton Estate' (see *Bulletins 43 and 47*). Last year Mrs Stobart sent us some more memories which have caused Mary Paget to rethink her earlier work on the development of the north side of Church Street. Correspondence between them has resulted in this article by Stobart and the following one by Paget which should be read in conjunction with each other – Ed.]

Plan of the Properties – drawn by Frances Stobart





I had a dream the other night and woke up with strong memories from my childhood. I was in the bathroom in Milverton and facing the thick oak door with the grill which opened into the kitchen and hearing Mother say “It’s alright I won’t close the door”, because from a very early age I had hated being shut in any room alone and also she had explained that this small stone room was once a prison cell in a police station. As I lay in bed I went ‘back’ and ‘walked’ through the house as I remembered it and it suddenly dawned on me that ‘red-brick Milverton’ had been ‘attached’ to an older building which was on a lower level than the modern part.

Go in the front door – on the left was the dining room/waiting room, then the stairs and a narrow hall leading to the back and on the right of the hall the surgery. Before reaching the end of the hall there was a door on the left that led to the cellar. This had been ‘put in’ as you had to go down a ‘horrific’ step to get in. The door went down inside to the bottom of that step – i.e. the original floor of the previous (?) house. Also at the end of the hall was an equally ‘horrific’ step down into the kitchen. This was where the red brick part of the house ended. The kitchen, scullery and bathroom were all at a lower level and built from the same material as Ivy Cottage. (I remember this because the back of the house had no red brick and the main roof only went over the two front rooms, hall and stairs)

The kitchen was stone-flagged – painted red – there was a range – oven either side. ... the door from the kitchen to the back yard was large and ‘thick’. It opened with an old fashioned latch (like a shed) and had an enormous iron key in the lock below. The scullery led out of the kitchen but extended beyond the outer kitchen wall – where another door went into the yard. Next to that and outside was the original toilet. The ‘bathroom’ had no window (just an iron bath and a ‘geyser’ which scared me).

Upstairs was also on two levels. The main very steep staircase led to ‘the nursery’ where mother and I slept and a wee toilet which jutted out over the back door and back yard. The nursery had two windows – one looked out at St Mary’s and the other was on the same level as the upstairs window at Ivy Cottage – it was at floor level as I could sit on the floor and look across to their upstairs window. Outside the nursery door the stairs continued up five steps to the very small front landing and two bedrooms.

Going back to the cellar – the steps – stone and very steep – at the bottom a stone pillar (on which my height was measured every birthday) - other stone pillars held up what looked like a stone roof – I seem to remember something hanging from hooks but that is ‘hazy’. There was no light other than a grill also a very dirty window. The grill was under the dining room window and there were ferns growing below – hence the darkness. The cellar is the puzzle – was there another ‘piece’ that was torn down? If not why does the cellar go ‘away from’ the original kitchen? Who thought of attaching new to old?”

[Stobart continues in a later letter:]

.....Yes, the rooms at the front of Milverton were changed over. The room on the left, as you go in, became the dining room with the lovely large polished table and red upholstered chairs, all of which came from Mother's home in Epping. That room was the only one with a coal fire and the wireless was in the corner by the fire. We used to listen to 'Uncle Mac' and 'Children's Hour' together. When at the Convent, I did my homework on that table. Never was I allowed to light the gas lights as I might have stuck the taper through the mantles. The 'Consulting Room' had no fire, only a terrible horse-hair sofa on which I was deposited whenever a siren went off at night. At some time Mother had frosted glass put in the consulting room window above the net curtains so no one could look in. By the way – no well or pump at Milverton at least not to my knowledge. I do not remember anything about the east end of Milverton – only an enormous stone wall going from the end of Ivy Cottages to the east end of Milverton, it was too tall for anyone to see over and I was forbidden to climb it.

[and a third letter]

.... Is it possible that Mother bought Milverton from John Smith, and also the land to the cross-line between the two 'chalets'. I know I was always warned that I must not go beyond the rockery at the end of that thin alley (which Mother called "alley-parade") as that was 'Ivy Cottage land'. Also Ivy Cottage and its land was rented by Mother from Miss Fanny Smith who lived in Copt Elm Road, very near to Miss Edith Messer and her parents who lived at No 11. Could Fanny have been a sister of John? Her grave is in St Mary's churchyard up against the railings on the side that abutts New Street or just round the corner against Horsefair Street. The headstone might reveal a relationship between them.

Ivy Cottages were white/grey rough stone, not clean cut, with tinges of red and the wall that joined the end of Ivy Cottages to Milverton was the white/pink stone. The red brick part of Milverton stopped at the right hand side of the back door, i.e. the back wall of the dining room, leaving the kitchen, "cell" bathroom and scullery as the original part of something. ... I am quite sure that some of the original house was destroyed to attach the red brick bit, but it was very cleverly joined on.

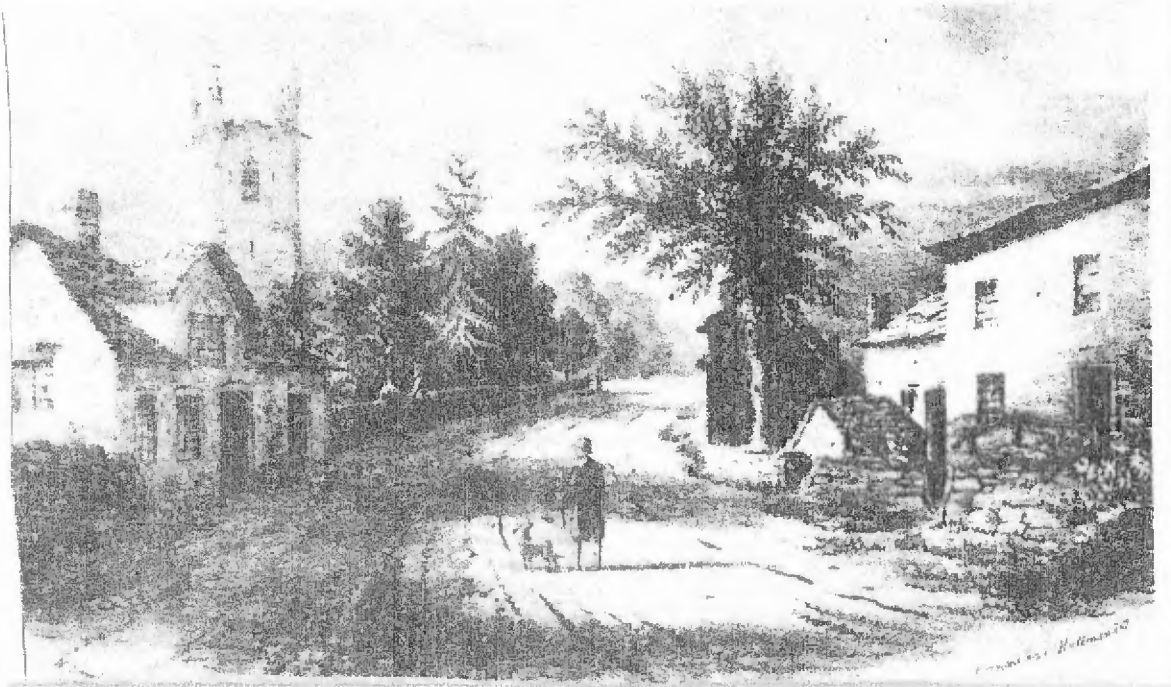
I realise now how much we have lost with Eva Davis' death. Her mind was clear as chrystal almost to the end – she would have been able to supply so much information about Charlton Kings and its inhabitants. [Eva Davies was housekeeper to Dr Rivington and lived in one of Ivy Cottages]

THE NORTH SIDE OF CHURCH STREET

By Mary Paget

Several of my guesses about the development of the north side of Crabbeway, later called Church Street, have proved wrong. So here I review the whole development as I see it now. To start with, the land north of the street was not laid out in strips East to West, but in blocks North to South. Then the 'Long Rainge', the ancient almshouses held for the parish from at least the mid 16th century, was not on the site of the later almshouses, but more to the west, where the present side entrance to the Club and St Clairford Hall are. It jutted out into the modern road, as we saw when the drains were renewed in 1999 ¹. Of course, the road in 1600 – 1700 was only a bare cart track in width.

You can see the silhouette of the Long Range sticking out into the 19th century road in the 1835 print of Church Street shown below. It also shows Laburnham Cottage on the right. There is no New Street at this time, nor the gate to "Webb's" freehold on the left.



East of the old almshouse was a block of land held by James Cleevely in 1817, when he was persuaded to exchange it for a block against Trigmerry Lane (later School Road). Charlton Kings needed a workhouse which would serve as a parish room and one was built on the north end of Cleevely's original piece of land ². In 1825 it was where the Sunday School met to teach working boys to read and write. The workhouse was taken over in 1834 by Cheltenham Union which paid a rent for it to the parish; when no longer required by the Union it was returned to the parish and pulled down in 1854. The Parish Room, built in 1902, now the Nursery School, occupies the site. The width of the entry to it, wide enough for a cart, remains as visual evidence of the former workhouse.

The rest of James Cleevely's old plot was leased by the Charity Trustees as a yard, but without their consent a house was built by the tenants in 1833 – Laburnham Cottage. The house adjoined the new almshouses, built by the Trustees in 1826 and was later extended to the west. There is a drawing by Ken Venus and a photograph of Laburnham Cottage in *Bulletin* 31 pp19 and 21. One more house was added at the east end of the block in c1850 – Woodbine Cottage. This meant that, with the three cottages in Spring Bottom, the Parish Charity could still house nine families as it had in the Long Range.

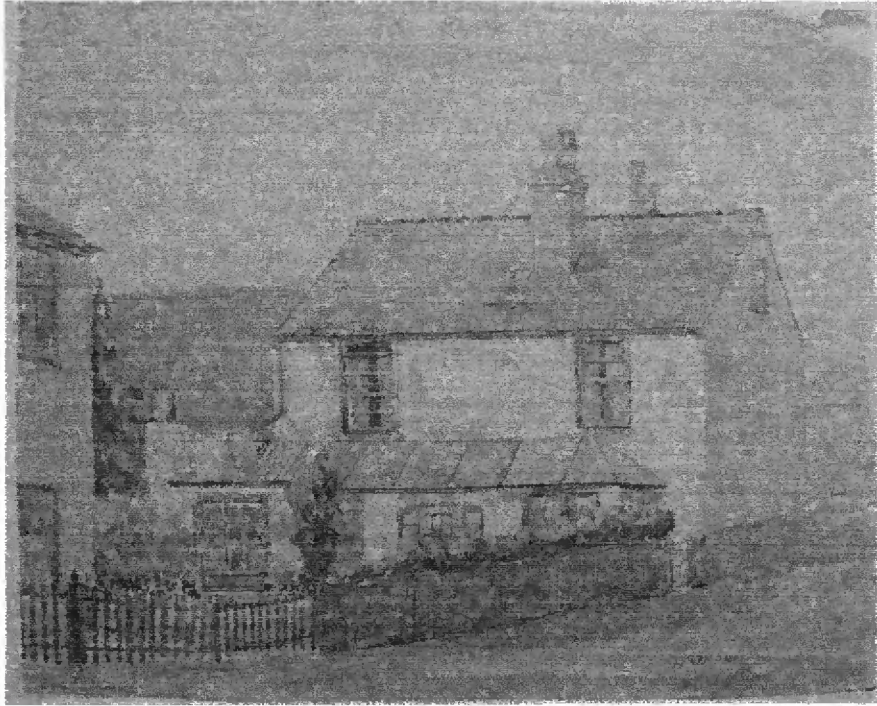
James Cleevely was originally given all the land west of Trigmerry Lane as far as the new almshouses. I presume this had gone with the freehold house on the site, but he later surrendered the strip next to the almshouses for £65. It is a pity that the Charity Trustees were so trusting (or so slack) that no proper conveyance of either site was made for years. So we cannot be sure what kind of house stood on the freehold but it is obvious that there must have been a house.

James Cleevely died in 1828. He and his wife Mary had two children surviving them – Sarah (1809 – 1897) and Thomas (1811 – 1851). On 23 January 1836 Thomas formally conveyed the workhouse site to the Trustees and had his possession of the other land confirmed. James' will, made 20 July 1827, left his freehold house to Mary for her life, after to be divided between Sarah and Thomas. Mary died in 1848 and the partition deed is dated 3 July 1849³.

Sarah received the centre block. Nothing is said about buildings on the land as this deed was simply to give the sister and brother a title, but it seems certain that the 'freehold house' spoken of in James' will was, mainly at least, on her plot. Thomas was to have two narrow plots to east and west, together they amounted to slightly more land than Sarah' share but no house. There may have been an outbuilding which could be adapted as a cottage, or a cottage may have been put up.

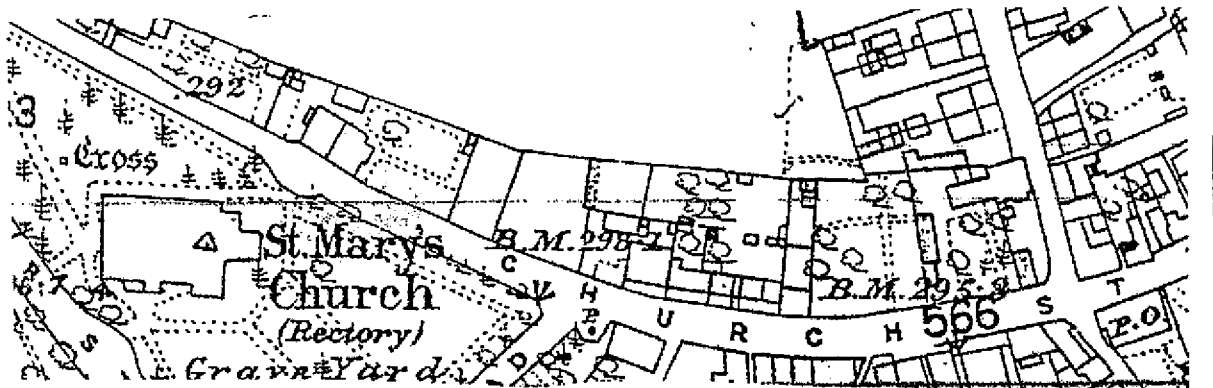
Sarah had married Thomas Smith, a hurdle-maker, on 14 April 1829 and had a son John Cleevely Smith (1833 – 1906) He married Fanny Timbrell 12 June 1858 and their daughter Mary Fanny was baptised 26 January 1862. Thomas Cleevely, a baker, and his wife Susanna Salter had five sons who grew up.

The 1858 Parish Rate Book shows Thomas Cleevely as owner of No 299 with no occupier named, while next door at No 300 the owner and occupier was Thomas Smith. Both properties are described as 'cottage and garden' and have a 'Rateable Value' of £4.8.0. There is no house listed on Thomas Cleevely's western plot. But the 1882 Rate book shows that a change has taken place – John Smith is owner and occupier of the 'cottage' rated at £5.12.0, while William Cleevely (son of Thomas) owns and occupies a 'house' rated at £12.15.0. Clearly this is Thorntonville. I now think that it was not built until the mid 1860s. William Cleevely, a plumber and builder, married Emma Bowen in 1860 and had a large family so would have needed a bigger house. We know what it looked like by the photograph shown in *Bulletin* 13, which was taken about 1895, some time after William's death. Mrs Bick told me that Thorntonville had three sizeable bedrooms and two attics above for the boys and girls. The photographs on page 28 are of Vic Holman's watercolour painting of the house dated 1954, and one taken in the 1920s which shows the former ladder store turned into a shop.



The 1882 Rate Book shows that the two Ivy Cottages had not yet been built, so I was wrong to suggest that they might have been an old farmhouse divided. Frances Stobart's description bears this out. The map below shows Thorntonville and an extension westward – the two Ivy Cottages. Cleevely's ladder store (which I remember) is shown built south of Thorntonville, but no house backs it. Some buildings on the Smith's western boundary must include the half-timbered stable Frances Stobart remembers.

1890-2 Ordnance Survey Map

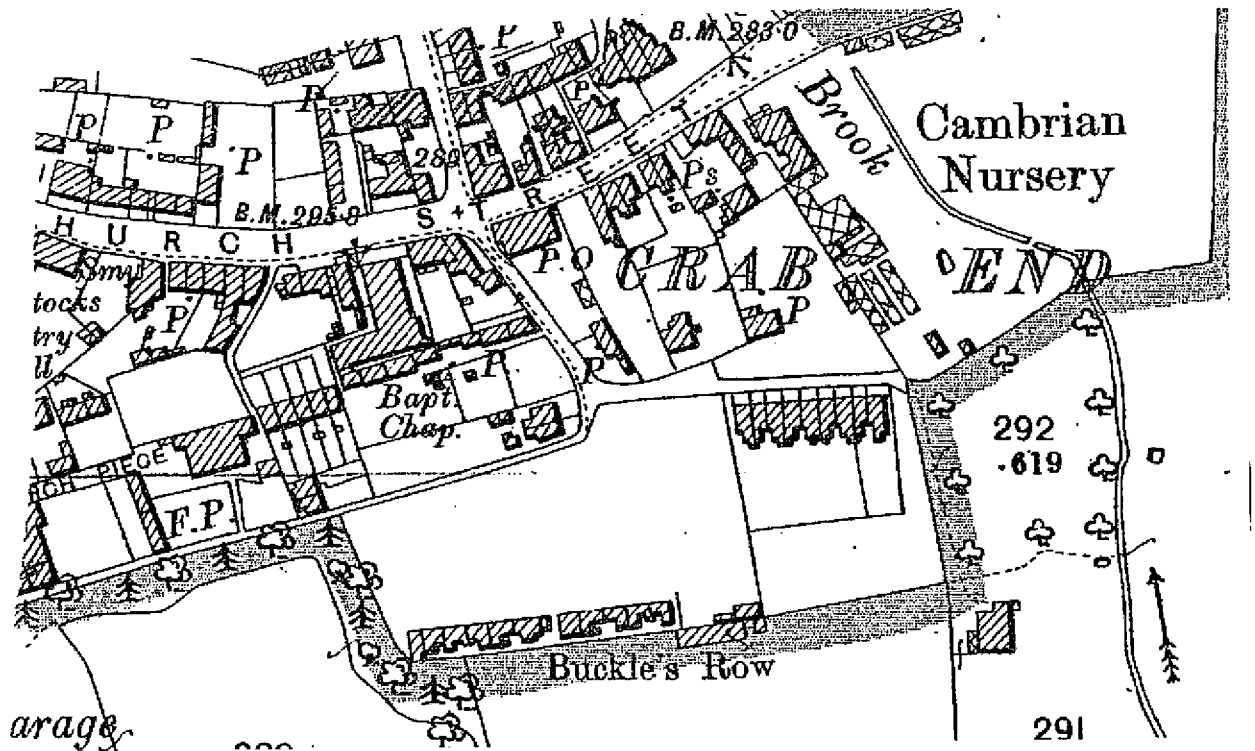


It seems therefore that the two Ivy Cottages were built between 1882 and 1889 and the stone taken from the old house in which the Smiths had lived. They presumably moved to one of the new cottages. Frances Stobart's letter tells us that the stone of which they were built was not local, it did not come from Leckhampton, or Ravensgate in Charlton Kings, or from Whittington. The traces of red suggests that it came from whatever quarry a similar streaked stone in a few buildings in Gloucester did. The cottages were originally thatched and later covered with corrugated iron.

Frances wonders if Thorntonville was stone built as she remembers it as off white. I am fairly certain it was only brick plastered and painted white. Although it is shown as attached in the 1890 map it was not built as part of the Ivy Cottages for they belonged to the Smith family, not the Cleevelys.

In 1890 the Smiths had a chance to sell their old house, or what remained of it, as a site for a new police station. Cheltenham wanted to move the former police station from the Horsefair in order to control the Merry Fellow and the two beerhouses nearby. As George Ryland told us the Royal sold 'Singing Beer' while the Merry Fellow sold 'Fighting Beer'. The police station now comprised two rooms newly built in red brick in front, a lock-up behind and the relics of the older house (kitchen and scullery) for the use of the resident policeman. By 1902 new houses had been built in Copt Elm Road and the police station was moved again to the site near the Co-op. The house was rented by the Gloucestershire County Council and no rates were paid on it.

The Ordnance Survey map for 1902-3 shows additions to the building.



The 1914 Rate Book lists Thorntonville under School Road with Emma Cleevly as owner and occupier and with a rateable value of £12.15.0. In Church Street we have No 915 - Laburnham Cottage rated at £4.0.0, Nos 916-20 - the almshouses, Nos 921 - garden rated at 15s and 922 - Ivy Cottage at £7.5.0 both owned and occupied by Fanny Smith, and No 923 - Milverton at £11.0.0 owned by Fanny Smith and occupied by Edmund Cleevly (the son of William normally called Joe).

Nothing much could be done with the Thorntonville buildings until Emma Cleevly died in 1922 when her executors came into possession. There had been a small haberdashery shop in Church Street run by Miss Eva Christina Horne from about 1914, but that shop was given up in 1922-3, so the way was clear for the two Miss Cleevlys to open a haberdashery and drapery shop in the old ladder store. It lasted until c1931 and the building became a barbers until demolished by the Cheltenham Council.

Dr Rivington bought Milverton in 1924. The Rate Book for that year shows: No 1005, Ivy Cottage, with owner Miss M F Smith deleted and changed to Mrs F Smith and No 1006, Milverton, with owner Miss Mary F Smith changed to Dr E Rivington as owner and occupier.

The rest of Dr Rivington's time at Milverton has been described for us by her adopted daughter Frances Stobart in *Bulletin 43* pp24-28 and *Bulletin 47* pp9-12

References:

1. *Bulletin 42* p9
2. *Bulletins 1 & 3*
3. *Bulletin 13* p38

EVACUEES IN CHARLTON KINGS: 1939-45

By Ann Hookey

In the summer of 2005 an exhibition of First and Second World War Memorabilia was held at Cheltenham Town Hall. Among the items displayed on the Gloucestershire Record Office stand were copies of hand-written forms headed: "Government Evacuation Scheme, Gloucestershire Education Committee", and completed on behalf of Charlton Kings Infants School (No.68), the Charlton Kings Council (Boys Dept.) School (No.68), the Charlton Kings Council (Girls Dept.) School (No. 68) and Charlton Kings Holy Apostles C. of E. School (No.69). The Boys Dept. was signed by 'C.Elmer' and the Girls Dept. by 'L.M.James and L.M.Banham.'¹

These forms sparked my interest and I decided to do some research into this subject of evacuees: how many children had come to the village and where had they come from, what were their ages and did they come with or without parents, and who had hosted them.

The Record Office allowed me to take photocopies of the forms and the information they contain is set out in Part I below. At the same time, the Record Office had been cataloguing boxes of Charlton Kings School Records and had just released the Infant School Register from 1935 to 1946. These details have been dealt with in Part II below.

From these two sources I was able to find out some interesting facts about the children who were evacuated to the village, particularly the younger ones as the Infant School Register supplemented the information given on the Evacuation Scheme forms.

Part I. Government Scheme

A preamble on one of the forms for the Boys Dept. states: "In accordance with the Memorandum February 1942, the following evacuees would appear to be entitled to billeting allowance though none was or has been claimed². A letter accompanying this form addressed to the Gloucestershire Education Committee and dated 19.6.1942, states: "I beg to return revised lists of evacuees. The alterations are for two re-admitted boys, Stanley Laphorne and Ronald Holman. I have ascertained that two boys now in this School, Raymond Hutton and Eric John Knowles, are shown on the Return for the Infants School". It was signed "Chas. Elmer, acting Head Teacher". It appears that similar forms had been submitted to the Gloucestershire Education Authorities from 1942 onwards. At the end of the war the complete list of evacuees attending these schools was updated for each child, to include the final departure date home, and the forms were submitted in retrospect.

The headings on the forms were as follows: Name, Home Address, Previous School, Previous Local Education Authority, Date of Admission, Date of Leaving and Remarks. It is therefore easy to ascertain the number of arrivals each year (Table A) and the areas from which the children had been evacuated (Table B).

TABLE A

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944/5		Total
Infants	7	17	9	2	4	24	=	63
Boys Dept.	17	17	14	5	1	22	=	76*
Girls Dept.	7	23	17	1	2	25	=	75*
Holy Apostles	-	7	7	-	-	24	=	38
Total	31	64	47	8	7	95	=	252

TABLE B

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944/5		Total
London	4	35	18	4	4	52	=	117
Birmingham	27	10	10	3	1	1	=	52
South Coast	-	18	14	1	2	41	=	76
Bristol	-	-	3	-	-	1	=	4
Glasgow, L'pool & Cardiff	-	1	2	-	-	-	=	3
Total	31	64	47	8	7	95	=	252

It is perhaps surprising to note that around 250 official evacuees were admitted to the local council schools, plus an unknown number of unofficial evacuees, who were making private arrangements for accommodation. This seems a large number for one village and of course does not take into account any under-school age children or those that may have been sent to private schools. Some of this number, however, may be the same children who returned home and then were readmitted at a later date. It is apparent that some children only stayed for a short time: they arrived in 1939/40, were sent back home at the time of the 'phoney war' and then returned and were re-admitted in 1941. The initial arrivals in Charlton School in September 1939 were from St Benedicts Road Infant School and Oldknow Road Senior School, Birmingham, but nearly all the children returned home in December 1939. They were not included in the Evacuation Scheme list, unless they returned and were readmitted to local schools in 1941. In 1940/41 with the impact of the Blitz on London and the South Coast more children came from those areas. Later in 1944 the dreaded V.1 Flying Bomb caused a large contingent of children to be evacuated from London and the South to the comparative safety of the Cotswolds. In Graham Sacker's book *Held in Honour, Cheltenham and the Second World War*, he states that in the autumn of 1939, the local press warned the residents of Cheltenham to expect 2,500 evacuees from Birmingham plus another 200 from Dagenham. In fact on 1st/2nd September 1940, 1,400

unaccompanied children and 1,200 expectant mothers arrived from Birmingham and were dispersed around the Cheltenham area. A couple of weeks later in mid-September another 2,500 evacuees arrived from Eastbourne. In June 1944, some 600 evacuees arrived from London and the South Coast and these people were housed in various places around Charlton Kings, i.e.: Holy Apostles Church Hall, Highbury Hall and the Brotherhood Hall, as well as in private accommodation.

Even the brief comments in the Remarks column can reveal quite poignant information. Some children were evacuated to two or three other destinations before arriving in Charlton Kings: Tonbridge, Bristol, Exeter, Cirencester and Cheltenham. Sometimes the home address is unknown or cannot be traced, the house having suffered in an air raid, or the mother staying at a different address. Several children were under school age when they arrived, some of whom were left at the Whithorne War Nursery, before being housed locally while they attended the Infants school. Whithorn House, on the London Road, was owned by Mrs Mason, widow of Major Mason until about 1943, but for a time during the War it housed an evacuated London Nursery School³. A few children, when their own families were unknown or for some reason they could not return home after the war, were sent to Dr. Barnado's Homes.

However, the majority did return to their homes and many did well at school. Marjorie V Hill achieved a scholarship to Pates Grammar School; Eugene Peach and John Palfreyman passed the county Junior Scholarship to the Cheltenham School of Arts and Crafts; Raymond Smith gained an entrance to Wandsworth College and others to the local Technical College; while some "left to take up employment".

Part II. Admission Record for Charlton Kings Infant School⁴

This Infant School Roll adds to the information already available from the Evacuation Scheme as it gives us the name of the guardian, i.e. where the child was lodged. The sample list below, therefore, is taken from both sources. Although the full home address is given in both sources, I have just quoted the home town.

Brian Andrews, aged 4 previously at Whithorne War Nursery, lived with Mrs Abbotts, Bradley Rd admitted to Infants 5 Sep 1944, returned home at unknown date

John Bagguley, aged 6 from Birmingham, lived with Mrs Mustoe, Ashley, Church St admitted to Infants 18 Sep 1939, returned home 24 Oct 1941

Mary Blackham, aged 6 from Birmingham, lived with Mrs Myline, Battledown Manor admitted to Infants 8 July 1940, returned home 17 Jan 1941

John Wm Blandford, aged 4 from Scotland, lived with Mrs Grandfield, School Rd admitted to Infants 30 Sept 1940, returned home 29 Nov 1940

Stewart V Burgess, aged 4 from Woodford Green, Essex, lived at Ryeworth Villa admitted to Infants 16 Oct 1940, returned home 4 Aug 1944

Margaret D Cunningham, aged 3 from Liverpool, lived at 5 Little Herberts Rd
admitted to Infants although under age 10 Nov 1941, returned home 16 Nov 1942

William J Cunningham, aged 6 from Liverpool, lived at 5 Little Herberts Rd
admitted to Infants 19 Nov 1941, returned home 4 Nov 1942

Margaret D Gilroy, aged 6 from Liverpool, lived at 5 Little Herberts Rd
admitted to Infants 10 Nov 1941, returned home 10 Dec 1942

John N Hanson, aged 6 from Eastbourne, lived at Bafford Croft, Bafford Lane
admitted to Infants 30 Sept 1940, sent to Dr Barnado's, Windsor, 17 Oct 1944

Michael S Hanson, age unknown from Eastbourne, lived at Bafford Croft
admitted to Boys 30 Sept 1940, sent to Dr Barnado's, Windsor, 17 Oct 1944

Rosalie N Hanson, age unknown from Eastbourne, lived at Bafford Croft
admitted to Girls 30 Sept 1940, reported gone to St Leonards 15 Dec 1941

June Hesketh, aged 5 from Birmingham, lived with Miss Vassar-Smith, Brookway
admitted to Infants 18 Sept 1939, returned home 10 Apr 1941

Joyce Hesketh, aged 6 from Birmingham, lived with Miss Vassar-Smith, Brookway
admitted to Infants 18 Sept 1939, returned home 10 Apr 1941

John Hesketh, age unknown from Birmingham, lived with Mrs Ellaway, 8 Pumphreys Rd
admitted to War Nursery 8 Jul 1940, returned home 1 Aug 1941

Margaret R Hesketh, age unknown from Birmingham, lived with Mrs Ellaway, 8 Pumphreys Rd
admitted to Girls 9 Oct 1939, returned home 10 Apr 1941

Brian Holland, aged 6 from Welling, Kent, lived with Mrs Handy, 34 Little Herberts Rd
admitted to Infants 13 Sept 1943, returned home 20 July 1944

Arthur R Holland, aged 5 from Welling, Kent, lived with Mrs Handy, 34 Lt Herberts Rd
admitted to Infants 13 Sept 1943, returned home 20 July 1944

Maureen S Holland, age unknown from Welling, Kent, sister of above but not known where she
lived, admitted to Infants 19 Sep 1944, reported as "now returned to Chalford Hill, Stroud" 27
Oct 1944

Robert A Hughes, aged 4 from Bow, London, lived at The Hearne, Hearne Rd
admitted to Infants 30 Aug 1943, returned 3 Sept 1945 but home destroyed by bomb.

Renee M Hughes, age unknown from Bow, London, lived at The Hearne, Hearne Rd
admitted to Girls 22 Jun 1942, returned 3 Sept 1945 but home destroyed by bomb.

Grant McKenzie, aged 4 from Walton-on-Thames, lived at 3 Cleethorpe Villas, Lyefield Rd
admitted to Infants 2 Oct 1944, returned home 17 Oct 1944

Valerie M McKenzie, aged 6 from Walton-on-Thames, lived at 3 Cleethorpe Villas, Lyefield Rd
admitted to Infants 17 Apr 1944, returned home 17 Oct 1944

Norman B Piggott, age unknown from Enfield Lock, Middlesex, lived at 13 Croft Rd
admitted to Boys 30 Sep 1940, returned home 16 Dec 1942

Zonia E M Piggott, aged 5 from Endfield Lock, Middlesex, lived at 13 Croft Rd
admitted to Infants 30 Sep 1940, returned home 16 Dec 1942

Michael T Prudence, aged 5 from Woodford Green, Essex, lived with Mrs Gilling, Gladstone Rd
admitted to Infants 9 Apr 1945, returned home 30 Apr 1945

James Purkiss, aged 5 from Eastbourne, lived with Mrs Dex, 16 Haywards Rd
admitted to Holy Apostles 14 Sep 1940, transferred to Naunton Park, returned home 31 Jul
1941

David R Scott, aged 5 from London, lived with Mrs Coates, Welldon, East End Rd
admitted to Infants 22 May 1944, returned home 13 Feb 1945

Christine Smith, aged 6 from Birmingham, lived with Mrs Clothier, 7 Garden Rd
admitted to Infants 18 Sep 1939, returned home 16 Jul 1940

Joyce C Smith, age unknown from Birmingham, lived with Mrs Clothier, 7 Garden Rd
admitted to Girls 1 Sep 1941, returned home 14 Nov 1941

David Spinks, aged 4 had been at Whithorne War Nursery, lived with Mrs Abbotts, Bradley Rd
admitted to Infants 4 Sep 1944, returned home – unknown date

Bernard R Warden, aged 6 from Birmingham, lived with Mrs Mustoe, Ashley, Church St
admitted to Infants 18 Sep 1939, later transferred to Boys, returned home 24 Oct 1941

Ronald Warden, age unknown from Birmingham, lived with Mrs Mustoe
admitted to Holy Apostles 18 Nov 1940, returned home 5 Nov 1941

Responses to requests for any local information:

Tony Dex remembers two young boys and their parents, surname Purkiss, staying with his family when they lived at 16 Haywards Road. His own father was a butcher and had a shop at the corner of the London and Hales roads. Mr Dex says he was only a young lad in 1940 and had two sisters also living at home at that time. The Purkiss family stayed perhaps a couple of years and then found a flat in the Old Bath Road. A James Purkiss is included on the Holy Apostles Evacuation Scheme form, with the comment that he later moved to Naunton Park.



Mrs D M Jefferies remembers two little boys named David and Brian who came to live with her mother, Mrs Abbotts, in Bradley Rd. These have been identified as David Spinks and Brian Andrews, who were previously both at Whithorne War Nursery, London Rd. They were under school age when they arrived but then attended the Infants school. Their home addresses were not known and neither had been visited by a parent or relative during this time. At the end of the war Mrs Abbotts indicated that she would like to adopt both boys. However, unexpectedly Brian's mother made contact with the Education Authorities and he was returned to her. Also David's mother requested his return and he was put on a train, with a placard bearing his name, and sent to Cardiff to live with his mother whom he did not remember, her new husband and step-siblings.

Mrs Jefferies has a photograph of David and has kindly given permission for us to reproduce it here.

Perhaps the above may stimulate other stories about the evacuee children. If so please contact me, there may be a sequel for another Bulletin.

Footnotes and References:

1. GRO AE/VI/4/41
2. Billeting allowance – householders were able to claim 8s 6d per week for each lodger.
3. *Bulletin 34* p31
4. GRO S76/1/5. School Roll. 9/203/1. From 24 June 1935. (L Dubber)

CHRONOLOGY OF SCHOOLS

By George Marchant

[George Marchant, who works as a volunteer at the Gloucestershire Record Office, has kindly sent our Society a copy of all the information he has amassed about Charlton Kings Schools from the 18th century up to the present day. This information forms part of the *Gazetteer of Gloucestershire Schools* being prepared by the Record Office. Much of the earlier history of the schools has already been covered in our previous bulletins, but I thought this Chronology would provide readers with a useful “way-in” to the history of our schools. Those readers who want to read more should turn to articles entitled ‘Education in Charlton Kings I, II, and III in *Bulletins* 3, 4 and 5 respectively, and Joan Paget’s articles in *Bulletins* 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 35 and 36.]

1743 Cooper’s Charity School

Under the will of Samuel Cooper, a mistress was paid to teach six children to read. A ‘dame’s school’ was established, and continued until 1886.

Associated with this was ‘Mr Higgs Night School’, established c. 1870 by CC Higgs, a descendant of Samuel Cooper.

1831 Boys School

Initially established in the Poor House (workhouse) in Church Street; moved to a converted chapel in Horsefair Street in 1837. Girls attended 1838-1848.

1836 Infant/Girls School

Established as an infant school in Mill Lane (later renamed School road).

Older girls attended from 1848.

1837 Coltham Fields Infant School

Established in Rosehill Street to cater for the Cheltenham end of the parish.

Note These three 1830s schools were associated with St Mary’s Church and its vicar, Rev JFS Gabb

1873 (i) Expansion in Mill Lane/School Road

Boys school moved to larger building in Mill Lane, adjacent to infant/girls school, which was refurbished and split into separate girls and infant schools.

(ii) Holy Apostles Schools

New boys and girls schools opened, associated with the newly established Holy Apostles Church. Coltham Fields Infant School joined this group

- 1898 Further Expansion in Mill Lane/School Road**
Boys school moved to a new building across the road, girls moved to former boys building, infants occupied former girls and infant premises.
- Note** Charlton Kings School Board managed the Mill Lane/School road Schools from 1883 to 1903.
- 1905 Closure of Coltham Fields Infant, as building condemned.**
- 1914 Reorganisation of Holy Apostles, as building condemned**
Holy Apostles became a junior mixed school, later a primary school
- 1948 Reorganisation of School Road Schools into Secondary, Junior and Infant**
Boys school became a mixed secondary modern, girls school became mixed junior, infant school continued unchanged.
- 1958 Secondary School moved to New Building at East End**
Juniors and Infants moved to former secondary building
- 1967 Holy Apostles School moved to New Building at Battledown Approach**
Juniors moved in 1967, infants joined them in 1974.
- 1968 Juniors moved to New Building at East End**
Infants remained at School Road with new buildings subsequently added.
- 1972 Glenfall Primary School opened in Glenfall Way**
- 1986 Secondary School became a Comprehensive – Balcarras School**

CHARLTON KINGS IN 1588

By Jane Sale

During the last year some records from the Cheltenham manor court proceedings, which were previously not allowed to be ordered up, have become available for research on completion of their conservation. One dated April 1588 fills a gap between articles written by Mary Paget on 'Charlton Tenants in 1557 and 1564' in *Bulletin* 30 pp 16-24 and 'Charlton in 1617' in *Bulletin* 18 pp 35-40 and so adds to our knowledge of the people of Charlton Kings¹.

The court proceedings of Cheltenham Manor were written in Latin at this period and all in the same hand, presumably by a clerk. They included a 'presentment' from the 'head tithingman' for each tithing². The newly found material, however, is in English and written by different individuals, presumably by the separate head tithingmen, thus showing us something of the workings behind the official court records. It consists of a list of the men in each tithing – Asheley, Bafford and Charleton in our case, together with the amount of the 'common fine' payable to the court by the tithing³, and some personal details such as the names of any man who had died since the last court or was absent because of illness. It also gives the names of those who were a 'common miller' or 'vitualer' and thus liable for a fixed payment to the court, an early form of licensing, and details of any stray animals which would have been put into the lord of the manor's pound. The list for Asheley tithing has some useful additional information in that it names those making up the different households within the tithing. Below are the lists shown with the original spelling:

Chareletons Tethingmans presentment

Rychard Blicke	William Balenger - infirm
Walter Gryeffync	Rychard Cartwrite
Rychard Gothridge	Thomas Reynolde Sen – infirm
John Gotheridge ...	Thomas Yate
Robert Gotheridge ...	John Marten
Edmond Cartwryght Sen – infirm	Richard Gale younger
Thomas Cartwright	Robert Greene
John Edwardę	Conway Bowler
Abraham his man	Edward Dowdeswell
Will Houlder	Richard Willis - infirm
John Ivery	Walter Willis
Thomas Hyett	John Lewse younger
John Whithorne Sen	William Stevens
Will Whithorne Jnr	Richard Balenger
Nicholas Welles	John Kemmett
Edmond Cartwrite Jnr	William Eate - infirm

Notes accompanying the list: 'comon fine 2s 6d. John Marten is a comon myller, William Balinger, Richard Balinger and John Lewes are comon vitalers. A straye sheepe remayneth in the custody of Nycholas Wells. Wallter Goodrich ys departed sethens [since] the last courte who dyed sased of two messe in base tenure where upon happeneth to the lord two heryottes pretium [value] £5 2s and that Elenora his wife ys nexte tenant to the same two messuages. Alis Houlder wydowe died sethens the last courte daye, who died seased of one messuage, whereupon happened to the lord one heryot pretium [value] 30s & we doe finde John Houlder the younger her sone to be nexte sayme. Heirs Walter Goodrich owe ... £5 2s'

Asheley Tethingmans presentment – 1588

Walter Boughon – gent		Henry Bettes
Robert Tychet		Arthur Forynes (?)
Walter Whyte	{his household 2}	John Blick {his household 2}
Rychard Lawrence		Nicholas Digason
John Hawthorne		John Curryer {his household 3}
John Merry Senr	{his household 5}	Robert Curryer
John Merry Jnr		Ralph Baylies
Rychard Acley		John
Wyllyam Jones		Robert Churches
Rychard Whithorne	{his household 2}	Edward Curryer
Robert Davis		William Combe {his household 3}
Thomas Wager	{his household 2}	Thomas Westfayer (?)
John Chaldon		John Freme
John Rogers Snr	{his household 2}	Francis Whitehorne
John Rogers		Henry Clevely
John Gale	{his household 3}	Robert Alexander {his household 3}
Andrew Gale		John Alexander
Rychard Gale		Usould Thayer (?)
Thomas Fynche		John Clevely
Rychard Hale Snr	{his household 2}	Nycholas Dowdeswell
Thomas Hale		William Machine
Jon Strawford	{his household 2}	George Horne
Thomas Strawford		Rychard Kent
John Whithorne Jnr	{his household 3}	Owen Tasker
John Powell		John Wilkes
Gracyan Gale		Johan Elborowe {widow hhold 2}
Rychard Kemmett		Thomas Badwell (?)
Willyam Whitehorne		
William Ballenger Jnr		

Notes accompanying the list: 'common fine 5s. These be absent: John Curryar – sick, John Wilkes, Robert Davys - sick [crossed out] and John Tholden – sick'

Bafford Tethyngmans presentment - 1588

William Grevill – gent	Rychard Fluck
William Ridgdale	William Whithorne
Reynold Machin	John Whithorne Jnr
Robert Whithorne	Ralph Abote
Thomas Lewes	John Hale
John Kinge (?)	John Holder
Thomas Gotheridge	William Holder
Thomas Theyer	John Holder Jnr
Samywell Taylor	Edward Tuffley
Nicholas Randell	William Mylton

Notes accompanying the list: ‘common fine 3s 5d. Alis Houlder wydowe tenant in base tenure dyed since the last court, who held three messuages in base tenure whereupon happened to the lord three heriots pretium [value]....and we do present John Houlder the younger to be nexte ... also one straye sheepe colour white in the custody of ... Ridgdale which came straye about the feast of Saint Michael tharchangel last past pretium [value] 20d.’

[Walter Goodrich was buried at St Mary’s on 27 January 1587/8 – he held land at Ham in the 1564 lists. Alice Holder was buried 22 March 1587/8. She had held a messuage in Charleton tithing as well as the three noted in Bafford, and was presumably the widow of Nicholas Holder who had held 105 acres of land in the 1557 and 1564 lists of tenants. Nicholas had been buried 5 August 1577, having had a son John baptised 17 April 1539.]

Footnotes:

1. GRO D855 M4 Book 1
2. “Tithing” – medieval system whereby groups of households were responsible to the manor court for the good conduct of each member. A head tithingman was the elected representative who was responsible for making a presentment to the court. See *Bulletin 47* pp13-15, for more detail on manor court procedure.
3. “Common fine” - this sum of money was paid for each tithing according to ther number of properties held of the manor. I do not know how or when it was fixed but the amount did not change over the years. Comparative figures for other tithings are 3s for Leckhampton, 2s for Swindon, 5s for Bradwell (part of Leckhampton), 2s 3d for Alston, 3s for Arle and 3s for Westhall.

CENSUS OF 1801

By Don Sherwell

Mr Lightstone has very kindly given the Society a copy of the Census Reports to Parliament in 1801, the first year in which a census was held throughout Britain.

On 31st December 1800, an Act was passed “for taking account of the population of Great Britain, and the increase or diminution thereof”, and a number of questions were sent to every Parish. In England and Wales written replies were to be made by “the Rector, Vicar, Curate, or Officiating Minister, and Overseers of the Poor, or (in default thereof) some other substantial householder of every Parish, Township or Place”. In Scotland it was normally expected to be the responsibility of the schoolmaster. Census Day itself was to be the 10th March 1801 in England and Wales, and as soon as possible afterwards in Scotland – the difference being justified on the ground that, because of the colder climate, it could not be certain that all parts of Scotland would be easily accessible so early in the year.

There were five questions to be answered:

1. Housing: - How many inhabited houses are there, occupied by how many families, and how many unoccupied houses? Within the Hundred of Cheltenham, the parish returns were as follows:

	Inhabited	Occupied	Uninhabited
Charlton Kings	112	156	3
Cheltenham	645	748	1
Leckhampton	29	29	1
Swindon	27	29	4

There was slightly more sharing of houses in Charlton Kings than in the rest of the Hundred or nationally. The proportion of vacant houses in Cheltenham was three times the national average. It was even greater in Swindon, but the figures are perhaps too small to be significant.

2. Population: – how many males and females, including children but excluding soldiers and sailors.

	Male	Female	Total
Charlton Kings	359	371	730
Cheltenham	1405	1671	3076
Leckhampton	114	111	225
Swindon	55	61	116

Families in Leckhampton were substantially larger than the other three parishes or nationally and so, therefore, was its house occupancy.

3. Employment: – How many were employed chiefly in the following occupations:

	Agriculture	Trade/Manufacture/Handicrafts	Others
Charlton Kings	209	51	470
Cheltenham	284	459	2333
Leckhampton	190	35	0
Swindon	53	8	55

The Leckhampton returns under ‘others’ is surprising – perhaps a particularly generous interpretation of what accounted as ‘agriculture’ had been taken.

For the next two questions the figures are not given for each parish but for the Cheltenham Hundred as a whole.

4. Numbers and Genders of Baptisms and Burials: – How many in 1700 and every tenth year afterwards until 1780, and then every year until 1800.

To take just three sample years, the numbers for this Hundred were as follows:

	1700	1750	1800
Male Baptisms	38	37	60
Female Baptisms	29	40	52
Male Burials	23	20	30
Female Burials	21	25	28

5. Marriages: – how many each year from 1754 (i.e. the year after the Hardwick Marriage Act tried to regularise the situation in England and Wales) until 1800.

Within the Cheltenham Hundred there was a minimum of 14 (in 1756) and a maximum of 42 in 1791 (but only 21 in 1800) Over the period in question the number of marriages rose substantially more than the national average.

Finally the returning officers were asked if there any matters thought necessary to explain the answers to the five questions. Just one comment was thought necessary: the baptism and burial records for Leckhampton for 1700 were faulty. This is of no importance in comparison to the fact that, of the 850 parishes in Scotland, only 99 sent in returns, the remainder having no registers at all, or only occasional entries. [In their defence, they were not bound to keep records by canon law in the same way as that the English and Welsh were.]

Ireland in 1801, in the aftermath of the revolt of the United Irishmen against British rule in 1798, was not in a sufficiently peaceful condition for a census to be carried out in the same way as the rest of the kingdom. Instead figures for the Hearth Tax were used as the basis for calculating its population.

Those whose role it was to assess all the returns recognised that the parish records had their failings even when accurately kept [they did not, for example, include babies who died before

baptism or those buried in non-Anglican graveyards or abroad]. On this last score, incidentally, they noted with some pride that, at a time when we were at war with Revolutionary France, about one in twenty two men died abroad "in the employment of war and commerce, a proportion which strongly marks the enterprising character of the nation".

Taking into account the returns received, and making reasoned assumptions when these were incomplete, the summary of conclusions was that the total population of England, Wales and Scotland in 1801 was ten million, nine hundred and forty two thousand, six hundred and forty six [including some four hundred and seventy thousand soldiers and sailors] with some one million, eight hundred and seventy five thousand houses occupied by about two million, two hundred and fifty thousand families [and around sixty five thousand unoccupied houses]. There were over four million people living in Ireland.

If any member of the Society would like further details [e.g. of other parishes in Britain] do feel free to let me know.

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In *Bulletin 51* Don Sherwell wrote about the Horticultural, Poultry and Industrial Society. Gwen Bray has written to Mary Paget and commented that her father, Police Sergeant Hughes, was secretary of the Flower show for many years when it was held in the field opposite the College playing field.

She added "I often think of the tradesmen who appeared in Copt Elm Road: Moses Davis with milk, the Italian couple with their ice-cream (we collected it in cups!) and in season the elvers, my brother and I used to keep them alive in water."

Gwen also sent this photograph Of 'Dad' Ryland, who was one Of the leading figures at the Baptist Chapel. He was the Father of George Ryland, who wrote several articles for the Society's early bulletins.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEDMORE ESTATE

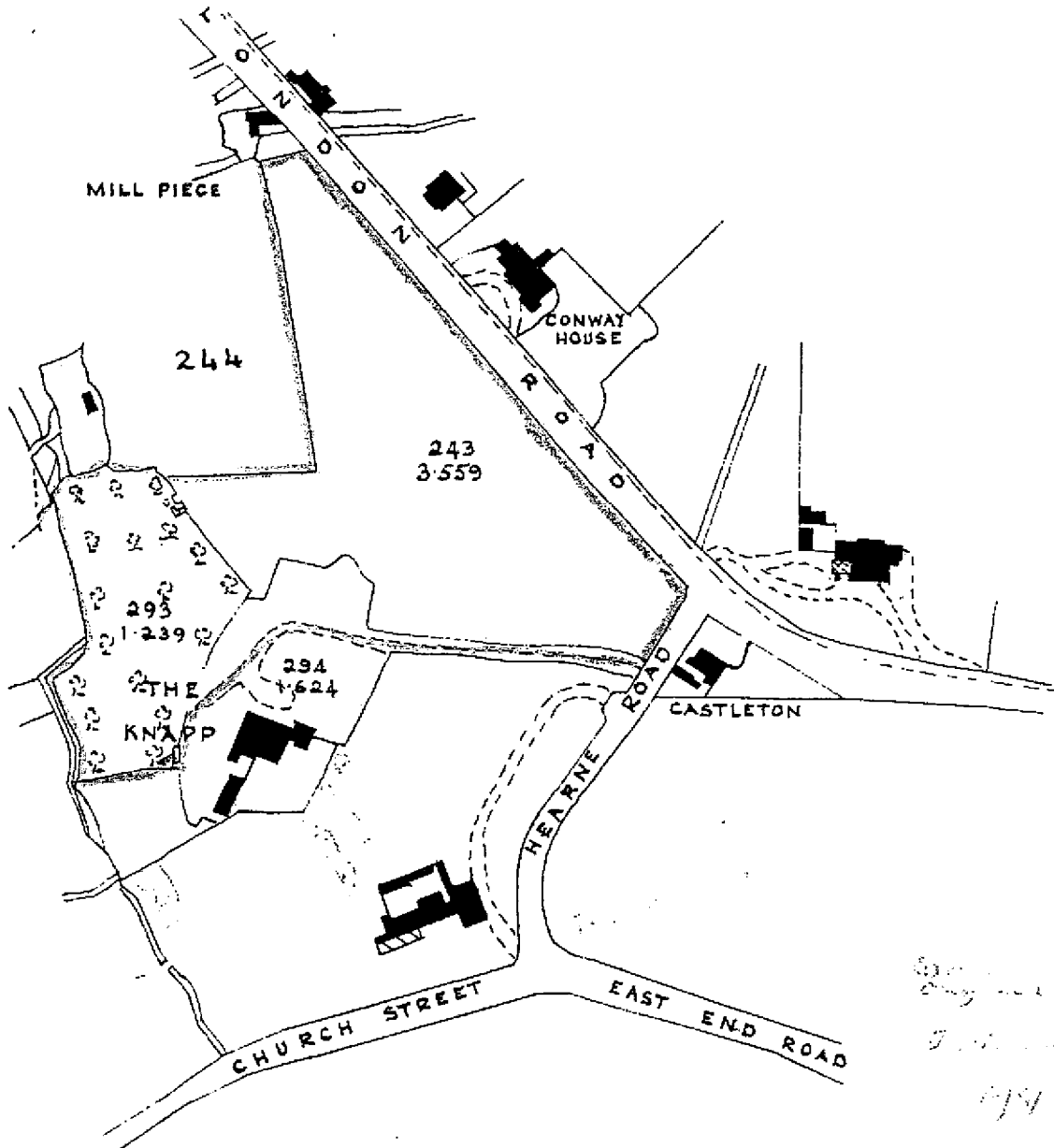
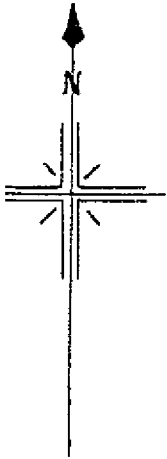
By Jane Sale

I am very grateful to Shane O'Neill who kindly allowed me to study the deeds of No 6 Ledmore Road. These show that planning permission for the erection of thirty two houses was granted on 16 September 1952 and that No 6 was sold to its first owner, Mr R H Parker, on 19 October 1953. The story behind the development is shown in the Abstract of Title which accompanied this conveyance.

The map opposite shows the area on the south west side of the London Road where the houses were built. This land was part of the Knapp estate and was purchased by Alfred William Martyn of the Hearne on 3 December 1924 for the sum of £2800. The estate was described as 'a messuage with offices and outbuildings, garden, lawn and pleasure grounds together with two pieces of pasture and orchard called the Knapp'. The conveyance was subject to a right of way for the owners of the adjacent property known as Mill Piece through the gates on the north side of the property adjacent to the London Road. A W Martyn bought the Knapp from the trustees of Annie Falkner Fielden, nee Bury, who had inherited the property from her half brother William Stanley Bury in 1909. He had purchased it in 1901 from the Reverend William Lutener. These transactions were carried out at the Court of the Manor of Ashley, or Charlton Kings, so the property would have been held by copyhold tenure of that manor. A heriot of 3s was paid together with a fine of twice the yearly rent of 1s 6d to 'the Lady of the Manor', who was Margaret Jane Rotton of Stokesay Court in Shropshire, a descendant of the Prinn and Russell families of Charlton Park.

By conveyance dated 29 December 1925, A W Martyn sold most of the Knapp estate to Cecilia Rosalis Gisborne Ferguson, 'being the whole of 293 containing 1.239 acres, part of 243 containing 0.544 acres and part of 294 containing 1.605 acres', but retained the greater part of the field numbered 243, where the development was to take place.

The next transaction included in the deeds of No 6, refers to the sale of this field, described as 'a piece of land containing 3.169 acres on the south west of the London Road' by the executors of A W Martyn to Henry Edward Ripley of the Knapp on 9 September 1947 for the sum of £1250. The deeds do not refer to A W Martyn's sale of the Hearne, but when he died on 18 January 1947 he is referred to as 'of Mellington, London Road, Charlton Kings. His grandson, J Whitaker, writing in *Bulletin* 22, explained that A W Martyn had bought the Hearne in 1919, but sold it after the second World War when it was in a dire state after having been commandeered for the use of displaced families for the duration.



07

SCALE 1/2500

G. GOULD MARSLAND MBE BSc MInst CE
 BOROUGH & WATER ENGINEER
 CHELTENHAM JULY 1953

Henry Edward Ripley, of the Knapp, died 29 December 1949. He appointed his wife Daisy Doreen Ripley as his executrix. His will was proved on 5 May 1950 and the following year she sold the property to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Cheltenham for £6000.

The deeds show the Knapp estate divided into three parts, described as:

- (1) Property not subject to this abstract
- (2) Piece of land on south west side of London road containing 3.169 acres forming part of 243
- (3) Property not subject to this abstract.

An accompanying map shows part (2) in green, another part in pink which corresponds to the area sold by A W Martyn to CRG Ferguson in 1925 including the Knapp house, and a third part in orange which was the field numbered 244, to the north west of 243.

Modern maps show this whole area was developed by the Borough of Cheltenham and there are thirty two houses built on it, all to a similar design. When R H Parker bought No 6 he paid £4025 for it. There was a proviso that if he wished to sell the house within the space of five years, then he must sell it back to the Borough. I understand that the houses were intended for GCHQ personnel as an incentive to encourage them to move to Cheltenham. Mr Parker is described as 'civil servant' in the conveyance. It was in fact fourteen years before the house changed hands, when R H Parker sold it to Mr and Mrs Kelly for £6650 in 1967 - a figure greater than the price the whole Knapp estate had been sold for less than twenty years before.

A final note about the name 'Ledmore'. Mary Paget in *A History of Charlton Kings* refers to a footpath called the 'coffin path' through the Ledmores which enabled mourners from Ham to carry their dead to St Mary's church, and there is a map on page 21 which shows the field name 'Ledmore' marked in the area where the houses were built. Looking in *Place-names in the Landscape* by Margaret Gelling I learned that the prefix 'Led' referred to a conduit for water and we can see from maps that water from the Chelt was conduited across the north west part of Ledmore in conjunction with the working of Charlton Kings mill. It is satisfactory to see the old name retained in the development.

THE SMITHS OF BALCARRAS HOUSE

By David A. O'Connor

William Smith was born at Carbeth Guthrie, Strathblane, Stirling, Scotland, in 1835. He was the fifth son of William Smith, of Carbeth Guthrie, and was a member of the Scottish Gentry family of Smith of Jordanhill, whose coat-of-arms are shown here.



This family was descended from the Smiths of Craigend, Stirlingshire, where they had been seated since the introduction of surnames. They originally held their lands as kindly tenants of the Ducal House of Montrose, to which they were armourers, hence their surname. In Scotland a kindly tenant was a rentaller who held a lease of land which his ancestors had held before him; such a tenant usually held the land on favourable terms. John Smith, the last of the old rentallers, died in 1640 and his son Robert acquired the fee simple of the lands in 1660. Archibald Smith, born in 1749, was the youngest son of James Smith of Craigend. An eminent merchant, it was he who purchased the estate of Jordanhill in 1800. He had two sons, James and William, and it was the latter who was the father of our William Smith.

William Senior was a West India merchant in Glasgow and was one of its most prominent and popular citizens. A member of the Glasgow Sharpshooters Regiment, he was a Justice of the Peace for the counties of Stirling, Lanark and Dumbarton, Dean of Guild in Glasgow in 1812 and Lord Provost in 1822-3. Born in Dunlop Street, Glasgow in 1787, he married in 1810 Jane, the daughter of Alexander Cunningham and granddaughter of Sir William Cunningham of Robertland. They had two sons, Archibald, an advocate and Cunningham, a merchant in Glasgow. Jane subsequently died and William married for the second time, Sarah, daughter of Henry Wallis of Maryborough, the son of Henry Wallis of Drishane Castle, County Cork. The second marriage produced four more sons and two daughters:

Henry Wallis, Minister of Kirknewton and East Calder;
 John Guthrie, of Mugdock Castle, Stirling, a merchant of the Royal Exchange, Glasgow;
William, later of Balcarras House;
 James George, merchant of Bombay and Liverpool;
 Jane Cunningham; and
Helen Catharine, later also of Balcarras House.

William Senior had a cousin John Guthrie, also a West India merchant, who spent much of his life in the West Indies. On returning to the Glasgow firm of Leitch and Smith in the early 1800s, he purchased a picturesque estate in the Parish of Strathblane named Carbeth. Originally part of the barony of Mugdock, it lay close to the Allander Burn, which separates Stirlingshire and Dumbartonshire and overlooks the Valley of the Blane and the Highland Hills. He greatly improved the grounds and in 1810 replaced the former 17th Century farm buildings with the present house. However, John Guthrie died unmarried in Devon in 1834 and the estate passed to his cousin William Smith. He changed its name to Carbeth Guthrie and employed the architect John Baird to add a major extension to the house. It was here that

our William Smith was born in 1835. The house stayed in the family until 1861, though William Smith Senior lived on until 1871, when he died aged 85. Carbeth Guthrie remains a private residence today.

Our William was educated, in his own words, at Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities. The Smiths were not a military family but William subsequently gained admission to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery and appointed to a field battery at Ipswich in 1855, at the age of 20. However, two years later, in February 1857 the Great Mutiny began in Northern India. It was exactly 100 years since the British Raj had begun with Clive's victories in 1757 and there was a prophecy current that the Raj would last 100 years and no more. Taking full advantage of a canard that the new cartridges being issued had been greased with the fat of pigs, unclean to Mohammedans, and that of cows, held sacred by Hindus, conspirators hoping to restore the Mogul dynasty portrayed this as a deliberate move by the Europeans to forcibly convert the native population. Many other native rulers joined the rebels, though they had their own quite different motives for wishing to end British rule. Sepoys of many Native Regiments of the Bengal Army killed their East India Company officers and deserted to Delhi to proclaim the Mogul. An aghast England watched as the killing spread to all Europeans, including men, women and children, those Indians in Company Service and Christian converts. The East India Company's European troops were outnumbered 6:1 by Native regiments and British Army units had been withdrawn to pursue a war with China. By the spring of 1857 the garrisons at Delhi, Cawnpore and Lucknow were enduring a desperate siege and the British Government diverted troops bound for China to stiffen its response.

It is not known when the young William Smith arrived in India but it is likely that his artillery unit was part of the reinforcements despatched under Lt Gen Sir Colin Campbell in the autumn of 1857. Certainly the first action he took part in was either the first relief of Lucknow by Outram in September 1857 or more probably the second relief by Campbell's force in November of the same year. In this action his horse was shot from under him. In December he was present at the recapture of Cawnpore by Campbell when it was found that Nana Sahib had butchered the women and children in cold blood before the city fell. The military engagements were savage actions: the sepoy, trained by the British, were good soldiers. The Times reported that at Cawnpore "*the fire of grape from the enemy was most severe and well-placed, falling among the Artillery like hail... thirteen guns, mostly 9 and 24 pounder howitzers were playing with grape on the gallant Artillery and with round shot on the Cavalry, the former within 500 yards*". William also took part in subsequent actions at Serai-Ghat, a ferry place about 25 miles north of Cawnpore; Chanda, where a column of British and Gurkha regiments, Irregular Cavalry and a troop and a battery of Artillery converging on Lucknow interposed itself between two rebel forces 19,000 strong and attacked and routed them in detail; Umeerpore and Sultanpore. On 2 March 1858 Campbell's force began operations to capture Lucknow, an objective achieved after fierce fighting on 21 March. William Smith took part in these operations, including the assault on the sixth and last post of the enemy in the Moosabagh at Lucknow. The Times mentions the part played by "*Middleton's field battery and one troop of Royal Horse Artillery*" in this assault and the former is probably the battery in which William Smith then served. In April he took part in the battle at Bari in which the rebellious Maulvi of Faizabad and his force, retreating from Lucknow, was defeated. He was then involved in pursuit operations against the retreating rebels beyond the northern banks of the Gogra River. The Indian Mutiny was effectively over and most of its leaders were hanged. A State of Peace was declared on 8 July 1859 following

Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1 November 1858 that authority had been transferred from the East India Company to the Crown.

The 23-year old William Smith had certainly earned his spurs. He was Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the Indian Mutiny medal with two clasps and for the rest of his tour in India, which ended in 1863, he was posted to an elite Royal Horse Artillery troop.

In 1864 Lieutenant William Smith's unit was posted to New Zealand. After the British assumed formal control of New Zealand in 1840, the Maoris began to be concerned by European settlement and government and from 1845 to 1847 fought a war against the Colonial Forces. They were suppressed in 1847 and peace lasted until 1860. Increasing immigration and demands for Maori land resulted in the First Taranaki War of 1860-1861. The war consisted essentially of sieges and storming by British troops and Colonial militias of Maori fortified villages, known as "*pas*". The war ended in a truce in March 1861, with the Maoris still in occupation of some European owned land. The Second Taranaki War broke out in April 1863 after Governor Grey drove them out of this land and the Waikato War began in July 1863 against Maori tribes in the Waikato River region. It was this last War that William Smith took part in. Once again the war was decided by sieges of Maori *pas* but the Maori also resorted to guerrilla tactics. The fall of the Orakau Pa in April 1864 essentially ended this campaign but from 1864 to 1872 hostilities enveloped the whole of North Island, with the fanatical cult Hauhau warriors, who believed they could repel bullets by chanting, proving an obstinate enemy. William saw action in the Waikato Campaign, at Te Ranga and at Gate Pa in June 1864; he was awarded the New Zealand medal.

William returned to England in 1865 where he served at Regimental Duty with the Garrison Artillery at Shoeburyness in Essex. In 1871 he became an Instructor in Gunnery at the School of Gunnery there, where he stayed until 1874. During this period he was promoted to major and in 1869, at the age of 34, found a wife. His bride was Emma Corrie Crozier, one of seven children of Francis Henry Crozier, a Civil Servant in the East India Company's Service. The Croziers of West Hill, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, were a family which acquired forfeited land in Ireland in 1692 after the Battle of the Boyne but were mostly India hands. Emma's father Francis had settled at Delawarr, Lymington, Hampshire. He had married twice: firstly to Harriet Paske, who bore him one son and died in 1837; and secondly to Harriet Burrard, the eldest daughter of a neighbour, the Reverend Sir George Burrard, Bt., of Walhampton, near Lymington. The second marriage produced two sons and four daughters, Emma being the second.

William and Emma's marriage produced five children, in quick succession:

William Frank (Francis), born in 1870;
Henry Crozier, born 18 January 1871;
Sarah Helen, born in 1872;
Emma Gertrude, born in 1874 and
Burrard, born in 1875.

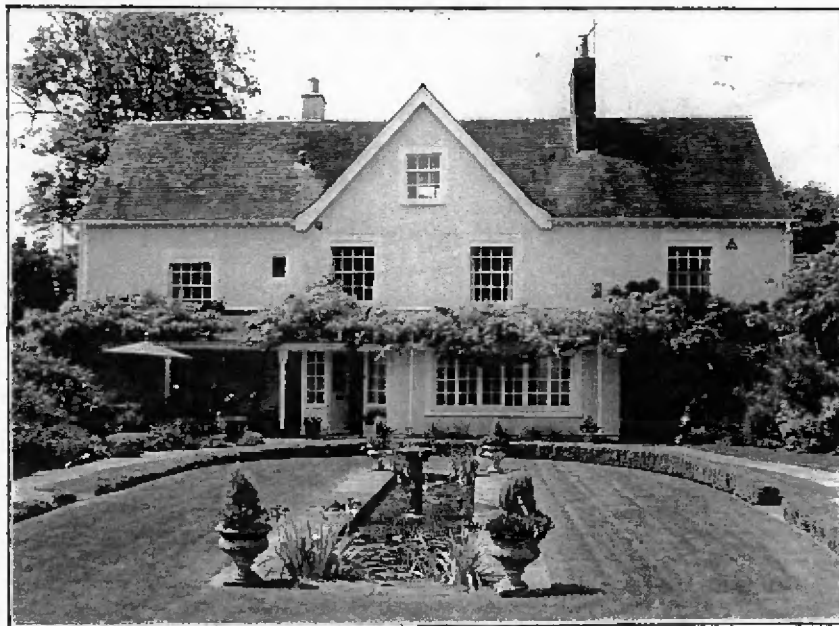
It is known that Henry was born at Kirknewton, Scotland and the two girls at Shoeburyness. Burrard was probably born in India.

William's time at the Shoeburyness School of Gunnery coincided with a period of trials of Mountain Guns, primarily for employment in India against "*...the formidable tribes to be found on the Punjab frontier or other parts of India.*" Bullock-drawn artillery pieces were useless in the mountains and some form of transportable gun was an essential weapon. This experience may have caused his posting in 1875 to India to take up an appointment as Garrison Instructor at Lucknow and later at Rawalpindi. On 27 January 1879 his wife Emma

died, leaving him a widower with five children. He remained in India, taking command of a field battery as a major, an appointment he held until 1882, when he returned home to take command of Auxiliary Artillery in the Dublin District. Auxiliary Artillery was the name given to artillery units of the Militia and Volunteers, and the commander of such forces would normally be a Lieutenant Colonel or Colonel of the Regular Army. He held this appointment until 11 January 1887, when he retired aged 52 and was granted the Honorary Rank of Major General. This is surprising, since on the face of it his military career had not been an outstanding one. He had not obtained the substantial command or General Staff appointments deemed necessary for high rank and for an Artillery officer, appointments to the technical Gunnery Staff were considered a fallback position in career terms. The Honorary Rank granted him did not carry the pay or pension of a major general, though it carried the title. It was probably recognition of the action he had seen in India and New Zealand but it might also have reflected his work on the development of the highly important screw gun.

William Smith did not arrive in Cheltenham or Charlton Kings until 1894, seven years after he had retired. In that year he appears for the first time at Balcarras House in Charlton Kings. This old house, which dated back to 1557, had borne the name Balcarres House since at least 1841 and had presumably been named after the stately home of the Earls of Crawford and Balcarres located at Colinsburgh, Fife. It had been bought by the Vicar of St. Mary's, the Reverend Gabb in 1841. He further developed the land, building two more houses, which became Balcarras (now Balcarras Court) and Balcarras Lawn. It is not clear when or why the name changed to Balcarras: this spelling certainly existed by 1858 although Balcarres appears on a map as late as 1884. However, Balcarras was more common locally and it was certainly Balcarras ten years later when William Smith occupied it. While he may have rented initially, it is clear that by 1904, when he first wrote his will, William had bought Balcarras House and owned some other rented properties, possibly those adjoining.

Balcarras House in 2005



In 1901 the Smith household comprised:

- William, widower, aged 65;
- Sarah Helen, daughter, single, aged 28;
- Emma Gertrude, daughter, single, aged 27;
- Helen Catharine, sister, single, aged 68 and living on own means;
- Jean M. Clarke, visitor from Scotland, aged 36.

The living-in staff comprised a house and table maid from Kempsey in Worcestershire and a cook from Kilkenny.

Missing from this heavily female household were William's sons. The eldest, William Frank had followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Indian Army; the second son, Henry Crozier, attended Dulwich College from 1887 to 1888 and afterwards emigrated to British Columbia, Canada, where he was a rancher; and the youngest son, Burrard, joined him there. In 1915 Henry, then 44 years old and married, enlisted as a private soldier in the 54th Kootenay Battalion of the Canadian Infantry, recording that he had previous service in the Calcutta Light Horse. He volunteered for the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, which at that time meant the Western Front. He came to England in November of that year but in August 1916 went to France. He served in the machine-gun section of his battalion at Ypres and then went to the Somme. In November 1916 during the battle of Ancre River he was involved in the storming of the Desire Trench and was shot through the chest. He died at the base hospital at Etaples and is buried in the cemetery there. He left a widow, Dorothy and two children. There is no record of Canadian Army service for Burrard but he was certainly alive and living in Nelson, British Columbia in August 1968, when he was aged 93. The unusual name "Burrard" may explain what drew the two boys to British Columbia. It will be recalled that his mother Emma's mother was Harriet, the eldest daughter of the Reverend Sir George Burrard, Bt.. The family pedigree relates how an ancestor, Colonel William Burrard, born 1712, was an intrepid soldier: the Governor of Yarmouth Castle, he obtained permission from the King to join the Russian Army against the Turks. He subsequently served in the Anglo-Spanish War in South America, where he was severely wounded in 1741 and lost his sight. In memory of this officer, Burrard Inlet, on which the Port and City of Vancouver stands in British Columbia, was named in 1792. Another Canadian version says that Captain Vancouver named the Inlet in honour of his friend, Admiral Sir Harry Burrard, another member of the same family. Be that as it may, Burrard Smith was not the first to bear this family name as a forename: his grandmother's elder brother was named Burrard Rawson Crozier. In emigrating to British Columbia, the two Smith boys were, in a sense, going home.

William Smith closely identified himself with St. Mary's Church and with Charlton Kings. He was for thirteen years Vicar's Churchwarden and was also a co-opted member of the School Board. He was not a controversial man like some of the other former military officers and did not engage in wider Cheltenham affairs. Even more prominent in village life were his two unmarried daughters, Sarah Helen and Emma Gertrude. When the First World War broke out, Sarah, who was the more dominating of the two, became Commandant of the Gloucestershire 30 Voluntary Aid Detachment of the Red Cross. From November 1915 until February 1919 she was Commandant of one of the Voluntary Aid Hospitals in Cheltenham, The Priory. This began at Moorend Park and later at The Abbots in All Saints Road but was eventually consolidated at The Priory in London Road. The Priory was opened in May 1914 with 50 beds but had 100 beds by the end of the War. It was a Primary Hospital, which received cases direct from the port of disembarkation. In the four years of the War it treated 1,603 wounded men, of whom 1,419 were British Army, 3 Royal Navy, 54 Canadians, 93 Australians, 2 New Zealanders, 1 pensioner, 24 Belgians and 2 US. The average number of

resident patients reflects the increasing casualty rate of the War: 1915 - 36, 1916 - 52, 1917 - 85 and 1918 - 75. There were between 1,900 and 2,000 workers in the Gloucestershire V.A. hospitals, of which between 90 and 95% gave their services free of charge. Sarah worked full time and Emma Gertrude worked part time from November 1914 to May 1916. As Commandant Sarah wore a special red dress uniform with a hat with ribbons. In 1916 the Post Office issued its post-women - thousands of them - with hats and ribbons identical those worn by the Commandants. Greatly offended, the Red Cross promptly ordered the design of their ribbons to be changed. The Priory closed on 9 January 1919 and in the New Year Honours List of the same day Miss Sarah Helen Smith, Commandant of Priory Auxiliary Hospital, Cheltenham, was awarded the Order of the British Empire.



Above, the Priory Voluntary Aid Hospital opened in 1914 at the junction between the London Road and Priory Street and Sarah Helen Smith became its full-time Red Cross Commandant. Below, Sarah and Doctor Johns (in the doorway) doing the rounds at Christmas, 1918. The Hospital closed on 9 January 1919 and Sarah was awarded the O.B.E.



In Charlton Kings the two sisters were known as Miss Brown (Sarah) and Miss Blue (Emma), because they always wore very plain clothes in those colours. Sarah was for over fifty years a School manager and was the senior Sunday School teacher at St. Mary's many years. She took the older children and a Miss Statham the younger. The same clothes lasted them for years: they never spent money on themselves but devoted every penny to missions and in particular the Universities Mission to Central Africa (UMCA). Sarah had a fretsaw and used to make and sell jigsaw puzzles in aid of UMCA. She was always pleased to receive any suitable illustrations and old lengths of wallpaper to cover the boxes in which they were sold. The photograph below, taken in 1927, shows Sarah seated on the left aged 55. behind her stands Ronald McLaren, her near neighbour at Wager Court.



From 1926, when the Mirfield Mission came to St. Mary's, the two sisters came to the daily Communion Service every day. Sarah used to bring her white bulldog, which she left with Mrs. Horner in Church Street during the service. They were very careful with food as well: a curate who lodged with them for a time at the end of the Second World War reported that they would not allow him milk or sugar on his porridge and everything was cut down to basics.

As is often the case, the ceaseless, the diligent and selfless work which the two sisters put into the life of the Parish did not always receive universal approval. After the arrival of the Reverend Wardle at St. Mary's in 1942, there was a falling-out concerning the Sunday School and Sarah was relieved of her duties, much to her chagrin. She nevertheless would turn up at the Schools on Sunday morning, just in case someone had not come and she could take a class.

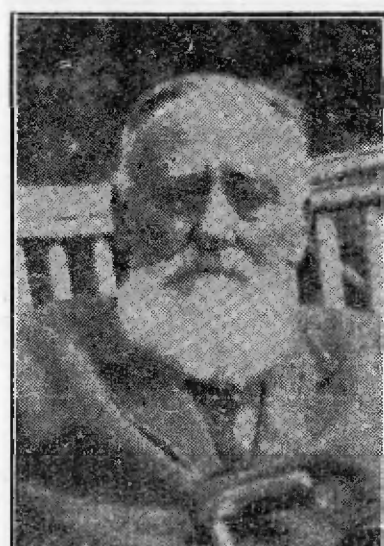
At one Parish Council Meeting, one of the men, possibly General Burton, was reputed to have said, *"Vicar, Vicar, if those holy women are going to Heaven, I'm going to the Other Place."* Nevertheless, the fact was that Sarah and Emma Smith did not just talk, they did things which others would not.

Major General William Smith died on Christmas Day, 1922 at the age of 87 and was buried at St. Mary's. In his original will of 1904 he had set up a Trust with his younger brother James George and the two daughters as trustees and executors. The Trust was essentially for the benefit of the two daughters. There were two subsequent codicils: the first in 1907, when, his brother James having died, he appointed his solicitor and near neighbour at Wager Court, Ronald McLaren, as a trustee; and the second on 7 December 1922, when he replaced Ronald McLaren with his son Walter Frank Smith, since the latter was now residing in England. This indicated that Colonel Walter Frank Smith, OBE, had finally retired from the Indian Army. He was living then at No.6, Queen's Terrace, Windsor. The second and last codicil was witnessed by his daughter Sarah and a Nurse Dorothy Finlay of the Imperial Nursing Home and indeed, 18 days later Major General William Smith died in the Nursing Home. He left a gross estate of £6,991..6s..4d, the net value of personal estate being £5,335..7s..1d. Although comfortable, he was not therefore a wealthy man. He merited an obituary in The Times of 28 December, which was largely taken from his entry in "Who's Who", except that it made the error of stating that he died "*leaving a wife with three sons and two daughters*". He had, of course, been a widower for 43 years.

William was buried in St. Mary's churchyard. His headstone did not proclaim his rank, as did those of most of the military officers around him, and certainly those of the generals. It said merely "*William Smith*" and bore the inscription "*Just as I am, I come*", an interestingly simple statement. It is a paraphrased quotation from a hymn written by Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871) which appears in "*The Invalid's Hymn Book*" of 1834. The full verse reads:

*"Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come."*

It reflects a man conscious of his human failings before his God but confident in the latter's abundant mercy.



William's sister Helen Catharine died ten months later on 24 October 1923, aged 91 and joined him in the churchyard. Sarah and Emma stayed on at Balcarras House for a few years but by 1928 they had moved into the adjoining Balcarras Cottage. They lived frugally, using a tin bath and having no central heating. Their elder brother William Frank, presumably now a widower, joined them at Sturmy's Cottage close by. Colonel William Frank Smith died on 11 April 1954, aged 84, in a Cheltenham Nursing Home. We know little about his career: some post cards collected by Annie Hopkins reveal that in December 1904 he was to be addressed at c/o Egyptian Mines Exploratory Co., Eridia Mine, Keneh, Egypt. Another post card shows that he had a son, Wallis Francis Smith, who in 1905 was staying at Balcarras House, and who at that time was a captain in the Army. Wallis was the maiden name of Major General Smith's father's second wife, and also the second name of the General's eldest brother. As we have seen above with Burrard, the Smith family, like many others, assiduously kept family names alive through the generations. Turning surnames into forenames was common where the marriage of a woman might incur the loss of a particular family name.

It was probably the death of their brother that encouraged the move of the two sisters from Balcarras and by 1965 they were settled at Willesdene, 115, Cirencester Road. It was here that the younger of the two, Emma Gertrude, died on 4 April 1967, aged 93. Her funeral was held at St. Mary's and she is commemorated on the family grave. However, she was cremated and her ashes were kept by her sister Sarah in a silver vase on the mantelpiece. Sarah Helen followed her on 18 September 1968, aged 96. She remained sprightly to the last; her obituary in *The Echo* revealed that in the June of that year she had made the long journey to Nelson, British Columbia, to visit her young brother Burrard, who was then 93. She died three weeks after returning to Charlton Kings. After her death, the contents of the house were auctioned and a local Charlton resident became the owner of a silver vase, the contents of which were unknown to him. On later discovering the ashes, he couldn't think what to do with them and emptied them into the fire. A rather unfortunate ending to the story of the two indomitable Smith sisters and their father, who for 74 years had been mainstays of St. Mary's Parish life.

THE DE CHELTENHAM FAMILY AND CHARLTON KINGS

by Michael Greet

This article refers to the de Cheltenham family in 14th century Gloucestershire, in particular to John and William. These two men played very active roles in the life of the county, and although it has not been proved, are presumed to be brothers. William is described by Nigel Saul as “perhaps the most remarkable and active man in fourteenth century Gloucestershire, due to the position he held as Steward to the third Thomas Berkeley” Both men were Stewards to Thomas Berkeley: William from 1332 and John in 1339. It is not known how they came to the notice of the Berkeley family but it may have been through descent from a William de Cheltenham who was Bailiff of Gloucester at various times between 1255 and 1269¹.

Our interest in the family lies in their connections with Charlton Kings. An article in *Bulletin 13* relates how in 1339 a John de Cheltenham obtained a licence from the Bishop of Worcester to have mass celebrated by a suitable priest at his oratories at Woodcroft and Charlton, without prejudice to the offerings and rights of the parish churches. A similar grant was awarded to Eleanor wife of John de Cheltenham in 1343 for the parish of Cheltenham. When this article was written we did not know the location of Woodcroft, but now know that it was in the parish of Hawkesbury and that a William de Cheltenham was Lord of Woodcroft in the 14th century². There was also some doubt as to whether this licence or grant referred to ‘our’ Charlton, but the 1343 grant referred to Cheltenham and a John de Cheltenham died ‘seized of land in Cheltenham’ in 1359/60, so it seemed highly likely. Mary Paget wrote, at the time, that we needed to look for a house important enough to have a private chapel where John’s private chaplain could celebrate the mass, and that Ham Court seemed the most likely candidate – far enough from either parish church to make such a licence plausible. This possibility was supported by evidence that a William de Cheltenham had 15s worth of land in Ham c 1450³ and that Ham “manor” was later held at a rent of 15s⁴.

Additional evidence has recently come to light which provides support for these earlier suggestions that John de Cheltenham had connections with Charlton Kings and may well have lived here too. A medieval deed among the Prinn collection at the Gloucestershire Record Office has been transcribed from the Latin as follows:

“Be it known to those present and to come, that I, Alicia Henries, have given, conceded and by this, my present charter, have confirmed to Lord William de Rasteleye, his heirs and assigns, one and a half selions of arable land, with appurtenances, lying in a field of Charlton Kings, in Brodecroft, between land of Thomas atte Notherhouse and land of Thomas Snel, extending to the western headland above the ditches of “la Layedych” (Lyefield?). The said William and his heirs and assigns are to have and to hold the one and a half selions of arable land aforesaid, with all appurtenances, freely, quietly and by right in heredity for ever, from the chief Lord of the Fee for service thereof owed and accustomed. For this prior concession and the confirmation by this present charter the same William gave me ten shillings sterling. And I, the aforesaid Alice, and my heirs, warrant the said one and a half selions of arable land, with appurtenances, to the aforesaid William, his heirs and assigns, and will defend it for ever. In witness whereof I have put my seal to the present charter. The witnesses are: **John de Cheltenham, Lord of**

Hyldesleye; Thomas Atte Ford; John atte Forde; Thomas atte Notherhouse; William Mayel; and many others. Given at Charlton, the Wednesday next after the Feast of the Nativity of the blessed Mary in the fourth year of the reign of Edward III “. ⁵ (12 September 1330).

There are several facts that we can deduce from this deed. Firstly John de Cheltenham is described as “Lord of Hyldesleye”, Hillesley in the parish of Hawkesbury, where we know William de Cheltenham had been Lord of Woodcroft and where William de Cheltenham gave property to the chaplain of the chantry in the chapel of St Giles of Hillesley later in the 14th century ². Secondly that John, if not actually living in Charlton Kings, was present at the witnessing of this deed and was the first named of the witnesses and therefore considered the most important. The other witnesses are interesting too: Thomas and John atte Ford were the family from the Forden, on the site of the present Charlton Park and were witnesses to several other deeds of the 13th and 14th centuries. (see *Bulletin 8* p21). Notherhouse or Nethirhowse is described by Mary Paget in *Bulletin 46* as being so-called because it was “the last Cudnall house as you come from Cheltenham” and her map shows it to have been on the site of the present Grove House, just off the London Road to the east of Copt Elm Road. Lucy at Nouerhouse paid tax of 2s 7d in the Lay Subsidy in 1327, as did William Maiel at 2s 0 ½d ⁶.

The main parties to the deed were Alice Henries and Lord William de Rasteleye, Lord of Dowdeswell. William de Rasteleye’s name may survive in the place-name Rossley. Alice Henries is presumably connected to the Walter Henry who held a messuage and six acres of land as a freeholder of Cheltenham Manor prior to John Hore and Thomas Wheler. Mary Paget linked this property with a house called Walters and concluded that it could have been on the site of the present Langton Lodge in Cudnall ⁷. The price of land seems to have risen: compare a price of 6s 8d – 7s for ½ acre c 1290-1304 ⁸.

Other interesting points made include the field-name “Brodecroft”. In *Bulletin 15* Mary Paget describes it as having “a way called Crabbe Ende (ie lower Church Street) on the north”, in other words about where the Baptist church now stands. The one and a half selions being granted was between land of Thomas atte Notherhouse and Thomas Snel. In Paget’s article, there is mention of a John le Snell in 1403 holding the most southerly of the strips, perhaps about where the path runs today. (see modern map of this area on p?).

I am grateful to the Latin Group, under the leadership of Jill Barlow, who alerted me to this document and helped in its transcription.

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2. John Fendley. *Notes on the Diocese of Gloucester by Chancellor Richard Parsons c1700*. BGAS (2005). P267 under Hawkesbury.
3. *Bulletin 15* p17
4. *Bulletin 3* p5
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6. P Franklin. *The Taxpayers of Medieval Gloucestershire*, Sutton (1993) p37
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8. *Bulletin 23* p27

JUNIOR SCHOOL REUNION

Bulletin 51 contained an article by Geoff Bridgman about his memories of his schooldays, in which he wrote that he was hoping to organise a school reunion for those who left the Charlton Kings Junior School in 1965. This duly took place on 2nd July, and among the photographs taken was the group below:



Back row left to right: Paul Godwin, Roger Clarke, David Thomas, Ian Kear, Martin Lewis, Sue Reed, Ernie Randell, Geoff bridgman, Mike Rayner, Mike Smith and Bill Nichol.

Front row left to right: Joanne Skinner, Di Robbie, Ray Aungiers, Sandra Comfort, Dawn McGhee, Shirley Wherret and Lyn McGhee.

Unfortunately two people are missing from this group, Jane Summers and Alison Davies.

The Echo for 9th July 2005 included the following report:

Charlton Kings Junior School reunion, 40 years on, 1965 to 2005, started with a group of ex-pupils going to the infants' school old buildings, in some cases this was the first time in more than 40 years that they had seen the old classrooms and many memories came flooding back. This was followed by a visit to the Merry Fellow skittle alley for the reunion. More than 25 people were present, including some from 1964 and 1966. Mike Rayner, a well-respected ex-teacher, was the guest of honour. Everyone was pleased as he is recovering from an eye operation. Geoff Bridgman, the evening's organiser and leading light for the group, spoke and thanked everyone who had come to the evening, including some who had travelled from across the United Kingdom to be present. He praised Mike Rayner and other teachers and said Mr Ballinger will always be remembered as a fair and honourable person. Geoff announced that two trophies had been bought. They, along with a certificate, would be given to the infant and junior school pupils who showed the most overall effort – we believe this is a first for the schools in Charlton Kings. An excellent buffet was provided by the Merry Fellow and two celebration cakes. The evening was a great success. No falling out or old memories hurtfully remembered. The consensus of everyone present was that another should be held in 2007 and opened up for pupils who attended from 1960 to 1968.

Geoff has since had a letter from the head teacher at Charlton Kings Infant School: "Just to let you know that the cup has been a great success. At the end of Term 1 it was jointly awarded to two underachievers in Violet Class, they and their parents were thrilled as it boosted their self esteem. Next week, at the end of Term 2, it will be awarded to a child in Magenta and in February to one in Indigo" These trophies are for those who have tried the hardest and the pupils are given a certificate which they keep.

Those who attended the reunion were saddened to hear that Mike Rayner died on 1st October 2005 after a long fight against ill health. Geoff has asked for the following to be included:

"We were so lucky to have had Mike as our Chief Guest at our school reunion in July. He had not thought he would be able to attend but then did and said 'I felt that someone should represent the teachers', that was so typical of the man. I know from the E-mails received that he was well thought of, not just by our generation, but of the youngsters who went through the junior school up to the time Mike retired. I will remember him reading the Arthur Ransome books and Homers Iliad, others like Dr David Wintle will recall his interest in sport and encouragement to those who showed promise. Mike will be sadly missed but certainly not forgotten."

A photograph of Mr Rayner's class in 1964 with the children's names



Back row left to right: Peter Slee, Chris Wood, Margaret Hopkins, Ernie Randell, David Galpin, Philip Morand, Jane Beams and Fiona McMinn.

2nd from back left to right: Not known, Sylvia Whitworth, Sue Reed, not known, Ron Finnegan, not known, Pam Wild and Geoff Bridgman.

2nd from front left to right: Sue Davies, Bill Nichol, John Coates, Colin Margerson, not known, Shirley Bond and Amanda Wright.

Front row left to right: Chris Adams, Stephen Sweetman, David Thomas, Robert Lee, Ian Kear, Mike Smith and Julie Herbert.

MORE ABOUT EMILY PLACE

By Jane Sale

When Mary Wilcox wrote her article about Emily Place in *Bulletin 51* both she and I were under the impression that the house described as 'that messuage or tenement wherein William Lea formerly dwelt' was the old timber-framed cottage on the corner of Horsefair Street and Croft Road, that burned down in the early 1900s. Now evidence from the deeds of Nos 128 and 130 Horsefair Street, together with further examination of the Cheltenham manor court records has proved this assumption to be incorrect.

The house on the corner, together with garden and piece of arable land adjoining, had been surrendered by William Lea to Elizabeth Lea widow on 15 October 1796. Elizabeth, nee Clevely and known as Betty in the parish registers, was the widow of John Lea who had died in May of that year. The heriot paid on this property was 1s 4d¹. It is interesting to note that in Norden's Survey of Cheltenham manor made in 1617, a Thomas Lee held a 2ac close of meadow called Ludmore and 1 cottage with 3 selions of land by estimation 1a 2r². This may well have been the old cottage on the corner.

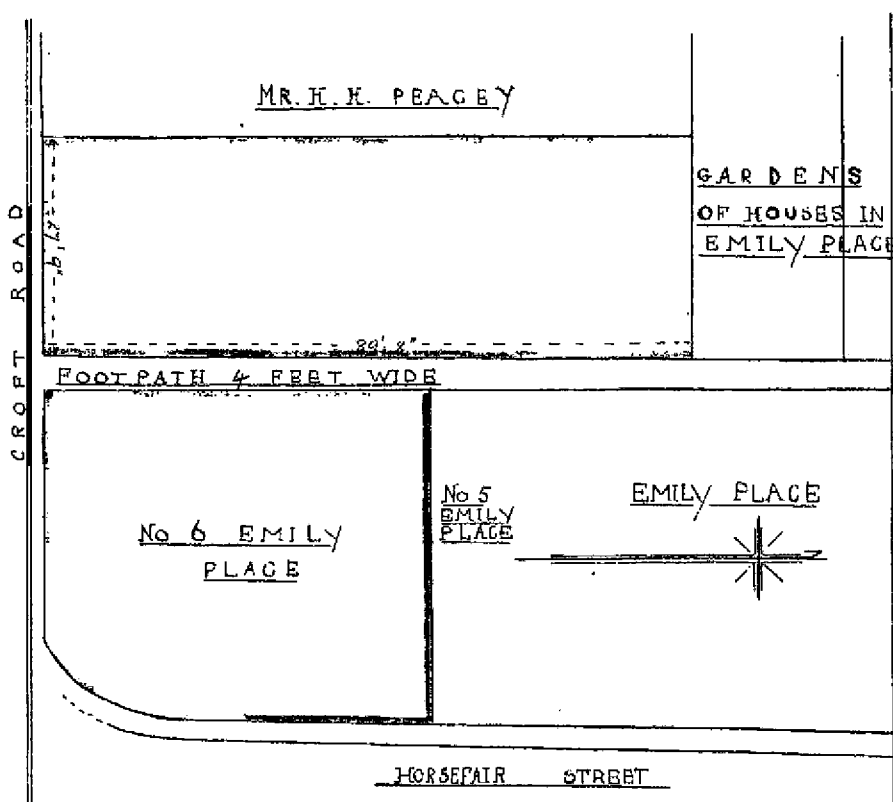
The property left by William to his daughters and surrendered in court to the uses of his will on 12 February 1807 was the house, described as 'that messuage where William Lea formerly dwelt, and later called Shaftesbury House. The heriot paid on William Lea's property was 5s 10d, implying a larger property³. Edward Mitchell's map dated 1806, (see *Bulletin 51*) shows the original properties as a continuous block, though whether they were of the same age is not known. It would be interesting to know more of the history and age of Shaftesbury House but so many alterations have been made that there is nothing definite to go by, only that it has a cellar underneath the central part of it. Unfortunately there are no early deeds surviving for this property.

What we do know is that William Lea inherited it from his father Thomas Lea in 1779 together with a piece of land called the Lynch, which he later sold to Dodington Hunt. This Thomas Lea must have been quite wealthy as he also left a messuage and land in Boddington to his son Thomas, a house with adjoining close in Deerhurst Walton and six tenements in Cirencester to another son John, and three closes of land and arable land in the common fields in Staverton to his daughter Mary, the wife of Francis Lane⁴.

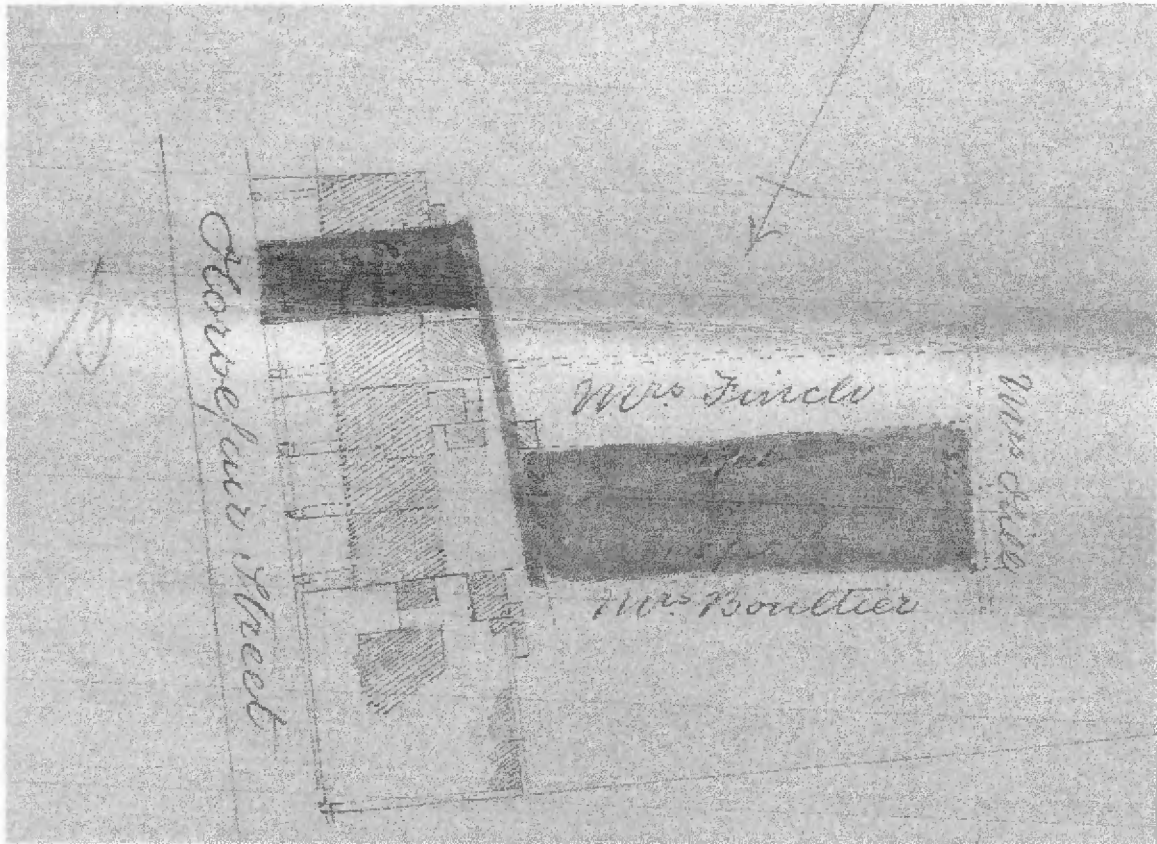
So when Walter Parry bought the property together with its garden land to the north in 1823, it was Shaftesbury House he was buying and Nos 1, 2 and 3 Emily Place, later officially named 118, 120 and 122 Horsefair Street, were duly built on its garden ground. In 1836 Walter Parry bought the corner piece, about 1 acre of land, from Elizabeth Lea spinster. She had inherited it from her father, who in his turn had inherited it from his aunt, the Elizabeth Lea, widow, who had acquired it in 1796. This gave Walter Parry total possession of the whole piece of land with

the buildings on it. By 1858, according to the rate book, there were nine properties in all: 6 new cottages, Shaftesbury House and the old cottage on the corner divided into two.

Returning to the deeds of Nos 130 and 128 Horsefair Street, those for No 130 give us the earliest use of the name Emily Place. In a Marriage Settlement dated 18 June 1838, Walter and Elizabeth Parry are making provision for their daughter Elizabeth prior to her marriage to William Hill, plumber of Cheltenham. She is to have "3 cottages in Charlton Kings together with the garden ground belonging to same which garden ground is bounded on the East partly by Horsefair Street and partly by the gardens to the houses called 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 Emily Place." An accompanying map showed that the 3 cottages were on the corner with the garden ground extending to behind Shaftesbury House. A later map, dated 1927, and reproduced below shows only one property on the site, confirming our belief that the burned-down cottage had previously been divided into two. It also shows that there had been a change of numbering: Shaftesbury House was no longer called no 4 Emily Place but had been given its separate name. This change occurred between the two Rates Books for 1858 and 1882 and I would suggest that the new name was given after Walter Parry's daughter Agnes Emily Finch inherited the property.



The deeds from No 128 explain why the individual gardens are not behind the house they belong to but considerably to the north. The map reproduced below accompanies a Deed of Conveyance dated 25 June 1887 and applies to two cottages, nos 4 and 5 Emily Place, now 126 and 128 Horsefair Street. The shaded portions show the cottages with their gardens between those of Mrs Finch to the south and Mrs Boultier to the North. We know from the deeds for no 130 that its garden ground extended beyond Shaftesbury House. Now we can see that Mrs Finch's came next, followed by the gardens of Nos 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1.



It now seems clear that the old corner cottage and Shaftesbury House were the original properties on this site, both with quite large areas of garden. When the other cottages were built the gardens for them had to be arranged within the previous garden of Shaftesbury House and to the north of the part kept for itself, causing the present rather strange arrangement.

References and Footnotes:

1. GRO D855 M18
2. GRO D855
3. GDR 1791/48
4. *Bulletin 18* p36

REVIEWS

Society Publications:

Lives Revisted: A Biographical Survey of the Churchyard of St Mary, Charlton Kings compiled and edited by David O'Connor with assistance from some other Society members. The 232 biographies contained in this book cover the period from about 1830 to the early 20th century and are selected from a wide variety of 'inhabitants'. As its editor comments "Empire is naturally much reflected" – Naval and Army Officers abound, particularly those in India, also Jamaican 'Plantocracy', Irish landed gentry, 'New Money' from the industrial north, and of course the real villagers who ran its shops, farmed its land, washed its laundry and drank in its pubs, all appear in its pages.

This book will appeal to all those who have walked through the churchyard and wondered what stories could be told beyond the bare names and dates on the headstones. There is a useful map of the churchyard and a key to help the reader find any particular grave. It can be obtained at Society meetings, priced £6, or at the Forge Newsagents and Church Post Office in Charlton Kings.

Other Publications:

A Wartime Poetry Journal is a collection of poems written by Effie M Roberts and edited by her granddaughter Philippa Roberts. Our Society has been sent a copy of this book by Fractal Publishing with an offer of free postage to any member ordering it.

Effie Roberts, nee Lawrence, was born in Sheffield in 1896, and later moved to Charlton Kings where the family lived at the police house, the father being the local policeman. After this they moved to 'Exleigh', off Copt Elm Road, where she lived until her marriage. She trained as a seamstress, working at Cavendish House in Cheltenham. Her fiance was killed during the First World War, but she later married his best friend Charles Roberts. Effie began her journal in November 1941, when the Roberts family were living in Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham and the realities of life were very grim. She wrote poems about everything that happened to her in strong simple language, whether it be queuing outside shops for food or walking in the Cotswolds. Her writing came to an abrupt end in 1947 when her husband died suddenly, the last poems are full of her intense grief.

This book can be obtained from Ottakar's in Cheltenham or direct from the publisher on 01453 840296, priced at £9.99.