

CHARLTON KINGS

LOCAL

HISTORY SOCIETY



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The Society is a registered charity. It is affiliated to the Cheltenham Arts Council and is represented on its Executive Committee. Membership forms are available from the Hon. Secretary. The annual subscription is £9.50 or £13.50 for a couple, which includes the cost of the annual research bulletin. Meetings are held monthly in the Baptist Church, Church Street, Charlton Kings, from January to May and then from September to December, all on the fourth Tuesday of each month and starting at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome at a charge of £2. There are also guided walks in the summer and a coach outing to a place of historic interest. Further information may be obtained from our website, including a list of the Society's publications.

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Cover: Albert Brassey, Charlton Park's absentee landlord, as seen by Vanity Fair.

Contents:	Pages
Editorial	1 - 2
The Last Years of Charlton Park	David O'Connor 3 - 8
A Grand Day Out	Michael Greet 9 - 10
Frontiers and Wars	Jane Kirsten/David O'Connor 11 - 14
The Ogilby Road Map of 1675	David Morgan 15 - 18
Local History for Eight-Year Olds	David O'Connor 19 - 20
An Offence against the Licensing Acts	Margaret Hulbert 21
Ivy Cottage, Cudnall Street	Mary Southerton 22 - 25
Samuel Higgs Gael's Revolutionary Relatives	David O'Connor, John and Beverley Wisdom 26 - 34
One of Our War Heroes	Yvonne Mitchell 35 - 36
Celebrating Royal Occasions	David O'Connor 37 - 40
Our Home Front – Part II	Brian Lickman 41 - 46
The Story of Hamilton House	David O'Connor 47 - 51
The Old Railway through Charlton Kings	David Morgan 52 - 57
Buried in Woollen/ Who Was She?	Anon 58 - 59
Corrections and Comments	60
A Cottage in Charlton Kings....but where?	Rear Cover

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Editorial

The Annual General Meeting on 28th February this year marked the end of the six year period during which Ann Hookey has served the Society as Chairman. The Committee wish to record our gratitude for the time, care and hard work she has devoted on the Society's behalf.

On this Bulletin's cover the fine figure of Albert Brassey welcomes you, a man little known in Charlton Kings but one who, as will be seen, played an important part in the history of the Charlton Park Estate after the financial collapse of Sir William Russell.

Last year's Editorial mentioned the contacts from the outer world which our web site has produced. These are not all one way and this edition again contains articles springing from such connections. In March 2012 Rod and Norma Hughes visited Charlton Kings on behalf of their friends, Jane and Johann Kirsten, who live in South Africa. They were attempting to find the birthplace in 1862 of Johann Kirsten's grandfather, Alfred Buckley Hinde, which they knew as 1, Oak Villas. Happily they met Beryl Middleton, a Society member, who directed them to your Editor, who was able to home them in on the house, now 240, London Road. From this meeting sprang a flood of international emails, the results of which you will find on page 11. Charlton Kings has found a hero they did not know they had. The other externally sourced article comes in a different way. Bulletin 58 carried the story of Harry Villar and the valuable snuff box presented by him to Fred Archer, which had come into the possession of John and Beverley Wisdom from Sherborne. John and Beverley had no previous experience of internet historical research, neither here nor in Australia, but with the Editor providing local knowledge, they found the process so fascinating that they decided quite independently to do some more. This time it was not Australia but revolutionary Colonial America they attacked and the results of their success can be seen on page 26. There may be more from this particular area next year. A lesson perhaps to us all: when a Charltonian goes abroad, no matter how long ago, we do not necessarily lose him.

We are grateful to receive from Yvonne Mitchell an article about another Charlton hero, Lt Col George Mitchell, which amplifies the story of the Mitchell family published in Bulletin 27. It is a salutary reminder of the battering that Malta took in World War II; the island and its people did not get the George Cross for nothing. Brian Lickman has provided a further aspect of the War, a second study of the National Farm Survey of 1941, when the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was seeking to determine whether this country could sustain itself in the face of the German U-boat campaign. This article looks in detail at farms and holdings in Charlton Kings. It provides for us a list of some 91 such farms and holdings, with their capacity and their owners' names – an important snapshot of what was then a much more agricultural Charlton Kings.

The fascination of steam trains is always with us and David Morgan carefully takes us along the old railway that ran through Charlton Kings from 1881 to 1962 and tries to find what, if any, traces of it remain today. With the passing of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, the Editor examines how Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in 1897 and ruminates on how time changes Royal celebrations. The Ogilby Road Map of 1675 provides a new clue as to how Battledown acquired its name and we look at two houses: Hamilton House, and how it got its name, and Ivy Cottage, which is no longer a cottage¹. A jolly poetic visit to Croome Park,² Temperance coffee, the reactions of eight-year olds to local history, an 1873 punch up, and a few burials, woollen or otherwise, provide some light relief. The Editor would welcome any comments on, or corrections to, this Bulletin.

¹*With thanks to Mrs Susan Callen and Mrs Sue Fletcher respectively.*

²*Croome Park happens to be the subject of a talk at our 24th September Meeting.*

THE LAST YEARS OF THE CHARLTON PARK ESTATE

David O'Connor

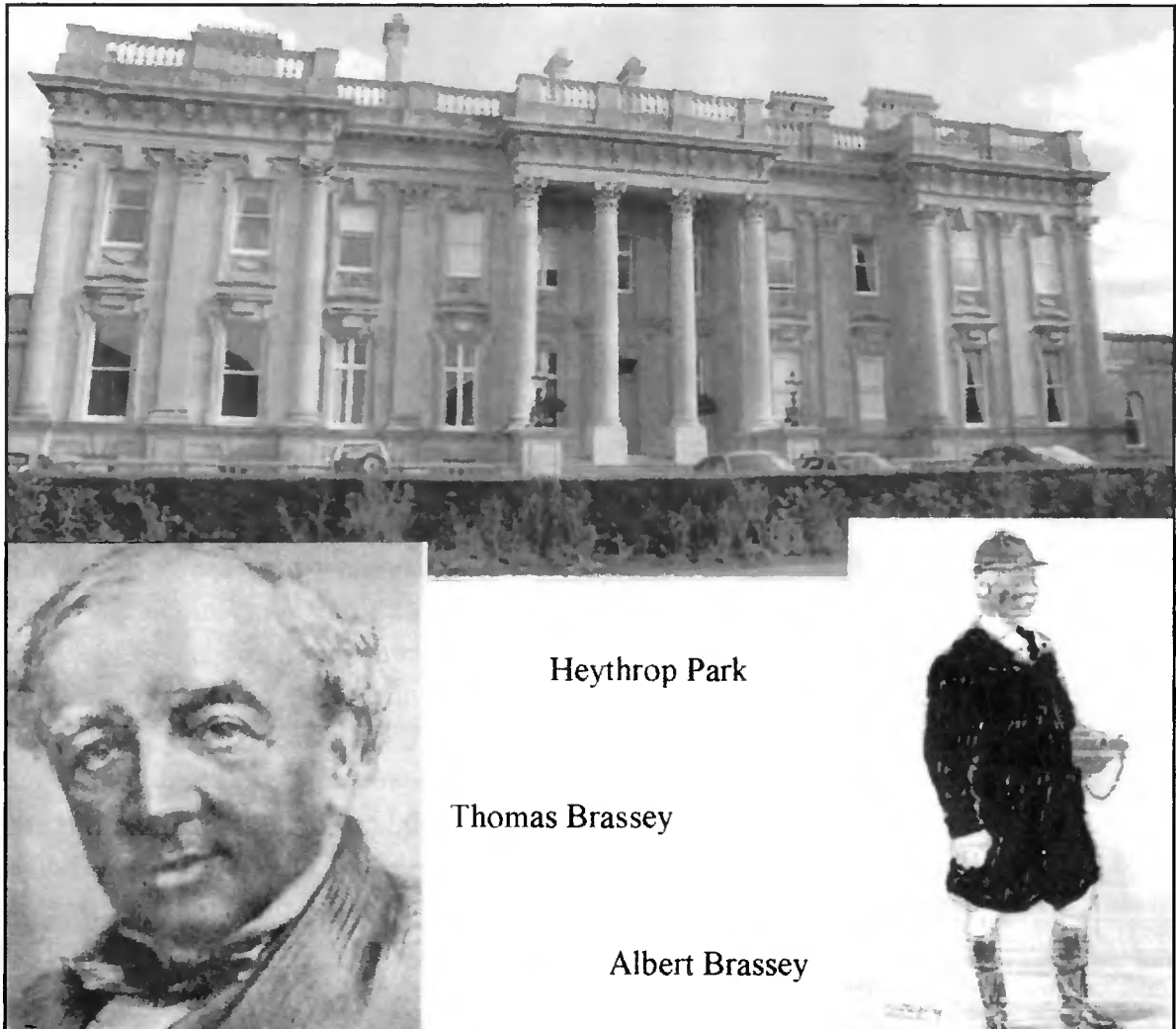
In March 1870 Sir William Russell, the second baronet, M.P., master of Charlton Park, Lord of the Manor of Ashley and a man who had built a holding of 2,107 acres of land in and outside the parish of Charlton Kings, faced the indignity of petitioning the London Bankruptcy Court for the liquidation of his affairs by arrangement. His many business enterprises, including the East Gloucestershire Railway Co., had been unsuccessful and he had debts amounting to £575,000 which he admitted he could not pay. This was just the beginning: four years later, as the Press reported, "*Sir William Russell's embarrassments, which have been before the public eye in one or other of the law courts for the last four or five years, appeared again last Saturday in the form of a renewed application for the appointment of a Receiver and for action for restraint against his petition for liquidation.*"³ However, the petition was successful and was followed by a liquidation of his assets, which stripped him of his lands, though his voluntary arrangements with creditors enabled him to avoid the stigma and civil penalties of actually being bankrupted. In 1874 he ceased to be the owner of the Charlton Park Estate. In 1935, 61 years later, the major part of the Estate was bought by a community of nuns, which in 1939 opened a boarding and day school for girls. But what happened in between these two events?

Initially the Cheltenham directories found it difficult to ascertain who lived at the Park in 1870 and 1871. In 1870 a Captain Heathorne (sic) was shown as the owner and in 1871 Lady Prinn, Sir W. Russell and W. Heathorn were all listed as occupants. Lady Jane Eliza Prinn was the widow of the first Sir William Russell: she took the name of Prinn to meet the requirements of a will. The Sir W. Russell listed was her son and William Heathorn was Lady Prinn's second husband, though she never took his name. However, in 1872 and 73 Charlton Park disappeared from the directories altogether and was plainly unoccupied. This hiatus was the result of the death in December 1870 of Sir William's chief mortgagee, one Thomas Brassey, leaving matters in the hands of the trustees of his will, not a simple matter, since he was a spectacularly wealthy man. It was probably not a coincidence that Sir William had turned to him for loans against the security of his lands: he would certainly have become acquainted with him during his ill-fated East Gloucestershire Railway venture.

Thomas Brassey was born in 1805. He was a railway contractor who was responsible for building most of the world's railways in the 19th Century. By 1847 he had built one third of the railways in Britain and by 1870 he was responsible for one in 20 miles of all the railways in the world. He had contracts in almost every country of Europe, in India, Canada, South America and Australia. By 1850 he had a work force of up to 75,000 men and the capital involved in his contracts amounted to £36,000,000. He was said to have acquired more self-

³ *Looker-On*, 4 July 1874.

made wealth than any other Englishman in the 19th Century.⁴ By 1874 Charlton Park was owned by the trustees of his estate: the Rate Book of 1882 shows that it was still so owned in 1882. Thomas had three sons: the youngest, Albert, born in Rouen in 1844, when his father was building the Paris – Rouen railway, and educated at Eton and Oxford, married in 1871 the Honourable Matilda Marie Helena Bingham, daughter of the 4th Lord Clanmorris. Before he died in 1870, leaving in trust to his wife and sons one million pounds each, Thomas had given Albert as a wedding present the impressive Heythrop Park mansion and its surrounding estate in Oxfordshire. This comprised 3,422 acres and was estimated to produce a rental income of £3,550 per annum⁵. However, the mansion had caught fire in 1831, had remained derelict until 1870 and much repair and renovation was necessary.



In July 1875 the Cheltenham Looker-On reported that *“the Charlton Park estate has been formally taken possession of by Mr Albert Brassey, one of the sons of the celebrated Contractor, to whom the Estate, with other property in Charlton Kings, had been mortgaged by the then proprietor, Sir William Russell. The Park and Mansion are to be thoroughly restored so as to fit them for occupation by any family desiring a fine residence.”*

⁴ When he died in 1870, he left over 5 million pounds.

⁵ *The Return of Owners of Land – 1873*

This notwithstanding, very little seemed to happen. Albert Brassey did not come to live at Charlton Park, though he added the name to his title in the Landed Gentry List. It may have been that originally he saw it as a possible retreat, if the restoration of Heythrop Mansion was delayed. There was another possibility, or at least, the rumour-mongers thought so. In March 1876 the Examiner reported that the property was about to be converted into a lunatic asylum. Negotiations to that end were in progress between the present owner and Dr. Sankey, whose lease of Sandywell Park was about to expire. Sandywell Park, Dowdswell, a mansion with a large deer park, was an estate of some 350 acres, 80 of which were walled, originally to keep the deer in. It had been acquired on a lease by Dr. Samuel Hitch in 1847, who established a lunatic asylum there. In 1862 it catered for 30 patients of the upper classes, 15 – 16 of whom dined together daily. In 1864 the lease had been sold to Dr. William Sankey, who continued to run the asylum until at least 1881.⁶ The expiry of the lease, therefore, was not quite as imminent as The Examiner thought. Nevertheless, The Examiner considered that the proposed conversion of Charlton Park to such a purpose was causing some apprehension in the neighbourhood and that there were manifest objections to having a large establishment of the kind in such a situation. Failing other steps to prevent it, a memorial to the Lunacy Commissioners on the subject was talked of and would doubtless be largely signed both in Charlton Kings and Cheltenham. In April the Cheltenham Commissioners passed a resolution asking Mr. Brassey not to let the Park for a lunatic asylum, stressing that it was close to the chief educational establishments and surrounded by high-class residences and valuable building land, and that the town depended on visitors and persons resorting to it for educational purposes. It could not fail to be injurious to the best interests of the town. Whatever the truth of the matter, it did not happen.

One can see why Albert did not move in himself: Charlton Park could not compare with Heythrop Park. The 1881 census showed Albert, his wife and seven children (he finished with eight) living with a staff of 22 domestic servants in the magnificent mansion at Heythrop. The army of stable lads, coachmen, deer park attendants, gamekeepers, gardeners, laundry staff, lodge keepers and schoolteachers who manned the Park and its grounds came to just under one hundred and the Census entry for the Park covered eight pages. In 1901 the total staff and families had risen to 181. Additionally, Albert was an M.A. of Oxford University, for which he had rowed. He was also a J.P., a Master of Foxhounds and in 1878 the High Sheriff of the County, and later in life Honorary Colonel of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, as well as M.P. for Oxford North. His life was in Oxfordshire and not Gloucestershire.

However, in 1878 a new occupant arrived in Charlton Park with his family, the distinctively named St. John Legh Clowes with his wife and their family of five sons and two daughters. St. John Legh Clowes,⁷ born in 1832, was of the family of Clowes of Broughton Hall in Lancashire and described as "*a gentleman farmer*". He was not actually the owner of the Park, but a tenant of the executors of Thomas Brassey and rented only the residence and some

⁶ *Dr. W.H.O. Sankey was an eminent physician in what was a new area of medicine. In 1868 he was President of the Medico-Psychology Association.*

⁷ *He had a nephew of the same name who was the writer and director of the 1948 gangster-thriller "No Orchids for Miss Blandish".*

of the land, William Jordan⁸ renting most of the other land. Despite this, he also added “*of Charlton Park, Glos.*” in the Landed Gentry lists. It is readily apparent how it was that he came to Charlton Kings, since his wife, the Honourable Elizabeth Caroline, was a daughter of the 3rd Lord Clanmorris; hence he was linked by marriage with Albert Brassey. The Clowes family stayed at Charlton Park for six years, though the Estate was advertised on 24 May 1884 to be let unfurnished with immediate possession and a yearly tenancy or for a term. It was described in detail:

Mansion House and Gardens known as Charlton Park

Entrance Hall opening to central saloon (suitable for a billiard room), Morning Room, Dining Room, Drawing Room, Library, Servants’ Hall, Pantry, large kitchen and convenient offices:

9 good Bedrooms and 2 Dressing Rooms on 1st Floor:

12 Bedrooms and Attics on 2nd Floor:

Stabling for 12 horses, 2 Coach Houses, Saddle Room and Cottage:

Large tennis lawn and extensive shrubberies and gardens and ornamental water of about 2 acres: front rooms overlook timbered park in which is cricket ground of East Glos Club, to which resident has a private entrance:

4 packs of foxhounds within easy reach:

Rent £250 per annum, pasture land in Park can be rented:

For particulars apply to St. J. L. Clowes, Charlton Park, Charlton Kings.

The Park was advertised again in 1885 but the Clowes family did not leave until 1886, so there were plainly no takers. During this period there is no evidence that either Albert Brassey, who was additionally the owner of the Charlton Kings properties of South Ham Hill Farm, North Ham Hill Farm and The Meads, or St. John Legh Clowes, played any substantial part in the life of Charlton Kings, despite the addition of the titles. They both, however, complained in 1878 about changes to the Charlton Park pews at St. Mary’s. When he died in 1915, St. John Legh Clowes was living at 11, Oxford Parade in Cheltenham.

In 1885 the now legal owner of the Park, Albert Brassey, carried out a programme of extensive refurbishment. The property had been described as “*not being suitable for a modern establishment*” and the kitchens and bathrooms were upgraded, woodwork replaced and a conservatory built. The outbuildings and Estate cottages were also brought up to standard⁹. Nevertheless, the residence remained unoccupied. In 1886, however, Richard Vassar-Smith acquired the tenancy of Charlton Park. As with St. John Clowes, the Vassar-Smiths rented only the main residence and 85 acres of agricultural land. Over and above this were the East Gloucestershire Cricket Club ground and pavilion, the Cheltenham Croquet Club ground, the three cottages and a plantation. All the above were owned by Albert Brassey, though he had by now disposed of the three other Charlton properties he had bought in 1874. The Park was to be managed by the Cheltenham estate agents G.H. Bayley and Sons.

⁸ *Farmer of Withyholt*

⁹ *Research Bulletin 52 of 2006 – Mary Southerton*

The Vassar-Smiths remained at Charlton Park until 1919. Unlike the preceding two occupiers, they participated widely in the life of Charlton Kings. They were great supporters of St. Mary's and Richard became Chairman of the Charlton Kings Local Board. The local branch of the Conservative Primrose League was named the Vassar-Smith Habitation. However, when Richard Vassar-Smith tried to stand as a County Councillor for Gloucester in 1891 the Liberals objected that Charlton Park was outside the qualifying distance. It was found to be 77 yards short of seven miles. He rose to become Chairman of Lloyds Bank and for his work as Chairman of the Treasury Committee of Financial Facilities during the Great War he received a baronetcy and became Sir Richard Vassar Vassar-Smith ofCharlton Park.¹⁰

For the next five years Charlton Park remained once again empty. In January 1918 Albert Brassey died at Heythrop Park and was buried in the church he himself had built in the Park. Herbert Owen Lord of Lilleybrook attended the funeral, as master of the Cotswold Hunt rather than representing Charlton Kings. Brassey had effectively owned the Charlton Estate for 44 years but never lived in it. Nevertheless, his ownership held the Estate together, even in those long years when the main residence stood unoccupied. The three cottages and the lodge remained occupied, the gardens were maintained, the agricultural land was farmed and produce carted to market to be sold.¹¹ Moreover, the park remained available to the people of Charlton Kings for fetes, garden parties and the Horticultural Society's show. Albert Brassey lived up to his name: he left £992,473.16s.5d., a marked contrast to the previous owner, Sir William Russell, who had died in 1892, leaving effects to the value of £78. The Estate was put up for sale but there was a further delay of four years before it was bought. After the Great War there were few looking for Gentry Estates and many Estates lacking Gentry.

The new purchaser of the estate was Hugh William Reeves, born in Mortlake in 1866 and the son of a wealthy London solicitor. He came to Cheltenham College in 1882, left in 1884 and qualified as a solicitor. Two of his sons also attended the College. On a visit to Cheltenham in 1922 he saw the Estate up for sale. He wanted to buy the 10 acres of the Estate nearest the College to provide playing fields but the Brassey trustees did not wish to divide the Estate. He therefore bought the House and the whole 110 acres at a "*remarkably low figure*" and gave the College 14½ acres fronting the Old Bath Road, paying also for the necessary earth-moving works. In 1929 he sold a further 25½ acres at £200 per acre and himself contributed one quarter of the cost. He also bought land for a boathouse at Tewkesbury and provided railings from Charlton Park to fence it off.¹² Finally, in 1935, he sold the main house and all the remaining 40 acres of land to the Community of Sisters of La Sainte Union, who saw it as a suitable location for a new boarding and day school for girls. After considerable renovation, the new school opened in September 1939¹³. Charlton Park, as an estate, was no more.

There are two matters of interest that arise from this story. One is the relationship between Sir William Russell and Thomas and then Albert, Brassey. The main investor in the East

¹⁰ *Ibid*

¹¹ *Research Bulletin 33 of Spring 1995 – Mrs Jennings*

¹² *Research Bulletin 55 of 2009- David Hanks and Cheltenham College – The First 100 years- M.C. Morgan*

¹³ *Research Bulletin 51 of 2005*

Gloucestershire Railway Co. was the Great Western Railway (G.W.R.), of which Albert Brassey was a Director. It was the G.W.R. shareholders who finally killed the admittedly controversial project by withdrawing support¹⁴. Sir William had debts of £575,000, of which £92,000 were secured against property. His assets in land and ships were £642,550 but the interest on the mortgages he had taken out was higher than the return from the rents. Moreover, out of the 1870 bankruptcy proceedings came a charge of fraud, namely that he had purchased, but not paid for, £2,937 worth of iron rails a few days before his petition for voluntary liquidation and then used them as security for a loan of £1,500. As a baronet, he exercised his right to be tried by his peers and in December 1870 was tried by the Lord Mayor of London and duly acquitted. Nevertheless, he still managed to make an arrangement with his creditors, the chief and most powerful of whom was Thomas Brassey, which enabled him to escape at least the stigma and losses of civil and other rights that bankruptcy brought with it. Brassey's biography describes him as large-hearted and generous to a rare degree, conscious of his power as a leader and knowing how to use it wisely and for a noble end.¹⁵ It could well have been that he was unwilling to force the final blow and that the Brasseys, as railway men, had some sympathy for him.

There is further support for this view. Sir William's military career was in the 14th Hussars, though he was seconded to command the 7th Hussars in the Indian Mutiny. He retired on half pay in 1864 as a colonel and subsequently rose to lieutenant general. On retirement, he immediately transferred back to his old regiment, the 14th Hussars, who were based in Manchester. In 1863/4 Albert Brassey spent two years as a cavalry officer, as a lieutenant; he chose to do so in the 14th Hussars, a regiment in which one of the most important figures was Colonel Sir William Russell. It seems highly unlikely that he would have done so had relations between the two families not been warm.

There are also two coincidences that emerge from this story. Firstly, Charlton Park was sold in 1935 to a teaching order of Catholic nuns as a secondary school for girls: Heythrop Park was sold in 1922 to the Jesuit Order, as a philosophical and theological tertiary college for their novices. Secondly, Albert Brassey was a rower of note. At Oxford in 1863 he was in the University College VIII that won the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. Hugh William Reeves, born 22 years after him, was also a rower, who was in the London Rowing Club VIII which in 1890 won the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. Could it possibly have been, that in the years before Albert's death in 1918, Hugh William Reeves got into conversation with an older gentleman at Henley on Regatta Day, who mentioned this place he had, called Charlton Park.....?

¹⁴ *Opposition from Cheltenham was strong, since the plan was to join the new track to the GWR through a tunnel in the town. It was described as "an attempt by Sir Wm. Russell to injure Cheltenham for the benefit of Charlton Kings, in which his own property is situated."* *Looker-On*, 25 Jan 1862.

¹⁵ *The 1911 Classic Encyclopedia.*

A GRAND DAY OUT

Michael Greet

On May 1st, at some time between 1826 and 1831, two men from Cheltenham visited Croome Park, Worcestershire, “Capability Brown’s first complete landscape”¹⁶, in a one-horse chaise. One of the men was Isaac Bell, the gardener-rhymer, who had worked for a time at East Court, Charlton Kings, almost certainly as Head Gardener¹⁷. The other was Charles Jessop, a nurseryman from Cheltenham¹⁸. The poems printed below show that they visited Mr. Dean, botanic gardener to the Earl of Coventry, who had in 1824 written “An Historical and Descriptive Account of Croome D’Abitot”. Jessop was a subscriber to his book. We do not know the reason for the visit, presumably for professional purposes or possibly for pleasure and cannot be certain of the relationship between the two. It may be that Jessop was Bell’s employer, or that Bell was a customer of Jessop. Two of Bell’s poems (29,30) describe rockwork in Jessop’s Nursery and Bell may have had an interest in such structures, as in poem 37 below. Another poem (27) is a request for a loan of £1 from Jessop (“Miss Fortune has been too severe”) to pay his rent:

“My situation,
Is not now what ‘t’was
When I in meat and drink was found
And never wanted for a pound.”

Which suggests they may have been friends. Mr. Dean left no evidence concerning the visit.

83. On Accompanying Mr. J. to Croome, on the first of May

Be thou invoc’d. my muse! To tune the lay.
And sing the beauties of the First of May! When
Trees and shrubs and flowers are seen.
Dress’d in old mother nature’s loveliest green:
And some our senses pleasingly delight
Clothed in lively robes of purest white:
And scents delicious fly in rich perfume.
Proceeding from the pears and apple bloom.
The hawthorn full expanded in the vale.
And cowslips and primroses paint the dale:
Enlivening birds sing sweet on every spray.

Extensive scenery attention claim,
And I in extacy enjoy the same.
While riding gently in a one-horse chaise.
Conversing about nature’s wond’rous ways.
In bringing all things in their proper time,
Concordant to the different soils and clime.
Then changing from this subject, something new
Attracts our notice – a delightful view
Of noble Severn, and the Malvern’s Ridgc.
Or that delightful structure. New Mythe Bridge:
And ever changing forms the hills assume,

¹⁶ *National Trust handbook*, 2008.

¹⁷ *The Days in Gard’ning and the Nights in Rhyme – a reprint of Isaac Bell’s Poems on Various Subjects*, c.1883, Edited by M. Greet

¹⁸ *An Ornament to the Town: Jessop’s Gardens in Cheltenham – C.S. Greet. CLHSJ 11 1994/5 pp.6-11. Other articles on Bell’s poems can be found in CKLHS Research Bulletins 8, 15, 37, 51, 54.*

As winding round them on our way to Croome;
 Where nature, sporting with a master's hands,
 Imposing and extensive views commands:
 The first attraction is the fine harborum,
 Where every tree stands named with great decorum;
 Together with those beauteous groups of flowers,
 And neat mown lawns and trees twined into bowers
 Where gold and silver fish sport in a pond,
 And turtle doves on trees are cooing fond,
 Entwined with jessamines and roses round,
 Shelter'd from winds by trees, with ivy bound,
 Stands a small cottage, handsome, clean and neat,
 Which is the gardener's cool and clean retreat;
 Whose wife and well bred daughter, young and fair
 Made Bell and J***p very welcome there;
 And, after a repast, we went in search
 Of other beauties round towards the church.
 And from the tower the jays and jackdaws cry;
 Backed by the pinus labinus so tall,
 Astonishing to see, and pleasing all
 That view, the spreading lofty branches high,
 Towering with majesty towards the sky.
 Straight to the temple next, to rest our feet,
 There, almost tir'd, each one took a seat;
 Till we regained our strength, we viewed at ease
 The long extensive scene of lawn and trees;
 Then down the verdant bank we all did go,
 The house to see, and chrystal waters flow.
 Over the Bridge and thro' a field where game,
 Tho' wild, one would imagine to be tame,
 We passed along the smooth clear water side,
 Where swims the swan in proud and stately pride,
 With easy walk the finest views you have
 Thro' openings, just before you reach the cave;
 And when these natural beauties we have seen,
 Across the fields we went with Mr. D**n;
 And at the Coventry Arms were well supplied
 With a good dinner, and good drink beside.
 Impressed on my mind shall e'er remain
 Thy beauties, Croome till I come again.

137. On an Artificial Cave at Croome

Enchanting and romantic place,
 Where fairy footsteps one may trace
 Around the dell with rocky face
 And murmuring rill;
 Where naiads at midnight wanton lave
 By moonlight on the rippling wave,
 And then retiring to the cave
 There rest at will.

Both art and nature here combin'd,
 With rocks and shells so neatly join'd,
 Tho' some alas! Has been purloin'd
 One still may see
 That nature here has done her best,
 And art has finished the rest,
 Each stone, and rock, and shell attest
 And shrub and tree.

Here milk white swans in gaudy pride,
 On water pure as crystal ride,
 With majesty each stranger eyed,
 As if they'd say
 Do not our quiet discompose,
 Or else you'll find us dangerous foes;
 But view what nature here disclose
 As round you stray.

The farewell cave, thou calm retreat
 From summer's sunbeams scorching heat,
 Where fragrant flowers smell so sweet
 With rich perfume.
 For I no longer here can stay,
 Along thy mossy banks to stray,
 For homewards I must bend my way,
 And leave thy beauties all so gay,
 Delightful Croome.



FRONTIERS AND WARS - LT COL ALFRED BUCKLEY HINDE, OBE , RAMC

Jane Kirsten in South Africa and David O'Connor in Charlton Kings

Alfred Buckley Hinde was born at 1, Oak Villas, Charlton Kings on 1st November 1862. His birthplace was one of three identical Victorian houses built by 1850 along the London Road by William Sadler, a Charlton Kings builder, and numbered 1, 2 and 3, Oak Villas. The houses remain today, though by 1945 they had assumed names: 3 became Oakhurst, 2 – Oakleigh and 1 stayed with Oak Villa. Further development has meant that they have become 244, 242, and 240, London Road. Nevertheless, externally at least, they are much the same as they were when Alfred Buckley Hinde arrived in Charlton Kings 151 years ago.



Alfred was the second child of Joshua Bryer Hinde and his wife Sarah (Sally), née Macey. His father Joshua had been born in Lancaster on 23rd December 1823, in Ellel Hall, a magnificent Georgian mansion built in 1780. A wealthy man, described as a gentleman or gentleman farmer and with an income from dividends, he was descended from a distinguished line of Mayors of the City of Lancaster. No less than four antecedents – William Bryer, Joshua Bryer, James Hinde and Thomas Hinde held that position for nine of the years between 1743 and 1792. The two families were strongly united in 1756, when Thomas and James Hinde married Sarah and Ann Bryer, two daughters of Joshua Bryer. Alfred's father Joshua was directly related to the Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone, being a cousin of Herbert John Gladstone, the Prime Minister's son, who was an MP, Home Secretary and, as the 1st Viscount Gladstone, was appointed as the first Governor General of South Africa in 1910. Despite this relationship, Joshua was also a close friend of Benjamin Disraeli, Gladstone's primary political rival in the 19th Century. It was probably during Disraeli's first ministry from 1874 to 1880, in which he pursued a strong anti-Russian policy, that Joshua served as an official in the British Embassy in Moscow.

It has not been established why the Hinde family chose to come to Charlton Kings. However, when Joshua married Sally in Paddington St. James in 1859, his place of residence was given as Cheltenham. From 1830 to at least 1860 Cheltenham was a spa town much favoured in the season by persons of consequence and wealth and it may have been simply that attraction that brought the bachelor Joshua and his bride also, for she was from Lymington in Hampshire and like Joshua, not a local person. It is known that the family was not at 1, Oak Villas for the 1861 Census and it is probable that they arrived in Charlton Kings in 1862 for Alfred's birth in November of that year. It is likely that they rented the house, since it had the same owner both before and after their stay. The next child, (Charles) Augustus, was also born in Charlton Kings some two years later but their fourth child and son, William, was born in Guernsey in 1866 and thereafter Ruelle Braye in St Peter Port remained the family home.

The young Alfred Buckley Hinde was educated at Elizabeth College, Guernsey and Eton, won a Classics scholarship and took a medical degree at the Middlesex Hospital. He served three years as a house surgeon and in 1886 was registered as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons and Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and promptly joined the Army. The British Army had regimental surgeons until 1873, when an Army Medical Service was established. To join, one had to be single, qualified, sit exams in six subjects, have dissected at least one whole body and attended 12 midwifery cases. However, doctors did not receive a rank as such, though they were treated in many ways as though they had. They had, however, to accept excessive periods of Colonial service, especially in India, where they had to serve for six year periods, and where they received lower pay than Army officers. As a result, there was much complaining from individuals and medical institutions and from 1887 to 1889 there were no applicants for the Medical Service. However, it was not until 1898 that the Royal Army Medical Corps was formed and doctors took their proper place in the Army. Alfred was granted the rank of major on 5th February 1899. By this time he had already been in India for two years, serving in Secunderabad and Peshawar, up on the North West Frontier, whose border peoples lived in a permanent state of unrest. He was serving there during the great tribal upheaval of 1897, which began with the attack on the Malakand Garrison and developed into a major border war. At its conclusion he was further stationed in Bombay and Hyderabad. For his service in India, he was awarded the India Medal 1897, with clasp.

When the Boer War began in 1899, Alfred went to South Africa with the Queen's Regiment and was with the troops at Estcourt, Colenso, Tugela Heights and the Relief of Ladysmith. On reaching Newcastle in North Natal he was attached to the 11th Hussars as their medical officer. When Bloemfontein was captured in March 1900, he served in the temporary military hospital set up in the old Town Hall, the Raadzaal. Within a month 4,000 to 6,000 men had succumbed to typhoid and conditions were appallingly difficult. For his war work, Alfred was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal 1899 -1902, with five clasps. He was twice mentioned in despatches. There is no doubt he had been in the thick of it. It was during this period that he met and married a war widow, Annie Jacoba van Heiniging, the daughter of a



Left, the young Alfred Buckley Hinde, about 25 and in the Army Medical Service. A photograph taken in Guernsey, where his family settled in 1866. Right, Lieutenant Colonel Hinde, OBE (Military), Royal Army Medical Corps, with an unknown captain. He has retired and is about 60. He is wearing his OBE, India Medal 1897 with clasp, Queen's South Africa Medal with five clasps and his three World War I medals.

Scotsman named Archibald MacCallum, who had first set foot on South African soil as the youthful survivor of a shipwreck. He stayed and carved out a colourful career as entrepreneur, farmer and breeder of race horses.

After the war, Alfred served tours in Singapore and Aden, where he caught malaria. In August 1904 he went back to England on sick leave, accompanied by his wife. He returned to India but in 1907 took retired pay. The 1911 Army List shows him as a major on the Special Reserve, with two crossed swords, denoting that he had war experience. His knowledge of tropical diseases was much sought after by the South African Department of Health and after his retirement he and his family returned to South Africa, where he was appointed first as District Surgeon in Carolina, Transvaal and later transferred to de Lagersdrift in the same capacity. This led to a close friendship between his family and the Prime Minister, General Jan Christian Smuts and his wife Issie, renowned as a Founder member of the League of Nations, now the United Nations, and later as a staunch friend of Britain as a Field Marshal in Churchill's war cabinet. Smuts and Alfred were fond of strolling in the garden, whilst having lengthy discourses in Latin.

Such peaceful pastimes were not to last long. On the outbreak of World War One in 1914, the Special Reserve was embodied and Alfred became the Assistant Director of Medical Services in a South African Force, which occupied the German Colony known as German South West Africa¹⁹. The campaign ended in a German surrender in July 1915 but military doctors were still urgently needed elsewhere. Alfred boarded a Union Castle Line ship from Durban to London and within a month he was OC of 76th Field Ambulance of 25 Division in France. He remained in the post until 1917 and gained another Mention in Despatches. In 1917 he was posted to Egypt as OC 31st General Hospital and later of 87th General Hospital, with a promotion to acting lieutenant colonel and yet another Mention in Despatches. Nevertheless, when he left Egypt in 1919, he had to relinquish his acting rank and become once more a major, but not for long. On 3rd June 1919 he was awarded the O.B.E. (Military), primarily for his war service, but also for his medical work in South Africa; on his retirement from the Reserve of Officers in September 1919, he was granted the rank of lieutenant colonel.²⁰

Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Buckley Hinde R.A.M.C. returned to South Africa to his old appointment at de Lagersdrift, where he was much appreciated as a most beloved physician. Alfred and his wife had seven children; after retiring in 1933 from his medical work he first settled in Pietermaritzburg and was later nursed by his daughter Vera in her home at Volksrust, where he passed away on 21st May 1940. He was buried alongside his wife Annie Jacoba at Piet Retief. It is doubtful if Alfred remembered anything of Charlton Kings, having left us after such a short time, but it is right and proper that Charlton Kings should have had the opportunity to remember him as one of ours.

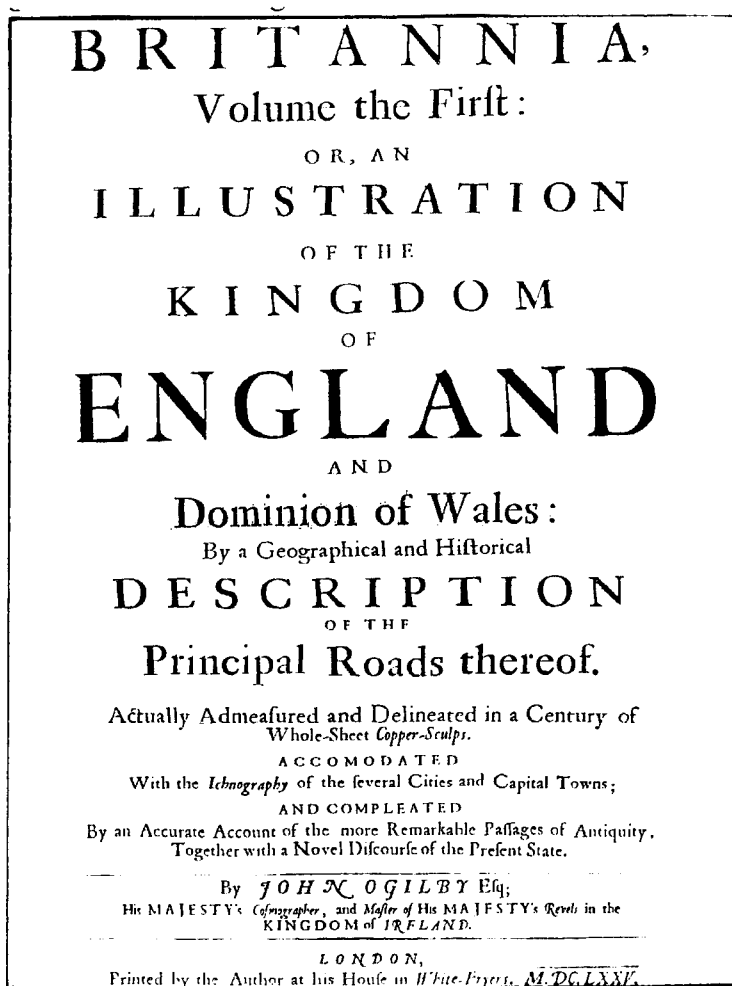
¹⁹ *Now Namibia*

²⁰ *London Gazette Supplement 27 Jan 1920. It was a normal procedure that officers who had distinguished themselves in an acting rank in wartime could be granted that rank on retirement.*

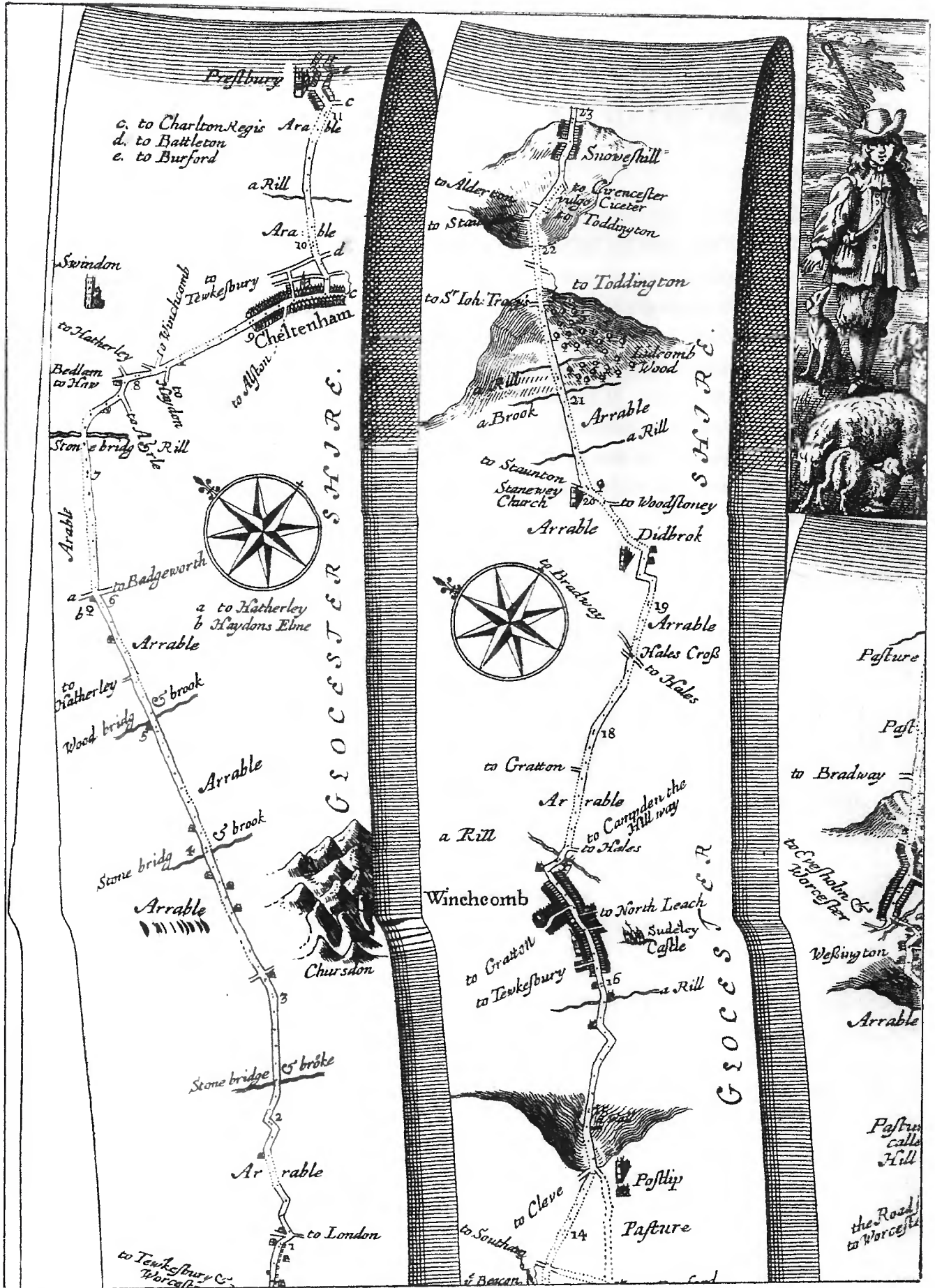
THE OGILBY ROAD MAP OF 1675 – TO BATTLETON

David Morgan

In the last bulletin, No. 58, an article about Jefferys's Itinerary or Travellers Companion, published in 1775, showed a direction to "Battleton." This was the first 18th Century record noted of the use of this name and it fitted well into what was the accepted historical transition of the Saxon "Baedala's Tun", through "Badleton" in the 17th Century to "Battledons" and the contemporary "Battledown". It also asked why a travel map, which dealt in nothing much below villages, would expressly show a direction to some fields, for in 1775 there was nothing but pasture land to see on Battleton. The conclusions of the article were that the direction to Battleton was because the way indicated, now Harp Hill, was, until 1784, a major route to London. In addition, it raised once more the old question as to whether there had actually been a battle on the Hill, for which there was some support but little hard evidence. A skirmish during the relief of the Siege of Gloucester in 1643 remained one possibility.



The subject has been re-opened. A copy of John Ogilby's "Britannia", described as an "Illustration of England and Wales by a Geographical and Historical description of the principal Roads thereof". John Ogilby was a highly talented man: at the age of 66 he began



John Ogilby's Map of 1675. Left, the route from Gloucester to Cheltenham and Prestbury. Note the turnings to c. Charlton Regis and d. Battleton at the top of the column.

printing and publishing books of geography and topography. He was also, as proudly shown above, His Majesty's Cosmographer and Master of His Majesty's Revels in Ireland, His Majesty being King Charles II. "*Britannia*" was published in 1675, a full century before the Jefferys's Itinerary and was the result of a survey which Ogilby carried out between the years 1669 and 1674 and which was the first admeasurement of the country's roads ever to take place. It introduced the statute mile of 1760 yards and the scale of one inch to the mile. "*Britannia*" was a remarkable achievement and it so dominated road-book literature of England and Wales that no further surveys were done until the end of the following Century. It was published in various official and pirated versions with hardly a break until 1775. A comparison with Jefferys' 1775 work suggests his might have been one of the latter.²¹

Ogilby described the road from Gloucester to Coventry as "*affording in general no very good Way but is everywhere accommodated with good Towns and publick Places for Entertainment of Travellers.*" Cheltenham was described as "*numbering 200 houses; hath a fair church; a good market on Thursdays and 2 Fairs annually, Holy Thursday and St. James's Day.*" He provided not only the way to go but also the "*Forward Turnings to be avoided*", meaning where one should not go straight ahead. One of these was the forward in Cheltenham to Charlton Regis, where one had to turn left to Prestbury, "*a village of 3 Furlongs Extent and good Accomodation*". Here, marked c, and d, is the way to Charlton Regis and perhaps more surprisingly, to Battleton, the name which it also had on Jefferys's map of 1775. Surprisingly, because Norden's Survey of 1617 shows a number of arable or pasture closes including Badleton, Little Badleton and Charlton Badletons, as well as fields called Old Baddlston and Home Baddlston. It follows that Badleton became Battleton in the period between 1617 and Ogilby's survey in 1669 to 1674.

Editor's Note: This certainly throws a different light on Clarence Dobell's Victorian account of a Civil War encounter on the Hill in 1643, for it seems to indicate that the change from Badleton to Battleton occurred within the lifespan of those who actually fought in or experienced the Civil War and was not merely a piece of romantic Victorian wishful thinking. There is no question that the Earl of Essex's relieving army, forced marching from London to relieve the besieged Parliamentary stronghold of Gloucester, skirted the Royalist town of Oxford to the north. Prince Rupert's cavalry fought a number of delaying actions around Stow-in-the-Wold but Essex, keeping to the high ground, reached Prestbury Hill, ten miles from Gloucester, before King Charles' army broke up the siege and withdrew south to Painswick. The Parliamentary forces arrived in Gloucester on 8th September. Essex's army was thirty thousand strong: while the London infantry regiments of the Trained Band would have moved on a main route, there would have been a covering force of cavalry moving ahead and sweeping over a wide frontage. Battledown would certainly have lain in its path and an encounter with Royalist delaying forces is certainly not unrealistic. Indeed, a report published only two years later²² recorded how Parliamentary forces skirmished with Royalist delaying cavalry and how a party of dragoons commanded by a Major Gray, entered Charlton Kings,

²¹ *Ogilby's Road Maps of England and Wales – 1876- Introduction by Roger Cleeve*

²² *Washburn's Bibliotheca Gloucestrensis, London, 1645 – Vol II p.69*

where Lord Chandos, the commander of a Royalist cavalry regiment, had his quarters. He made a hasty escape but the search after him cost the lives of seven or eight private soldiers, though they killed some of the enemy and took ten prisoners and some horses. Not a battle but certainly a bloody clash of arms. Nevertheless, it seems possible that this and perhaps similar clashes, may have precipitated or encouraged a change in the name, something that, thanks to John Ogilby, we now know occurred within at most thirty years of the dramatic events in question.

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ANYONE FOR COFFEE IN THE RYEWORTH TAVERN?

On 7 May 1879 the Cheltenham Examiner noted that “*our neighbours*” in Charlton Kings had just taken part in “*the good movement so general throughout the country*“ and opened a Coffee Tavern and Temperance Refreshment Room in Ryeworth. Temperance public houses were often thinly disguised under a variety of names, of which Coffee Tavern was widely found, as well as Cocoa Tavern and Coffee Palace. Tea was similarly marketed as an alternative to the working man’s beer, as “*the cup that cheers but inebriates not*”. The choice of title, mixing tavern with temperance, was an attempt to make the best of both worlds, but temperance, which literally means moderation, had in Victorian Britain acquired for many the meaning of no alcohol at all²³. The Ryeworth opening was inaugurated by a subscription dinner, attended by about thirty guests. The Reverend F.H. Potter, the minister at Holy Apostles Church, presided in the unavoidable absence of his father, the Reverend T.W. Potter. Among those present were Messrs. Bridgman, Bethell, Ballinger, Bates, Chandler, Gibbons, Gosney, Hawkes, Foxwell, Franklin, G. Mitchell, James, Merrett, Rouse, Turner, Staites and etc. It was good of Mr. Gosney to attend, as he was the innkeeper of The Royal, but then, it was not threatening his sales. The dinner was said to be of really excellent character and was well served under the active superintendence of Mr. Hillier, to whom was due not only the credit of the movement but also praise for having by pecuniary outlay brought it to a successful issue. The Tavern Keeper was to be Mr. Merrett. The Ryeworth Coffee Tavern was still in existence in September 1890, when St. Mary’s, seeking a mission to serve outlying parts of the parish, hired it for two shillings a week.²⁴ The Hilliers appeared to live at Puddington Cottage, between Elmhurst and Elm Field Cottage, an area later occupied by St. Briavels. However, there is no record so far of where the Coffee Tavern was in Ryeworth. Does anyone know?

²³ *Although more enlightened members of the Temperance Movement, including its leader in Cheltenham, the Reverend Arthur Armitage, accepted that there had to be a bridge between the two extremes.*

²⁴ *Bulletin 14, page 39 – Mary Southerton.*

LOCAL HISTORY FOR EIGHT-YEAR-OLDS

David O'Connor

On the 1st of March 2001 I found myself in front of a class of eight-year-old children at Holy Apostles School in Battledown Approach. I had been asked to give an illustrated talk on Battledown, something I had done before, but never to a group of children. I had a degree of apprehension about how one approached local history before such an audience and how children understood the passage of time and past events. However, I was very well, indeed royally, received and about a fortnight later I was surprised to find myself the recipient of a large number of individual thank-you letters from the class. The only word for them was delightful. I have kept them, for they answer to some degree the doubts I had about how these children would view my talk and what they found most interesting in it. The talk was twelve years ago and those children will now be adults, so I feel able to disclose a selection of their views without risking a law case.

Sophie – I'm very interested in history but thought the history of Battledown would be boring, I never knew there was so much about it. When you talked about the brick works being filled I was amazed and when you told the sad, sad story about the man who had lots of money and who died poor, I never thought such a thing would happen.

Thomas – I really enjoyed the bit about Mr Higgs and his helpers. I was absolutely Thunderstruck when you told us that our land used to be owned by Pates Grammar School. You might remember me because I said there were one hundred and seventy six houses on Battledown Hill. When we went for our walk, some of the houses were very pretty, especially the paddocks and Headlands.

Liam - Thanks for the autograph my mum was really chuffed that I got it. I liked the funny names of the roads. I really liked the brick works and they filled the ditch up with rubbish I went last night and saw the lumps in the ground it was a really funny feeling. Could you find out if the battledown tower is haunted please? It sounds very interesting.

Tom – I really liked it and when you gave us your autograph I gave it straight to my mum. The bit I liked was the part about how the name was developed how it was created who planted the trees.

Hattie – I was the girl who took you to reception with Georgina. I liked it especially when you told us about the wildlife in Battledown Estate but how Battledown got its name was interesting too.

Oliver – I really enjoyed the Bats in the tower I thoughtfully enjoyed it. I loved it. I'm a bit of an explorer myself.

Samuel – *Thanks for showing us the pictures. I liked the boys playing cricket on the field and the houses. I was the boy at the back with the messy hair did you see me? I asked lots of questions.*

Georgina – *I was very interested in everything you said, like the bats in the tower, everything! The best thing I liked was how the name developed from Battledun to Battledowns ect. I also liked the tower with bats in, I was very amazed.*

Neil – *We all really enjoyed you talking about Battledown in all kinds of dates. We all understood what you were saying and we loved you for coming. I liked it when you told us about Pates grammar School when all the boys were playing cricket on our field and also when you told us about brickworks over our play park. I'm called Neil and when I'm older I am going to be a jockey. I also like to read.*

Ellen – *The thing I like best is the name of the roads. I like bats, my Auntie has bats in her loft, they're very noisy in the night. It's hard to believe that when you go to play in the park you're playing on rubbish.*

Zac – *I liked the bit about the Tower and the bats and when they flew into your garden to catch insects. I was the boy in the left back second along and I like Airfix.*

Linzi – *I especially liked the bit when you told us about the hole in the park field and about it being filled with rubbish. I would like to live where you live and see the bats around the house, fluttering about. I'd love you to come again. I thought it was really exciting.*

Tobie - *I thought it was very interesting. It was so good I didn't need to ask any questions. I liked the way the name had changed through all the years and I also liked the bit where they put rubbish in the hole and then covered it over with dirt.*

And the Piece de Resistance:-

Lizzie – *Thank you for coming to see us. I think that you are very nice and must be rather clever. It was nice having you in. I was particularly interested in the brick fields and the development of Battledown. I was the girl sitting on the table with long blond hair and blue-grey eyes.*

If there are any conclusions to be drawn, the pictures of the enormous Brick Works pit and its subsequent filling, the former use of the land around the school as Pates Grammar School's playing field, the bats at Battledown Tower and more surprisingly, the way the name Battledown has developed over the centuries, emerge as attention winners. It is possible that the class teacher had removed any negative comments but I am unlikely ever again to get a review as good as Lizzie's.

AN OFFENCE AGAINST THE LICENSING ACTS – 1873



Margaret Hulbert

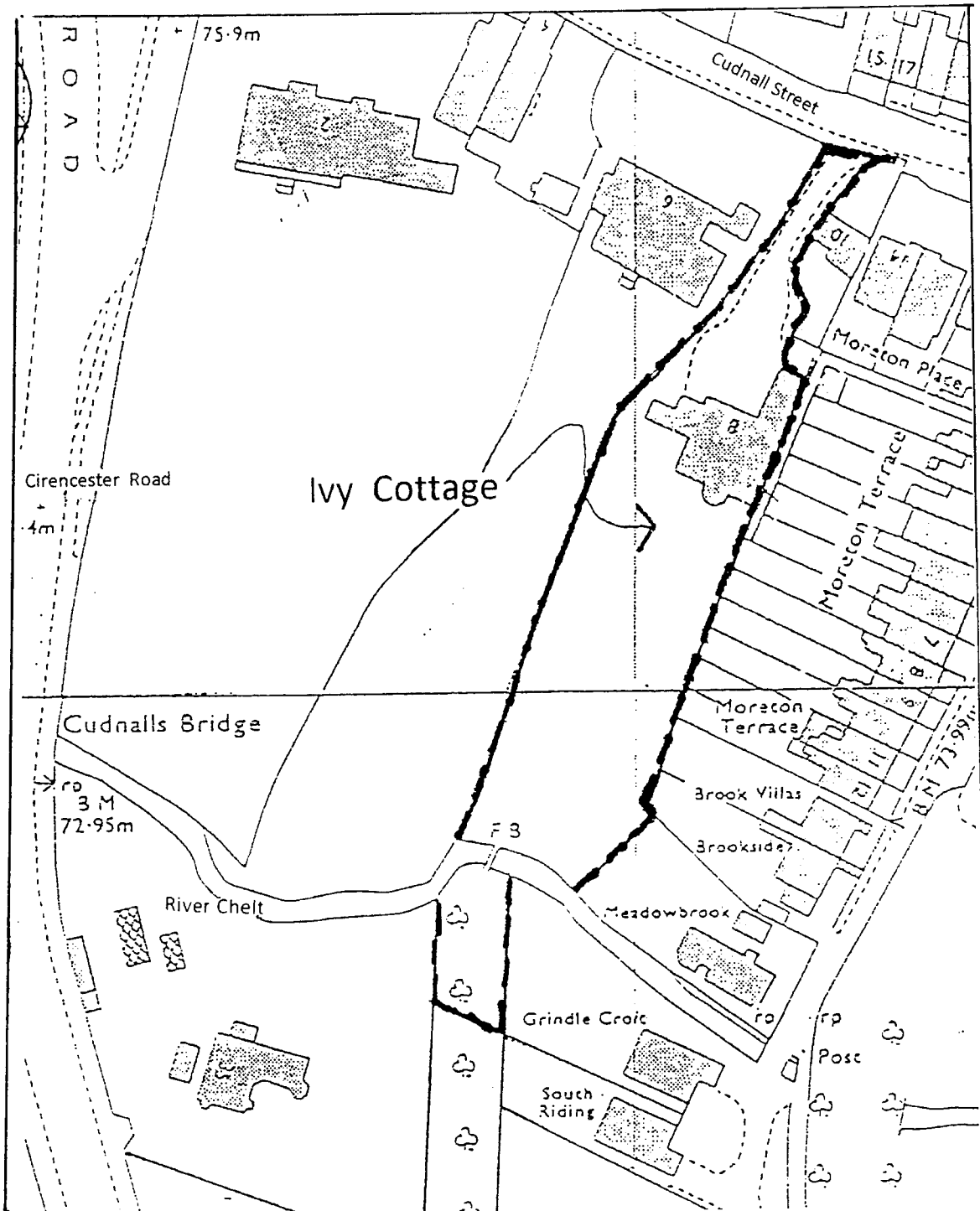
In 1855 a cottage located on Church Piece became a Beer House named “The Jolly Admiral”. It was sold to George Hodge, a Cheltenham brewer, in 1862 and at some time before 1888 changed its name to “The Endeavour”. The licensee was Frederick Boroughs. It remained The Endeavour until 1981, when it was closed and divided into three cottages, called Endeavour Cottages. These were subsequently cleared to make room for the site now occupied by the car park, shops and library. The Cheltenham Express of 19 July 1873 reported just one of the happenings in The Endeavour’s interesting life:-

William Frederick Burrows (sic), the landlord of the Endeavour Beer House, Charlton Kings, was charged with permitting drunkenness and violent and quarrelsome conduct to take place in his licence’s premises on 30th June. P.C. Cole deposed that on 30th June he saw several persons in Burrows’ Skittle Alley. They had been playing skittles all afternoon. By 4 o’clock there was a great disturbance there and between 50 to 60 people in and around the house. He had been fetched because there was a youth named Bond who was fighting in a field; another youth called Wall was found crying drunk outside the house. At 7.30 p.m. P.C. Cole was called to the Alley, where he found the men named James and the two Bonds fighting in the skittle alley. They were stripped to their shirts and James and Alfred Bond were covered in blood. They persisted in fighting and all four of them were drunk. Burrows said it was not fighting; it was only a little family bother. P.C. Cole saw the landlady in the alley and asked her why she did not stop the fighting. She said, “You do it, I can’t”. Charles Clutterbuck deposed that he was passing the house on the afternoon in question and went in. There were about half a dozen men there. He could not say how much beer was brought in, there was some brought in, in a half gallon can, once or twice. He could not say they were all sober but their falling about made them worse. Walter Bloxsome, a youth who was also there, gave similar evidence but was more positive about the men being drunk.

Frederick Burrows (actually Boroughs) was fined £1 and had his license endorsed. William James, Henry Bond, Alfred Bond, and Wall, all labourers, were fined 5 shillings each and expenses or ten days imprisonment. This is perhaps the first James/Bond story.

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	<p>National Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Batches, Matches and Dispatches) began in 1837. In 1937 a Commemorative Medallion was minted to Celebrate the Centennial and rightly so, for where would we Local and Family Historians be without it?</p>	
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Ivy Cottage, 8, Cudnall Street was built around 1808 as a farm cottage but has gone up in the world since then. Development in the surrounding land has left it with a most unusually shaped plot, including an area on the other side of the River Chelt. The house marked 10 (Cudnall Street) was known as Milford Cottage or “the cottage by the gate”.

IVY COTTAGE, CUDNALL STREET

Mary Southerton

In 2011 Jane Sale was given a bundle of old deeds by Mrs Sue Fletcher of Milford Cottage. These related to Ivy Cottage, 8, Cudnall Street and as we researched the various deeds and papers together, we became intrigued by the unusual shape of the land now attached to Ivy Cottage: a very long narrow plot with a small area over the river. From the deeds we know that in 1808 a mortgage was arranged between Charles Higgs and Mary Perry of Bilston, Staffordshire. The mortgage was for £2000 at 5% interest and was for "*that new brick built messuage and farm house with appurtenances*". The house was then called Cowell House, now known as Ivy Cottage. Edward Thomas had the tenancy of the house.

The Ashley Manor Court Roll of 1824 stated that William Turner had claimed the right to the ancient messuage, (Ivy Cottage) and Milford Cottage under the will of Edward Turner. He had paid the heriot of 10 shillings and 2 shillings rent to the Lord of the Manor. Milford Cottage was often referred to as the cottage by the gate.

By 1834 the property had passed down to several members of the Higgs family. A deed records the property as "*a dwelling house sometime since used as two tenements being in Cudnall together with a large garden adjoining and belonging, then occupied by William Turner bricklayer. Also that dwelling house laying at the back and joining said last tenement sometime occupied by Catherine Turk. The said messuage, garden and premises bounded on the east by the road leading towards the church at Charlton Kings, (Brookway Road) and on the west by the road leading to Charles Higgs property*". As we can see, Ivy Cottage stood on a very extensive plot. In Bulletin 11 Mary Paget refers to this road on the west as Cowell Lane. In 1597 it was a public road leading from Cudnall Street down to the River Chelt, then turning towards Charlton House, the home of Charles Higgs, now Spirax-Sarco.

The Ashley Manor Court Roll of 1858 stated that a number of tenants were admitted to the property, now described as "*all those six tenements with several sheds, out buildings and gardens there unto adjoining and belonging to them*".

Looking back to the 1851 census we find Timothy Greening, shoemaker, living at 1, Milford Place and Maria Nash, a widow, living at 2, Milford Place with her son William, a wood and coal dealer. Edward Walton, a labourer, was at 3, Milford Place. Sarah Fowler was living at Milford Lodge (Cottage). Brook Place had also been built by 1851 and these two houses were lived in by Benjamin James, tailor and grocer, and Joseph Sallis, carpenter. The Miss Willimot's, Mary, Caroline and Charlotte, were living in Ivy Cottage. These sisters must have lived at the cottage for many years and been very involved in village life. One of the sisters left the church a legacy of £200, used towards the rebuilding of the north transept. Mary died in 1880 and Caroline in 1882; Charlotte had married a widower, John West and they were living in the Rectory, Asholt, Somerset. In the 1871 census Mary and Caroline were visiting their sister and her husband at the Rectory.

Selling your garden is not a new idea, it would seem. Much of the land to the east of the house was sold in 1863 and by 1871 most of the houses were built and a number already occupied. It must have become a building site soon after 1863, when Moreton Terrace numbers 1-7 were complete and occupied. Moreton Place, only ever two houses, and Loughborough Place, also only two houses, were also complete, all these properties being in Brookway Road. These houses were neither simple workers' cottages nor grand houses for the very well off. They provided homes for aspiring workers who through hard work had been able to climb the social ladder. Thomas Basson, a retired police superintendent, lived at 4, Moreton Terrace.²⁵ The Rate Book for the parish of 1858 showed John Copley, drilling and fencing master, living at 2, Brook Place. Ann Matthews was in the other Brook Place property. These two houses are possibly those now known as Brook Villas. Edward Walton, William Nash and Timothy Greening were still in Cudnall. By 1861 Timothy Greening had moved to Ryeworth while John Copley was still at 2, Brook Place. The other families appear to have left the village. Changes were afoot and by 1863 the property was put up for auction to be sold in lots. Henry Dyke bought a number of plots and was admitted as tenant at the Ashley Manor Court in the same year.

However, the auction excluded Ivy Cottage and Milford Cottage. At the same Court in 1885 J.C.P. Higgs and Benjamin Bonnor were admitted tenants to Cowell House (Ivy Cottage).²⁶ In 1890 Mr. David Lewis inherited Ivy Cottage and Milford Cottage and in 1892 a mortgage was taken out on both properties by Mrs. Lucy Hole. In 1899 C.W.N. Constable-Brown took over the lease from Mrs. Hole, a lease which he renewed in 1905 and which still included the cottage by the gate. When Mrs. F.B.J. Constable-Brown was widowed, the lease was conveyed to her and she in turn gifted it to her daughter Miriam. In April 1919 Milford Cottage and Ivy Cottage were the subject of an Ashley Manor, Deed of Enfranchisement by Lady Margaret J. Rotton (Lady of the Manor) to Rev J De la Bere.²⁷ In 1930 Miriam came to live here with her husband Alfred Mylne, who was a yacht designer at Napier, Shanks and Bell a Scottish shipbuilder.

Among the papers available were Young and Gilling's details for the sale of Ivy Cottage, unfortunately not dated. The house was sold in 1980 to Dr C. E. Timlin. In 1996 it was again on the market and bought by Mr. Paul Berry. It was described as freehold, with 5 bedrooms and an asking price of £245,000 and it noted that Milford Cottage had a right of way at the front. 2008 saw Ivy Cottage commanding the front page of the Echo property section, complete with photo. It was now a Grade II listed building with 6 bedrooms and an ornamental bridge over the stream to the orchard; this time the asking price was £1.25m.

What sort of people owned the other properties? Robert Perry, Headmaster of Charlton Kings National School, lived at 2, Moreton Terrace. Walter Fry, stone mason was at 12, Moreton

²⁵ *Superintendent of Northleach Prison. See also "Lives Revisited"*

²⁶ *John Higgs and Benjamin Bonnor, a solicitor, were the executors of Charles Cooke Higgs' will. The latter died in 1884 and the executors were taking charge of the property and were not tenants as such.*

²⁷ *This meant they had been bought out and were no longer Copyhold properties. It was somewhat premature on the Reverend's part, since the tenure of Copyhold was abolished by the Property Act of 1922.*

Terrace. These people all tenanted their homes. A farmer, Thomas Burton from Prestbury owned 1, Moreton Terrace and 1, Moreton Place. Benjamin Hack, a builder, built and owned the two houses in Loughborough Place while living at 3, Oxford Place which he rented from Thomas Paynter. Mr. Hack was born in Loughborough, hence the name. One of the few owner occupiers was George Newman, butler to Henry Liddell of Hetton Lawn²⁸. The 1914 Rate Book shows Henry Stratford, farmer, as owning 4,5,6 and 7, Moreton Terrace. Alice Best, widow, born in Tasmania in 1847 and living on her own means, owned 12, Moreton Terrace but lived in Cheltenham.

Thus while Ivy Cottage grew into a highly-priced, Grade II residence for the Gentry, none of the houses built on its former gardens appear to have been owned by the very rich, though they were people who had been successful. Property provided a pension in their old age or a source of money if needed. Both owners and occupiers were, it would seem, part of the new middle-class of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

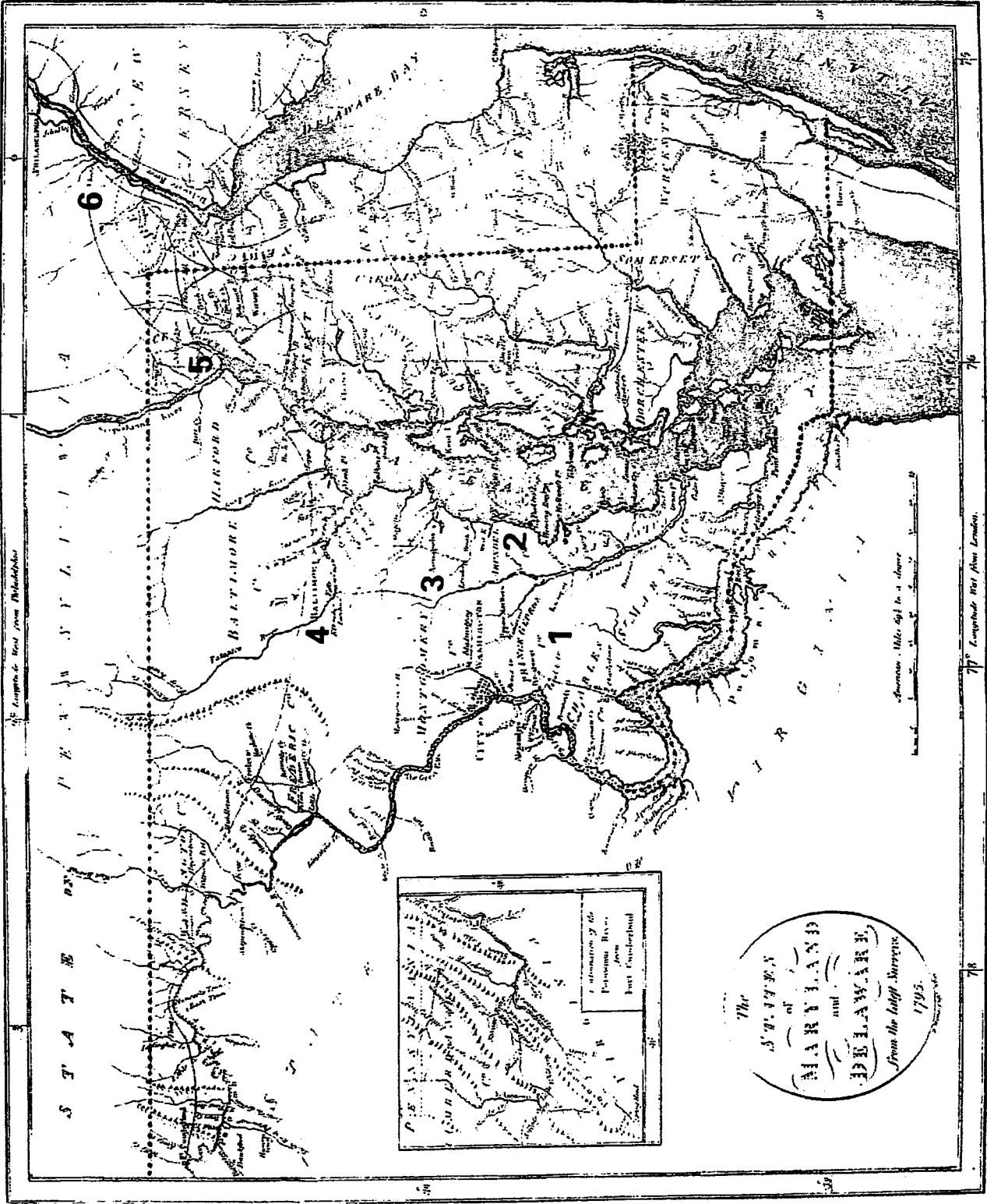


Ivy Cottage - Front and Rear view - probably 1920's or early 1930's

²⁸ . Reverend Henry George Liddell, *Alice in Wonderland's* grandfather.

Captain Edward Gale

1. Prince George County, where he lived
2. Ann Arundel County, where he enrolled
3. Annapolis, seat of the Maryland Council to the Board of War
4. Baltimore, whence he set off by ship with part of his Coy to
5. Head of the River Elk, whence his Coy moved by land to
6. Chester Camp, where he died



SAMUEL HIGGS GAEL'S REVOLUTIONARY RELATIVES

David O'Connor, John Wisdom and Beverley Wisdom

In 1864 Samuel Higgs Gael received in his chambers at Lincoln's Inn a letter from a Judge George Gale, LL D, of Galesville, Wisconsin, America, forwarded to him by Messrs. Trubner and Co., a London publishing firm. The sender was engaged in writing a book, entitled "Gale Family Records in England and the United States"²⁹ and was seeking information from those who might assist him. He had already extracted most of the information published in English family reference books³⁰, some of which Samuel had himself provided, and in respect of the Gael of Charlton Kings family pedigree, there was nothing new. However, George Gale was attempting to find more localised personal family records and indeed, he might well have considered that he had found a good source. Samuel Higgs Gael was not only a practising barrister but was deeply interested in antiquities and local history. He wrote and read papers, edited the continuation of Bigland's History of Gloucestershire and later, on the formation of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society in 1876, he was appointed one of the original Council members and later Vice-president, for the Cheltenham District.

Samuel's reply, written on 20 June 1864, was, however, not very promising and almost apologetic. He wrote that it would have afforded him pleasure, had it been in his power, to have provided useful information; as it was, he would provide what he had learned in looking over his old registers and papers bearing on the questions put. He felt obliged to explain that the original name of his branch of the Gale family was Gaell, but that it had been variously spelt and was now spelt by him as Gael. He took this to mean that the name meant a native of Wales domiciled in England. In later times the man would have been called and written as Welch but at the earliest period of writing surnames, would have written himself as Gaell, Gale or Gales. These examples he gave did not include Gael, the name Samuel chose but which none of his antecedents bore.

Samuel explained further that he was aware that there were well-known branches of the Gale family in Yorkshire, Devonshire, Gloucestershire, London and other places. However, his branch, which had been in Gloucestershire for some centuries, had been so mixed up with what he believed was another family called Gale, principally based in Worcestershire but occasionally living in Charlton, as to create confusion in searching public registers and records. It was not perhaps a very convincing explanation for the need of a name change which affected not only him but his mother, who kept her old name but received the new one posthumously, his wife, sons and grandchildren.³¹

²⁹ Which was published by Leith and Gale, Galesville, Wisconsin in 1866.

³⁰ Burke's History of Commoners and Burke's Landed Gentry. The Gael of Charlton Kings entry was made by Samuel in 1858 and George Gale had already found that.

³¹ The name was changed in 1842. The issue of the name changes is covered in more detail in Bulletin 55, page 5.

Samuel was unable to identify any of the early Gales provided by his correspondent, but offered a few names in the generation beginning in the 17th Century:

“In 1594 Andrew Gaell or Gale married Lucie Clarke, whence John, baptised 1606 – no further trace of him – Edmond baptised 1608, died at Cheltenham 1692, will in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury;

In 1598 John Gaell, probably a brother of Andrew, married Edith Machin, whence John Gaell or Gale, baptised 1613, of whom no further trace;

The latest Richard Galle about that time was of 1596.”

He pointed to the loss of continuity when junior members of the family moved away from home and settled in London, the plantations abroad or elsewhere; they were lost to the parent stock after the lapse of a few generations. He saw, by letters and papers that had escaped the ravages of time, that in some of the more recent generations, the younger generations did so migrate, that one was a brewer in London, another a Captain of Artillery in Maryland in the American Revolutionary War, an adventure in which a great many young Englishmen of a free turn of politics sought their fortune in, and some perhaps found it, but which only produced disappointment and an early grave from the flux³² to his (Samuel's) unfortunate relative. These members would appear to have dropped off and left no descendants, or none that the family remaining at the old spot knew of. Samuel finished his letter with another excuse, saying that he had not seen any recent editions of Burke's Gentry, having no time for such pursuits, the labours of the legal profession, engrossing it all. He added, somewhat archly, that it appeared that his American legal correspondent had relinquished such burdens. Nevertheless, he sent every good wish for the prosperity of the American Gales.

Although he did not say it, Samuel was referring to his uncle Edward Gale, recorded in the published family pedigree as having been a captain in the Maryland Artillery, who, it said, died in New Jersey, unmarried, in about the year 1785; and possibly also to his other uncle Henry, recorded simply as died without issue, without any dates at all. He made no allusion to his father, John Gale. However, it is possible now to shed more light on what happened to at least one of Samuel's missing uncles and also to his father.

Edward Gale's date of arrival in British America is unclear but a deed in the Maryland State Archives³³ indicates that an Edward Gale was amongst those who acquired land and property and a share in the Nottingham Iron Works in Prince George's County, Maryland in 1774. Our Edward certainly had a tobacco plantation in Prince George's County around this time. He was born in 1749 and the Maryland Census of 1776 records Edward Gale, aged 26 and a Margaret Carnes, 50, on their tobacco plantation, together with a holding of twelve slaves, five male black slaves aged 30,30,20, 17 and 6 and seven female black slaves aged 26,16,16, and 27, with three children 8,3,1. Margaret Carnes was probably the sister of Peter Carnes, a neighbouring plantation owner, who became famous for the first balloon flight in America.

³² *Dysentery*

³³ *Provisional Court Land Records, 1770-1774, Vol 726, p.614*

19	Free negroes Under 16	Free negroes Above 16	Male Whites between 16 and 50	Defective Male Whites above 16	Female Whites	Slaves above 16	Slaves under 16
Edward Gale 26 Margaret Barnes 50 Male Slaves 30:30:20 17. 6 female 26:16:16:27. 8.3.1.	8	97	80	74	132	132	135
William Ford 17:19: 28 6: 4: 2. Susan Ford 13:13:16:13:12 Male Slave 16. female 50.			2	4	5	2	
David Ross 63:22: 20. Servant 35. Annaria Ross 14: 14 10 3: 4 17 Male Slaves 44:40: 50:45: 30: 35: 37:25..... 12:10 8 6 4 1: 11: 7: 5: 1: 10: 4: 5 4 m ^o female 40: 30: 28: 24: 22: 25:..... 12 3 7 3: 7 m ^o 78 m ^o		3	1	1	6	4	19
William Deakins 56: 25 20 Elizabeth Deakins 64: 64 18. Free Black Men 7. female 30: 11: 9: 4. Male Slave 52 = 15: 11: 4: 2 female 70: 31: 45		4	1	2	1	3	44
James Miller 33: 33: 28: Jean McDonald 28: 2. Male Slaves 40: 16: 12 5. female 35: 28: 16: 9: 7.			2		2	5	4
Francis Hatfield 52: 70: 29 Margaret Adams 43. Male Slaves 25: 20: 16: 16: 6: 6 m ^o female 55: 25 = 14: 10: 4				1	2	1	5 6
		9	109	85	13	20	2172 172

The Maryland Census of 1776, page 19, shows Edward Gale's tobacco plantation in Prince George County. Headings across the Census page read: *Free negroes under 16/ Free negroes above 16/ Male Whites between 16 and 50/ Defective Male Whites above 16/ Female Whites/ Slaves above 16/ Slaves under 16*. The running total at the bottom gives 344 slaves, 45 of which are for the six plantations listed on this page.

Slavery in Maryland was not established in the colony at the time of its settlement in 1634, most Africans being treated as indentured servants, who could work towards their freedom. However, when the world demand for tobacco increased, more servants were needed to grow it and in 1664 Maryland passed a law making blacks and their children slaves for life. They were considered property, were bought and sold and had few, if any, rights. Based on this slavery, by the 1750s Prince George's County had become a well-settled agricultural community centred on the culture of tobacco, where all the amenities of a civilised colonial life could be found. By 1783 slaves represented more than 50% of the County's population.

However, by 1774 a breach was widening between the 13 American colonies and the Mother Country, primarily on issues of taxation. A general Congress of the Colonies was called, drew up a Declaration of Rights and condemned the Penal Acts previously imposed. In April 1775 the War of American Independence or Revolutionary War was opened by a collision between British regular troops and colonial militia-men at Lexington and the Continental Congress began hastily building the military forces of regulars, militia and volunteers required. A major reorganisation of the Army was authorised in September 1776 when 88 battalions were to be enlisted for the duration of the war, with Maryland providing eight. Correspondence shows that in 1776 Edward Gale was enrolled in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, for the Service of the State and was subsequently appointed an Ensign of Captain Thomas Richardson's Company of Militia in Frederick County.³⁴

On 26 June 1776 a letter from one John Murdock to the Maryland Council of Safety in Annapolis mentioned that he had appointed an Adjutant for the battalion who was greatly in want of money: should they wish to send any to pay him, it could be done by the Bearer, Mr. Edward Gale, whose receipt would be good. Further, a Captain Edward Burgess had requested Gale's name to be mentioned as willing to receive a commission for the Flying Camp³⁵; Murdock thought him a proper person and that it would also be in his power to raise a good company, in and near the place where he lived. On 4 December 1776 the Council ordered that the Commissary of Stores should deliver to Mr. Edward Gale twenty pair of shoes for his recruits for the Artillery Service of this State. He received a payment of £20.1s.3d from the Council in December 1776 and on 20 January 1777 was issued a Commission as 2nd Lieutenant to Captain William Brown's Company of Matrosses, the latter being gunner's mates. Edward received a grant of £5.14s.6d for his expenses in going to Baltimore with Captain Brown's Company. By 14 February 1778 Edward had been further promoted to Lieutenant and was to receive £250 for bearing the expenses of himself and two wagons going to Williamsburgh for goods belonging to the State.

³⁴ *This and the following statements concerning Edward Gale's military duties are taken from Papers of the Continental Congress, compiled 1774-1789: NARA M247: The Correspondence, Journals, Committee Reports and Records of the Continental Congress. Continental in this case meant the 13 united colonies.*

³⁵ *There were two Flying Camp Regiments in the Maryland Order of Battle in 1776. Their task was to provide wagons for the swift movement of troops to their required location.*

It was evident in 1776 that Edward was trusted as a bearer of money: this was emphasised again in January 1779, when the Maryland Council in Annapolis ordered that the western shore Treasury should pay to Lieutenant Edward Gale the sum of £28,000, to be delivered by him to Major John Howard at Baltimore Town, and thence to General Smallwood. £24,000 of this large sum was to enable the General to pay £150 to each officer of the Maryland Troops in the Continental Service, the remaining £4,000 to pay a State bounty to 9 Months' Men who reenlisted. Further, the newly promoted Captain Gale was to be paid ten thousand dollars to pay the bounty to the Matrosses entered into the Continental Service by Act of Assembly. On 3 September 1779 Captain Edward Gale was formally appointed to command the Company of Matrosses ordered to camp by the General Assembly. This Company now assumed the official title of "Gale's Company". It was an Independent Artillery Company and not under the command of a battalion. Maryland provided two other companies of artillery but on 3 September these two were subsumed into Gale's Company.

On 16 September 1779 Governor Thomas Johnson, Governor of Maryland sent a written order to Captain Gale. He was to proceed to the Head of the Elk River³⁶ and join up at Christeen with other elements of the Company moving from Annapolis under Lieutenant Sadler. From Christeen he was to proceed with his Company by water to Trenton in New Jersey³⁷, avoiding Philadelphia, if he could, and from Trenton to march for General Washington's headquarters.³⁸ He was to report to the General and make known his appointments from Maryland State.

Unfortunately, the next significant letter was that written on 11 November 1779 to His Excellency Governor Johnson of Maryland from Lieutenant Samuel Sadler, the First Lieutenant of Gale's Company:

Sir I am sorry to inform you of the death of Cap: Gale who departed this life in about four weeks after his arrival at Camp. He informed me that he was indebted to the State of Maryland. I have his Effects in my Hand which I shall dispose of agreeable to the Articles of War in Like Cases. I am in hopes I shall be able to obtain a furlough at the Close of the Present campaign in order to come to Annapolis and settle his Accounts.

He then rather spoiled it by making a bid for the vacant command:

We receive our Commissions from Congress as an Independent Company, the other two Companies are ordered to Col Harrison's Regt and the officers have taken their Rise in it my Reason for mentioning it to your Excellency is that I think from those Circumstances, I am justly Entitled to the Late Capt. Gales (Company).

³⁶ The Head of the River Elk was a strategically important area in the north of Maryland, where in 1777 Admiral Howe had landed 17,000 British troops. Two barracks were to be built there for defence against enemies of the State.

³⁷ Trenton in New Jersey was the scene of Washington's first victory in 1776. It is now the State capital.

³⁸ Washington's HQ was then at Moore House, West Point, New York.

Gale Edward
Gale's Co. Maryland Art'y.
 (Revolutionary War.)
Captain
 CARD NUMBERS.

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Number of personal papers herein _____
 Date Made: _____
See also _____



Left, Edward Gale's Index on his personal file of his Independent Artillery Company. *Centre*, the sign currently marking the site of the Artillery Encampment near Chester and *Right*, the Company Muster Roll at Chester Camp shows the name change to "Late Capt Gale's Company," the remarks reading "Died Nov 1st 1787"

Gale's Company, Artillery, Md.
 of Late Capt. Gale's Maryland Company of Artillery.
Revolutionary War.
 Appears on _____
Company Muster Roll
 of the organization named above for the month _____ of _____ 17__.
 Roll dated _____ 17__.
 Appointed _____ 17__.
 Commissioned _____ 17__.
 Enlisted _____ 17__.
 Term of enlistment _____
 Time since last muster or enlistment _____
 Alterations since last muster _____
 Casualties _____
 Remarks _____

Edward's demise is confirmed by an authentic military source³⁹, where it is recorded that:

" 1 November 1 1779, The Brigade will parade at half past one o'clock neatly powdered to attend the funeral of Captain Gale."

It is not clear where he was actually buried. The Chester Artillery Camp was a temporary summer site under canvas and it was vacated when the Brigade moved to New Jersey. The Chester Town Historian Clifton Patrick has noted that Edward is not recorded as interred in any local cemeteries, nor is he aware of any burials at the Artillery Encampment site. It is therefore possible that Gale's Company took their late commander with them when they left. US Military Records confirm the date of Captain Edward Gale's death as 31 October 1779 and not, as Samuel Higgs Gael recorded in the family pedigree, in "about 1785". This was curious, as he knew in 1858 that Edward had been a Captain in the Maryland Artillery, and he also knew some salient details of the death, namely that Edward died of the Flux, that he died unmarried and in New Jersey, not in Maryland.⁴⁰ However, this may have been a genuine lack of information from a distant land, coupled with Samuel's alleged legal overload.

Edward's brief but successful military career had lasted but three years. However, he had plainly made an impression on those above him as a competent and trustworthy officer. He received orders directly from the State Governor and his death was reported to the highest level of the State. Lieutenant Sadler's over-hasty attempt to take over Gale's Company deservedly failed, though he held acting command until March 1780, when he was reported first on furlough and then absent without leave. However, manpower shortages in the Southern Army of the United States made it necessary to incorporate the once independent company into a ten-company battalion in December 1780. Nevertheless, the Company retained the name: it was referred to as "Late Gale's Company" and the Muster Rolls of the Maryland Artillery used this title until as late as January 1782, three years after Edward's death, which was fame indeed. In the State's historical records, Gale's Company remains first in the list of the thirty units provided by Maryland for the Revolutionary War.

Samuel's 1858 pedigree showed that his father John had another brother, Henry, about whom he knew only that he had died without any offspring. A Henry Gale has been found living in Maryland at the same time as Edward. In 1771 he owned 150 acres of land. He was born in 1752, which would make him four years younger than his brother John and died in Brighton, New York State in 1836, aged 84. A Henry Gale is recorded in the Maryland Census of 1790. A Henry Gale is also mentioned in Judge George Gale's book as having taken part in Shays' Rebellion, which was an armed uprising in Massachusetts in 1786/7, driven by post-war economic and financial difficulties and named after its leader, Daniel Shays. Henry was arrested, tried for high treason and sentenced to be hanged but was pardoned at the last

³⁹ *Brigade Orderly Book at New Jersey Historical Collection (MG223) Manuscript Collection, p.3 ,Artillery Park near Chester.*

⁴⁰ *Samuel changed his name from Gale in 1842. The first appearance in Burke's Landed Gentry of "Gael of Charlton Kings" was in 1858 and this was almost certainly written by Samuel Higgs Gael.*

minute, with the noose around his neck. There is, however, no firm evidence that this was actually Samuel's other uncle, though if he were, it might have been a subject that Samuel would wish to avoid.

So much for the uncles: but what of Samuel's father, John Gale? He was born in 1748 and married Susannah Higgs in 1805, when he was 57 years old and she was 30. Research by an American Gale seeking his ancestors uncovered an old shipping record concerning immigrants to America, reading, "*John Gale gentleman of Gloucestershire aged 25 on the ship Sibella, 1774.*" The dates are a fit and, while no ship called 'Sibella' could be found, there was one named 'Isabella', which was engaged in tobacco trading with Maryland.⁴¹ The tobacco trade was at the heart of the Maryland economy. Plantation owners in the American Colonies were encouraged to bring their family and friends over. They were then awarded a 'Certificate of Right'; if, after a court appearance, they could prove that they had financed the voyage, they were awarded grants to develop their plantation. The evidence suggests that John Gale joined Edward and possibly Henry in Maryland as a young man. If he had returned to England at some time after Edward's death in 1779, he would have been the next-of-kin and inheritor of his brother's plantation and of the four lots of land of 50 acres each, which the State of Maryland allotted to all officers recruited for the Revolutionary War,⁴². He would have been a man of wealth and, despite, or perhaps because of, his age, a respectable and suitable match for the 30 year-old daughter of the well-established Higgs family.

Samuel Higgs Gael, a learned and liberal-minded man and a historian himself, wrote his rather hesitant reply to Judge George Gale of Galesville in 1864: certainly he appeared to know less about the Gale generation immediately above him than those going back to Tudor times. It is true that these events happened in a distant country and that his father's late marriage meant he died when Samuel was only four years old. Nevertheless, the question arises whether perhaps there were aspects of his father's and of his uncles' lives that he did not wish to have published. One such was possibly the ownership of slaves and the wealth derived therefrom. The Slave Trade was abolished by Britain in 1807 and in 1833 slavery was abolished throughout British dominions, all slaves being freed. These were reforms made in Samuel's lifetime that were generally held by all parties to be enlightened and self-evidently right and Parliament happily voted £20 million to compensate slave owners in the Colonies. However, America was by then no longer in the Colonies and slavery remained very much in force there, becoming an issue in the Civil War, some thirty years later, and surviving even that. Another such aspect was the fact that Edward Gale certainly, and possibly all three brothers, had fought against the Crown, an act of treason. This was something of which the Gales of Galesville, Wisconsin, would have been proud, but surely not a lawyer and an upright English gentleman like Samuel Higgs Gael. It might even have been a further reason for changing his name.

⁴¹ *The Letters of Joshua Johnson, Tobacco Merchant – British History Online.*

⁴² *Edward had such an allotment. Laws of Maryland 1763-1784, p.182 – Archives of Maryland Online*

ONE OF OUR WAR HEROES – LT COL GEORGE WYNN MITCHELL

Yvonne Mitchell

In Bulletin No. 27 I wrote an article about the Mitchell family in Charlton Kings. It was George Mitchell who left his native Hampshire to come first to Cheltenham, where he met Sarah Wynn from Sheepscombe. They married and then settled in Charlton Kings to raise a family and farm at Ryeworth farm, now “Little Manor”. He was followed by his son Albert Dowler Mitchell, who married Minnie Crump from Cheltenham. They farmed also in Charlton Kings at Glenfall Farm and later at Ham Court and later retired to Fontenelle on Sandhurst Road, a house about which there has been much controversy of late regarding plans for its possible demolition and whether a blue plaque should be placed on it to mark the home of Albert Dowler’s son, Lieutenant Colonel George Wynn Mitchell.

George was born at Glenfall Farm on 7th May 1899. He attended Dean Close School and from there went on to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, where officers for the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery were trained. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1918 and served in India, where he represented his Regiment at hockey and cricket, which was no surprise, as his father had been a fine cricketer, who had played with W.G. Grace. In 1926 he was on convalescent leave in Exeter, where he met a pretty 18-year old as she walked by the river. She was Enid Walker, born in Stroud but then living in Exeter. Lieutenant George W. Mitchell and she were married in Exeter on 30th April 1929 and she followed him on every Army posting for the rest of his career.

In 1942 they were stationed in Changi Barracks, Singapore, with their two children, Diana, born 1931, and Timothy George Wynn, born 1933, when the Japanese invasion caused their hurried evacuation. The next posting for the whole family was to Malta, which was a strategically important island and the only Allied base between Gibraltar and Egypt. It was in a position to enable attacks on the supply lines to Rommel’s forces in North Africa but also perilously close to hostile air and naval forces based in Italy. There followed three years of bombing and severe shortages on the Island. The last air raid, the 3,340th, took place on 20 July 1943. 30,000 buildings on this small but densely populated island had been destroyed and 1,300 civilians killed, but the spirit of the Island was not broken. The family lived at Fort Tigne, near Valetta, where George was the Commander of a battery of the coastal defences until 1941 and then Regimental Commander until 1943, during the long Siege of Malta. Tim, my husband, remembered a secret visit by Montgomery to the Island. His impression of the Great Man? He didn’t like children. Tim and his sister were invited each Saturday to the W.O.’s and Sergeants’ Mess: they found out later that it was because when the C.O.’s children came, the men were given jam for tea. This was, of course, a time when the whole Island was starving and in fact, the children’s pet cat and rabbit disappeared during this

period. Tim often went swimming in the Grand Harbour but was forbidden to go after any air raid. A typical young child, he often disobeyed and saw the bodies of shot-down pilots in the water. On 26 July 1941, a photo of Tim appeared in the Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic Supplement; he was in his swimming trunks and wearing his father's Royal Artillery Herbert Johnson's cap; it was labelled "The Spirit of Malta".

After the Siege was lifted, the service wives and children were air-lifted to Cairo, where it was said that the personnel were distressed to see the emaciated women and children leave the plane. The families were then sent home to England, with a delay in South Africa for the birth of George and Enid's third child, a daughter, 12 years younger than her sister and ten younger than Tim. Finally they arrived home in Charlton Kings, where they stayed at Ham Court. Tim and Diana had to go to school. They both went to boarding school, Tim to Marlborough College, whence he went to Dartmouth Naval College and into the Royal Navy.

On 1st June 1943 George finished his tour on Malta. The Sergeants and Warrant Officers made a Maltese Cross from a German shell case in their workshop, with the inscription "*From the Sgts and W.O.s of the IVth Coastal Reg. R.A., Seige of Malta 1st June 1943*". They realised later that they had misspelt "Siege" and asked for its return for correction but George treasured it as it was and refused to let them alter it. It was his prized possession for the rest of this life, as it was Tim's. On Tim's death, I donated it to the Royal Artillery Regimental Museum at Woolwich, where it may be viewed.⁴³

From Malta George went to Scapa Flow to become Regimental Commander in charge of Free Norwegian Units. After the war had ended, he was awarded the Haakon VII Liberty Cross by King Haakon of Norway.⁴⁴ From Scapa Flow he joined the staff of H.Q. Western Command in Chester and was responsible for the administration of the Polish Resettlement Corps in Western Command. On 1st December 1948 he was appointed Secretary for the Territorial Army in Anglesey and Caernarfon, and he and Enid lived in the barracks in Caernarfon.

Finally, on retiring, they came back home to Charlton Kings and to a new bungalow on School Road. Upon the death of Albert Dowler at Fontanelle, George and Enid moved into the house, where George followed his father and grandfather on the Urban District Council, making a total of about 100 years of service between them. At Fontanelle they grew all the vegetables and fruit that he and Enid needed. He died on 1st April 1973 in the Delancey Hospital and his ashes were interred in St. Mary's churchyard, where the rest of the family lie. Unfortunately, his medals were taken to the U.S.A and their fate is unknown, though we still have his miniature medals, and they are:

Haakon VII Liberty Cross: 1939-45 Defence Medal: War Medal 1939-1945: 1939-45 Star: Africa Star.

⁴³ Accession No.2011.04.13 catalogued under collections ref. MD/4403.

⁴⁴ London Gazette Supplement 16th March 1948 to Brigadier (acting) G.W. Mitchell

CELEBRATING ROYAL OCCASIONS

David O'Connor

From the 2nd to the 5th of June 2012 Charlton Kings celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of HM the Queen. The Local History Society, among others, participated with a display but it was not a stirring local occasion. This was not the first occasion that Charlton Kings has experienced a Royal Diamond Jubilee, for 115 years previously, on 20th June 1897, the villagers celebrated that of Queen Victoria. The fun started early: at 5.30 in the morning the Parish Church began pealing and a large crowd soon gathered around the church to join in the festivities. Two hours later, a still larger crowd was in attendance to listen to the strains of the National Anthem, sung by the choir accompanied by a band perched on the church tower. Later in the morning services were held at St. Mary's, Holy Apostles and in the Baptist Chapel and this was followed by further bell-ringing. Even the Workhouse inmates were not forgotten. The delights for those at Charlton were not reported but at Cheltenham they had a special breakfast of coffee, bread and fresh butter, followed by a service at 9 o'clock. Dinner was roast beef, new potatoes and cabbage, followed by cheese cakes and oranges, following which the children and aged inmates only (150 in all), were taken to watch the aquatic sports programme in Pittville Park, on the island in what was described as "*a roomy grandstand for the inmates of The Elms*".⁴⁵ The tramps were not omitted from this largesse: they were served with extra rations and then allowed to go on their way rejoicing without the customary labour dues being required of them.⁴⁶

At one o'clock the Charlton Kings organised festivities began in earnest: Mr George Mitchell had placed his field at Ryeworth at the disposal of the Jubilee Celebration Committee and here, in a large marquee, a dinner was served to the old folks of sixty years or more and to the infirm of younger years. About 175 people sat down to a capital dinner of hot vegetables with cold joints, and a hot plum pudding. Those qualified for the feast but unable to be present, were allowed to send for their dinner, a considerable number being served in this way. Sir Brook Kay, the Battledown baronet, spoke a few kind words to the guests, mentioning that there was one among them, Mr George Carlton, a gardener at Charlton Park, who had attended the only previous Jubilee, that of George III.⁴⁷ The guests heartily responded to the "*worthy Baronet's*" call for three cheers for Her Gracious Majesty, the National Anthem also being heartily sung.

While the dinner was progressing, some 1,100 school children gathered at the Working Men's Club Recreation Ground, where they were presented with a Jubilee medal, the joint gift of Mr

⁴⁵ *The Elms* was the address of the Cheltenham Workhouse. The term was used on birth and death certificates to avoid embarrassment for the holder or relatives.

⁴⁶ A typical task was the breaking of 4cwt of stone into gravel. Such tasks were not optional.

⁴⁷ This was open to debate: technically George III did rule for 60 years from 1760 to his death in 1820 but he went insane in 1810 and the Prince of Wales was appointed Regent for the last 10 years.

Rogerson and Mr H. Lord, the owner of Lillybrook. Headed by Mr James's Military Band (which was retained for Charlton Kings the whole day) the youngsters perambulated round the village to Mr Mitchell's field, where they joined in singing the hymn "Victoria" and other appropriate songs. The next item was a competition for the best decorated wagons in the procession, of which there were nine, all decorated with flags and flowers. This was followed by tea, after which the children were given handsome Jubilee mugs, the gift of Mrs Creek, with Jubilee coins and bun tickets presented by the subscribers to the event. Athletic sports and dancing brought a happy day to a satisfactory conclusion, or so the Examiner reported. The Cheltenham Mercury was not so sure: its anonymous column by the "Man-in-the-Moon" reported that "*the festivities went off pretty well, considering the half-hearted management, the proceedings being conducted on the principles of a Sunday School Treat. The secretary⁴⁸, a teetotaler, and his henchmen had actually begrudged the old men a glass of beer, had it not been for Mr George Mitchell and Mr. Henry Dyer of the London Inn, and then it was doled out somewhat like medicine. The whole proceedings lacked the character of a thorough English rejoicing.*" He had a point: there was a resemblance to a Sunday School Treat, for there was always a suspicion among the respectable citizens organising such celebrations that alcohol would trigger unseemly events. However, even the Man-in-the-Moon could not end without calling on God to "*Bless Her and Her Empire on which the Sun never sets*".

Whether the Charlton Kings citizens were able to participate in the Grand Aquatic Fete in Pittville Park is debatable, for it was stipulated that all competitors had to reside within a radius of three miles from the Town Clock. No doubt many did attend, for the crowd was estimated to have been between ten and fifteen thousand, eager to see what was a completely new type of entertainment for the Town. Progress was slow, since there were only two similar boats available and with heats for each event, after six hours, one event had to be postponed. The ladies' events were marked by a complete lack of entries, which moved the programme along. However, the comic events, such as the Tug and Mop Combat, provided some hearty amusement.

When the Sun did set on this part of the Empire, Battledown was thronged with thousands of sightseers for the concluding display as beacons were lit on all the surrounding prominent points: Leckhampton Hill, Cleeve Cloud, Holy Epistle, Birdlip, Withington, Crickley Hill, Painswick Beacon, Malvern, May Hill, Mythe, Bredon, Churchdown, Robins Wood Hill, Pope's Hill, Littledean, and Newnham – as they had, it was said, long ago, when the Spanish Armada was approaching. On the stroke of 10 o'clock a blue flame rose from the Malvern Heights, the signal for the lighted torches to be put to the piles over the widely extended area within which it was seen. All eyes turned to Leckhampton Hill, on which a massive pile stood ready; it was still fairly clear, though other heights were dim. A great tongue of red flame shot up towards the sky. It was the first in the neighbourhood to join the other 2,400 beacon fires which were to burn in honour of Britain's sovereign. Cleeve Cloud, where the beacon had been prematurely lit two days previously by a miscreant, had desperately built

⁴⁸ *Horace Edwards, who was indeed a keen supporter of the Temperance Movement*

another which followed, its glow just visible over an intervening hill. Meantime, the two lights on the Malvern Range were growing bigger and brighter.

The whole landscape was alive with light and Cheltenham, seen from Battledown Hill, was strongly suggestive of a fairy scene in Arabian Nights: in addition to fires, illuminations in the form of gas, electricity and coloured lamps were drawing sightseers to the streets. Electricity was used at the Examiner Office in Clarence Street, The Examiner reported, where the letters V.R., about ten feet high, were outlined by coloured celluloid balloons; with the rival illuminant, the most effective devices were at the offices of the Gas Company: on their offices in Albion Street was a crown, flanked with letters V.R. in gas jets and on the North Street frontage a great blaze was shown. In the centre was a Winged Fame, holding a scroll with the words "*The World Greets Thee*". To the left of this was a crown and laurel leaves and on the right the Royal Arms. The Fire Brigade were doubtless enjoying it with crossed fingers.

Inevitably, not everything passed off without incident. In Ham Lane, Sarah Meddings, aged 57, was found by a policeman with a crowd around her. She was in a fearful condition and the constable had to hire a conveyance to get her to the Police Station. She was charged with being drunk in Charlton Kings and said she was very sorry. As she had not been up before the court for some time, she was fined 2s..6d, including the cost of the conveyance. Next to the report in the paper was an advertisement for Diamond Jubilee Scotch Whisky, Distilled 1887, 10 Years Old, at 24 shillings a gallon, which may have had something to do with it. Indicative of the weather, another Charlton casualty was Frederick Thomas, a coachman in the employ of Mr. Albert Mott, Wine Merchant, of Detmore, who was overcome by the heat while watching a procession near St. Matthew's Church and fell unconscious. He recovered after Hospital treatment. Finally, there was disappointment when, at a celebration in the village of Barton, during the Roasting of the Ox, the carcass caught fire and the ox was cremated instead of roasted.

This 1897 celebration was that of a hierarchical and jingoistic nation, confident in its position as the world's superpower and seemingly taking it for granted that God was pleased with it. Religious services were key elements of all the celebrations. It was also clearly that of a patriarchal society: the Charlton Kings organising committee consisted of 25 men, carefully listed in order of precedence. As noted above, women came to watch, but declined to enter, for the ladies' events, with the exception of a little girl in the fancy dress cycling competition, who was awarded first prize: in the absence of any other, a man was awarded the ladies' second prize: and this was a celebration for a Queen. The other feature of note was that virtually every village and town held a local celebration, since only those in the Capital could hope to see any part of the actual ceremonies. This was not to last.

On 2nd June 1953, 56 years later, the nation celebrated the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. As in 1897, it was an early start but with a difference: people began queuing, not outside the church but Cheltenham Town Hall, at six a.m., three and a half hours before the doors were opened. The queue wound along Oriel Road and round the corner of the Town Hall by the time the doors were opened ten minutes early. Old age pensioners and disabled people with

tickets had reserved places inside, but hundreds were turned away. People without tickets stayed to queue all morning in the hope that part of the unreserved seating might be vacated. Inside were 1,200 people and thirteen television screens, with two large ones with projection apparatus setup, back to back, in the centre of the hall. Reception of the ceremonial was good and most of the audience stayed for the whole seven hour programme.⁴⁹ Charlton Kings held a carnival and procession through the streets, with decorated tableaux on lorries. The Cooperative Women's Guild carried off the first prize with a tableau representing all the colours of the Empire headed by a white figure as "World Peace". The Choir of St. Mary's, dressed in Elizabethan robes of red, white and blue, were third. The band of Baker Street Boy's Brigade led the procession, which was marshalled by Mr. F.E. Huckfield. The best decorated house in Charlton Kings was adjudged to be that of Mr Walter G. Cathrine, "Stoneville", in Cirencester Road. Television and tea was available in the School Hall. A good time was had by all, but the television age was getting underway.

By the time Queen Elizabeth II had reached her own Diamond Jubilee, every home in the nation had one or more television sets and televised events could be seen on mobile phones. Royal ceremonies and the associated pageantry were totally available in all their detail and to all who wished to see them. In terms of a national patriotic event, that is surely a gain. The 21st of June 1897 had been a beautiful day; London was draped in flowers and flags and 50,000 troops drawn from all over the Empire lined the streets. Thousands waited to cheer Queen Victoria. The 78-year old Queen drove to St. Paul's, where, to save her from fatigue, a short service was held on the steps outside. She went on to the Mansion House for an address and finally drove through South London, returning via Westminster to Buckingham Palace, where the House of Commons, lined up in the courtyard, sang the National Anthem in chorus. She wept, her frail figure shaken with sobs. Thousands of Londoners saw fractions of these events: millions of others elsewhere saw nothing of them. There are still many who enjoy the sensations of participating in a crowd but today most such events can be viewed, and arguably better viewed, in homes or in small groups. The bunting will still come out and street parties have reappeared, but television has also raised people's standards in respect of entertainment and it is doubtful if carnival processions of the sort seen in Charlton Kings in 1953 will re-occur. The account of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 is fascinating to read but it happened in another country.



⁴⁹ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 2 June 1953

OUR HOME FRONT - Part II

Brian Lickman

I make no claim that my article in Bulletin 58 (2012) on the National Farm Survey of England and Wales, 1941-43, as it affected the parish of Charlton Kings, gave rise to the 8-part BBC series *Wartime Farm* last autumn. However, it does complement our understanding of Government policy on local efforts - and vice-versa.

My attached raw parish data is based upon the working papers of the local Crop Reporter (Mr R.W. Castle). His original summary amounts to seven A3 sheets of the 28th July 1941 Addressograph listing for the parish and reflects the nationwide Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) Agricultural returns as at the 4th June 1941. It contains the detailed working of these mandatory returns as interpreted by the reporter; and this, in itself, raised concern. With hindsight, the 109 page Summary Report⁵⁰ recognised that a major problem of the Survey was the shortage of qualified and experienced recorders. There was no time to set up special training and the outcome was to issue a comprehensive book of instructions, interpreted by local rather than national standards. This resulted in apparent anomalies which required special investigation.

As early as page 2 of the same report, there is an example of the bureaucracy, with MAF calling from the County War Agricultural Executive Committees (War Ag) information on several aspects of food production, in particular the progress of the ploughing campaign and the classification of farms into A, B or C management standards. Later (page 3) another expert Committee, the Farm Survey Supervisory Committee, made a decision that the survey should be confined to agricultural holdings of 5 acres and above. They argued that whilst holdings between 1 and 5 acres numbered some 70,000, they comprise less than 1% of the total area of crops and grass, and could be statistically ignored. Further, separate arrangements had already been made to survey Horticultural holdings (including those under 5 acres) through the horticultural sub-committee of the War Ag.

Another consideration concerns farms and non-farms - that is, holdings. Farms were defined as having sufficient capital resources (both landlords and tenants) to provide the occupier with a main occupation and a chief source of livelihood from farming. There are a substantial number of agricultural holdings, mainly small in size, which do not conform to this definition of farm, and the farm survey, from this point of view, is really a survey of agricultural holdings, the word embracing farms and non-farms. An early example (from the eagle-eye of the Editor) concerns MAF/GR/41/29/13 for Beechwood. "Why", he asks, "is Beechwood in Battledown shown as a farm?" "Well," I answer, "by default!" The total acreage is recorded as 11 acres - comprising the acreage of the house, grounds and an adjacent open field. The crop is from Bee-keeping. Thus Beechwood qualifies as a non-farm (holding) of more than 5 acres, livestock of Bees and liable to management classification C. In 1943, even with sugar rationing, a bee colony qualified for a winter sugar supplement of up to 10 lb per colony, and a further 5 lb for spring feeding.

⁵⁰ *National Farm Survey of England and Wales (1941-1943) A Summary Report.*

One must not overlook that this 1941 return is a snapshot; agricultural returns have been taken since the middle of the 19th century and forward to today. Thus, this comprehensive survey cannot be analysed in isolation. The comparison with immediate previous years is necessary and contributes to “faith in the figures”. The detail attached verifies the efforts of Mr Castle to get it right; I believe he succeeds. We have the comparison of the 1941 return with the 1940 return, with the increase or decrease of acreage carefully noted. You will notice that the transfer of field ownership, in many cases, places the occupier with ground less than 5 acres; this, one assumes, contributes to the holdings seemingly below 5 acres and still submitting a return. However, some holdings may be combined to form self-contained units sharing common assets of labour, machinery or ownership, but not called farms! Note from the data that there are a number of blank reference numbers, either for cancellation or not returned (possibly from not being 5 acres), or even qualifying for the separate horticultural return?

Further, some holdings comprise no more than one or two fields, entirely without buildings, and used solely for grazing purposes in connection with businesses other than farming, such as butchers, bakers and greengrocers business. These holdings, it may be agreed, do not constitute farms; on the other hand, it by no means follows that holdings which are small in size and without buildings cannot be farms - a matter of local preference? But another factor is introduced into the discussion; the need to consider resources from an economic rather than the physical viewpoint. On this basis, it may be agreed that a holding is also a farm when it provides the main employment of and a chief source of livelihood to the occupier - hence, the use of a classification to occupiers according to economic type.

The summary report lists the following identities: the full-time occupier, the part-time occupier, the spare-time occupier, sub-divided into regular or occasional, the Hobby occupier, the occupier of accommodation land, and Other (Miscellaneous) types of occupier. By way of a rule of thumb, it is possible to categorise occupiers and distinguish those who are farmers and so occupiers of farms.

- a. Full-time farmers in occupation of farms.
- b. Part-time farmers in occupation of farms.
- c. “Regular” spare-time occupiers in occupation of holdings.
- d. “Occasional” spare-time occupiers in occupation of holdings.
- e. Occupiers of residential holdings.
- f. Hobby farmers in occupation of farms.
- g. Occupiers of accommodation holdings.
- h. Occupiers of institutional farms or holdings.

In general, it seems that if the title of the holding shows it to be a farm then, by its acreage alone, it is probably right. Exceptions include those owned by corporations (Gloucester Dairy entry at 20 and 21) or major land owners (Mr Arthur Mitchell at 39, 42 and 87) who owns small individual sites before branching out to a massive 300 acre site, out of the parish, but counted in our parish as the main residence of the owner is at Glenfall. Should one question this brewer’s declaration as Hobby Farmer (by full definition, a hobby farmer is one who farms for a motive other than profit, such as pleasure or amenity, and is therefore not dependent on farming for a living.)?

MAF/GR41/29	Farm/Holding	1941 Occupier	Crops & Grass		Rough Grazing		Difference (41 from 40)	Notes
			acres 1940	acres 1941	acres 1940	acres 1941		
1	Welling Hill Farm	Mr EAR Lifely	79	101	0	0	+22	13 acre from 29/8; 9 acre adjustment (ERROR).
2	Old Coxhome	Mr WJ Bryan	67	67	0	0		
3	Bakery, Hewlett Road	Mr J Browner	2	2	3.5	3.5		
4	Sunny Bank Farm	Mr Thos. Ball	15	15	0	0		
[5] delete	(Not recorded).	Mt TH Nicholls	10.5	0	0	0	-10.5	10.5 acre to 29/65.
6	Orchard House	Mr JA Lippmann	1.5	1.5	0	0		
7	Charlton Court	Miss D Ransford-Collett	5	5	0	0		
8	Detmore	Mr HE Jennings	16.5	3.5	1	0	-14	13 acre to 29/1, 1 acre adjustment (ERROR).
9	New Court	Miss MO Cross	5	5	0	0		
[10]	(No 1941 return)							
[11]	(No 1941 return)							
[12] delete	(Tuley Field)	Mr JP Holborn	3.5	0	0	0	-3.5	3.5 acre to 35/3 (TOP).
13	Beechwood	Mr FH Donne	11	11	0	0		
14	Ham Farm	Mr HJ Davis	30	29.5	0	0		
15	Salt Farm	Mr LG Dunn	21.5	21.5	0	0		
16	Old Dole Farm	Mr WP Davis	94	75	85	85		
[17]	(No 1941 return)							
18	Detmore	(solicitors)	10	10	0	0		
[19]	(No 1941 return)							
20	Northfield Farm	Glos. Dairy Co.	245	245	0	0		
21	Bafford Farm	Glos. Dairy Co.	31.2	31.25	0	0		

MAF/GR/41/29	Farm/Holding	1941 Occupier	Crops & Grass		Rough Grazing		Difference [41 from 40]
			acres 1940	acres 1941	acres 1940	acres 1941	
22	The Witleyholt	Mr JA Bamford	2.5	2.5	0	0	0
23	Stangmare Gardens	Mr R Green	3	5	0	0	0
24	Glenwhitton	Mr FW Holder	1.2	1.25	0	0	0
25	Colgate Farm	Mr R Thomas	25	77.25	0	8.75	0
26	Durlestone	Mr AE Holloway	2.2	2.25	0	0	0
27	Ashgrove Farm	Mr C Holder	119	119	0	0	0
28	Capel Orchard	Miss MM Haward	3	3	0	0	0
29	Glenrosa	Mr PR Hill	3.8	3.75	0	0	0
[30]	(No 1941 return)						
[31]	(No 1941 return)						
32	Tantallon	Mr EW Halling	36.5	36.5	0	0	0
33	Wadleys	Mr HJ Humphries	3	3	0	0	0
34	Lower Hewlett Farm	Mrs D Weston	70	78	20	30	0
35	Ham Hill South Farm	Miss GE Jobling	120	120	0	0	0
36	East End Farm	Mr Frank Law	30	30.25	0	0	0
[37]	(No 1941 return)						
38	Battledown Manor	(solicitors)	36	36	0	0	0
39	Ham Court	Mr AD Mitchell	62	62	0	0	0
[40]	(No 1941 return)						
[41]	(No 1941 return)						

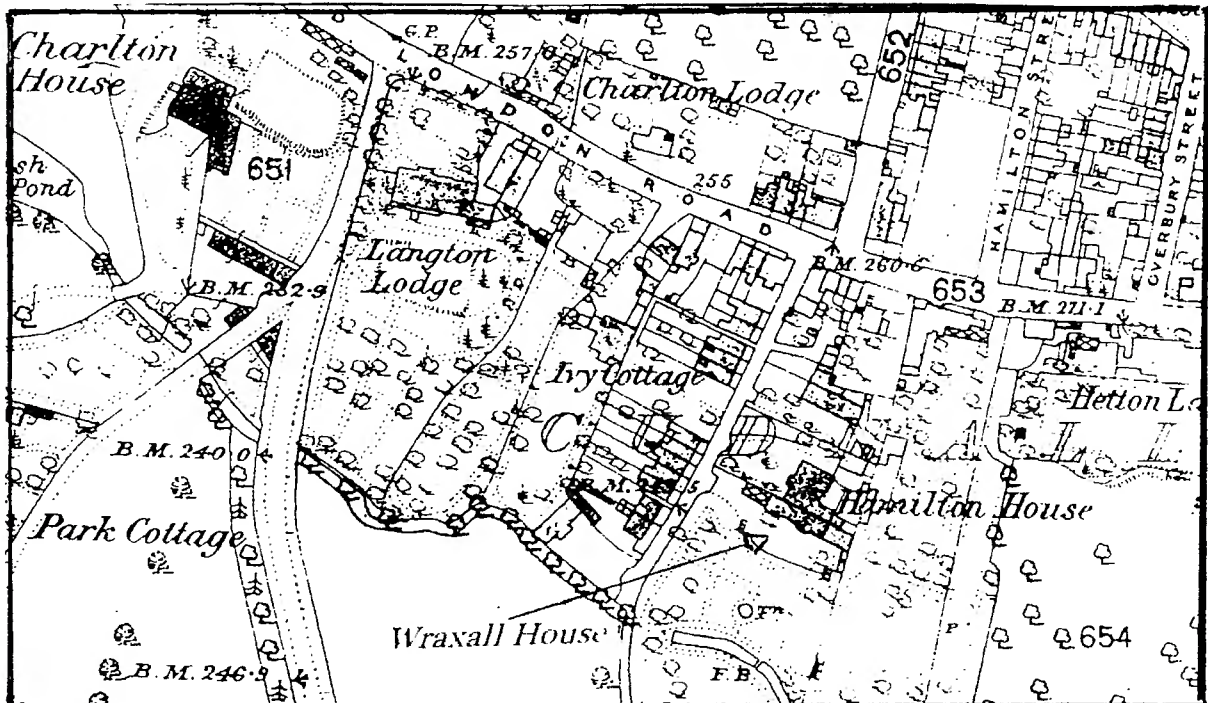
MAF/GR/41/28	Farm/Holding	1941 Occupier	Crops & Grass		Rough Grazing		Difference [41 from 40]
			acres 1940	acres 1941	acres 1940	acres 1941	
42	Little Herberts Farm	Mr A Mitchell	21	15	0	0	-6 6 acre to Charlton Kings UDC for allotments.
43	Hetton Lawn	Mr HG Mabey	5.5	5.5	0	0	
44	Cambrian Nurseries	Mr Amos Morrell	1.25	1.25	0	0	
45	Home Farm, Little Herberts Road	Miss Mitchell	13.5	13.5	0	0	
[46]	(No 1941 return)						
[47] delete	The Hearne		7	0	0	0	-7 7 acre duplicated with 29/53.
48	The Hitchings (Lower Woodlands Farm)	Mr JW Neather	59.5	40	0	20	+0.25 0.25 acre adjustment (ERROR).
49	Lilleybrook Lawn	Mr AE Organ	105	18.5	0	0	-86.5 81 acre to 29/70; 3 acre to 37/41 (TOP); 2 acre adjustment (ERROR).
50	Lilleybrook Hotel	Mrs H Parsons	2 25	2.25	0	0	
51	Ham House	Mr EW Robinson	4	4	0	0	
52	Ham Dairy Farm	Mr WJ Rouse	60	60	0	0	
53	Sappercombe Farm	Mr RH Rowe	34 5	37	0	0	+2.5 2.5 acre from 29/69.
54	Coxhorne Farm	Mr RW Sharp	61	61	0	0	
55	Southfield Farm	Mr GJ Scott-Plummer	83	85	0	0	
56	Balcarras Farm	Mr Shakspeare Shenton	39	29	0	4	-6 3.75 acre from 23/25 (FOP); 0.25 acre adjustment (ERROR) by 23/25; -9.75 acre adjustment (ERROR) by 29/56.
57	Battledown Works (for school)	(solicitors)	10	4	0	0	-6 6 acre for Allotments; [4 acre noted for school in 1942].
58	Home Farm, Greenway Lane	Miss MD Wilson	27.5	27.5	0	0	
59	Ham Hill North Farm	Mr BA Wood	110.5	110.5	0	0	
60	Glenfall Farm	Mr SW Winstone	147.5	147.5	0	0	
61	Shackleton, Daisy Bank Road	Mr WL Perry	4.75	0	11	16.5	+0.75 .75 acre adjustment (ERROR)
[62] delete	(Duplication)		3	0	0	0	-3 3 acre duplicated with 29/7 in 1940.

MAF/GR/4/1/29	Farm/Holding	1941 Occupier	Crops & Grass		Rough Grazing		Difference [+1 from 40]
			acres 1940	acres 1941	acres 1940	acres 1941	
63	California Farm	Mr CW Russell	98	98	0	0	
[64] delete	(Duplication)		20	0	0	0	-20 20 acre duplicated with 343/87 (TOP).
65	Vineyards Farm	Mr Gilbert Cresswell	400	569	0	0	+169 10.5 acre from 29/5, 158.5 acre (NPR) was scrub land, now grazed.
66	East End PO	Mr E Mills	7	7	0	0	
67	Stowaway, Daisy Bank Road	Mr HB Gleed	0	0	10	10	
68	Old Ham Farm	Mr C Bellinger	3.5	3.5	0	0	
[69] delete	Mill House, London Road		2.5	0	0	0	-2.5 2.5 acre to 29/53.
70	Windmill Farm	Mr J Sommerville	0	81	0	0	+81 81 acre from 29/49.
[71-80]	(No 1941 return)						(Sequence numbers not used in 1941.)
81	Bafford Grange	General RG Burton	0	1.25	0	0	+1.25 Not returned in June 1940, 1.25 acre (NPR)
[82]	(No 1941 return)						
83	The Larches	Mr M Kelvin	0	2.5	0	2.5	+5 Not returned in June 1940, 5 acre (NPR).
84	Charlton Hill	Mr WJ Pearce	0	22	0	0	+22 Not returned in June 1940, 22 acre (NPR)
85	Moorend Park Hotel	"Manager"	0	6.5	0	0	+6.5 Not returned in June 1940, 6.5 acre (NPR).
86	East Court	Miss EM Bubb	0	4	0	0	+4 Not returned in June 1940, 4 acre (NPR).
87	The Glenfall Estate	(Baillif) Mr A Mitchell	0	297	0	0	+297 Not returned in June 1940, 214.5 acre (FOP) 35/4; 68 acre (FOP) 187/14; 14.5 acre (NPR), 15.5 acre (ERROR) previous owner.
60	[Active holdings for 1941]	Totals	2,485.75	2,956.3	1,40.5	180.25	+510 Net gain in 1941.
[88] for 1942	The Knapp	Messrs Dowty Ltd.	0	3.5	0	0	Noted for 1942.
[89] for 1942	Merrivale	Mrs AM Seiby-Lowndes	0	2	0	0	Noted for 1942.
[90] for 1942	Spinney	Mrs F Wendt	0	2.5	0	0	Noted for 1942.
[91] for 1942	Reservoir Inn	Mr T Phipps	0	2	0	0	Noted for 1942.

THE STORY OF HAMILTON HOUSE

David O'Connor

Hamilton House is situated in Brookway Lane, which was once known as Stew's Lane after its owner Richard Stew, whose house there burned down in 1635. It was on this site that Wraxall House was built by Sir Nathaniel Wraxall in 1816. Next to this last plot was a customary tenement of the Cheltenham Manor belonging to the Holder family. This was divided in the 17th century and later demolished to allow for the construction of Courland (Pear Tree Cottage) and Hamilton Villa, later House. The Abstract of Title to the latter begins on 22 October 1779 when James Ballinger of Haydon in the parish of Boddington, yeoman and heir of Benjamin Ballinger, claimed all that tenement or dwelling house garden orchard and backside with appurtenances late in the occupation of Thomas Bee situate in Charlton Kings near a lane or street called Cudnell (sic), having a lane called Stew's lane on the west, an orchard of Walter Lawrence on the east and a garden of the Widow Newman on the north and an Orchard of John Greville on the south side – and was admitted tenant.



During the next 19 years there were frequent submissions to the Cheltenham Manor court relating to changes of tenants, viz:-

1779 – John Hethaway

1789 -- James Low and Samuel Cook (by Charles Higgs, his attorney, this being a mortgage)

1794 – Richard Haines of Charlton Kings⁵¹

1800 – James Potter of Woodmancote, yeoman

1802 – Thomas Low and Mary, wife of Richard Newman

⁵¹ Richard Haines died in 1806 aged 72 and is buried at St. Mary's

However, on 15 July 1804 there was a further division of the land. Richard Brown, a bricklayer of Charlton Kings⁵², got all that part of the messuage then in the occupation of the said Thomas Low containing two rooms, one below and another above, together with a pantry thereto adjoining and also that south part of a garden to the said messuage containing about half an acre (more or less)⁵³ as the same was then staked out and marked out and which said premises were situate in Charlton Kings near a lane called Cudnell. This was plainly a small cottage and not a gentry house. However, the staking out of the adjoining land presaged further development and indeed the next submission to the Cheltenham Manor court revealed that the situation had changed dramatically. On 2 June 1809 one John Hughes Esq. of Cheltenham paid Thomas Low £800 for the absolute purchase of the messuage court garden and hereditaments hereinafter mentioned, namely all that newly built messuage or dwelling house of Thomas Low, late in the possession of Captain Ricketts.⁵⁴ Until his death on 25 July 1832 John Hughes and his wife lived at the house and it was he who named it Hamilton Villa. Exactly why he chose this name started to become apparent on 14 July 1830 when a complicated entry was made on the Cheltenham Manor court rolls:

“John Hughes by his will of this date did, failing heirs of his own body, give, grant and assign and dispose to the Reverend Arthur Onslow of Fell Hill, Surrey, Captain James Stirling RN, Lt Governor of Swan River Settlement,⁵⁵ Archibald Hamilton Esq. residing at Rozelle, Frederick Mangles Esq. and Captain Charles Edward Mangles of the East India Company Ship The Marchioness of Ely and Mr Quintin Kennedy of Drummellan,⁵⁶ if he would do the testator the favour, to accept the role of trustees and dispose of all and whole his properties situate in England which include two houses and a small estate in Cheltenham, three houses in Bath and an estate in Mountcharles.⁵⁷”

With the possible exception of Capt Stirling, the Trustees were all linked by marriage. The Reverend Onslow had married the daughter of James Mangles, MP for Guildford, the father of Captain Charles Edward Mangles and Frederick Mangles. Charles Edward Mangles was married to Mary, John Hughes' sister. Reverend Onslow's 5th son was named Henry John Hughes-Onslow, whose seat was in Ayr, as was Archibald Hamilton's. Moreover, Grace Dora, another member of the Hughes family, had married into the Irish Kennedy family. There was also professional linkage: both Charles Mangles and Archibald Hamilton had been captains in the Maritime Service of the East India Company and doubtless Captain Stirling RN, another Scot whose seat was in Glentyan, Renfrewshire, was also connected nautically.

⁵² *Richard Brown died in 1818 aged 42 and is buried at St. Mary's.*

⁵³ *“about half an acre (more or less)” is remarkably vague for a legal document*

⁵⁴ *There were two Admiral Ricketts resident in Cheltenham – Sir Robert Tristram Ricketts and Mordaunt Ricketts.*

⁵⁵ *Swan River Settlement in Western Australia - a free and not convict settlement established 1829. Stirling discovered the Swan River in 1827 and was its first Lieutenant Governor.*

⁵⁶ *A large 18th Century estate in Maybole by Ayr, Scotland but also the name of a village in Armagh, N. Ireland.*

⁵⁷ *A village in Donegal, Ireland*

Those named were asked to form a quorum for this purpose. However, after they had proved the will, some of the Trustees renounced their interest and others died. Archibald Hamilton, a remaining Trustee, wished to sell the house called Hamilton Villa with the coach house, stable and outbuildings to a Joseph Cooper Straford. In October 1833 it therefore became necessary for the Reverend Onslow to testify that he knew John Hughes and his wife, believed they had no children and that he had departed this life without any lawful issue surviving. On 28 January 1834 the question arose as to whether Hamilla Hamilton, otherwise Hughes, was entitled to dower or freebench⁵⁸ on such a sale. It now became quite apparent why Hamilton Villa was so named. John Hughes' wife, now widow, Hamilla was the sister of Archibald Hamilton of Rozelle, a house and park estate in Ayr. The Hamilton family had bought the Rozelle lands for £2,000 in 1754 having made their fortune in slavery, sugar and tobacco. They owned three Jamaican estates and Robert Hamilton built a mansion at Rozelle in 1760. The house and estate flourished in the 18th and 19th Centuries but the Hamiltons were struck by heavy death duties which forced the sale of the lands. Hamilton Villa, later House, therefore commemorates the Hamiltons of Rozelle and Sundrum. Whether this accounts for nearby Hamilton Street and Hamilton Place is unknown, but possible.

In January 1834 the sale to Straford went ahead, at a price of £950. He was a solicitor born in Tewkesbury in 1795, active in Cheltenham life and Clerk to the Magistrates. The Manorial Roll reveals that he already owned the messuage, or dwelling house, garden or premises on the south side, which is to say Wraxall House. In March he took the precaution of making a payment of ten shillings to the Cheltenham Manor to extinguish the dower or freebench, if any. He then let the property to John Surman Cox, his law partner and the Clerk to the Cheltenham Commissioners, but retained the ownership. In August 1839 he put both Wraxall House and Hamilton Villa up for sale or rent. Hamilton Villa was described as being formerly occupied by Sir Alexander Wilson and lately by Captain Molesworth, R.N. It was described as having a garden, stable, coach house and spacious dining and drawing rooms.

The fact that a Captain Ricketts was an early tenant of the property has been mentioned. Straford was co-executor with Lady Ricketts of the will of Admiral Sir Robert Tristram Ricketts Bt. and in the 1840s he was involved in a series of controversial cases arising from the contested will of the Admiral, involving claims that the ailing Admiral's signatures to the will were forged, allegedly by his wife, Lady Ricketts, but Straford and his two clerks were both sent for trial. From this case came a libel action but he seems to have weathered these events. Hamilton Villa also weathered the storms of July 1855, when a great body of water came from Dowdeswell Mill and flooded Charlton Kings and Cheltenham.⁵⁹ Elborough Cottage and Wraxall House were seriously damaged, the latter losing 40 yards of brick wall 5 feet high. The Villa was less damaged but all the gardens were covered in mud.

⁵⁸ *A widow's right to a copyhold – an ancient manorial custom whereby a widow, until she remarried, could retain tenure of her late husband's land.*

⁵⁹ *Cheltenham Free Press 14 July 1855. This was before the Reservoir was built.*

Before he died in 1859, Straford sold Hamilton Villa to William Gaskins, a farmer from Southam. From then until 1897, the re-named Hamilton House was a property whose subsequent owners let it for the rental income, as the table below illustrates. One mysterious event in the listed owners is that from at least 1858 to at least 1882 the house was shown in the Rate Book as being owned by Price and Mullins, Trustees. This would seem to indicate either a mortgage, lengthy delays in obtaining probate for a will or possibly bankruptcy proceedings, in which Trustees for the creditors were appointed. There was no solicitors' firm of this name in Cheltenham in this period. However, the Price family, who owned Wraxall House, may have been involved.

The letting of houses was a major source of income in Cheltenham, where much of the life was seasonal and the demands of the Empire brought a constant flow of military and civil officials and pensioners. The rental income derived by the various owners of Hamilton House may be assessed by its rateable value at three points in its history where Charlton Kings rateable values are known, viz. 1858, 1882 and 1914. The lowest rateable value for what would have been considered a gentry house was £20 and such houses would have been occupied by gentry of limited means such as widows and those on small pensions. The highest rated properties were those with extensive grounds, headed by The Oaklands (now St. Edward's Junior School) at £255. In 1858 Hamilton Villa was vacant and half-rated at £30, effectively the same as Wraxall Lodge next door at £60. In 1882 the renamed Hamilton House was rated at £40.16s, considerably less than the similarly renamed Wraxall House's £55. In 1914 Hamilton House had fallen further to £34 whereas Wraxall House, which was vacant, remained stable at the half-rate value of £27.50.



Unusually, Hamilton House physically abuts Wraxall House, forming a 'T'

OWNERS

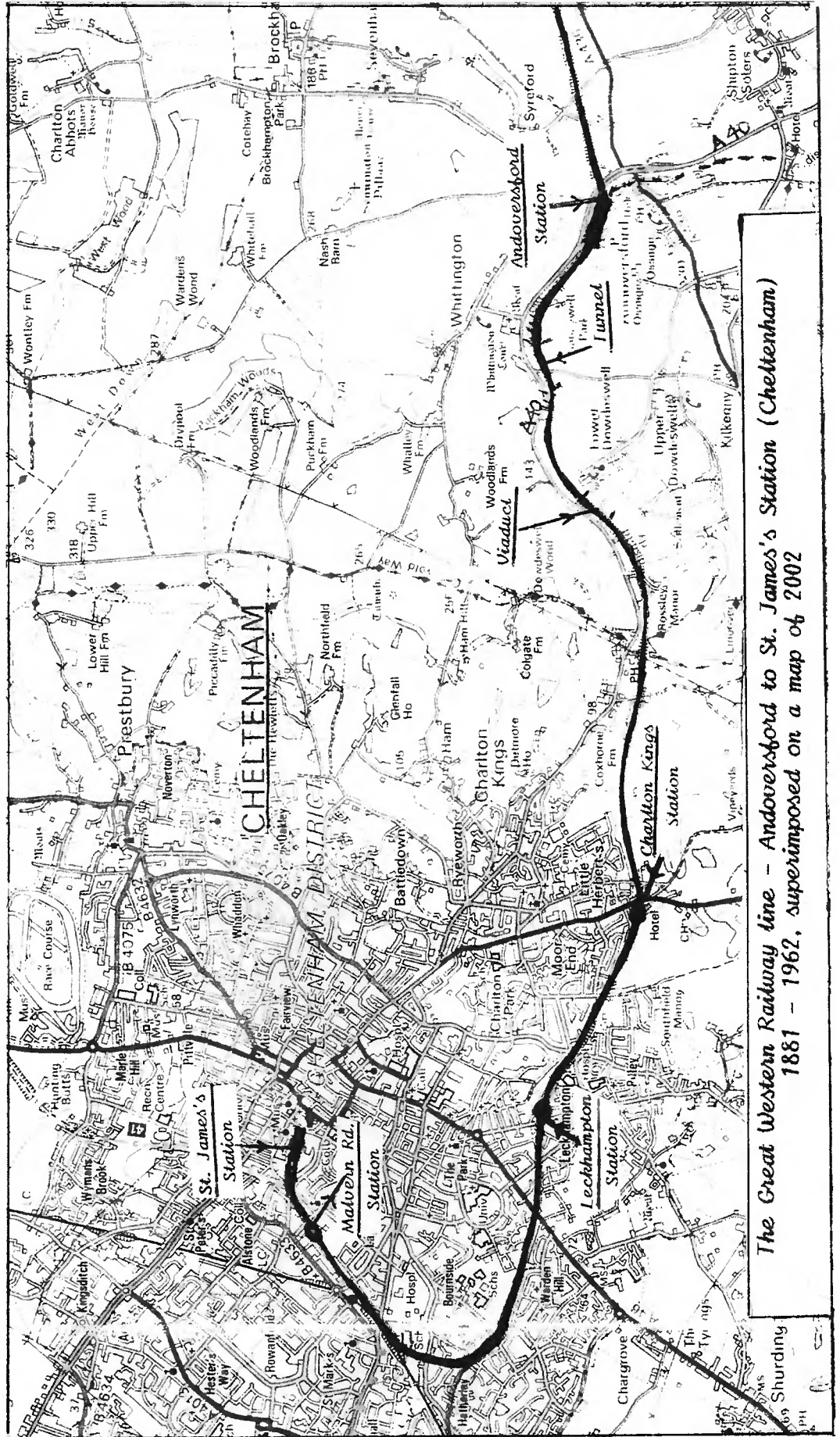
- 1805 Thomas Low.
- 1809 John Hughes, Gent. Wife Hamilia, no children. Paid £950.
- 1832-7 Joseph Cooper Straford, Solicitor. Clerk to Cheltenham Magistrates. Paid £950.
- 1837 William Gaskins, Farmer of 250 acres at Southam, employing 6 men 5 boys. Wife Amy, 3 sons.
- 1858 Price and Mullins, Trustees¹
- 1874 Walter Augustus Gaskins, youngest son of above, Farmer of 677 acres employing 12 men, 5 boys, 4women. Wife Martha, 2 children. Valued at £700.
- 1882 Price and Mullins, Trustees
- 1893 Isaac Soloman, retired Pawnbroker. Father had pawnshop at 199, High St. Cheltenham. Paid £700.²
- 1897 John How, Grocer and Tea Dealer of Cheltenham. Wife Hannah, 5 children. Paid £300. Sold house in 6 weeks.
- 1897 William Henry Bradley, Gent of Piccadilly and Chelsea, London. Wife Lena, son Walter. Paid £460.
- 1902 Harriet Hallam, Widow, daughter of a Sheffield Fancy Weaver.
- 1922 Died. House left in will to daughter Annie Hallam. Valued at £640.
- 1922 Richard Crawshay Heyworth of Sennybridge, Brecon. Artist of St. Ives Group. Member, Royal Institute of Oil Painters.

¹ Price & Mullins have not been identified.

² In Feb 1894 Soloman carried out major repairs to the house and rewarded the workmen with a supper at the Star Inn, Cheltenham.

OCCUPIERS

- 1808 Captain Ricketts.
- 18?? Sir Alexander Wilson
- 1832 Owner.
- 1834-7 John Surman Cox, Solicitor
- 1839 Capt John Molesworth, RN
- 1842-4 Captain Johnson
- 1847 Rev John Holmes Joy, son of Rev John Henry Joy, Curate Cheltenham 1862-9.
- 1853-6 William Selkirk, Board of Guardians
- 1856-7 Rev F.H. and Mrs Potter. Curate at Dowdeswell.
- 1859 Joseph Freeman Esq. Director, Suburban Omnibus Co. Wife Maria.
- 1861-2 Richard Hemming, Esq. Wife Emily.
- 1870 Rev Frederick Howson Potter, Ham House School. From 1871 Minister of Holy Apostles. Wife Eleanor.
- 1871 Emily A. Dick, Widow of Bengal Civil Servant William F. Dick. Daughter Charlotte H. Dick.
- 1876 William Crundall, retired Gentleman Farmer of Chalford Hill, Stroud. Wife Mary, 7 children, all spaced at exactly 2 year intervals. Died 1891.
- 1895-7 Major John Alexander. Honourable East India Company's Service., Retd.
- 1897-1900 Owners - Bradley
- 1902 Emmeline Ida Carr, daughter of a Sheffield surgeon. Moved to Cheltenham by 1899. Died 1908.
- 1912 Annie Hallam.
- 1925/6 Annie Hallam moved to hospital in Cornwall. Died 1926. Buried in St. Mary's churchyard in the same grave. as Emmeline Ida Carr and her mother Margaret.



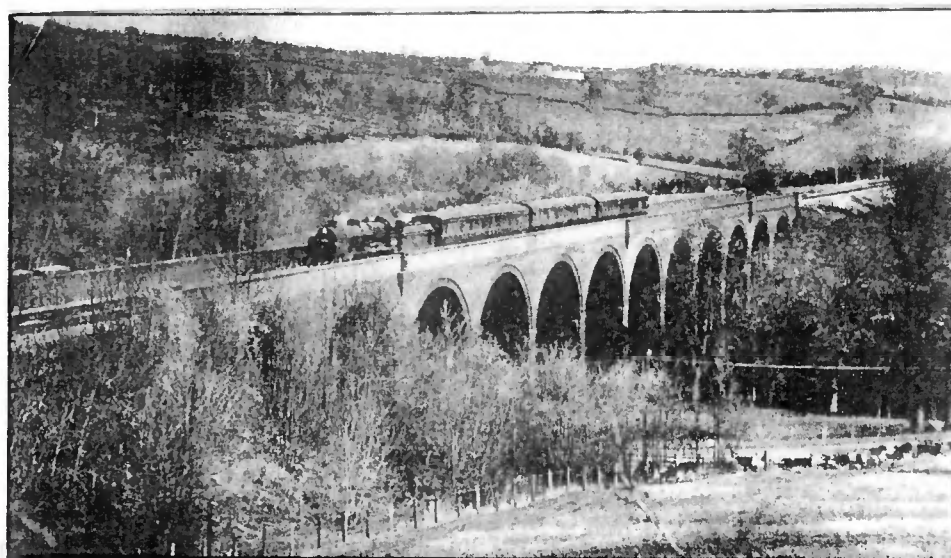
*The Great Western Railway line - Andoversford to St. James's Station (Cheltenham)
1881 - 1962, superimposed on a map of 2002*

THE OLD RAILWAY THROUGH CHARLTON KINGS

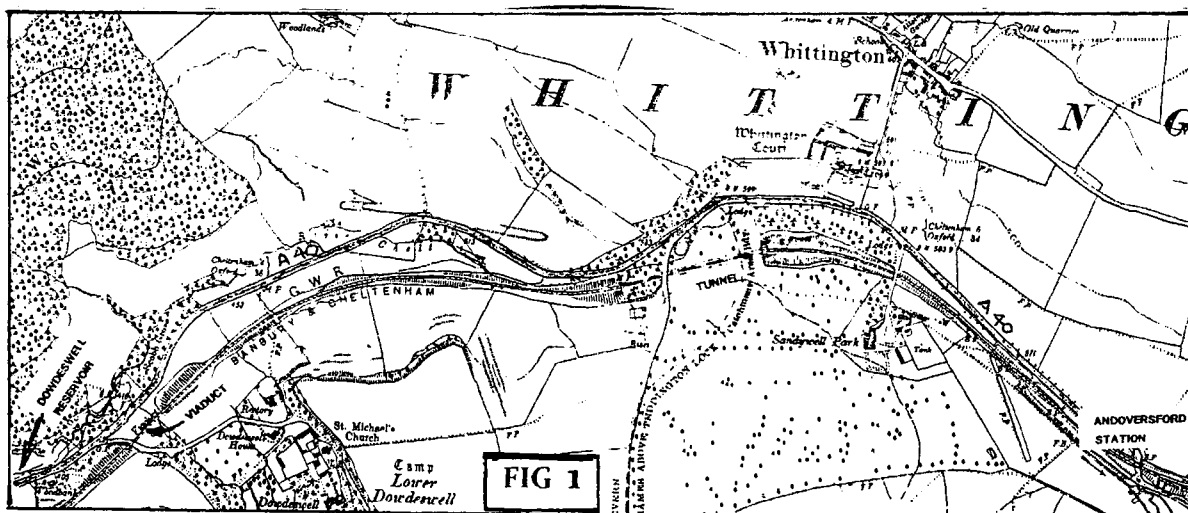
David Morgan

In 1881 the Great Western Railway opened a single track rail line from Cheltenham to Bourton-on-the-Water. The line 'originated' in the Cheltenham St.James' terminus, from where it ran the short distance southwest to Lansdown, then 'looped' round to head east for Leckhampton, Charlton Kings and Andoversford. From an embankment opposite the Dowdeswell reservoir, the line ran on to a Viaduct (for 192 yards) and bridged the 'valley', where the road from Lower Dowdeswell joins the main A40 road. The climb up Dowdeswell Hill was on a gradient of approximately 1 in 60. After $\frac{3}{4}$ mile on embankments the track passed into a tunnel for 384 yards, emerging in Sandywell Park, a few yards before Andoversford Station. The total distance travelled is 7.5 miles and the height has steadily increased by 400 feet since leaving the terminus. From Andoversford the line continued to climb by another 150 feet at Notgrove, before descending to Bourton.

A few yards east of Andoversford Station, the line diverged from the Banbury line and headed due south to Cirencester, Swindon etc. under the Midland and South Western Junction Railway, which now 'shared' the line into Cheltenham. This and other factors increased the volume of traffic and in 1900 the route from Andoversford to Cheltenham was widened to take two tracks. This was a major undertaking and involved the building of a second viaduct, which was joined to the original! Over 400 workmen were involved. In both World Wars the line was a vital link to and from the north to the channel ports, (e.g troops from the USA could be transported from Liverpool to Southampton.) However, after the 2nd World War, the 'traffic' declined and the line became a victim of the 'Dr. Beeching Axe'. It was closed to passenger traffic in October 1962 and the track was removed in 1965. The viaduct was blown up on the 30th April 1967. This article now examines the route of the original track from Andoversford to Cheltenham, to see what changes have been made in the area over the past 50 years and what evidence remains of the old railway.



1) Andoversford to Dowdeswell: (Fig.1 - 1.4 miles): The line down from Notgrove arrived at Andoversford on a high embankment and the station was also built on this large embankment. After the line closure, the station, track and embankment were totally cleared and in the early 1970s the Andoversford Bypass was built on the line of the original track. After leaving the station, the old line crossed Sandywell Park beginning the descent to Dowdeswell, initially through a long tunnel (undercutting the natural steep descent at the top the hill) and the viaduct across the valley at the base of the hill. It is believed that part of the lower end of the tunnel still exists on private ground and the 'entrance' has been 'shut off'. The last part of the viaduct crossed the road from Lower Dowdeswell, just before the junction with the A 40 road at the foot of the hill.



2) Dowdeswell to Charlton Kings: (Fig.2 - 2 miles): After the descent of Dowdeswell Hill the line ran west, (initially a few yards south of the A 40), through open fields and on a slight downhill gradient. It passed Sappercombe, went under Little Herberts Road and then under the Cirencester Road, immediately arriving at Charlton Kings Station. In the 1960/70s The Beeches estate was built, with the southern boundary defined by the line of the old railway. At the far end of Beeches Road it is possible to walk through the hedge into open countryside south of Balcarras. Also there is a small path in the last part of Beeches Road which leads up to the site of the old line. Around 2010 -12 a small estate of modern houses has been built on the original track (within a cutting), just before the bridge in Little Herberts Road. The houses are known as Timbercombe Gate. Charlton Kings Station was built by the Cirencester Road bridge and was only a few yards from the Lillybrook Hotel, (today the Cheltenham Park Hotel) and, from 1905 to 1930, the tram terminus at the New Inn (today The Little Owl). When the station was demolished, several industrial units were erected and it became a trading estate. In 2004/5 two large buildings were erected 100 yards along the old track towards Pilley Bridge. One is the main customer call centre for Chelsea Building Society and the other for head office staff. The builders were awarded several environmental (green) awards for this project. Some of the walls are finished in light blue and can be seen for miles!

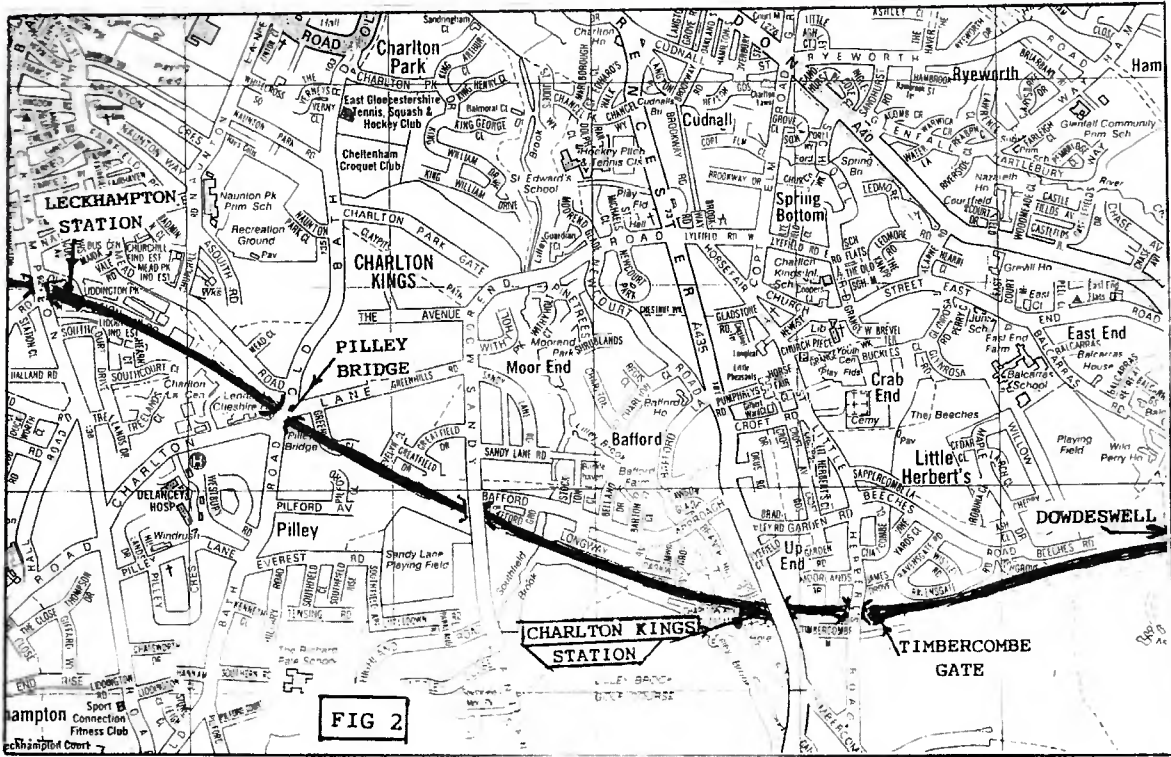
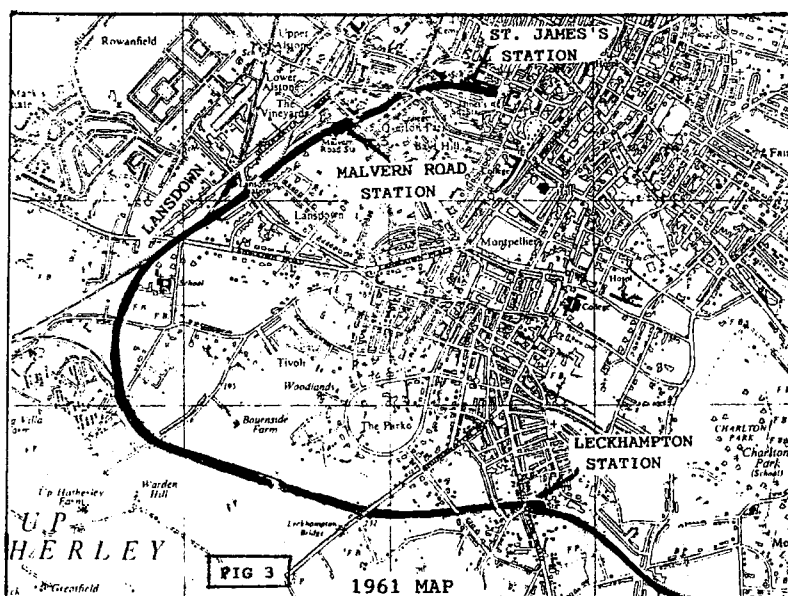


Fig.2. The line from Dowdeswell to Charlton Kings, and below, Charlton Kings Station in 1954, looking towards Andoversford



3) Charlton Kings to Leckhampton: (Fig.2 - 1.2 miles): From Charlton Kings station, the line continued (still with a small downhill gradient), in a fairly straight line direction, within a cutting – passing under Sandy Lane, the Old Bath Road at Pilley Bridge and then arriving at Leckhampton Station.....In the mid to late 1960s, the Bafford estate in Charlton Kings was built with the south edge, ‘butting’ against the old rail line. Some house owners purchased the land previously carrying the track and extended their gardens. The line passed the north side of the Old Patesian’s Sports Ground alongside Sandy Lane. On the 11th December 1940, Pilley Bridge received a direct hit from a Luftwaffe bomb! The line was damaged and repairs took a week, whereas the bridge over, carrying the Old Bath Road was not reinstated for vehicles until 1954! The line at this point is in a deep cutting running behind the gardens of houses in Mead Road. It was decided to keep this section (from Pilley Bridge to near Leckhampton Station) as a Nature Reserve. There is public access (down) on the east side of Pilley Bridge. Leckhampton Station was a fairly active station with sidings etc and has now been transformed into a very large Trading Estate, which includes part of Travis Perkins (Builders Merchants) which fronts on to Mead Road.

4) Leckhampton Station to Lansdown: (Fig.3 - 2 miles): The track leaving the station passes directly under Leckhampton Road, Moorend Crescent, Moorend Park Road and the Shurdington Road. The line is still on a downhill gradient and so is the surrounding land. Therefore as drivers today will know, the bridge in Moorend Park Road had to be ‘built up’ over the rail line and on reaching the Shurdington Road the line was on the same level as the surrounding area. So a complete bridge had to be erected in the Shurdington Road to cross the line. The bridge and surrounding ground was completely cleared in 1966 after the closure of the line. From this point and for the next mile the route was through open fields. However today the area is heavily populated by (Merestones, Warden Hill, Bournside, Hatherley). Less than ½ mile west of the Shurdington Road, the line was on an embankment, crossing Warden Hill Road, south of Bournside school, then Alma Road, as the line swung north crossing over Hatherley Road and running alongside the west side of Dean Close School. (The long embankment and bridge over Hatherley Road was totally cleared in the late 1960s.)



5). Lansdown to St. James Terminus: (Fig.3 - 1 mile): After passing under the Lansdown Road and briefly running alongside the main Birmingham line, the track then passes under Queens Road (close to the public entrance to Lansdown Station). It continues running parallel to the Gloucester Road, passing through Malvern Road station, finally going under St. George's Road and into St. James's Square Terminus. The Malvern Road station, had a short access road from the south side of the Malvern Road bridge. This access road still exists and is used for parking. The station yard is part of the large Travis Perkins – Builders Merchants (fronting on to the Gloucester Road).

The St. James terminus was totally demolished in the late 1960s but the area was not developed for several years. Eventually 3 office blocks were built and more recently a block of flats, all on the eastern side. (St. James' Square). The remainder of the area was developed in the late 1980,s for the large Waitrose Supermarket, Garage and car Park. From the entrance to the Terminus, the old Honeybourne Track headed north towards the racecourse and Toddington etc. but that is another story.

Conclusions:

Fifty years have passed since the railway line through Charlton Kings was closed. In this time all 'scars' on the country side between Andoversford and St. James' Terminus have 'healed' and there is virtually no evidence that the line ever existed, apart from a few things that can still be 'observed'.....

(1) Parallel lines of trees and bushes, suggesting that these once stood alongside a rail line.....

(2) Deep constant width cuttings and flat 'floors',e.g. the nature reserve from the Old Bath Road (Pilley Bridge) to the outskirts of the old Leckhampton Station.....

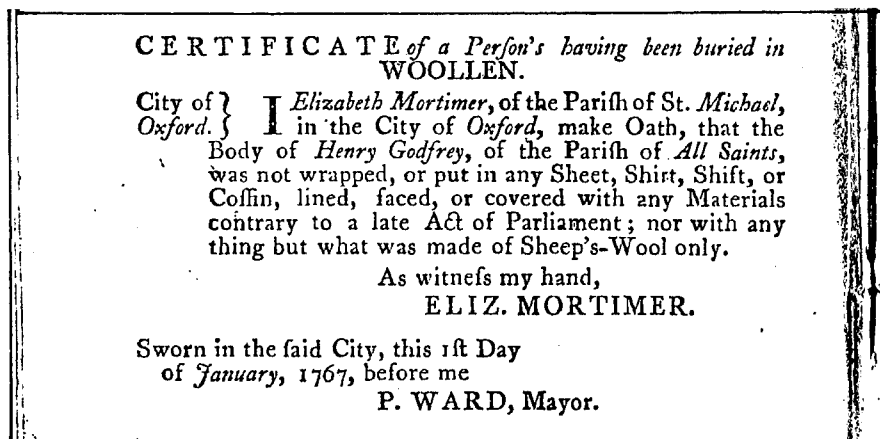
(3) The only permanent reminders are the solid brick built BRIDGES, of which there are TEN, between Dowdeswell and St. James's Terminus. These are the road bridges already mentioned;- Little Herberts Road, Cirencester Road, Sandy Lane, Pilley Bridge, Leckhampton Road, where the parapet walls are still clearly visible, Moorend Park Road, Lansdown Road, Queens Road, Malvern Road, St. George's Road.



BURIED IN WOOLLEN

There has recently come to light in the Society archives a small, card covered booklet, entitled on the front cover, in fine copperplate writing, "*Marriage Act 25th March 1754*". Inside is hand-sewn a printed Appendix, which does indeed deal with "*INSTRUCTIONS for the due and legal Celebration of MATRIMONY*" but which is also a complete Aide Memoire for an Established Church minister. The printing uses the old "f" form of "s" and the latest date in the booklet is 1757. It covers a variety of forms and certificates required to be submitted in 17 different clerical circumstances, ending, perhaps prophetically, with "*XVII. A Resignation to the Bishop*". However, the Appendix which catches the eye is "*III. Form of a Certificate for burying in Woollen*", which provides the clergyman with a sample format for this purpose.

For many centuries the production and export of sheep's wool was a major industry in Britain and taxes therefrom were an important part of State income. As early as 1570 until the 1590s it was decreed that all Englishmen except nobles had to wear a woollen cap to church on Sundays as a measure to support the wool industry. Presumably they removed it inside. A glut of wool in the Seventeenth century encouraged Parliament to find a new outlet for the woollen industry, thus protecting the wool trade and lessening the importation of linen from abroad. By Acts of Parliament of 1666 and 1678, when Charles II was King, it was laid down that all bodies should be buried in wool. This meant not only that the shroud or other wrapping of the corpse had to be woollen but also the lining of the coffin. Moreover, such wrapping or lining had to be pure wool which could not be mingled with flax, hemp, silk, hair, gold or silver. Even the binding holding the feet of the corpse together had to be woollen. A £5 fine was imposed for burials which did not comply with the Act, the money to be used for the poor of the parish. This was to be levied by means of a warrant on any person who dressed a corpse in other than woollen, or who caused or connived in such an action. The Acts applied to all burials, except for those where the deceased had died of the Plague, who might still be buried in linen. The burying minister had to obtain a sworn certificate made before a notable person or from the person who prepared the body for burial or had seen it so prepared, these facts being recorded in the parish register. The Appendix provides an example of such a certificate:



These Acts were difficult to impose and not at all popular. Linen cloth had been used for wrapping bodies as far as back as Egyptian mummies. There were also strong Biblical grounds for opposing them: Matthew XXVII.59 describes how Joseph of Arimathea wrapped the body of Jesus in a clean linen cloth and in John XX.6 Simon Peter goes into the sepulchre and sees the linen cloths lying there. With avoidance rife, Parliament passed another Act in 1680, stipulating that a sworn affidavit of burial in woollen had to be presented to a clergyman within eight days of the funeral, failing which the churchwarden or overseer would impose the fine. For the rich who wished to be buried in linen, there was no problem: they could arrange in their wills for the pre-selected informer of the breach to receive compensation for the expected fine. However, for many poor people, burial in woollen was simply financially impossible. For these, the custom grew to avoid the fine for burying in other than woollen by burying the deceased naked, with no shroud and no lining to the coffin, such burials being annotated "*naked*" in some parish registers. This was plainly unpalatable and the Burial in Woollen Acts fell slowly into disuse, though they were not actually repealed until 1814, putting an end to what seems now a strange piece of legislation.

WHO WAS SHE?

In St. Mary's, on the West wall, St. David's Chapel, there is an inscription, as follows:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF ELIZA MARIA, WIFE OF SIR MAXWELL WALLACE KH, WHO DIED IV SEPTEMBER MDCCCXXXIV, AGED XXXVII

Who was Eliza Maria, who died on 4 September 1834 at the age of only 37 years? Born in 1797, she was daughter of William Parry Hodges of Estcourt, from a family, which formed in the 17th Century as the result of the marriage of Elizabeth Hodges of Shipton Moyne with William Parry of Easton Grey, Wiltshire. Easton Grey House was built in 1792 and bears the coat of arms of the Parry Hodges family on its front. In 1818 Eliza Maria married James Maxwell Wallace. Born in 1783, he was the son of a wealthy West India merchant John Wallace Esq. of Greenock and was a direct descendant of the Scottish national hero, William Wallace. The Wallaces' country seat was Anderby Hall, near Northallerton. William was a cavalry officer who served under Wellington at the Battles of Quatre Bras and Waterloo and at the Cape of Good Hope. He was subsequently a lieutenant colonel in the 5th Dragoon Guards and later a General and Colonel of the 17th Lancers. In 1830 he was made a Knight of the Hanoverian Guelphic Order (KH), and the following year was made a Knight Bachelor. There were no children from the marriage and Eliza Maria enjoyed only three years as Lady Wallace before she died in 1834. She does not appear to have been buried at St Mary's and no direct connection with Charlton Kings has been found. Her age at death suggests that she may have come to Cheltenham Spa for health reasons. Sir Maxwell Wallace remarried two years later and died on 3rd February 1867, aged 83. There were no children of the second marriage and the baronetcy became extinct.

CORRECTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. Bulletin No. 55, p. 25. This article on Amberley, London Road, indicated that the property was flooded in 2007 when "*a normally quiet little stream which runs through their garden at a depth of about 3-4 feet overflowed and flooded their cellar*". The owner of Amberley, Mr. P. Rogers, wishes to correct this. The Slad flows into his garden through a circular brick culvert that is 18 inches in diameter and leaves the garden through an elliptical brick culvert that is 29 inches high and 44 inches wide: this culvert can accommodate nearly four times more water than the 18 inch culvert. Therefore it is not possible for the Slad to overflow and it has never flooded during the 43 years the Rogers family have lived there. The flooding was actually caused by flood water the street drains could not cope with and which flowed along Churchill Road into Haywards Road and thence into the rear gardens of the houses on London Road. The flood was not caused by the Slad. We regret the error.

2. Bulletin No. 58, p. 57, Footnote 73. It was not Albert Dowler Mitchell, but Arthur Mitchell, who was the owner of Glenfall and of Mitchell and Butler's Brewery. This was the Editor's, and not the author's, error.

3. Lives Revisited, p. 71. The Reverend Alfred Charles Higgins M.A. B.D., B.C.L. This biography states that "*he appears to have had no connection with Charlton Kings*". How wrong can one be. He married Emily Jane Barnfield (born 1859) at St. Mary's, Charlton Kings on 14 April 1879 and a son Alfred was born in 1881 in Miserden.

4. Lives Revisited, p. 73. Francis Lord Charlton Hodson. Line 6 states that "*After the war he became a barrister in London.*" An absolutely correct statement which, however, did not do him justice. He became a K.C., a judge, was knighted, became a Privy Councillor in 1951, Lord Justice of Appeal 1951-60 and was made a Life Peer as Baron Hodson of Rotherfield Greys, Oxfordshire.

5. Lives Revisited, p. 101. Albert Dowler Mitchell. Line 2. The Scot from Fife was George Mitchell's second wife, Mary Ann. Also, Albert's wife Minnie predeceased him by eight years, not as stated "*survived him by 12 years*". How that got in defeats me! For an authoritative article on the Mitchell Family, please see Bulletin No. 27

6. Lives Revisited, p. 90. Alice Pleasance Liddell and Hetton Lawn. If anyone wonders what happened to Alice, the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland", she married in 1880 in Westminster Abbey one Reginald Gervis Hargreaves, who played 1st class cricket for Hampshire as a right-handed batsman and underarm bowler from 1875 to 1883. They had three sons, two of whom, Alan Knyveton and Leopold Reginald, were killed in action in WW 1. The third son was named Caryl Liddell Hargreaves, an indication perhaps that Alice remembered her early association with Lewis Carroll with some affection. Alice died in 1934.



AT CHARLTON KINGS, GLOS.



The watercolour above, "At Charlton Kings, Glos." was painted around 1880 – 90 by Helen Allingham, R.W.S. (1848-1926). It was one of a series depicting old cottages in England, which she selected to preserve their images, since many were being cleared about that time. Only three were painted in Gloucestershire and she never disclosed the actual location of her subjects. However, we are now able to make identification. Below is a postcard of Spring Bottom, posted in 1905 and showing the bridge over the Chelt and the track down to the ford. While the watercolour sees the view from a different angle, the bridge in the photo is identical to that in the watercolour, the windows and chimney of the cottage are the same and even the track junction with its grass is accurate. The artist painted exactly what she saw.