

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Local History Bulletin

SPRING 1983 — No. 47



Newmarket Court, built by Isaac Hillier

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
THE HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION AND LOCAL HISTROY <i>—Russell Howes</i>	2
WHITLEY COURT and THE SNELL FAMILY, Upton St. Leonards <i>—P. D. Griffiths</i>	5
WESTGATE STREET WORTHIES <i>—Barbara Drake</i>	8
THE "VOLUNTEER" OF GLOUCESTER 1869-70 <i>—John Mortimer</i>	10
ISAAC HILLIER OF NAILSWORTH 1797-1892 <i>—M. E. H. Mills</i>	15
A VICTORIAN SCHOOLMASTER <i>—Ann Wright</i>	18



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EDITORIAL

Our thanks go to our contributors: Russell Howes provides many useful references for local historians and the article on Whitley Court is our first on Upton St. Leonards for a long time.

John Mortimers' use of the "Volunteer's" log is a reminder of the hazards of merchant venturing a century ago, whereas Isaac Hillier's career at Nailsworth is a good example of a successful Victorian entrepreneur.

Enthusiasm of a different sort is charted by Ann Wright in the tale of George Bryant, a Forest of Dean schoolmaster.

BRYAN JERRARD

THE HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION AND LOCAL HISTORY

Many historical documents are in private hands. These are the documents about which the Historical Manuscripts Commission has issued reports. The commission was set up in 1869, and has published about 200 volumes. The reports are accompanied by much longer appendixes, in which documents are summarised, or (especially in later reports) printed in full. Each volume or group of volumes has a full index. In addition guides have been published, providing indexes of places and persons; these guides simply refer to a particular report, the index of which must then be consulted.

The system by which reports are arranged and numbered is complicated, but is set out in H.M.S.O. Sectional List No 17, Publications of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, which may be obtained free from Government Bookshops. Early reports include many collections of manuscripts, and are usually referred to by their number. Later reports include only one collection, and the name of the owner provides a short title. These names are given and indexed in the Sectional List. The name of the owner affords little clue to the contents. Thus information about Gloucestershire is to be found not only in H.M.C. Gloucester Corporation, which is familiar to students, but in many other reports as well. This article gives samples of what can be learned from H.M.C. reports, starting with the sixteenth century.

H.M.C. 4 Bagot reported on manuscripts which once belonged to the Dukes of Buckingham of Thornbury Castle; there is a description of an entertainment given by the Duke in 1509, when 36 rounds of beef were provided for 134 gentry, and four players came from Bristol. H.M.C. 4 Fitzhardinge, the report on manuscripts at Berkeley Castle, includes a letter from Queen Mary in 1554 asking Lord Berkeley's help against Wyatt's rebellion.

The reign of Queen Elizabeth I is illustrated by H.M.C. Salisbury, the papers belonging to Sir William and Sir Robert Cecil. A letter from Sir Henry Winstone of Standish (Sir Winstone Churchill's ancestor) tells how he was sent to the Fleet prison in 1602 for giving blows to bailiffs making an arrest; he begged to be excused the humiliation of making public acknowledgement of his offence at

the assizes. The collection contains the 'few private lines' sent by the Earl of Essex to the commanders from Gloucestershire who took part in his expedition to Cadiz in 1596—this personal touch won Essex his popularity.

Other reports also illustrate the part of Gloucestershire in the wars of Elizabeth I. H.M.C. Rutland mentions Gloucestershire men at Le Havre in 1563. H.M.C. Foljambe listed Gloucestershire ships in 1583: there were none above 80 tons, but 29 under; and there were 19 masters, 100 mariners and 23 fishermen to serve in them. The same collection named the captains of the 1,500 men sent from Gloucestershire to London in armada year; one of them was Thomas Lucy of Highnam; his father, of the same name, is thought to be the original of Shakespeare's Justice Shallow; so there really was a Gloucestershire connection.

H.M.C. Various Collections VII contains a summary of the records of the diocese of Gloucester, which are now in the Gloucestershire Record Office. In 1563 catholic survivors were reported: relics had not been defaced at Tewkesbury. At Archbishop Grindal's visitation in 1576 puritan sentiments were discovered: at St. Michael's, Gloucester, a person refused to come to church because the priest wore a surplice; the curate at Stroud thought the cross in baptism superstitious.

The Seventeenth century is especially well illustrated by the reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission. The collection of ship money is elucidated in H.M.C. Radnor: sheriffs were to assess only those with estates, money or goods or with livelihood other than daily labour. The two bishops' wars against the Scots gave a foretaste of things to come: H.M.C. 4 House of Lords showed complaints against Sir Ralph Dutton and William Trye for pressing men and then releasing them for money. The disagreements about religion, which helped to cause the civil war, are illustrated by Archbishop Laud's injunctions of 1635, in H.M.C. Various Collections VII: he recommended that sermons should not be above one hour, and ordered communion tables to be railed.

When the civil war began Lord Herbert of Raglan attacked Gloucester, but was repulsed by Sir William Waller at Highnam; a letter in H.M.C. Hastings describes the fighting. Lord Herbert was at the king's siege of Gloucester; a speech of his in 1667, preserved in H.M.C. Beaufort, recalled how he brought 4,000 foot and 800 horse, and paid them 'upon the nail', without making use of free quarter. A letter by one of the soldiers of the London trained bands, who marched to the relief of Gloucester, is in H.M.C. 5 House of Lords.

H.M.C. Portland is the most informative report on Gloucestershire in the civil war. It includes letters to William Lenthall, speaker of the long parliament. John Dorney, town clerk of Gloucester, wrote to him in 1642 that the city cheerfully submitted to parliament's militia ordinance, though adjacent counties were disaffected. A year later, just before the siege, the committee of Gloucester reported to Lenthall that want of money had bred a mutinous disposition.

Part of the Harley Papers are in H.M.C. Portland, and these include many letters from and to Colonel Massie and his friends Edward and Robert Hartley (Edward was the father of Queen Anne's prime minister). One of Massie's main enemies was Sir John Wintour of Lydney; Massie wrote to Edward Harley in 1645 that he fell upon the enemy near Lancaut, and Wintour saved himself only by swimming. These private letters reveal the disagreements between the parliamentarians, especially between the soldiers and the politicians. Robert Harley wrote that Colonel Thomas Stephens (a relation of Nathaniel Stephens, member for Gloucestershire in the long parliament) failed to support an attack on Wintour

and said that he was not under the command of Massie. Massie wrote bitterly to Edward Harley, complaining of old choleric Mr. Kyrle and high strained Mr. Sheppard, and of Mr. Pury and Mr. Bromwich who had brought the country into chaos by their particular ways. The courteous relations which, by contrast, could exist between parliamentarians and royalists are illustrated by these letters and by another part of the Harley Papers in **H.M.C. Marquis of Bath**. The younger brother and sister of Edward and Robert Harley were taken prisoner when their home, Brampton Bryan in Herefordshire, was captured by the royalists in 1644; but arrangements were made between Massie and Sir John Scudamore, their royalist kinsman, for the young people to be passed through Gloucester to their father in London.

Massie won a victory at Redmarley in 1644; a petition from a soldier who was wounded there is in **H.M.C. Various Collections I**. Massie never captured Wintour, but he fired his house according to **H.M.C. Eglington**; a little later Wintour abandoned it, and completed its burning. Oliver Cromwell was not at the siege of Gloucester, but some dragoons from his company were according to **H.M.C. 7 Lowndes**. Another Oliver Cromwell, cousin of the famous Oliver, served in the Forest of Dean, and left records in **H.M.C. 8 Marlborough**. The fighting at Berkeley Castle is described in **H.M.C. Cholmondeley**. This collection includes the papers of John Smyth of North Nibley, father and son, who were stewards to successive Lords Berkeley; some of the original papers are now in the Gloucestershire Collection at Gloucester City Library.

After the execution of Charles I Massie turned against the parliamentarians. His disgust with his former colleagues was expressed in a letter to the Marquis of Ormonde in **H.M.C. Ormonde**, in which he wrote of the black and matchless hypocrisy of Cromwell. But Massie maintained that he had been right in fighting for parliament at first; the royalist Ormonde admonished him, in a letter in **H.M.C. Marquis of Bath**, ' . . you cannot be more confident in the justice of your first engagement than I in mine'. Massie actively worked for the restoration, and organised a rising in Gloucestershire in 1659. Sir Edward Hyde's letters about it may be read in **H.M.C. Braye**. In the event it was General Monck's march on London that made possible the restoration; Monck was very suspect to the old soldiers of parliament; two at Tewkesbury spoke disrespectfully of him, as a fellow of no principle, and monkey face, and he ordered them to be court martialled according to **H.M.C. Cholmondeley**. Charles II was grateful to Massie; a letter in **H.M.C. 5 Sutherland** notes that he was one of the men knighted by the king immediately after he landed. Massie served in Ireland during his remaining years; his movements may be traced in **H.M.C. Ormonde**.

The main political upheaval of Charles II's reign was the popish plot. Letters in **H.M.C. Fitzherbert** describe the arraignment of a popish priest at Gloucester. The protestant cause was championed by the Duke of Monmouth, who rebelled against James II. His rebel army reached Keynsham, near the border of Gloucestershire, as described in **H.M.C. 9 Stopford-Sackville**. Francis Creswicke of Hannam's Court was accused of complicity according to **H.M.C. 5 Ellacombe**. These troubles culminated in the revolution of 1688. Lord Lovelace, a supporter of William of Orange, was imprisoned by the Duke of Beaufort at Gloucester, but released by the people, as described in a report (in French) in **H.M.C. 7 Denbigh**. The Duchess of Beaufort wrote anxiously to her husband, in a long letter in **H.M.C. Beaufort**, that a troop of gentlemen came, as they said, to defend her, but took 60 muskets from the house. Some Anglican clergy could not

accept the revolution, and were deprived of their livings, among them Robert Frampton, Bishop of Gloucester; his eloquent letter to the Marquis of Carmarthen, wishing that his suffering might be accepted for the rest, is in **H.M.C. Duke of Leeds**. Economic life was progressing despite political troubles. Thomas Baskerville travelled in Gloucestershire in 1683, noted the fair houses of the clothiers at Painswick, examined a blast furnace at Longhope, and described much else, in an account in **H.M.C. Portland**.

The reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission contain little to illustrate the political life of the eighteenth century; but there are a number of references to bishops of Gloucester. John Wilcocks was described in **H.M.C. Egmont** as residing in his diocese as much as any bishop, four months a year; he was no great scholar, but he had zeal for the government. A correspondent in **H.M.C. Portland** criticised him because, when at Christ Church College Oxford, he sat in the deanery during sermon and did not leave the table—Dr. Aldrich used always to lay down his pipe and not take it again till the sermon was finished. Martin Benson appears in **H.M.C. Egmont** as active in worthy causes, like the settlement of Georgia by convicts, and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. William Warburton's uncommon genius as a man of letters is mentioned in **H.M.C. Round**.

Travels in Gloucestershire in 1769 are described in a diary in **H.M.C. Verulam**. The writer criticised Lord Bathurst's woods, because the straight avenues were not in modern taste, and the trees were planted too close together to arrive at maturity; and he also noted the flourishing condition of the woollen manufacture at Tetbury, where a manufacturer in woollen and gentleman were synonymous terms.

RUSSELL HOWES.

WHITLEY COURT and THE SNELL FAMILY, Upton St. Leonards

Whitley Court, in Upton St. Leonards, and its association with Sir Thomas Snell, has been a source of interest in researching the village history, partly due to the Snell Charity bequeathed to the village: partly to the large if not quite magnificent tomb erected in the parish church, and not least to the apparent lack of information available on the house and its famous inhabitant — Sir Thomas Snell.

The earliest document which has survived, relating to Whitley Court, is one which begins as follows:—

“This Indenture made the 12th. Daye of December in the first and second yeres of the Reigne of Phillip and Mary (1555) by the Grace of God King and Quene of England France Naples Jerusalem and Ireland Defenders of the faith Princes of Spaigne and habspurge flanders and Tyrole . . .”, and continues by outlining the agreement of a lease between the feoffees of lands and tenements belonging to the parish church and two of the proctors or wardens of the same church, and — “John Whit of Upton St. Leonards aforesaid . . . husbandman Alice his wife and John their sone . . .”.

The lease was for the duration of the lives of three named members of the White family, at an annual rent of 12 shillings, paid twice a year. There is little doubt that this family gave its name to the land on which or near which the house was built — White or Whit lea. Though a tenement was mentioned in the above document, there is no record of its site, and whether it was pulled down at a later date to make way for Whitley Court must remain conjecture, though it was

commonplace for buildings to be rebuilt or re-erected on the same or a nearby site.

The next known owner of the land was a James Pitt, or Pitts, described as — ‘of the City of Gloucester, Innholder’. This inn was the King’s Head in Westgate Street, though the tenant or landlord at this time was a Richard Saunders. From around 1710 to 1720, Pitts appears to have purchased much land and property in Upton, though mortgaging it immediately, apparently to obtain more capital for his purchases. A messuage in Bondend, Atkins Mill (Upton Mill), various gardens and orchards, a windmill in the parish of St. Mary de Lode, and much land including a close of meadow called Whitley were among his purchases. He may have lived in Upton for some of the time, as a James Pitts is mentioned in the church records for 1715, with his address given as ‘of Whitley Court’. As there is no mention of this house in the original purchases of 1710 and later, yet obviously in existence in 1715, we may have here a clue to the building of the house, though it is still referred to as a messuage or tenement, and not until much later is the term mansion applied.

In 1724, John Snell, Citizen and Goldsmith, of London, contracted with James Pitts for the purchase of the estate. He had previously lived at Shenley, alias Salisbury Hall, in Hertfordshire, where, along with his brother William, he had been trustee for the Hall on behalf of his uncle Sir Jeremy Snow. In 1702, Sir Jeremy died, followed by his wife, Lady Rebeccah, the following year. The property then passed to the Snells, who owned it until 1831.

The reason for John Snell leaving Salisbury Hall and moving to Gloucestershire is not known, but in the year that negotiations had begun with Pitts, 1724, he died, leaving his three daughters, Rebeccah, Frances, and Honor as executors. It is quite likely that Pitts had overstretched himself with all his land buying, and had to find some means of settling his debts. In the original negotiations, over £1,000 had been paid to Pitts to clear various mortgages and settlements prior to the final takeover, and a further £5,340 was paid, making a total of £6,670, indicative of the wealth of the Snells.

On the probate of the will, it was found that the Gloucestershire estates had been left to the three daughters and three sons, Vyner, William and Thomas, whilst his eldest son Robert was not included, the will stating ‘. . . that he hath a good estate already in possession’. (Robert lived at Chingford Hall in Essex). However, Robert disputed the will, and the matter was taken to the High Court of Chancery to be settled, where it was decreed that Robert was heir to his father’s estates. By 1727 it was agreed by the legacies that the estates should be sold and the proceeds divided equally among the four sons and three daughters. In the meantime the estates were put in trust, and in 1729, 1730, and early 1731, advertisements for the letting of the properties were placed in the Gloucester Journal. By this time, the youngest of the four sons, Thomas, appeared to have shown an interest in buying out the interests of his brothers and sisters, and this was done in March of 1732, at a cost of some £4,000.

Within a year of moving in, Thomas began to effect alterations to Whitley Court, and contracted with John Bingley for a brick extension to be built on the back of the house, at a cost of £40. As there is a similar extension on the back at the other end of the house, he may have been sufficiently delighted with the first extension to have commissioned another.

Very little is known of Thomas himself: he was undoubtedly a respectable member of the community, and served a term as churchwarden. He was very

friendly with Henry Guise, who also had property and lands in Upton at nearby Bondend, and undoubtedly this friendship led to the joint application for a faculty being made to the Diocese for the annexation of the north chancel in the church as a place for their burial, for which they were prepared to rebuild and refurbish the same, as it had deteriorated to the point where it had become a source of concern to the church.

Around 1743/4 Thomas was made High Sheriff of the County, and as a result of taking a loyal Address from the County Assizes to the King in London, he had conferred on him the Honour of Knighthood.

In 1745, Sir Thomas commissioned and had erected in the north chancel a splendid tomb with appropriate inscription and coat of arms.

The following letter appeared in the *Gloucester Journal* for November, 1745:—
“To the Author, &c.

Sir,

Being lately at the Parish Church of Upton St. Leonard’s, near Gloucester, I had the Pleasure of viewing the best and most magnificent Tomb (newly erected by the Direction of Sir Thomas Snell) that ever I observ’d in any Church, during all my Travels; it being richly embellish’d with Hieroglyphical Figures, introduced in a most curious Manner, and design’d and executed by the Famous Mr. Ricketts of Gloucester; and must take upon me to say, no Man would grudge to ride 20 Miles to see it.

I am, Sir, Yours, &c.,
Virtuoso.”

In 1746, Sir Thomas granted to the Feoffees of the Manor of Upton St. Leonards an annuity or yearly rent of £6, from a piece of land which lies along the road from Upton to Coopers Hill. The main purpose of this trust was the cleaning and keeping of his tomb in good repair, with any money remaining “for the placing or fitting out from time to time of such one or more poor children borne in the said parish of Upton St. Leonards, apprentices or servants . . . and for that purpose payment was to be made of any sum not exceeding £5 nor less than £3 with every child to be placed or fitted out as aforesaid.”

In later years the fund grew and, as the costs of apprenticeships grew, so it was decided that the limit of £5 was insufficient, and grants of up to £25 were not unknown. From the middle of the 19th century, a peculiar use of the trust was the apprenticeship of the local youth as Pupil-Teachers at the village school.

Sir Thomas and his wife, Dame Sarah, had only one daughter, Frances, who married Benjamin Hyett of Painswick in 1744. The marriage settlement included £500 from her uncle William Snell, which her father made up to £10,000. No real estate was settled on Frances, though this was more than made up by the settlement brought by Benjamin Hyett, consisting of Lands and manors in various parts of the country. It may be that Sir Thomas wished his estates to descend through the male line, as after his death in 1754, his nephew Peter Snell, son of his brother Vyner, inherited. It is of note that Henry Guise pre-deceased him in 1746, but was not buried in Upton Church as originally planned, but in Elmore Church, near the ancestral home of the Guise family.

The Whitley Court estates remained in the Snell family, descending to John Vyner Williams, grandson of Peter Snell, and to his wife Catherine, after his death. Catherine Williams sold the property in 1884 (though for some time she had been living in Cheltenham, with the property leased), and since that time it has been run as a farm with a succession of owners..

Consideration had been given for some time to the redeeming of the £6 rent charge on the property, but it was not until 1972 that this was finally agreed, at a charge of £63. 90p.

P. D. GRIFFITHS.

THE WESTGATE STREET WORTHIES'.

To the Editor of the Gloucester Mercury, May 1876.

Mr Hicks was a builder, a man of renown;
Davenport, painter, the best in town.
Montague & Church sold iron, 'tis true,
Firm to their colour! Always "True Blue".
Smith made hot cakes with a great deal of care;
Tollay & Trimmer sold excellent beer.
Smith, at the 'Lower George', a very old friend;
Marsh, the good cooper, old barrels did mend.
Power, the printer, did his work well;
Butt was a chandler, candles did sell.
Spencer & Rawlings had horses so fine;
Mr D., at the 'King's Head', sold capital wine.
Kirby made pins, most useful to all;
Rudhall cast bells, we all can recall.
Miss Drew sold bread — 'twas said very dear;
Charles Barrett, he lived at a house called 'Old Bear'.
Needham, the bookseller, lived in the street;
Ward, the good butcher, kept always fine meat.
Playne was a saddler, useful to all;
Miss Hatton's toy shop, the 'Bat & the Ball'.
Ellis & Hair sold figs so divine;
Ladkin, perfumer, could make the hair shine.
Dyer, the shoemaker, made his boots neat;
Protheroe always adorned young men's feet.
Green, at the china shop, always on call,
Lived opposite then to the famous 'Booth Hall'.
Fream was a chemist, sold lozenges good,
Cured coughs in an instant, I have quite understood.
Blackford, the sadler, knew his trade well;
Spiers sold hats to many a swell.
Grimes was a draper, good neighbour, and kind,
No better silks in the town could they find.
Ellis sold kettles, and very well made;
Sam Haycock, his young man, took to his trade.
Another old worthy lived near to the west,
I must mention Charles Dobbins, I am sure, with the rest.
Tucker the schoolmaster, whipped his boys well;
Fisher, the currier, leather did sell.
Lowe was a jeweller. I can remember
Losing an ear-ring one dreary December.
Moore, the confectioner, made jelly so clear;
Ben Hill, at the 'Bull' sold very old beer.
An oddity he was, and very well known,
He wished once to be the M.P. of the town!

Morris, the grocer, lived near the Shire Hall;
 Old Jemmy Peach was a neighbour to all.
 Davis sold good fish, salmon and plaice;
 At Ryder & Tooby's you could purchase rich lace.
 Meadows, the hairdresser, judges lodged there!
 Haviland's 'Fleece', was noted for beer.
 Lovett sold drugs that always were good;
 Hazeldine, butcher, meat well understood.
 Jew was a stationer, in good circles did rank;
 Jemmy Wood was his neighbour, and lived at the bank.
 Tom Sanders, he mended and made waistcoats well;
 Old Crook kept a clothes shop and old coats did sell.
 Miss Nest's cakes were rich, and made some people ill;
 But to Fouracre's they'd run and he gave them a pill.
 Good Mowbray Walker lived in the street;
 Whalley sold dresses both good and neat.
 Washbournes, undertaker, known to us all-
 Famed for possessing a real velvet pall!
 Calton sold umbrellas of quality fine;
 Taylor sold thick rope and very fine twine.
 Mitchel made breeches, cleverly neat;
 Burgess the cork cutter lived in the street.
 Bowden, the cutler, kept knives of all styles;
 There lived in the west a tailor named Miles.
 John Hughes, the draper, sold shawls very good,
 And lived almost opposite old Jemmy Woods.
 White was a grocer, and Newman was there;
 Ford, the cheesefactor, lived very near.
 Hooper, 'The Grasshopper', sugar did sell;
 More of Westgate Worthies I now must not tell.

E.M.S.R.

How many of us today are on such familiar terms with the shopkeepers and publicans that we can write a comparable jingle? Or feel that we can keep pace with the constant change, here today, gone tomorrow? It is instructive to compare the variety of trade being offered to what is to be had today, in this once principle shopping area.

Using the 19th century directories, here is a brief outline of where many of the traders were situated in relation to the scene now.

Davenport, painter: where the Dukeries now stand. Montague & Church: down by the Bridge. Smith, baker: near Lyes, baker. Tolley & Trimmer: between the Folk Museum and The Lower George. Marsh, cooper: near Archdeacon Street. Power, printer: near the old Army Navy store, as was Butt, chandler. Spencer & Rawlings were at the old Booth Hall, and the 'King's Head' stood opposite. Kirby, pins: at the Folk Museum. Needham, printer: by King's Head. Playne, saddler: by the Shire Hall. Ellis & Hair were near Power, printer. Ladkin perfumer, Dyer, shoes, and Protheroe, Green, china, Fream, chemist: all west of College St., with Blackford, saddler on the corner. Grimes, draper: by Fream. Chemist. Fisher, currier: the Dukeries. Lowe, jeweller: east of Berkeley Street, The 'Bull' was up Bull Lane, and Davis, fishmonger, was on the corner. Ryder & Tooby, draper: the Dukeries. Meadows, hairdresser: Winfields Garden Shop,

and Lovett, chemist opposite, with Hazeldean, butcher, nearby. Jew, stationer, and Jemmy Wood's bank were east of Winfields. Sanders, tailor was next to Ladkin, perfumer. Miss Nest's cakes could be bought next to Lovett, chemist so there was no need to run to Fouracre's who were at the Cross next to Mowbray Walker, editor of the Gloucester Journal. Mitchel, tailor: west of College Court. Burgess, cork cutter: by Bull Lane. Miles, tailor, was next to Lovett, chemist Newman, grocer: east of College Street. Hooper, grocer, 'The Grasshopper', became Bellamy & Hooper, later Bellamy & Vickers, later known as Vickers, by Williams and Glynn bank. It was named 'The Grasshopper' because it sold tea, and the story goes back to the days of the tea clippers on the hazardous voyages from the Middle East. A shipwrecked clipper drifted helplessly and then the sound of grasshoppers could be clearly heard on a nearby island as yet unseen, and so the precious cargo was saved.

'Gloucester Library Cuttings Book: 4/234,1873-8 BARBARA DRAKE.

THE "VOLUNTEER" of GLOUCESTER, 1869—70.

It is possible to trace the fortunes of the "Volunteer" from Gloucester in 1869 till its return seven months later, by using the log book. This vividly illustrates the problems of commanding both men and ship in foreign ports and dangerous waters.

The sun shone brilliantly as the schooner "Volunteer" eased gently out of the basin crowded with vessels of all descriptions. Some difficulty was experienced by the captain in avoiding colliding with the small craft, spars and cordage. After careful manoeuvring, the sailing ship passed through Llanthony bridge, Baker's Quay and the Pillar Warehouse and entered the Gloucester and Sharpness canal.

John Coulson, a 51 year old Yorkshire man, took command of the 87 ton vessel on 10 July 1869, knowing he would have to find new freight or charter for the owners.

Aboard "Volunteer" on that July day were the Master and three members of the crew, James Hippet of Bristol, aged 47, mate, William Dunker, 22 of Stirling, A.B. seaman, and John Dimmond, 17, boy.

The "Volunteer" had traded out of the port of Gloucester for many years, carrying such diverse cargoes as stout and porter from Dublin, slate from Port Madoc, oats from Limerick, pipe clay from Teignmouth and wheat from Berdyansk (Ukraine).

The "Volunteer's" last voyage had been to Riga with iron, and home with 143 tons of pyrites from Huelva for W. Partridge and Co., in the week ending 25 June 1869.

His plan was to voyage with a crew of four from Gloucester to Figuera*, thence to Gaspe** and/or any other port or places in British North America and/or United States. Thence he planned to sail to Spain or the Mediterranean and/or the Balkans, or wherever freight or charter may offer. Then back to the final port of discharge in the United Kingdom. The duration was not expected to exceed twelve months.

On 14 July at Sharpness, 26 year old John Thompson, a cook and A.B. seaman, joined the ship. Captain Coulson now had his fourth crew man. The venture was on, and the log begins.

* Figueira — Figueria, East of Lisbon — Ed.

** Gaspe — Mouth of St. Lawrence River 48N, 64W.

1869:

Monday, 2 August, 11.30 a.m. at Figueira.

John Thomson, A.B., came on board having had liberty for Sunday only, a man having been employed in his place. He was requested to go below and get some sleep, ready for work the next morning. The cost of the man's day was 1/9d. John had threatened to throw the mate in the hold.

About 4.30 p.m.

The master being about to go ashore, John Thompson begged to be allowed to go in the same boat, to obtain his watch and clothes which he stated he had left ashore, on promising faithfully to return to the ship in one hour. The Master allowed him to go, also let him have money. But, finding after two or three hours that he did not return to ship, the Consul determined to imprison him, which was done.

Wednesday, 4th August — about 9 a.m.

John Thompson was sent on board, having been in prison since Monday night. Consul charges were 18s. sterling as gaol fee, and one man employed in his place, one day 1/9d.

Wednesday, 4th August — about noon, off the Bar of Figueira:

John Thompson came aft and told the Master that before the anchor was hove up, he wished to know how much he was to be charged for his gaol expenses. The Master told him 18s. as above stated.

Monday, 13 September — about — a.m. Gaspe Basin:

John Thompson appeared partly intoxicated, when he came to the Master and asked to be discharged from the ship. The Master refused to do it. At about 10.30 a.m. he left his work and went below, pretending to be sick and did not again commence work until next morning.

Monday, 20 September — about 2 p.m. Gaspe Basin:

William Dunke, A.B., and John Dimond, boy, being ashore with the Master, were ordered to put a bag of potatoes into the boat and lower them with a piece of rope off the wharf. William capsized them out of a wheelbarrow, intending them to fall in the boat, risking doing damage thereby. The potatoes fell overboard and about two hours were spent trying to recover them. The hand lead line and small grapnel were lost, as well as the potatoes, having cost 6s. Considering it wilful neglect, charge them with cost of potatoes and bag.

Monday, 4 October — 10 p.m. Grande Greve Anchorage:

Whilst at anchor with 60 fathoms cable, weather modest with rain at 10, fresh breezes and cloudy weather about 11, it suddenly came on a complete hurricane and the sea making very fast and the wind nearly right into the bay, the ship began to drag her anchor. Seeing no probability of riding out the gale, slipped the cable with a buoy on and ran up under bare poles, hoping to get under the lee of Sandy Beach Point for shelter.

About midnight, being very thick with rain and still blowing fearfully, heard the ship struck the ground on a bad reef, the beach of the peninsula, carrying away the wheel chain blocks and disabling the steering apparatus. In a short time the wind and sea forced her over onto the main beach where she remained, the sea making a broach over her.

The main boom, getting adrift, was obliged to cast it away, with gaff of main sail and all gear attached to prevent further damage. Ship striking heavily and lurching with the sea endangering the masts and rigging.

Tuesday, 5 October, p.m. — On the Strand of Peninsular — Gaspé Bay:

Called a survey on ship and was recommended to run out an anchor astern and try to heave her off, if not successful by that means, to lighten the ship as soon as possible.

At 5 p.m. employed a boat and crew to run out best bower and 75 fathoms cable and hove, well taut.

The following two tides at high water engaged boat and men to try to get vessel afloat. The tide not flowing sufficiently, did not succeed. Engaged a vessel to receive the cargo and men and boats to convey the cargo to the vessel, it being impossible to get anything larger than a boat alongside the vessel on the beach.

Friday, 8 October a.m. — Peninsula Beach:

Found main boom and gaff with mainsail warped in the sand, dug them out and had them conveyed on board the vessel, much chafed and injured with the action of the waves on the sandy beach and amongst the drift wood.

Monday, 11 October 6 p.m.

Having discharged part of the cargo into several boats, say about 18 tons — blowing a gale, caused the tide to rise high. Employed seven extra men to assist to get the vessel off the strand, but was only able to move her about nine feet, in consequence of the wind and the sea being right against us, the vessel striking heavily on the ground and making rather more water than usual. Pumps carefully attended.

Friday, 22 October — about 2 p.m.:

After various attempts, succeeded in getting the vessel into deep water with the assistance of boats and men and came to anchor in 12 fathoms of water to wait for a wind to proceed to Gaspé Basin. Having still on board about 150 quintals of codfish, the remainder having been discharged in good condition.

Friday, 29 October a.m. — Gaspé Basin:

Having discharged remainder of cargo in good condition, hove ship down and called surveyors. Carpenters employed to carry out repairs as recommended. Found the vessel's bottom but slightly injured, the false keel being slightly split and a few sheets of the pine rubbed and chafed in places. Commenced stripping pine where necessary and overhauling seams under the same.

Monday, 1 November p.m.:

Having completed repairs to the vessel's bottom in order to make her seaworthy and as effectually as the appliances of the Port would admit, let the vessel upright and hauled into a berth, to proceed with caulking topsides water ways, deck, etc., as recommended by surveyors.

John Dimond, boy, having been missing since Saturday night 6 November, and his clothes and effects being taken out of the vessel, consider him as deserted.

Friday, 12 November p.m. — Gaspé Basin:

James Hippett, Mate, having complained frequently of being unwell and being off duty partially for last three days, took him ashore to collector of Customs who gave him an order for medical advice and medicines, with which he was supplied.

Thursday, 18 November p.m. — Gaspé Basin:

John Thompson, cook and A.B., having obtained a doctors' certificate and ordered to Quebec Hospital to be treated for rupture, caused by a fall while attending to ship's duty, was obliged to pay him off. The collector of Customs acting as shipping Master at this Port.

23 November — Gaspe:

Adolph Bleaux of Jersey, 17 years and Samuel Hobson, 21, were signed on to replace John Thompson and John Dimond who had deserted.

Thursday, 30 December, midnight — Log. acc. 6.59W — Lat. 36.32 N:

Saw a light apparently flashing, bearing N.N.E. wind south by east, was ship to westward having had no observation. The last 36 hours it having been blowing a gale and not having seen the land, the last three days considered the light to be possibly San Sebastian, the current being variable.

Friday, 31 December — near the same position:

At daylight stood into make the land, but being thick and raining weather, did not think it prudent to stand too close to the shore to distinguish any particular object. Therefore was ship again to the westward by the wind and continued all day to stand off.

But the wind blowing a gale with a very heavy sea, found the ship losing ground on both tacks. The wind south and carrying all possible sail (a Barque in company striking the ground at about 4.30 p.m. a short distance to leeward) when at about 7.30 p.m. the vessel drove into heavy breakers and almost immediately struck heavily. While in the act of again trying to weave round, the sea was breaking fearfully heavy over us and fearing the vessel would turn broadside to the sea.

Cut away the mainmast and all attached and kept all the headsail set to face her up as far as possible out of the breakers. All hands being on deck the whole night and with difficulty keeping themselves from being washed overboard.

At daylight being low water all hands got safe ashore, being close to the Fort of Cacella (S. Portugal). The master employed a guard of officers to protect ship and cargo and pump ship out.

Saturday, 1 January, 1870 — about 11 a.m. — On the Strand, Cacella Fort near Villa Real De San Antonio: (S. Portugal)

The Vice Consul having come from Villa Real and consulted with the Master, employed a number of men to erect tents and land cargo, also to dismantle the ship fearing she would break up, being stranded and making water.

Sunday, 2 January:

Crew and men employed as yesterday, James Hippett, Mate, off duty with boils on wrist and sore foot.

Tuesday, 4 — noon:

The crew not attending to the Mate's orders in the absence of the Master and not going to work before past 8 o'clock a.m., this and the previous morning, discharged the whole of them and sent them to the Vice Consul to be taken care of and provided for. The Master not being able to maintain discipline among them.

British Vice Consulate, Villa Real de San Antonio:

"This is to certify that the herein named James Hippett, W. Dunker, Adolphus Bleaux and Samuel Hobson have this day been discharged in consequence of the vessel having been stranded and considered to be a wreck."

People employed landing and drying cargo as much as possible.

Tuesday, 11 January a.m. — same place:

Held survey on cargo — when it was recommended to sell by auction a portion and destroy a small quantity being unfit for human food, the remainder being the least damaged to be removed to Villa Real and stored. Engaged boats and men and commenced removing the same

Monday 17 January, 1870 — 10 a.m. — Cacella:

After duly advertising sold a portion of damaged cargo by auction as recommended by the surveyors. Was obliged to destroy a portion, it having become putrid after all care in drying as opportunity offered.

Same date — Cacella:

Held a survey on ship when it was unanimous opinion of two British Shipmasters and a Master Shipwright (Portuguese) that the cost of getting the vessel afloat and to effect the necessary repairs would far exceed the value of the vessel. But recommended estimates to be required for the work requested to be done, which was at once acted upon. Advertising for tenders from the Vice Consulate at Villa Real to the neighbouring ports as well.

Tuesday 8 February 11 a.m. — Villa Real de San Antonio:

Held a survey on codfish in store at this place, when it was found that the whole store was more or less in a damaged state by salt water and sand, it was therefore recommended by the surveyors that the whole should be sold as soon as possible for the benefit of all concerned. After consulting with the Consul and, with his sanction and advice, advertised the sale for the 16 February and following days if not all sold in one day.

Sunday, 13 February noon — Cacella Beach:

The vessel having been taken in tow by the tug with the assistance of anchor and a number of men, came off the beach. Having carried away the warping chock, forward part of rail and bulwark, the cable also came away warping chock, aft quarter timber and stanchion. Rail and bulwark aft, the towline chafed considerably and parted, also two warps and various lines carried away and chafed with other ruinous damages to vessel and gear in the attempt to get the vessel off.

At about 4 p.m. got the vessel safely into port of Villa Real and after examination commenced repairs the following day under the orders and inspection of an agent from Lloyds.

Wednesday, 16 February, 1870 — 11 a.m. — Villa Real:

Commenced sale by auction of codfish according to advertisements and completed sale on the following day under the supervision of the Vice Consul and the Customs official.

Saturday, 26 February p.m. — Villa Real:

Completed delivery of cargo, the Master, the Consul and the Customs officials superintending the weighing and delivery of the various lots.

20 March

William Cooper of Kent, Romas da Silva of Cape de Verde, Jose Bronquind of Conceicao, (S. Portugal) Joaquin Bronquind also of Conceicao and John Fell of Trinidad, had been shipped with the sanction of Vice Consul.

John Fell deserted just before sailing and Jose de Souza, aged 17, of Villa Real, was hastily signed on to replace him.

22 March, 1870 — 5.30 p.m. — Villa Real de San Antonio:

The temporary repairs having been effected and ballast having been put on board consisting partly of mineral. Proceeded to sea in charge of a pilot and towed by steam, having received orders to sail from Mr Hick as agent for Lloyds. At about 1.15 p.m. the steamer and pilot left. Made all sail and proceeded towards Gloucester.

10 April — 1 p.m.:

Arrived at Sharpness in charge of a pilot. Moored ship and cleared up decks and pumped ship.

William Cooper, Romas da Silva, Jose Bronquind, Joaquin Bronquind and Jose da Souza were all discharged at Gloucester.

JOHN MORTIMER.

Sources: The Shipping Records at the County Record Office,
Gloucester Journal at Gloucester Library.

ISAAC HILLIER OF NAILSWORTH

1797 — 1892

Hillier's bacon factory of Nailsworth has been in the news lately, firstly because it was in the hands of the Receiver and, more recently, because it has been bought by Barrett and Baird.

The life of its founder Isaac Hillier (1797—1892) is an example of what could be achieved by someone of character and determination and with a flair for business in the rapidly expanding scene of the nineteenth century.

Isaac Hillier was born at Bunting Hill, Newmarket. Nailsworth then, and until its formation into parish in 1892, was a group of scattered hamlets in the parishes of Horsley, Minchinhampton and Avening. It was completely isolated until the formation of the local Turnpike Trust in 1780 and the building of the road which is now the A.46. Its isolation was a factor which had led to it becoming an important non-conformist area from 1662. Its Baptist Meeting at Shortwood was responsible for the emergence of a number of distinguished pastors and missionaries, besides having one of the largest congregations outside London and Bristol.

The inhabitants in 1797 were largely employed in the wool industry, although the coming of the factory mills was throwing more and more people formerly employed in home weaving, out of work. Poverty, discontent and emigration became commonplace.

All we know of Isaac Hillier's parentage is that his father was the local pig killer. Every cottage had its pig and a large beechwood at Shortwood provided free pig-food in the shape of beech mast. By 1819 Isaac had a hook-up stall in Market Street, which was then the centre of trade. Soon he was selling £20 worth of bacon a month to the truck shop at Longford's mill. As a result of this activity, he met and married Maria Playne, two years his senior and daughter of a prosperous mill owner in the district.

By 1826 the business had grown considerably and its trade extended as far as London. By 1830 it had prospered to such an extent that it was moved to Newmarket, using as the base for its expansion the stables and wagon house, which was formerly attached to the Nodes mill. Here, Bristol, Berkeley and Sharpness, from where quantities of Irish pigs could be obtained, were all within reasonable distance. It was common practice to walk pigs all the way from Bristol to Newmarket. By this time Hillier's products were sold from London to South Wales. Power for singeing and raising steam was provided by coal. Refrigeration was obtained to some degree by ice houses. The ice was imported

from Norway and transported up the Berkeley canal. Pigs were also bought locally. Killing started at 5 a.m. The farmers delivering pigs stayed on the premises for several hours. It was quite a social event.

In 1829 Isaac and Maria's first child was born and in the same year Isaac was baptized at Shortwood Chapel, where the famous William Winterbotham, from whom all the local Winterbothams were descended, was nearing the end of his ministry. Isaac soon became a deacon and, subsequently, a benefactor of the Chapel. At one point he re-roofed it at his own expense.

Property was rapidly acquired until he owned practically everything on the north side of Newmarket Valley, as well as other properties in Nailsworth. At this time most people, even those of substance, appeared to lease their property from a few landowners. For example, the Flints of the Nailsworth Mill rented their home on Spring Hill and the Rev. Thomas Fox Newman rented Newmarket House.

The old road to Newmarket was circuitous and inadequate. Like most roads it wound its way round the hillside, keeping clear of the valley bottom. The minutes of the Horsley vestry of 1843 record that the vestry unanimously agreed to accept Isaac Hillier's offer to make a new road from Nailsworth to Newmarket, such road to be made in "a proper manner and of a width of fifteen feet . . ." The road was handed over to the surveyor of the Nailsworth tything in 1846.

At about the same time, Isaac Hillier built his house "Newmarket Court", which was named "The Mansion" by local people. In the same way the bacon works was known as "The Trade". This was an indication of how it dominated the area which, after all, had at least three active mills and a brewery all providing employment.

By 1845 Isaac and Maria had five children. Of these Thomas became a surgeon and Peter Playne followed his father into the business. The youngest was "Little Ellen". A few years ago a representative of Sotheby's came across the painting of a family group at an auction in South Africa. It had the words "Horsley, England" on the back. He brought it back to England, where it proved to be a portrait of the Hillier children in "the Park" at Newmarket Court. The house, Bunting Hill, and the lane called the Seven Acres, are unmistakable. The history of the picture can be deduced as follows. "Little Ellen" married a Bristol Baptist college student, Thomas Fuller, who was a member of a well known missionary family. He became Agent General for the Cape, M.P. for Cape Town and a director of de Beers. "Little Ellen" ended up as Lady Fuller. She must have taken the picture with her as a memento of her family. It is now in private hands in Horsley parish.

In 1864, when she was 70, Maria Hillier died. In the same year the building of the Nailsworth railway was begun. Its completion in 1867 was important to Hillier's, as pigs could now be transported by train.

Isaac Hillier did not remain a widower for long. At the age of 68 he married Susannah, widow of Peter King, a corn miller from Kings Stanley. There was a strong Baptist connection, as Kings Stanley Baptist Chapel was the mother church of Shortwood and Peter King had been instrumental in the founding of chapels at Nupend and Woodchester (closed in 1982). Susannah King had six children of whom three survived, including twins, Harry and Matilda. Matilda married Joseph Clissold of Nailsworth brewery.

The family settled down, but not for long. In 1868 both Isaac Hillier's sons

died in the same week. Thomas, a London surgeon, from an illness and Peter as the result of a pony trap accident in the Mall, when he was in London visiting his sick brother.

At this point Isaac Hillier seems to have lost heart. Harry King came from Glasgow, where he had set up an engineering business, to be with his parents. He carried on his business, first at the Nodes mill near Hillier's factory, and then at the Lot mill, which had been run as a corn mill by Hilliers.

The firm of H. J. H. King became known throughout Britain for its elevators and pit winding gear. It carried on until the death of Harry's son, Hubert, in the mid 1950's. Later, when Hillier's was bought by Hovis Rank McDougal, Newmarket Court was demolished to make way for new factory buildings.

With no son to succeed him, Isaac Hillier turned his business into a limited liability company, put in a manager and sold Newmarket Court to Harry King.

He, himself, went to live at the Lot, the house which originally went with the Lot mill. In 1892 at the advanced age of 95, he died and was buried in the old Baptist graveyard at Shortwood.

After several changes in ownership, the future of Hilliers factory (now largely engaged in the production of cooked meat products) seems secure. For over 160 years it has provided employment in many cases for whole families, over long periods of time. Isaac Hillier, himself, has become a legendary figure, about whom colourful stories are told. One of these is that one day, being a bit of a hustler who left things till the last moment, he was driving his gig to catch the train at Stonehouse. He was annoyed to find the toll gate at Stonehouse barred against him. In a fit of pique and reckless bravado he set the horse at the gate. The horse cleared it, the gig did not! In a trice he was round the gate, had cut the traces and was off at a gallop for Stonehouse. He caught his train and returned triumphantly with pigs from Bristol market in the afternoon.

Much of the Hillier property at Newmarket consisting of land and cottages, formerly used by factory workers, still remained in the hands of the business till, in December 1982, it was auctioned by order of the Receiver. The sale attracted a huge crowd. Amongst those present were a number of past employees, doubtless looking back to the time when "The Trade" was the hub of life in the Newmarket valley in particular and Nailsworth in general.

M. E. H. MILLS, December, 1982.



Drybrook Church and Schoolroom, 1863

A VICTORIAN SCHOOLMASTER

George Bryant took charge of Holy Trinity School, Drybrook, Gloucestershire in 1863 and the school Log Book(1) which he was required to keep reflects his character and the school's progress over the next twenty years. Attendance was the first concern of most teachers then for it determined any school's existence, the annual government grant was based upon it and upon the children's performance in yearly examinations (the policy of payment by results). Gloucestershire was and is a rural county and in the Forest of Dean regular attendance at school was hindered by bad weather and demands for labour.(2) George Bryant tried to introduce a system whereby the parents (most of whom were illiterate) were asked to send a message to explain their children's absence from school; such reasons as potato planting, laying in wood for winter and the effects of smallpox vaccinations were duly recorded in the Log Book. From the beginning when he noted the unsatisfactory attainments of the children and the teaching staff it is clear that George Bryant intended to improve the standards in his school. Two years later the school's Inspector recorded in the Log Book:

“This school does great credit to all connected within. It has a great mission to fulfil in a most important district.” (1866)

The Log Book which George Bryant had to keep according to the revised Code of 1862 contained advice about what kind of entries should be made; the teacher should record illness, withdrawals from school activities, but no “reflection or opinions of a general character are to be entered in the Log Book”; no entry was to be removed or altered and there would be an annual scrutiny by the school's Inspector. The Secretary of the Board of Education (R. R. W. Lingens) added:

"The Log Book is not meant to contain essays . . . but simply to collect the items of experience. A teacher who performs this duty simply, regularly and with discrimination will find it a powerful help in mastering his profession, as well as an honourable monument to his labours."(3)

George Bryant's entries are prefaced with an index which records names and ages of children year by year; up to the early 1870's about a third of the children were under five and sent to school to be looked after while their mothers went out to work.(4) Meanwhile the school population gradually began to rise; overcrowding and poor physical conditions, especially for the younger children, are well documented from 1863 onwards. In 1873 the Inspector's report again draws attention to overcrowding and a separate infants' department was established the following year. After that the Inspector threatened to withhold 1/10 of the annual grant if the lavatories were not put in better order; when a suggested skylight was not put into the main schoolroom the same penalty was threatened. George Bryant's meticulous entries record the efforts of a persistent Inspector who was determined to see the physical conditions of the school improved, conditions doubtless pointed out to him by a teacher who frequently recorded his own frustration at lack of books and space.(5)

Twentieth century educational theory recognizes a close relationship between the design of school buildings, what is taught inside them and how it is taught. George Bryant, however, worked mainly during a period dominated by the policy of payment by results; the results were measured in the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic which took up most of the timetable though they were intended to be the minimum not the maximum requirement. Attainment in arithmetic was rarely satisfactory because the children did not find it easy to think, being used to reciting answers from memory in other subjects. Reading and writing were difficult to teach with very few books and little direct incentive to learn; in addition it was virtually impossible to take oral lessons without separate accommodation from the main schoolroom. The entries about teaching undertaken and subjects developed provide a detailed insight into the development of the school's teaching; History, Grammar and Needlework were added; and George Bryant helped the resident clergyman to teach Scripture which was required in all schools. Bryant's pleasure at noting the children's improved knowledge of Scripture and Chatecism in September 1864 was swiftly followed by a mother's request that her children not be taught the Catechism; on another occasion after some intensive teaching on multiplication tables Bryant received a request from a mother that her daughter be allowed to miss out tables as she could not understand them. Bryant himself seems to have preferred Geography though his attempts to teach it were not very successful in the early years, owing to lack of space and maps. The boys enjoyed copying a map of England on 28 February, 1867, but "one half only answered with fair intelligence" the Inspector's questions about Geography in 1870. However, despite this, a new classroom was provided and Bryant celebrated by giving a Geography lesson in it.

The 1870s were marked by the regular visits of Inspectors checking annual progress. A team of Inspectors led by Mr Waddington visited the school on 16 June 1876, the infants' work was considered "fairly good", but the older children were weak in Arithmetic; their knowledge of Geography and Grammar was

better, however, and was described as "very creditable" the next year. In the 1880s the Inspector combined remarks on academic matters with frequent admonitions to the school managers about arranging to have the building washed out more frequently. The Log Book entries also record the high praise earned by Mr and Mrs Bryant's teaching and suggests the school was held in high repute. The vivid everyday details of one Victorian school's existence are itemised precisely; but, above all, Holy Trinity School's Log Book 1863—84 is an honourable monument to the labour of George Bryant.(6)

- (1) Gloucestershire Record Office. Holy Trinity's Log Book is one of the oldest. The collection is composed of 62 Log Books, 23 of which were begun during the 1860's.
- (2) The mining industry of the time provided much employment and two boys left to go down the pit on 23 February, 1867.
- (3) Based on a longer letter printed in full in the standard Log Book used by George Bryant, dated 1863.
- (4) This reflects national figures. See N. Whitbread: *The Development of the Nursery-Infant School 1972*.
- (5) Entry 23 Aug., 1864:
"Find it very inconvenient to give oral lessons for want of a classroom. Little room over-crowded."
- (6) George Bryant himself emerges as one exception to Matthew Arnold's view that teachers were given "... a drudge's training..." and "... a drudge's work..." which was undertaken in "... a drudge's spirit..." (*Reports on Elementary Schools 1852—82* ed. F. Sandford, 1889, pp 55-56)

ANN WRIGHT