

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Local History Bulletin

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Corse Court — Hartpury

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COMMUNITY HOUSE, COLLEGE GREEN,
GLOUCESTER GL1 2LZ
Tel. Gloucester (0452) 28491

EDITORIAL

EACH YEAR SEES AN ANNIVERSARY AND 1984 is no exception. Seventy five years ago in 1909 the Development Commission was established to encourage the economic and social development of the rural areas of England and, under recent legislation, the Commission has been given extra powers to fulfil these objectives with renewed vigour, working through such agencies as Rural Community Councils.

This issue is the fiftieth edition of the Local History Bulletin and it is very interesting to glance at the first issues, published 25 years ago. The Bulletin first consisted of articles by authors invited by the Local History Committee and these included Mrs E. M. Clifford, L. T. C. Rolt and R. H. Hilton when Archaeological themes were more prominent than at present. Secondly, it is clear that 25 years ago members of the 7 or so Local History Societies in Gloucestershire were encouraged to get out into the 'field' and record, whether it was mapping or noting memorable local events. Recording the reminiscences of the elderly was encouraged and the future of the Stroud Water Canal was a cause for concern. Many other items of interest in the early issues we now assemble in the current Local History Newsletter, published with this Bulletin.

In the last 25 years there may have been some decline in the pre-eminence of industrial archaeology and a great growth in family and population history, perhaps a change from artefacts to people - at a time when our own lives are increasingly dominated by a technology which soon becomes a new industrial archaeology — *vide* the current exhibition of 'Computers in history' in London.

The theme of people and technology is illustrated in this edition by Mr Barrett's article on the house he lived in at Corse, and Mrs Mills' work on Nonconformists (part of her general history of Nailsworth) illustrates the lives of men pivotal in the economy of the Nailsworth area. Christopher Cox, on the New Poor Law at Rodborough, reminds readers that chords of compassion sometimes can be heard in the 1830's while John Moore, who with Mrs Mills, has served on the Local History Committee, provides a useful catalogue of the mapping of Gloucestershire.

BRYAN JERRARD

CORSE COURT

Possibly as early as 1280 and certainly not later than 1350, CORSE COURT was built in the forest of Corse Chase Manor. Built as a 'Long House' on five pairs of crucks, one pair truncated under a hipped roof-end and one pair now missing, the other three pairs were, and still are, complete (see illustration 1). Except for the principal, the cruck pairs are simple, almost straight, saw-split tree trunks. The principal (1) which spans the Hall, 18½ feet wide, has an ogival carved collar, strengthened with wide web braces. The blades are cusped about the collar and there was once a cusped king-post, too.

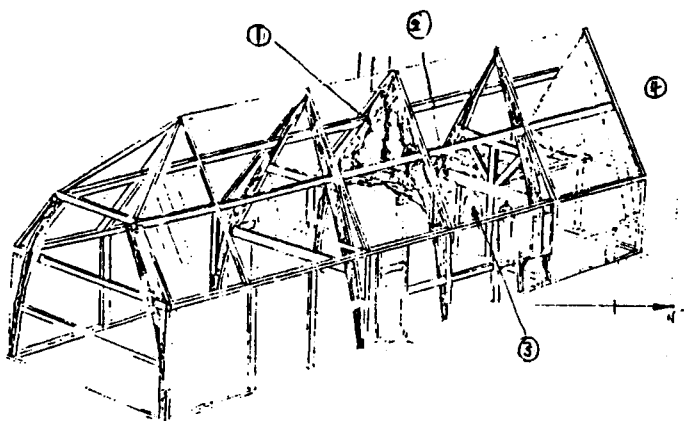
The decorative effect of the principal cruck was achieved through extravagant expenditure of man-hours and is in stark contrast to the other crucks. However, despite the high standard suggested by the carving and shaping, the workmanship shows errors and attempts at correction. The collar face retains a fault where the saw cut slipped out of line and the cut was restarted. Bark remains on the back of the cruck blades indicate the use of trees which, while obviously adequate, were smaller than ideal for the job. In the roof, the 6 ins. thick purlins are neither trencled nor tenoned through the cruck blades, but merely rest on notches and only 3in. notches at that. These and other signs of primitiveness support the argument for the earlier build date postulated. When we examine the joint between the crucks and the wind-braces and find that the braces are simply laid, one over the other on the back of the cruck blade with a wooden peg driven in to hold all together, we realise that we are in the presence of very simple and early techniques.

Further evidence of early workmanship is the ogival doorhead (2) to the 'private' quarters, with their probable overhead store or sleeping loft (4), in the first bay. The ogive is carved out of the main beam which links the lower parts of the crucks. A later technique would have inserted a separate carved lintel.

The construction of the lower part of the wall separating the first bay and the dais of the Hall is extremely interesting and is believed to be virtually unique. Supporting the tie-beam are three (previously four) studs, morticed to accept full length tenons cut on the straight side and top edge of triangular corner braces or 'knees' whose longest sides are concave. The braces appear to be designed to prevent any sideways movement of the tie-beam and upper wall, but the cruck construction itself does this, as the early carpenters knew very well. We must, therefore, look for decorative function in the timber work and immediately notice that a series of deep ogival arches (3) is formed by the curved sides of the braces. The spaces are filled with wattle and daub. The sight of three arches backing a bench at the dais end, brings to mind a tribunal. Perhaps the Lord of the Manor, his bailiff and the Reeve, held the monthly Manor Court there.

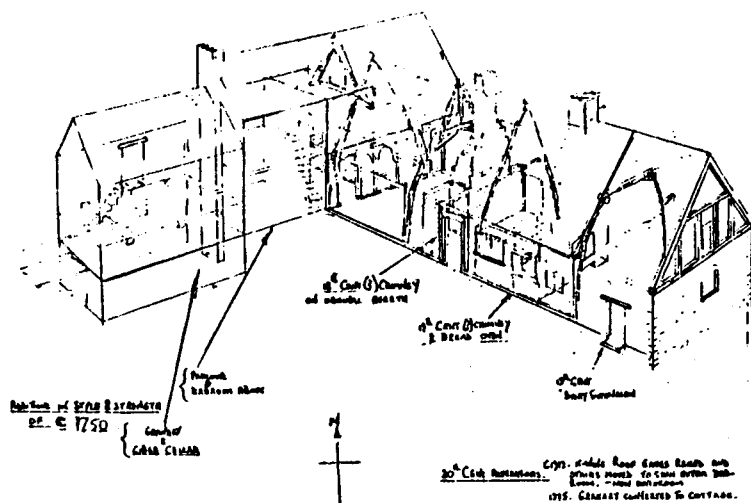
Disputes between peasant neighbours, the levying of tolls for warren and pannage and the like, the collection of fines for infringements of the Forest Laws were the substance of everyday life transacted by the Lord in his Manorial Court. In the early stages of legal development the Manor Court was the lowest of the hierarchy courts, below the six monthly Shire Court and the occasional journeying King's Justices. Even if the full, grand tribunal never met here, the house builder had made provision, just in case. Later, as the 'court' function was being set aside, a wood panelled bench back, with plaster above it, covered the 'arches.' The plaster was painted, but no pictures have been recovered; only a painted decorative border has been identified.

CORSE COURT c1280 — 1350
The 'Long House' Frame

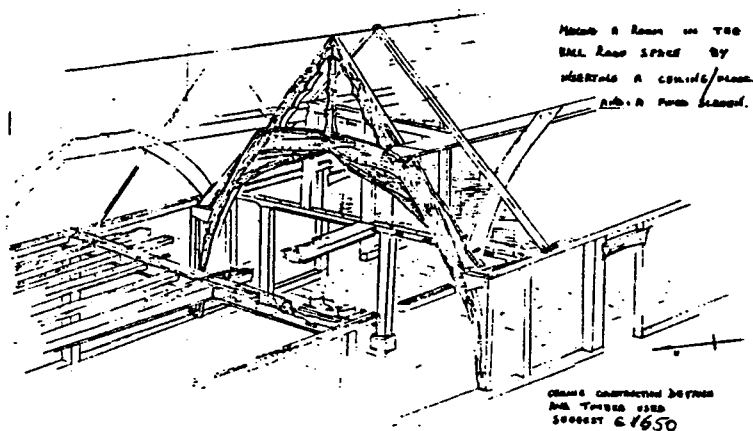


Evidence for a smoke louvre remains in the rafters above the hearth position, though, in part, the evidence suggests that the louvre may have been an afterthought. Quite possibly the first smoke hole was a gablet above the hipped roof.

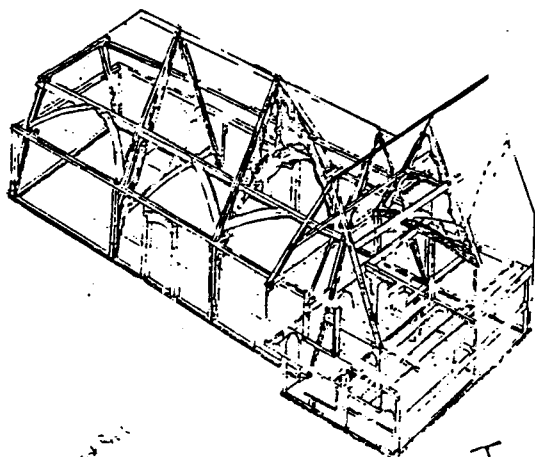
CORSE COURT in 18th & 19th CENTURIES



CORSE COURT c1650



CORSE COURT c1600



THE NORTHERN BAY OF THE LONG HOUSE DEMOLISHED TO ACCOMMODATE THE TWO STOREY JETTIE GABLE CROSS WING, ADDED WITH 'CUSPING' OF THE CENTER TRUSS MATCHING THAT OF THE PRINCIPAL CRUCE

So the house developed through its first three hundred years. During that time, 1300 – 1600, the forest was being cut back and farming was replacing hunting as the local enterprise. The functions of a Manor Court declined until possession of a Manor Court House became more a symbol of status than of real authority. So, in 1592, when the inheriting widow remarried into a local family, the new Lord of the Manor demoted the little wood and wattle cruck framed 'long house,' with its pitifully inadequate accommodation, from being the Manor Court and, with enough of the surrounding land, sold it as a viable farm.

Old Manor Court Houses were almost all developed or rebuilt during the "Great Rebuilding" in the 17th Century. Today, many occupiers of grand brick and stone establishments proudly point to some old carved beam in a kitchen corner as "part of the original Medieval Hall." The present Corse Court has survived in its medieval form because the owner, in 1592, preferred to sell a complete farm and, with the money, build his new 'Court' elsewhere.

The buyer then built the jetted gable cross-wing, the height of building fashion in 1600 and such an outstanding feature today, to replace the meagre 'private' rooms in the first bay of the long house. It comprised, downstairs, a store-room and a 'winter parlour' with a private exit to the garden, and above, one long room. The new owner must have felt considerable pride in his possession, for he had the new central roof truss carved with cusps to match the 300 year old principal cruck in his Hall.

Only fifty years later the Hall was 'chambered' by the insertion of the present ceiling and the carved cruck vanished into the attic bed or store room. However, the occupants of the reduced Hall were doubtless consoled by the new ease of keeping warm. The end wall of the new attic room was formed from a large wattle and daub screen filling the roof triangle between the principle cruck and the smoke louvre in the thatch. The beam across the house holding this wall and the edge of the new floor was supported on studs, framing the hearth.

The carpentry techniques used constructing the ceiling in the Hall were developed later than those used in the ceiling in the cross-wing and this allows us to establish the chronology of these events.

The massive brick and stone fireplace and chimney standing on the original hearth site was built probably around 1700 and part or perhaps all the rest of the house then had an upper floor inserted.

In the 1750's the cross-wing was extended to the rear by a large room on each floor, complete with a chimney and fireplace. Beyond that a granary with cider cellar was attached to the house. The 'service' end of the long house was extended about the middle of the 19th Century and the second chimney, fireplace and bread-oven must have been built then. The second fireplace faces into the extension and would have been too large for the former small store room. The chimney has odd brick formations suggesting some sort of drying flue or, perhaps, a smoking chamber so possibly farming or domestic processes, as well as sleeping and living, took place upstairs.

This last extension demolished the old hipped roof and substituted a brick and timber gable. The new chimney has no flashing courses to suit thatch, so we may assume that it was replaced by the present tiles at this time. The mid-18th Century extension, the granary, etc., was never thatched.

During the late 19th and early 20th Centuries the beamed ceilings were covered with lath and plaster or tongue and groove boards. The large central fireplace, after its mantle beam burnt away, was filled and a small tile and iron grate was fitted. The second chimney had its fireplace sealed at the front and opened at the back, moving cooking nearer to the living room. The bread oven was bricked up. In the 1920's another chimney with two fireplaces was built at the side of the cross-wing to heat the two front rooms. Also the jettied roof had its eaves raised, on brickwork, to line it up with the 17th Century extension. The weight of the bricks, together with that of a weatherproof cement rendering on the gable front, began to destroy the joists and brackets supporting the jetty, but much of the weight was removed in the 1960's.

During the last twenty years a water supply, central heating and modern insulation have made it possible to live today with ancient building styles and materials.

Overpriced tradesmen have had to be replaced by enthusiasm, dedication and patience. Only these have made possible the reversal of much of the well intentioned damage of the recent past and the discovery and partial restoration of a truly historic house.

June, 1984

C. A. BARRETT.

THE NONCONFORMISTS OF NAILSWORTH

Life Stirs at Forest Green

The documented history of Nailsworth as we know it started in the seventeenth century. The area was still densely wooded, but here and there clearings had been made on the sides of the valleys and settlements had appeared near the mills. Many of their names are descriptive of the landscape's woody character - Harley Wood, Walkley Wood and Shortwood. There was arable land and some farming on top of the hills e.g. Ringfield, Wood and Tynings Farms, but this has always been a predominately industrial area.

In about 1655 a well known 'Friend' found an active party of Puritans at Nailsworth whom he converted to Quakerism. They worshipped for a while in the home of Robert Langley, possibly at Shortwood, where there is still an old Quaker grave yard. For a hundred years the 'Nailsworth Friends' Meeting was a general or district meeting for a large area round about. In 1680 the Friends acquired and adapted the building at the foot of Chestnut Hill which is still their meeting house today. One of Nailsworth's most delightful and historic corners, it retains most of its original character and furnishings.

However, it was not in a mill related hamlet, but high up on the hillside that events took place which were to have far-reaching effects.

In 1662 after the restoration of Charles II an Act of Uniformity was passed which required all priests to give their 'unfeigned assent' to the whole of the prayer book. This and other conscience clauses caused the ejection from their churches of over two thousand clergymen. Many of these were determined to carry on their ministry wherever they could find a safe place. The rector of Avening although he decided against leaving his church was sympathetic to the dissenters, and so, in Avening Parish, high up in the hills in the part of the forest known as Colliers Wood, where it was not easy to be

surprised, and yet where it was close to a pack horse route, such a safe place was found. Here, in a clearing in the wood, a party of dissenters met from areas as far afield as Tewkesbury and Gloucester, and here they worshipped according to their conscience till, in 1687, two years before the repeal of the Act they felt secure enough to build a chapel. Thus the Independent Church at Forest Green was officially founded. It was the earliest dissenting chapel to be set up in the area, and it was eventually registered in 1690. Only two of the trustees were local, the rest came from areas round about.

These happenings marked the beginning of the events which led to Nailsworth's development into a modern town for, as a direct result, the place became known throughout the world, and it is interesting to note that although Forest Green remained a couple of small hamlets for many years, now in 1984 the greatest number of local inhabitants live in the Forest Green area.

The first Chapel was sited in the Forest Green graveyard, where the foundations can be seen today. It carried on for many years. In 1707 a parsonage, later Northfields House, was built, and in 1800, the Minister's stipend being inadequate, the house was enlarged and Mr Payne the Minister started a small Grammar School, 'fees twenty guineas a year, Latin and mathematics two guineas each and washing two guineas.' This was the first recorded school in Nailsworth. Northfields Road must have been a route by then. In 1772 Revd. John Marks Moffatt started a Sunday School for the teaching of reading and writing, some years before Raikes' school in Gloucester. Up until 1799 the chapel, being the only place of worship in the Avening part of Nailsworth, was used by Anglican and Independents alike. Today, Anglicans still continue to be buried in the old graveyard along with their forebears. By 1821 the chapel had become too small. At this point the congregation unfortunately could not agree. Some saw that Nailsworth was becoming the centre and wanted to move down the hill. Others preferred to stay near the original spot. In the end they split.

A new chapel with curious Ogee windows was built on a plot near the old ground. This became used for afternoon services only, and was later absorbed by the trustees of the second new Chapel, and was finally demolished in 1946. This second new Chapel was built at the junction of the Northfields and Nympsfield Roads at the top of Springhill. Considered bare to the point of ugliness by its contemporary opponents in 1821, it was deeply regretted when it was demolished in 1972 – but that is another part of our story. For over 150 years the Springhill Independent Chapel played a very significant part in the life of the slowly developing town.

Shortwood becomes a centre of importance

In 1705 the Minister at Forest Green preached a series of sermons relating to infant baptism. Several of his congregation disagreed with his views and joined the Baptist meeting at King Stanley. After a while the difficult journey became impracticable, and they met at William Harding's house at Shortwood in Horsley parish. As numbers increased it was decided to build a meeting house, and a site was found at Shortwood near the Nodes. Here the first Baptist Chapel was built. It was a simple affair with neither pews nor pulpit, but it provided a refuge from the weather, and some of the congregation travelled from up to thirty miles around. Why was it built in such an isolated spot when independent worshipping was no longer illegal? It must be remembered that the bulk of the congregation was comprised of weavers, who worked for long hours in their own cottages. Sunday was their day out. They brought their food with them and ate it, first in the Chapel, and later in

extra rooms which were added, or at the Rotten Rail Inn which was near the present Nodes house. Near this was also built a simple open air baptistry. So the Shortwood site on footpaths to Horsley, Kingscote, Nympsfield, Woodchester and King Stanley was well suited to the needs of the worshippers.

From these humble and poverty stricken beginnings the Baptist meeting at Shortwood rose, through periods of depression and difficulty, to become not only the greatest single influence in Nailsworth and the outlying areas, but also one of the most noteworthy Baptist communities in the Country outside of London. In 1840 the congregation numbered nearly seven hundred and included most of the principal mill owners amongst its numbers. Later, the first, and several succeeding chairmen of the Urban District Council, were to be Baptists, and many other offices were filled by them. Until Nailsworth became a Parish the Baptists were responsible in a voluntary capacity for many of the social and educational activities in the town. A member of Forest Green chapel once remarked; 'The established religion of Nailsworth is Baptist and the Established Church is Shortwood.'

The firm establishment of the Baptist Church whose detailed history is available elsewhere, was due to two main factors – Firstly to the long ministries of three outstanding pastors – Benjamin Francis 1738-1799 – William Winterbotham 1804-1829, and Thomas Fox Newman 1832-1864. Secondly to the devoted service of a succession of Deacons. In the early days, the ministers apart from preaching three times on Sundays and once during the week, also spent much of their time travelling by day and preaching in the evenings in return for hospitality. This was necessary to augment their miserable stipends. Benjamin Francis as well as preaching regularly at Avening, Minchinhampton and Uley, whose Chapels he founded, used to travel on two circuits, firstly, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, Evesham and Upton-on-Severn, and secondly, Bradford-on-Avon, Trowbridge, Frome, Westbury and Melksham. In addition he visited London, Cornwall, Wales and Ireland. Much pastoral work must have fallen on the Deacons, and the day to day running of the Church was in their hands. Their names were part of the Nailsworth scene for many years, but sadly they are gradually disappearing; here are a few:— Harding, Heskins, Clissold, Francis, Antill, Flint, Belsay, Hodges, Wilmot, Hillier, Barnard, Smith, Dodge, Jenkins, Allway, Bruton and Shipway.

Benjamin Francis, the first of the three pastors, was the son of a very well known Welsh pastor. He was orphaned early. On entering the Baptist College at Bristol he hardly spoke any English, yet he became an eloquent and persuasive preacher and writer of hymns. A parsonage was built for him where the roads from Wallow Green and Ragnall Lane meet at Ticmorend (now Three Ways). In common with others of the period he suffered domestic tragedies. His first wife Mary Harris died in April 1765 from consumption, and in June and July of the same year three of their five children followed her. In 1766 he 'formed a second matrimonial connection' with Miss Mary Wallis of Bagpath near Horsley. She was very friendly with Miss Kingscote who became the wife of Edward Jenner, (Dr Jenner later attended Benjamin Francis in his final illness). Her brother was a surgeon at Wotton. Coming under the spell of Benjamin Francis she used to ride over to Shortwood services each Sunday. She had ten children of whom only three survived their father. Many of their descendents played a major part in the development of Nailsworth though only one family still has its roots here.

Despite many invitations, Benjamin Francis refused to leave 'my poor people of Horsley' and he laboured amongst them for forty years from 1738-1799. These years were marked by continuous growth. In addition to preaching tours Mr Francis travelled to London and elsewhere to raise funds.

He was responsible for founding the Baptist Church at Minchinhampton. A letter written by Benjamin Francis in 1785 relating to three Sunday Schools started in different parts of the Parish gives a picture of the poverty at the time which is quite beyond present day belief. 'The children meet from 8-10 o'clock in the morning and from 4-7 in the afternoon. We propose to continue (the schools) yearly from Lady Day to Michaelmas as this will save the expense of fire and candles, as the poor children, living at a distance and being almost naked, cannot well attend in cold weather.'

William Winterbotham had spent four years in Newgate goal, for preaching allegedly seditious sermons, before coming to Nailsworth in 1804. His health had been undermined by the experience which is why he came to this country area. He lived at Inchbrook before buying Newmarket House which for the following sixty years became the unofficial Shortwood manse. A supporter of causes, his ministry was marked by the development of missionary activities, and Shortwood sent seven of its members to the mission field. The most notable of these was Rev. Thomas Burchell who went to Jamaica in 1823 where he founded a Hill Station called Shortwood and fought ceaselessly on behalf of the slaves. In 1833 an Act was passed liberating 800,000 slaves in the British West Indies. Birchell spent a large part of his savings on helping the slaves. Shortwood congregation contributed £107 towards rebuilding chapels destroyed by furious slave owners.

The Shortwood Chapel had been enlarged twice during the ministry of Benjamin Francis, to accommodate ever increasing numbers. Membership was drawn from fifteen parishes and 'the sight of several companies descending the surrounding hills on the Lord's Day for worship was inspiring.' It was enlarged again in 1800 and an engraving shows what it must have looked like in William Winterbotham's time. By his activities in connection with Shortwood Baptist Chapel, William Winterbotham left his mark in the neighbourhood. All the local Stroud Winterbothams, which included a member of Parliament, a mill owner and a lawyer, were descended from him. He died in 1829.

Thomas Fox Newman was always so called to distinguish him from his father Thomas Newman who came with him from Oxford in 1832, and who was first Secretary of the Nailsworth Reading Society which is still in existence. Great changes had come to the wool industry, bringing hardship, unrest and social upheaval. Thomas Fox Newman was a man of wisdom and tact who was well fitted to deal with the situation. Despite the emigration to Australia of 80 Shortwood members between 1838-1840, congregations increased. Mill owner and worker, master and servant sat on the same diaconate. Despite the far seeing example of the Forest Green chapel in moving nearer to Nailsworth a new chapel seating 1200 people was built at Shortwood in 1837. It provided stabling and other conveniences, and was a long way removed from the humble buildings of 1715. It was not until 1881 that this building was dismantled and the materials used to build the present Christ Church Chapel in Newmarket Road.

During the last part of his life Mr Newman suffered from recurrent illness, and perhaps as a result of this, membership declined somewhat. He died in 1868 leaving a church which had for members a wide ranging congregation, which included some of the most influential men in the area, along with the most humble poor.

After the death of Thomas Fox Newman there was a difference of opinion as regards the appointment of a Pastor, and in 1866 differences finally led to some sixty members leaving the fellowship and building 'the Tabernacle' in

Bristol Road in 1867. Thereafter there were two Baptist Chapels in Nailsworth until 1910 when the Tabernacle was sold to the Methodists. The Methodists had a flourishing chapel at Downend, but, probably due to the strength of the Baptists, they never had firm roots in Nailsworth. In 1947 they sold the Tabernacle to the Urban District Council and it became the Town Hall. The Methodists then worshipped in the little wooden building on Spring Hill.

MARY MILLS.

RODBOROUGH PARISH AND THE NEW POOR LAW: a note

. . . “Organized charity, scrimped and iced.”

In his **General View of the Agriculture of Gloucestershire**, published in 1794, George Turner suggested that the recent rise in poor rate was due, not so much to the introduction of machinery into the cloth trade, but to ‘the vicious and profligate habits of the weavers who can, if good hands, earn a guinea and a half a week’ – and that they spent it on drink, so that their families were fed and clothed by the parish, and the weavers themselves looked ragged and miserable.

It was a fact that in the Stroudwater valleys, as elsewhere in Britain, while population had risen, and continued to rise, new methods of manufacture and in agriculture destroyed many of the traditional ways of earning a living, while at the same time the movement of those stricken by poverty was often exceedingly difficult. The problem of pauperism – which was not mere poverty, but sheer destitution – was intractable, and made worse by such expedients as that known as the Speenhamland System, whereby wages were subsidised out of the parish poor rate – and therefore remained low. The helplessness of the docile poor can be seen in ‘Stroudwater A Poem’ written in 1824 by William Lawrence, organist of Stroud parish church². When an aged workman in rags goes to his master’s door to beg for help, the reply

“Tell him to stop a little, or go home,
For I’m engag’d,” says he, “and cannot come;
I am so pester’d with the lower class
I’ve scarcely time to take a cheerful glass.”

“Have you a wife and children?” “Yes, kind sir;”
“How many children?” “Heaven bless you, four.”
“I think you might have work if you were willing
To look about; however, here’s a shilling.”

In fact, the early 1820’s saw strikes, violence and the use of legal force: and it must be added that the masters themselves were often in a precarious position, what with the burden of rates, the post-war deflation and trade recession, as well as what were known as the ‘annual vibrations’ of trade. More needs were matched by indeed, fewer resources. So urgent had been the situation at the end of the long French wars that in 1817 a meeting in Stroud Town Hall had raised £300 to provide work, coal and food for the poor. Joseph Partridge,⁴ a dyer of Bowbridge near Stroud, wrote: “It is hoped that the gratitude of the poor who are thus relieved will be shown by their future industry and good conduct. Various other benevolent institutions have been made in the neighbourhood as well by individuals as by public

bodies, which will no doubt prevent the labouring classes from feeling those extraordinary privations which but for the beneficence of their superiors, they must at this period have experienced.”

Tom Paine put it more succinctly: “. . . age to the workhouse, youth to the gallows.”⁵

The responsibility of the parish was to provide housing, food, clothing and work for its paupers only for those who had a parish ‘settlement.’ As the problem refused to go away, but in fact worsened, a note of exasperation creeps into the various vestry minutes. In July 1822 Spoonbed Tithing Vestry of Painswick⁶ parish had provided shifts, shirts, aprons and blankets for the use of those in the Poor House (what had they used before? rags and straw?). In April 1823 a resolution was passed that every person in receipt of parish relief should wear a badge with the letters PP – parish pauper; and in August 1826 it was decided that while work should be given under supervision to the paupers, any able-bodied person refusing what was offered should forfeit the right to public assistance. The work was usually road work – breaking stones, not the most suitable of tasks for unemployed weavers. (*Wasn't Karl Marx later to write that those who could not work should not eat?*)

The national solution was to have parishes combine into larger groups, with paid officials replacing the rather casual ad hoc appointments previously the custom; while a committee elected from the ratepayers, who after all had to foot the very considerable bill, should appoint, supervise and scrutinise the accounts in an effort to keep costs down. It is worth noting that conditions in these new workhouses were to be less attractive than the worst jobs outside, short of actual starvation.⁷

Stroud Union consisted of the following parishes: Avening, Bisley, Cranham, Horsley, Minchinhampton, Miserden, Painswick, Pitchcombe, Randwick, Rodborough, Kings Stanley, Leonard Stanley, Stonehouse, Stroud, and Woodchester.⁸ (Eastington had in 1778 decided to build its own workhouse so did not join this Union).⁹

Now it is not the purpose of this note to recount the history of poor relief in the Stroudwater area, but to record at least one glimmer of humanity in the darkness encompassing those who could not help themselves. The action of the vestry of Rodborough Parish shines forth like a good deed in a naughty world.

Rodborough, as with other local parishes, usually found that roadmending was the only available work for its able-bodied unemployed. But we may also note (with irony perhaps) that in January 1834 Joseph Partridge (dyer of Bowbridge!) was fined £7 for encroaching on the common land. The money was used to provide shoes (9 pairs), shirts (32), and petticoats (15) for the poor: and also for shelter trees and fencing for cattle on the Common, a very practical use.¹⁰

In March 1836 those who received clothes were named. In that same year, William Lawrence was allowed to work the parish quarry, provided he gave employment to the able-bodied parish poor, and the only outsider he was allowed was a supervisor. It seems probable that this was the William Lawrence of the poem, ‘Stroudwater.’

But the really bright spot occurs when the paupers of the Union were to be removed to the new Workhouse built up Stroud Hill (a long way to walk for those coming from the outlying parishes). Rodborough Vestry resolved against selling their parish workhouse: instead it should be repaired and offered for letting. More importantly, they said it would be inhuman to remove certain persons (named) to the new Stroud Workhouse. The aged

and infirm needed special care, and sympathy of their relatives and friends, and were to remain in the parish. The paupers so named numbered 12 – 4 men and 8 women. Their ages ranged from 64 to 94(!) except for one male of 30, who we may guess to be “simple” and the son of one of the inmates.

It is not recorded who was influential in asserting the right to human dignity: the horror of the “new” poor law system is too well known, and it is a mark of real decency that Rodborough Parish did not treat its helpless poor as mere ciphers in a system of financial economy.

But then it's different now. Isn't it?

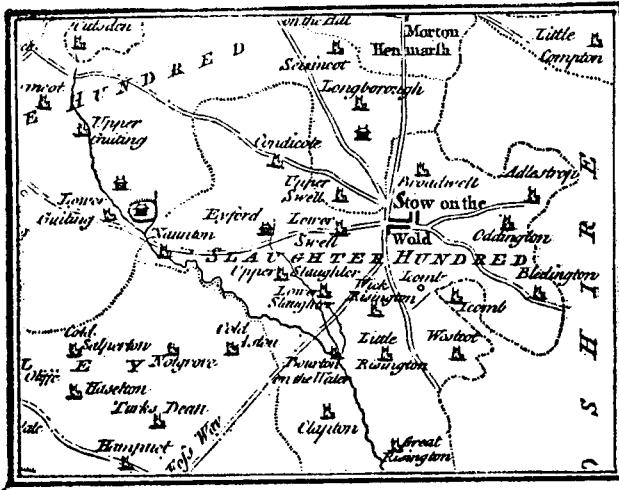
References:

- 1 J. M. & M. J. Cohen eds. **The penguin Dictionary of Quotations**, 1960
- 2 In Gloucester County Library.
- 3 See J. Tann, **Gloucestershire Woollen Mills**, David and Charles, 1963. She says the early 1820's were prosperous for clothiers, but hard times for the small man followed after the 1825 crisis. See also K. G. Ponting, **The West of England Cloth Industry**, Macdonald 1957, ch. vii; and E. Moir, **The Gentlemen Clothiers**, in **Gloucestershire Studies**, ed. H. P. R. Finberg, Leics. Univ. Press 1957.
- 4 **The Gloucestershire Repository 1817 – a short lived – ‘newspaper.’**
- 5 Tom Paine **The Rights of Man**, ed. H. Collins, Penguin 1969, first published 1791, p. 240 He also advocated the use of workhouses, but in a different sense from those of the 1830's
- 6 G R O p244 VE 2/17 Painswick Parish Vestry Book.
- 7 Poor Law Amendment Act, 4/5 W. iv c.76 (1834).
- 8 P. H. Fisher **Notes and Recollections of Stroud**, John Bellows, 1871.
- 9 A. E. Keys, **A History of Eastington (Stroud News and Journal**, 1964).
- 10 G R O p272 VE2/2, also OV 1/1/1-7 Rodborough Parish Vestry Book.

June 1984

CHRISTOPHER COX





THE MAPPING OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

A guide to the literature

This brief guide aims to list what has been written on the maps and plans of Bristol and Gloucestershire and their cartographers. Recently, there have been attempts at a national coverage of such works for Ireland¹ and Scotland². Such a scheme for England would need a major and extensive effort and, in some ways, is better tackled at the county level, which was after all, the basic area of activity for this subject.

Since the original work of CHUBB in compiling a carto-bibliography of the many editions of the printed maps of the county, their study has been slow to develop. Like many fields, research has often been characterised by single efforts. It is hoped that this short bibliography will bring together all relevant research and, more importantly, highlight areas where more study would be available. Most of the material was collected while working at Gloucester Library several years ago. I would like to thank staff members, past and present, for their friendship and kind assistance.

By: John N. Moore, Glasgow University Library

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1 FERGUSON, Paul. **Irish Map History**. A select bibliography of secondary works, 1850 – 1983, on the history of cartography in Ireland. Dublin: Tenth International Conference on the History of Cartography, 1983. 26p.

2 MOORE, John N. **The Mapping of Scotland**. A guide to the literature of Scottish cartography prior to the Ordnance Survey. Aberdeen: Department of Geography, University of Aberdeen, 1983. 73p.
O'Dell Memorial Monograph no. 15.

CATALOGUE

1 AUSTIN, Roland 'Additions to, and notes on, the 'Descriptive Catalogue of Printed Maps of Gloucestershire, 1577 - 1911,' by T. Chubb.' **Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society**, vol. 39, 1916, pp 233 - 264.

A supplementary list updating the standard guide to maps of the county (CHUBB), giving 82 titles between 1614 and 1902, chronologically arranged with an index of authors, engravers, publishers and titles.

2 AUSTIN, Roland 'County maps.' **Gloucestershire Countryside**, vol.1, 1933, pp100 - 101.

Notes on some features of the principal maps of Gloucestershire from the first in 1577 until the Ordnance Survey sheets of 1828 - 31. The author covers most of the important figures briefly.

3 BAILEY, A. 'The Gloucestershire maps of Ferdinando Stratford.' **Gloucestershire Historical Studies**, vol. 11, 1980, pp 12 - 21. (Essays on local history records by the University Extra-Mural Class at Gloucester, 1978 - 79). Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Bristol.

A discussion of the work of this local surveyor, the most notable figure in Gloucestershire map-making in the first half of the eighteenth century. Sixteen maps, dating between 1748 and 1759 are described, showing his to be work of a high standard. His proposed county map to be supported by subscription (1749) was never completed.

4 BAILEY, A. 'Charles Baker - the work of a nineteenth century surveyor.' **Gloucestershire Historical Studies**, vol. 12, 1981, pp 68 - 72. (Essays on local historical records by the University Extra-Mural Class at Gloucester, 1979 - 80). Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Bristol.

Plans and business records deposited in Gloucestershire Record Office are used to reconstruct briefly Baker's life, work and later financial difficulties. A listing of his maps (1816 - 47) is included and covers road, parish and tithe surveys. He also drew maps of Stroud (1825) and Cheltenham (1826).

5 BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 'Introduction' to **A Gloucestershire and Bristol Atlas**. A selection of old maps and plans from the 16th to the 19th century, including the Isaac Taylor (1777) large scale map of the county in full. London: Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, 1961. p 3. Edited by W. L. King.

A short résumé of the county's map history, discussing the major figures and surveys. There are a few historical notes on the town plans contained in the atlas.

6 BRITISH MUSEUM 'Gloucester' in **Catalogue of Printed Maps, Charts and Plans**. Photolithographic edition complete to 1964. vol 6. London: Trustees of the British Museum, 1967. pp 793 – 804.

This listing, the most comprehensive of any major British library, covers over 80 general and thematic maps of the county and thirty plans of the city of Gloucester held by the Map Room of the Department of Printed Books. Order in the sequence corresponds to chronological order of publication of the items catalogued. Descriptive details of the maps are given. Only one map is listed in the **Ten Year Supplement to the Catalogue** (1978), relevant to the early period (i.e. one printed by Cruttwell, 1789).

7 CHATWIN, Amina 'A Bristol plan identified.' **Bristol industrial Archaeological Journal**, vol. 9, 1976, pp 17 – 19. figs.

Discussion features depicted on a manuscript plan of c1772 – 1804 of a part of the north bank of the city, particularly the siting of several Bristol firms previously unlocated.

8 CHUBB, Thomas **A Descriptive Catalogue of the Printed Maps of Gloucestershire, 1577—1911**. With biographical notes. Bristol: Arrowsmith, 1913. 238p. illus. (Issued as a separate volume with the **Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society**, 1912).

The standard guide, cataloguing the many editions of printed maps in great detail chronologically. It includes reproductions of maps by Saxton (1577), Keer (1599), Speed (1610), Blaeu (1648), Blome (1673), Morden (1704), Bowen (1767), Taylor (1777) and Cary (1787) and lists 111 maps in all.

9 CRAWFORD, G. N. 'A history of the maps of Gloucestershire for the industrial archaeologist.' **Newsletter, Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology** no. 9, 1967, pp19 – 25.

A brief review of the major maps of the county from Saxton (1577) to the Ordnance Survey 2½ inch series of 1945. Seventeen maps prior to 1850 are listed. The notes discuss factories, industries and communications indicated on each map.

10 EVANS, F. E. 'Ways across Gloucestershire.' **Gloucestershire Life and Countryside**, Aug. – Sept, 1968, pp 16 – 18. illus.

Some of the features relating to the county depicted on the strip road map in John Ogilby's **Britannia** produced in 1675 are discussed. His was the first attempt at mapping and measuring the roads of England and Wales.

11 GEORGE, William 'The date of the first authentic plan of Bristol'. **Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society**, vol 4, 1879 – 80, pp 296 – 300.

Drawn by William Smith, herald and topographer, in 1568, this was the basis of the plan appearing in Braun's **Civitates Orbis Terrarum** (1581). It is a more accurate depiction than the later copy and is accompanied by a written description. The plan lies in the Sloane collection at the British Library (Sloane Mss 2596).

Reprinted with additions and three illustrations as 'Some account of the oldest plans of Bristol and an inquiry into the date of the first authentic one.' Bristol: W. George, 1881. 12p.

12 (GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY RECORDS OFFICE) **The Gloucestershire Landscape, 1577—1957.** An exhibition arranged by the County Records Office in the Council Chamber, Shire Hall, Gloucester, 17th – 26th April, 1958. (A descriptive booklet). Gloucester, 1958. 8p. plan.

A descriptive text to accompany the exhibition, discussing the detail shown by county and estate maps, particularly of changes in the landscape over the last two centuries.

13 GRAY, I. E. 'Ferdinando Stratford of Gloucestershire.' **Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society**, vol. 67, 1946–48. pp 12–415.

Two letters by Stratford's brother to John Strutt are appended, providing information on this surveyor, his work in Essex and his subsequent death.

14 HOLEHOUSE, John E. 'The map-makers of Gloucestershire.' **Gloucestershire Life**, Oct. 1973, pp 78–79. illus.

The first of a series discussing the respective contributions of several cartographers to the mapping of the county. In this article the work of Emanuel Bowen and Thomas Kitchin (1775) is studied.

15 HOLEHOUSE, John E. 'The map-makers of Gloucestershire.' **Gloucestershire Life**, Nov. 1973, pp52–53. illus.

The map by John Speed (1610) is reviewed in this study.

16 HOLEHOUSE, John e. 'The map-makers of Gloucestershire.' **Gloucestershire Life**, Dec. 1973. pp 66–67. illus.

Here, the oldest map of the county is described – the survey of Christopher Saxton (1575).

17 HOLEHOUSE, John E. 'The map-makers of Gloucestershire.' **Gloucestershire Life**, Jan. 1974, pp 26–27. illus.

A discussion of the individual but artistic depiction of George Bickham (1751).

18 HOLEHOUSE, John E. 'The map-makers of Gloucestershire.' **Gloucestershire Life**, April 1974, pp 42–43. illus.

The author considers the early strip road maps of John Ogilby (1675).

19 HOLEHOUSE, John E. 'The map-makers of Gloucestershire.' **Gloucestershire Life**, July 1974, pp 46–47. illus.

A final article on questions raised by the above series, oriented to a buyer's approach. Surprisingly, there is no mention of Taylor's map of 1777 in any of the discussions.

20 LATIMER, John 'Clifton in 1746.' *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, vol 23, 1900, pp 312 – 322. facsim.

A plan of the parish of Clifton surveyed by J. D. Wilstar and its features are depicted, including a list of owners and the size of their properties. The manor of Clifton formed part of the estates belonging to the Bristol Merchants' Hall and it is surmised that this plan was drawn at the instigation of the Merchant Venturers' Society.

21 LIGHT, M. J. D. 'Isaac Taylors map of Gloucestershire, 1777.' *Gloucestershire Historical Studies*, vol 5, 1972, pp 45 – 46. (Essays on local historical records by the University Extra-Mural Class at Gloucester, 1970 – 71). Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Bristol.

A short study of the accuracy and usefulness of the map as a guide, concentrating largely on the road network. The author finds the map to be an accurate and reliable survey in many cases.

22 PAINTER, A. C. 'Notes on some old Gloucestershire maps.' *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, vol 51, 1929, pp 79-93.

A review of county maps, 1577 – 1777, with regard to the errors in place-names represented on them and showing how cartographers adapted earlier surveys. Four groups of maps are seen to be related to each other, based on the work of Saxton, Speed, Morden and Taylor.

23 PAINTER, A. C. 'Additional notes on old Gloucestershire maps'. *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, vol 52, 1930, pp 113 – 115.

Extends the previous work, highlighting more instances of error and peculiarities on some of the earlier maps, particularly those by Bowen (1720) and Taylor (1777). Some errors appear to be caused by piecing together cut map sections where place-names have been split.

24 PRITCHARD, John E. 'Old Bristol plans' and 'Old maps of the county.' *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, vol 29, 1906, pp 63 – 67.

44 plans (1479 – 1833) and 10 maps (1577 – 18th century) are listed chronologically for an exhibition of Bristol material held by the Society.

25 PRITCHARD, John E. Article discussing a seventeenth century plan of Bristol in 'Bristol archaeological notes for 1909.' *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, vol 32, 1909, pp 330 – 332. facsimile plan.

Describes a trial plan probably drawn by Jacobus Millerd before his larger work of 1673.

26 PRITCHARD, John E. 'Isaac Taylor of Ross, mapmaker.' *Notes and Queries*, Series 11, vol 11, 1915, pp 495 – 496.

A reply to TAYLOR showing that Taylor of Ross had been confused with Taylor of Worcester, an engraver working in London. Some biographical details are given about the former before turning to his map of Gloucestershire.

27 PRITCHARD, John E. 'A hitherto unknown original print of the great plan of Bristol by Jacobus Millerd, 1673.' **Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society**, vol 44, 1922, pp203 – 220. plate.

Millerd, a mercer and a very able surveyor, produced three plans and a bird's-eye view of the city in the space of three or four years. This map was the earliest of his works – one of the most comprehensive views of seventeenth century Bristol, and one of the finest contemporary English town plans.

report of the meeting in Jacobus Millerd's great plan for Bristol.' **Bristol Times and Mirror**, March 21st, 1922, p 7.

28 PRITCHARD, John E. 'Old plans and views of Bristol.' **Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society**, vol 48, 1926, pp 325 – 353. plates.

A detailed list describing the various individual works from 1479 to 1828. Bristol is fortunate in having several plans dating from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries.

Report of the meeting in 'Plans of old Bristol.' **Bristol Times and Mirror**, March 2nd, 1921, p 6 and 'Earliest authentic plan of Bristol.' **Western Daily Press**, March 2nd. 1921.

29 PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, 'Gloucestershire' in **Maps and Plans in the Public Record Office**. Vol 1. British Isles, 1410 – 1860. London: H.M.S.O., 1967. pp 305 – 324.

146 items are listed and briefly described. The arrangement is by parish or general area and date. Size, scale (where mentioned or confidently deduced), presence of a compass indicator and evidence of colouring is indicated, as is whether the map is printed or manuscript. The bulk of the entries are for nineteenth century communications and industrial plans of the Forest of Dean.

30 RODGER, Elizabeth M. 'Gloucestershire' in **The Large Scale County Maps of the British Isles 1596—1850**. A union list. 2nd rev. ed. Oxford: Bodleian Library, 1972. pp 8 – 9.

Based on a work by R. V. Tooley, twelve printed maps are arranged by date with locations. The maps are solely those printed as separate sheets on a scale of between half an inch and three inches to one mile.

31 SMITH, Brian S. 'A further note on the anniversary cover.' **The Local Historian**, vol 11, 1974, p 154.

Discuss 'A Survey of the Manor of Shipton Sollers and Shipton Olliffe' (five miles east of Cheltenham) surveyed by Giles Coates, a Cotswold surveyor, in 1764. The quality of the draughtsmanship is crude and of a lower standard than many local rivals.

32 TAYLOR, C. S. 'Isaac Taylor of Ross, map-maker.' **Notes and Queries**, Series 11, vol 9, 1914, pp 264 – 265.

An introduction to a map of Gloucestershire first published in 1777 – a new survey and the first on a large scale. The author supplies little detail on the surveyor and highlights the need for further research.

33 VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM Victoria and Albert Museum Portfolios. Tapestries. Part III. Tapestry maps. English; 16th and 17th cent. London: H.M.S.O., (Publication no. 112T). (11p. 8 plates).

Includes a reproduction, with notes, of a tapestry map of the late sixteenth century covering Gloucestershire made by William Sheldon's weavers. Such maps were carefully copied from engravers originals and even had roads and tracks inserted in some cases; unusual for the period. The map is described in AUSTIN (1916), pp 256 – 257.

34 WARREN, Robert H. 'Braun's map of Bristol, commonly called Hoefnagle's. *Proceedings of the Clifton Antiquarian Club*, vol 5, 1900 – 1903, pp 62 – 74.

A development of the subject introduced by GEORGE, emphasising the inaccuracies and omissions on this plan, which indicate the work of a foreigner insufficiently acquainted with the area.

35 WELCH, F. B. 'Maps.' *Proceedings of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club*, vol 29, 1946, pp81 – 84.

A generalised account of some old maps of the county, the methods of survey and features depicted. The work of Saxton and Taylor is mentioned and errors are noted. Unfortunately, the author ignores work by PRITCHARD and confuses Isaac Taylor of Ross with his Worcester manesake.

36 WERE, F. 'Notes on the heraldry on the maps illustrated in T. Chubb's descriptive catalogue of the printed maps of Gloucestershire.' *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, vol 37, 1914, pp 235 – 239.

A description of the heraldic shields on the county maps of Saxton, Speed, Blaeu and Blome.