

# Signpost



The Journal of Chipping Campden History Society

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*Bringing local history to life*



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## From the Editor

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Again I feel this Signpost has taken on a direction all of its own - full of family information, diary comments and written memories, which bring the various eras and places to life so strongly. The discovery by Graham Pearson of T.S. Eliot's thank-you letters, when staying at Stamford House in the 1930s, reveal new detail about his visits to Chipping Campden. The recent article on Frieda Harris stimulated Deja Whitehouse to contact us about her research and the Percy Harris diaries, which give us more knowledge about their activities in Campden in 1940s. It is also good to have to have a short piece from our new Chairman, Bob Montgomery, and another connection with Whissendine in Rutland, while Simon Mynott's family history research tells us something of Sir Thomas Smith's descendants. The more light-hearted article, Honeymoon Hotel, and is a good example of how a simple website enquiry can develop, finding valuable information from a combination of memories, a member's knowledge and the CCHS archives. I hope you all enjoy reading yet another fascinating Signpost and my thanks to all contributors. Please keep your news, comments, research findings and articles coming in to me.

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### **Front cover illustration:**

Photo from CCHS Archives of Seymour House Hotel; the date of the photo is unsure, possibly 1950s, since the Golden Cockerel can be seen next door. And note – only one car! See article page 12 *Honeymoon Hotel*.

## Correspondence

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Immediately the last Signpost was distributed, I had a call from **George Duffin**, a CCHS member, who said how much he had enjoyed the marvellous article about **Dorothy Hodgkin**. He told me he was a retired scientist, not working in the same field as Dorothy, but that he was there at the World Society Chemistry meeting when she explained her findings on the structure of vitamin B12 and all the audience stood and clapped her. He had not known that Margaret Thatcher was her student or that Dorothy had lived in Ilmington!! George subsequently met the author of the article and Dorothy's daughter, Elizabeth. Amazingly **Helen Kirkup**, another member, told me that in about 1980 - late 1970's/early 1980's - she was asked by Professor Mike Pentz, who was Dean of Science at the Open University and a big noise in the peace movement and CND, to drive Dorothy Hodgkin to a Peace Conference being held at the Open University at Milton Keynes. Dorothy Hodgkin was one of the speakers. Mike Pentz used to be one of the head team of CERN before he came to set up the Faculty of Science in 1968/69.

Earlier in the year the Archive Room helped two enquirers - one giving a talk, the other writing an article - about **Muriel Tudor-Jones** and the Campden Pottery at the Kettle in Leysbourne. View <https://marshallcolman.blogspot.com/> for a most interesting **January 2017** article on Cotswold Potteries: *Pleasant Environment and Peasant Tradition*. I found many of his other blogs most interesting too.

In March **Margaret Lockyer** enquired about her 3 times great grandfather, **John Hartley**, 1794-1864, a cabinet maker in Campden in the mid-1800s. She sent us these photos of a chest he had carved in the form of the Campden alms houses.



The label inside the lid reads:



John Hartley  
Builder, Cabinetmaker  
Upholsterer  
Paper and Bell Hanger  
Campden

In presenting this address to his friends generally, begs to thank them for the liberal support he has received over the last thirty years and calls particular support to the various branches of his business and assures them that in order to keep pace with the present depressed state of trade, he has made great reductions in his prices in

consequences of the low wages and the cheapness of materials, which will enable him to execute orders at much lower prices than heretofore.

*J.H. respectfully solicits a continuance of past favours and an inspection of his present stock, which he is offering at low prices. Orders for any of the above branches of work will be executed in a style of elegance or in a plain and neat manner and with a due regard to economy and despatch.*

We found John Hartley in the 1841, 1851 and 1861 Campden censuses with his numerous children. However, it seems that John Hartley lost his sight sometime between 1851 and 1859, as the 1861 census records him as blind. His family also have a book using an embossed system of lettering called the Moon system. On it has been pasted, two pieces of paper, one at the top of the book cover and the other at the bottom, a text written, in copperplate handwriting:

*This book was presented to me, John Hartley, Builder, by the Countess of Harrowby' (top)  
as a token of respect, to employ and make his time in this world Happy' (bottom)*

The family wondered whether as a builder or cabinet maker, John Hartley had done some work at Burnt Norton House or how he had come to the notice of Lady Harrowby? The Countess of Harrowby then was Frances Stuart, daughter of John Stuart, 2nd Marquess of Bute and Frances Coutts, and she died in 1859. (It was her brother 3<sup>rd</sup> Marquess of Bute who built Cardiff Castle c.1869, see Signpost 4, Spring 2016 article on Woodroffe Windows.) Frances's husband was Dudley Ryder, 2nd Earl of Harrowby, (b. 19th May 1798, d. 19th November 1882, age 84). The index of *The General Accounts for the Church Wardens of Chipping Campden 1626-1907* gives many entries between 1837 and 1863 of bills paid to Mr John Hartley; he is also listed as J.H., Mr H. or John H., sometimes with 'carpenter' added. The last entry was 1863. His burial at St James's Church was 10<sup>th</sup> June 1864 age 70.

## T.S. Eliot and Chipping Campden

Graham Pearson

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Last October, Susan and I visited Burnt Norton for the first time. In preparing for this visit I realized that Burnt Norton is well known because T. S. Eliot wrote the first of his Four Quartets – called *Burnt Norton* – after he went there in 1934. I also discovered that in 1948, T.S. Eliot [see right] had written to Mrs. Edith Carroll Perkins, an American living in Boston, Massachusetts who had been his hostess in Chipping Campden, to tell her that Hidcote was going to be taken over by the National Trust and Eliot wrote saying *I was particularly pleased, because I remember so well your taking me there; and of all the gardens I have visited (mostly with you) that is the one I loved the best.*



This then led me to seek more information about T.S. Eliot's visits to Chipping Campden and I discovered that he came to see Dr. and Mrs. John Carroll Perkins, a retired Unitarian Minister from Boston, Massachusetts, who rented Stamford House [see below] in the lower end of the High Street opposite the Wilson Garden.

I obtained copies of T.S. Eliot's letters to the Perkins from the Beinecke Library of Yale University<sup>1</sup> which show that he visited Chipping Campden at least 13 times in the five years between 1934 and 1939, (with the exception of 1936) when the Perkins, usually accompanied by their niece, Miss



Emily Hale, were staying in Campden.

This article analyses these letters which throw an interesting insight into T.S. Eliot and his visits to Chipping Campden during these years and show how much he enjoyed his visits, which clearly became important to him and how he grew to love Campden.

The first mention of Campden is in Eliot's letter of 18th June 1934

when he thanks the Perkins for letting him know their plans and is pleased that *that you have found a satisfactory habitation. Chipping Campden is only a name to me, but I know its reputation; the*

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<sup>1</sup> These T.S. Eliot letters are in the Donald Clifford Gallup papers YCAL MSS 838 in the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library of Yale University.

Cotswolds I only know from the motor route between Oxford and Hereford. I hope indeed that I may be allowed to see you there, and could save household trouble by staying the weekend at some local inn. [Ed: Previous enquiries to CCHS (Chipping Campden History Society) have asked where T.S.Eliot had stayed in Campden.]

His next letter on 30th July 1934 shows that Eliot has visited, staying at Stamford House and not in a local inn, as he wrote that gratitude is most genuinely expressed by pen and *I should like to formulate, if not express, my appreciation of a delightful weekend in a lovely household.* It is thus evident that Eliot stayed with the Perkins as he expresses his profuse thanks for a most enjoyable weekend with them.

Another letter, two days later, on 1st August makes it clear that Eliot has been invited again when he says he would like to come again very much. This visit is confirmed by Eliot's letter on 4th September when he said that

*My weekend, apart from being twice the length, gave me still more happiness than the previous – and besides, my gratitude to you and Dr. Perkins is cumulative, and therefore greater on each occasion!*

He concludes by expressing the wish that he might repay their hospitality when they are next visiting London.

Eliot's next letter on 24th September makes it clear that he had been invited to Campden again but had had to decline.

Then the following year, Eliot wrote on 8th February 1935 saying that he is looking forward to their return to Campden. His next letter on 20th May makes it clear that he has again been to stay in Campden as Eliot writes wondering how he can express his thanks in different ways and that: *... I was very happy for about 45 hours – I hope next time for a little longer. Since I am in the present strain – I will say that bad weather never diminishes pleasure at Campden.* He adds that he hopes the Perkins will invite him again when there is good weather!

Another thank you letter from Eliot on 1st August 1935, written after he had arrived at Aberystwyth by train, shows that he had visited Campden at the end of July as he says:

*That was a very happy and unforgettable week, with stimulus and rest, diversion and quiet, society and domesticity, combined for me by my hosts according to some recipe with far more skill & thoughtfulness than I could put into a salad.*

It is evident that Eliot visits twice in September 1935 as he writes on 28th August thanking Mrs. Perkins for her invitation to visit again on 6th September but he hopes he is not going to become like Coleridge's 'oft-invited guest' and quoting a couplet from the poem "Youth and Age": *Yet hath outstay'd his welcome while, And tells the jest without the smile.* He then writes again in a letter on 10th September to say how whenever he comes to stay he has *added another two days to my store of happy memories.* And then following his second visit later in September he wrote on 30th September expressing huge appreciation to Mrs. Perkins. It appears that the four days of this second visit had included his birthday celebration and he had heard the *Yeoman of the Guard* music for the first time. He letter said:

*But still more than for the past few days, I want now to thank you for all your kindness and sweetness to me during the past two summers. This is not a feeling to which I want to put many words: let me compress it as much as possible by saying that I had come to feel "at home" in Campden in a way in which I had not felt at home for some twenty-one years, anywhere.*

The next mention of Campden comes in a letter from Eliot to Mrs. Perkins dated 11th December 1935 when the Perkins are clearly sailing back to Boston, in which Eliot says that the Perkins had made him feel that *I was almost one of the family* and then went to add that *It is unusual that people*

*should so completely make furnished houses (and not only a congenially furnished and gardened house like Stamford House ..) quite their own, while they were in them.*

It is then clear that the Perkins remained in Boston in 1936 and that Eliot visited them there, saying in a letter on 2nd October 1936 that he was very pleased that they would be returning again to Campden in the summer of 1937.

In 1937 there are several letters in which Eliot enthusiastically seeks to arrange a convenient date to come and visit the Perkins in Campden. Then on 3rd September, Eliot wrote to express his thanks whilst looking forward to his next visit on the following day.

In March 1938 the following year, Eliot writes to say that he hopes that the disorder in Europe will not have affected the Perkins's plans for the summer. Further thank you letters for his stays in Campden are written by Eliot in 1938, with one on 11th September which shows that he was staying with the Perkins in Stamford House as he has to apologise for leaving behind *in the cupboard, a double-breasted dinner jacket! (jacket only)*. He said he had left it out to pack at the last moment, and had just forgotten it – also says it was very bad manners in a guest to leave things behind! He concludes by adding that his cold is now better and thanks the Perkins for allowing him to have it at Stamford House.

In 1939, Eliot wrote on 27th January saying *I always think of you now as only really settled when in Gloucestershire, and merely perching between seasons in Boston*. Another letter on 6th June shows they are back in Campden as Eliot says how delightful it is that they are again in Campden and hopes that *you found the garden full of glory and everything at Campden just as it was before*. A further letter on 26th July shows that Eliot has again been visiting when he wrote to thank the Perkins saying that *there is no other house that I visit, and can be no other holiday that I take, where the weather becomes so unimportant: which is a warm tribute to the hospitality of my host and hostesses, and to my feeling of being so much at home there*.

In conclusion, it is thus evident that Eliot visited Campden twice in 1934, four times in 1935, not in 1936 when Eliot visited America, twice in 1937, three times in 1938 and twice, or possibly three times, in 1939. He therefore visited Campden at least thirteen times when the Perkins stayed at Stamford House in the five years between 1934 and 1939, with the exception of 1936.

These letters make it very clear that Eliot hugely enjoyed and appreciated his visits to the Perkins, to Stamford House and to Campden. The way in which he ends his letters to Mrs. Perkins when thanking her for her hospitality also demonstrates the development of their friendship - initially in 1934 they are signed Yours very sincerely T.S. Eliot, but this changes in September 1935 to Yours very gratefully Tom Eliot and then in 1936 to Affectionately Tom.

**Editor's Note 21.2.2018:** CCHS is very grateful to the Eliot Estate and T.S. Eliot for permission to use in this edited article these quotations from copyrighted and unpublished letters.

## Memories of Whissendine

Bob Montgomery

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The recent article in Signpost (Issue 6 page 4) concerning Whissendine prompted me to explain why the mention of this village name conjures up such happy memories for my wife and me.

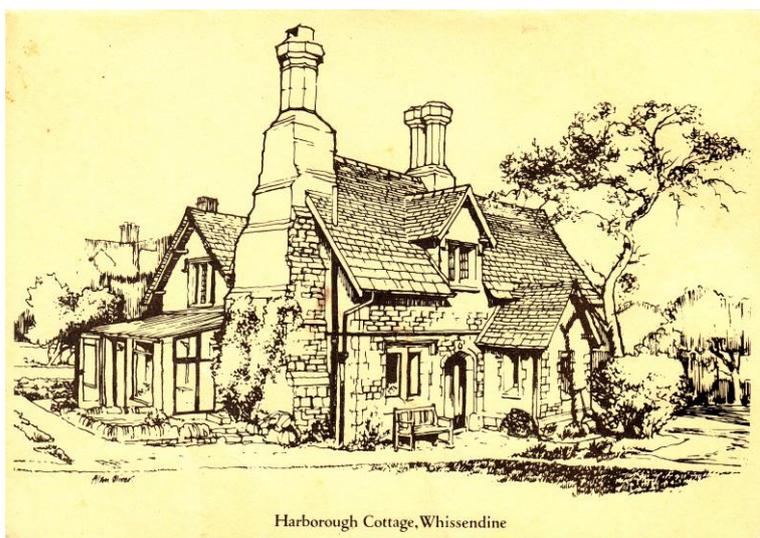
In the late 1970s my father-in-law retired after many years as a G.P. in and around the city of Leicester and together with his wife decided to relocate to Rutland. Their search led them to identify a cottage property of considerable charm but with daunting drawbacks, which included running water in several rooms, mainly due to the substantial hole in the roof. It was situated in the centre of Whissendine. While family members readily saw the attractiveness of the village, there was a very mixed response to their parents' choice and to their decision to purchase; but purchase they did.

The nature and extent of the renovation meant that many, many months passed before it became habitable once again and my parents-in-law finally moved in. Soon they met and got to know the local people and to learn that their home, Harborough Cottage, had a very interesting history which became clearer after some research.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Harborough [Ed. Robert Sherard, b. 26th Aug 1797, d. 28th Jul 1859] whose estate was at Stapleford Park, Leicestershire, [Ed. now an interesting luxury country hotel with chapel on site] had a mistress, Emma Love, to whom he was devoted, by whom he had at least two children and who lived in a "small mansion" on the estate. In his will he directed that the house was to remain hers for her lifetime and to be bequeathed by her as she chose.

Following the death of the Earl in 1859, his widow, Eliza Temple of Stowe, wasted no time in ordering the immediate removal of her rival who had lived so uncomfortably close by for years. Emma, while she accepted the decision, insisted on taking her property with her. The Earl had been a very popular man, so it did not prove difficult to find builders prepared to remove the majority of it and rebuild it brick by brick, stone by stone, almost in its entirety in the centre of Whissendine, where it is now known as Harborough Cottage.

The illustration (right) shows the style of the construction, with the Tudor chimneys underlining how different it is to other village properties. The cottage was Grade 2 listed in February 1984; my parents-in-law had saved a gem of a character building with its orchard, adjacent paddock and a unique history. From the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s, this was the scene of many happy get-togethers and special family occasions, joined by Jan's four sisters, two brothers and their respective children; wonderful memories of Whissendine.



Harborough Cottage, Whissendine

**Editor's Note:** The 1st Earl of Harborough, Bennet Sherard, b.c.1677, d.16th Oct 1732, whose portrait hangs at Exton Park, is connected to the Noels of Exton and Campden through his daughter, Elizabeth Ingram. Her second marriage was to John Noel, grandson of Juliana and Edward Noel and second son of 3rd Viscount Baptist Noel and his fourth wife Elizabeth Bertie of Grimsthorpe. They had seven children.

## Rolling Stone Orchard - the Artist's Wartime Retreat. Part I

### Deja Whitehouse

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*Deja Whitehouse is a PhD candidate at the University of Bristol, researching the life and works of Frieda Harris, whose collaboration with Aleister Crowley is described in Richard Kaczynski's article in Signpost, Issue No. 6. Deja's primary sources include Frieda Harris's correspondence and the diaries of her husband, Sir Percy Harris and Aleister Crowley, all of whom describe their time spent in Chipping Campden. Supporting evidence has been provided by CCHS and the following article is a result of these joint findings. Part II and the end of the story will continue in the next Signpost, Spring 2018.*

In his article *Cartomancy in the Cotswolds*, Richard Kaczynski describes Frieda Harris's retreat to Chipping Campden to concentrate on her tarot card paintings, setting up her studio in the loft space over the former coach house at Rolling Stone Orchard which she purchased in April 1939.

Previously she had used rooms in a friend's house in Richmond as her studio, not too far from Morton House, the family home in Chiswick, but she wanted a place of her own where she could escape from her obligations as a prominent politician's wife. The Harrises had mutual friends in the Chipping Campden area, which is probably how Frieda discovered Rolling Stone Orchard. By this time her collaboration with Aleister Crowley had been underway for over a year and a concerted effort was required to complete the set of 78 paintings. England's declaration of war on Germany on 3<sup>rd</sup> September provided the final impetus. Frieda packed up everything she needed and took herself off to Rolling Stone Orchard, where she was finally able to relax: 'my spiritual state has been sadly neglected, perhaps because I have been trying to paint & live Percy's life at the same time... Now these circumstances are giving me a chance ... I have had 3 days' rest, the first in 2 years.'<sup>1</sup>

Initially she gave her forwarding address as 'Lady Harris, c/o Miss Christie, Woolstaplers' Hall, Chipping Campden, Glos.'<sup>2</sup> At this time, Woolstaplers Hall was owned by Gladys and Cedric Pritchard, who established an antiques shop on the premises. Gladys's maiden name was Christie and it is believed that Frieda's friend was Gladys' aunt, Elizabeth Ann Isabel Christie.<sup>3</sup> Ann served as an independent reviewer of the Tarot: 'I find when I read the script to Ann Christie, she understands much better if I give her the photograph of the card to look at all the time.'<sup>4</sup>

Frieda kept Crowley up to date with developments at Rolling Stone Orchard: 'My studio is infested with gas fiends & the gas mask is no protection!' preventing her from doing any painting at all. 'The fruit in the orchard is most profuse & no-one can be found to pick it, so, as I don't hold with waste, this year, my duty impells [sic] me to climb trees & try to pull off the blasted fruit as I can't get into the studio. The grass in the orchard has grown so high that I either had to wade in & out of the caravan or endure a charming old man called Tea-pot [see right] who



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<sup>1</sup> Letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 14 September [1939], Aleister Crowley Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Library [henceforth Syracuse]

<sup>2</sup> Aleister Crowley to Gerald Yorke, 10 October 1939, Yorke Collection, Warburg Institute, University of London, [henceforth Yorke] OS D5.

<sup>3</sup> Research by the CCHS has revealed that Woolstaplers Hall was sold in 1938 to Miss Gladys Crawford Christie from Stow-in-the-Wold and Cedric John Pritchard of Hampstead, both of whom were in the antiques business.

<sup>4</sup> Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, [September 1939] Syracuse

was minus useful feet or legs & who knelt about cutting the grass & talking incessantly.’<sup>5</sup> Jimmy ‘Teapot’ Williams was a local character who assisted residents with various chores including gardening. He is featured in *Campden Characters*.<sup>6</sup>

Despite her desperate longing to be left alone to concentrate on her painting, Sir Percy, now serving as Liberal Chief Whip, was equally in need of a retreat. He joined Frieda in Chipping Campden for weekends whenever he could and his 1940 diary describes many such visits.<sup>7</sup>

There was no question of Percy staying at the Orchard while the studio was under construction. In February 1940, Frieda introduced him to Mrs Heaton, ‘a marvelous old lady age 75’<sup>8</sup>. She lived at Garthaway in Sheep Street, which Percy described as ‘a comfortable new house that she has built tho already 75.’<sup>9</sup> Percy stayed with her regularly between May and November 1940, apart from one occasion when he ‘slept in Frieda’s studio while she transferred herself to her caravan’<sup>10</sup>.

The Harrises spent much of their time together during Percy’s visits: ‘Spend [sic] the evening with Frieda at her Studio (Rolling Stone Orchard) nice & snug. Cooked dinner together – made celery soup, omelet [sic] with fried breadcrumbs, & baked apples done with treacle & a spot of rum.’<sup>11</sup>

Percy enjoyed good food and long walks: ‘[h]ad a lovely day walking over the snow in bright sunshine. Like Switzerland only prettier. Had lunch at the Dormy House near the links – excellent food flavoured with a good athletic cook [sic]... our meal in the evening in Frieda’s studio carrots parsnips & spaghetti & wonderful baked apples.’<sup>12</sup> On another occasion he ‘went for short walk & help Frieda with her great feat of cooking real Indian curry most exciting & finished up with a first class apple tart cooked by her – a real achievement & what is more good to eat.’<sup>13</sup> No doubt Frieda learnt her curry making from Crowley, who delighted in preparing spicy food for his unsuspecting friends!

Percy threw himself into local social life and became friends with a ‘Lady Moyra Campbell, sister of Lord Stanhope.’<sup>14</sup> She was ‘very much occupied with a Major Johnston, a wealthy fellow with a villa near Mentone.’<sup>15</sup> Percy was keen to use his connections to promote Frieda’s paintings. In June, Lady Moyra ‘& 2 friends came to tea & saw Frieda’s Tarot cards. All much impressed. Really a work of genius & should be published. Must try to help her & get good publishers.’<sup>16</sup>

In August he visited Edward Spencer-Churchill at Northwick Park, a ‘Georgian House with fine gallery of pictures’.<sup>17</sup> Percy’s companion was Felix Crosse<sup>18</sup>, a diplomat with the Foreign Office, also known to Crowley. Crosse was married to Tchaikovsky’s niece Tatiana, whom Crowley, on a visit to

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<sup>5</sup> Letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 22 September [1939], Yorke NS37.

<sup>6</sup> Gordon Greenall, Tess Taylor and Diane Cooper with Dorrie Ellis, “*Campden Characters*,” CCHS archive, accessed 10 June 2017, <http://catalogue.chippingcampdenhistory.org.uk/items/show/6712>.

<sup>7</sup> Although Sir Percy Harris’s papers were donated to the Parliamentary Archives, there are only diaries for 1940 [HRS/1], January to May 1943 [HRS/2]. May – June 1946 [HRS/4] and a partially completed journal for 1951, ending in July [HRS/3].

<sup>8</sup> Sir Percy Harris’s diary, 17 February 1940, The Papers of Sir Percy Harris, Parliamentary Archives [henceforth PA], HRS/1 Research by CCHS has discovered that Winifred Heaton was known for her embroidery and needlework and both she and her daughter Angela exhibited their work.

<sup>9</sup> Sir Percy Harris’s diary, 31 May 1940, PA HRS/1. Mrs Heaton offered bed & breakfast and holiday accommodation. CCHS received an email from a Michael Sweeney who described a family holiday spent at Garthaway in the Summer of 1938.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, 6 September 1940.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, 1 January 1940.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, 20 January 1940,

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, 13 January 1940.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, 23 March 1940. Percy later refers to her mother, Lady Pembroke. Sadly we have been unable to trace Lady Moyra Campbell.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, 8 December 1940. Lawrence Waterbury Johnston (1971-1958) was a British garden designer who purchased Hidcote Manor, now a National Trust property.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*, 29 June 1940.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid*, 4 August 1940. Major Edward George Spencer-Churchill, (1976-1964), cousin of Winston Churchill who had a notable art collection sold at Christies in 1965.

<sup>18</sup> Percy refers to him as Fred Cross, and his name appears as both ‘Cross’ and ‘Crosse’ in various sources.

Campden, cruelly refers to as ‘a Russian whore’<sup>19</sup> although there is nothing to substantiate this.

It was a few months before Frieda herself went to Northwick Park: ‘I saw the most lovely pictures... Fra Angelico, lovely early Italian... How they could paint. Also early great Vases, they are strange, those black satyr-figures with large hips & bird-like slight legs. A lovely ivory Buddha, burnt brown with age seated on a turquoise throne. A Mycenaean Bull & wrestler very like Epstein... It was a grand house, Georgian & Victorian muddley [sic] dirty & crammed with treasures.’<sup>20</sup>

On Christmas day the Harrises took a ‘walk over Dover [sic] hill with the dog & then to lunch with the Crosses turkey plum pudding & the usual cheer.’<sup>21</sup> They also ‘[s]aw the old year out at the Crosses. Cross a strange fellow – expressed hatred of the British & admiration of the Germans. I think a bit drunk but none the less a curious distorted point of view.’<sup>22</sup>

Sadly this friendship had its drawbacks: in March 1942 ‘Felix Crosse went drunk mad & tried to force his way into this place at 1:30 A.M. & frightened me quite a lot.’<sup>23</sup> Crosse subsequently admitted himself to hospital for treatment<sup>24</sup>, but he was back in residence by the summer: the Evesham Journal records ‘Felix Cross in a blackout offence 22.8.1942.’<sup>25</sup>

The social whirl was a constant strain for Frieda: ‘I have to push all my pictures into the corner, endure conversation & associate with gentile people who prattle sweetly & are very moral about everything one does.’<sup>26</sup> She conceded that ‘London is hell & it is necessary for Percy to have a rest’ but ‘[T]he week-ends deplete my energy & Percy’s political jargon confuses me so that before I have finished my day of prostration after his departure I am round the corner & ordering for his arrival. This has happened so often & I endure, flare up & create the hostile relations between us which make us both unhappy.’<sup>27</sup>

The upshot was that Frieda ‘declined to continue’.<sup>28</sup> According to Percy: ‘Frieda anxious to buy some old cottage some of wh[ich] are condemned & some already made habitable. They w[ould]d at any rate provide shelter for myself & some of her friends.’<sup>29</sup> It is interesting that Percy refers to them as ‘her friends’. Frieda was adamant: ‘I decline to budge from here’<sup>30</sup>, but she still felt under pressure: ‘Percy is a mental inhabitant of the Ritz & with no available service I am the Ritz staff.’ This is somewhat harsh: on a solo visit to Chipping Campden while Frieda was visiting their son Nick in Hove, Percy decided to ‘[t]ry my hand at cooking my own dinner. Bought a couple of cutlets & grilled them!’<sup>31</sup>

A potential property, ‘Dragon’s Yard,’ was identified<sup>32</sup> but the purchase fell through after they learnt ‘that part of the cottage... was subject to clearance order.’<sup>33</sup> Disheartened, Frieda informed Crowley, ‘The cottage has fallen thro but unfortunately, not the necessity of finding a refuge for Percy. So I am building a room on here [Rolling Stone Orchard]... I feel I am going to have a spasm of obstruction because anything in the nature of building is a disaster.’<sup>34</sup> As a temporary measure, Frieda arranged ‘quite an awful room, the only one in the village, which I have furnished & it looks

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<sup>19</sup> Aleister Crowley’s diary, 24 September 1940, Yorke NS22.

<sup>20</sup> Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 6 January 1941, Yorke NS37.

<sup>21</sup> Sir Percy Harris’s diary, 25 December 1940, PA HRS/1.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid, 31 December 1940.

<sup>23</sup> Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 22 March [1942], Yorke NS37.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid, 29<sup>th</sup> March [1942], Yorke Collection NS37.

<sup>25</sup> Reference provided by Carol Jackson, CCHS.

<sup>26</sup> Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 17 October 1940, Yorke NS37.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid, 22 October [1940]

<sup>28</sup> Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 17 October 1940, Yorke NS37.

<sup>29</sup> Sir Percy Harris’s diary, 12 October 1940, PA HRS/1.

<sup>30</sup> Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 17 October 1940, Yorke NS37.

<sup>31</sup> Sir Percy Harris’s diary, 7 December 1940, PA HRS/1.

<sup>32</sup> Carol Jackson believes this was somewhere behind the George & Dragon Inn, now Dragon House.

<sup>33</sup> Sir Percy Harris’s diary 25 October 1940, PA HRS/1.

<sup>34</sup> Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, [31 October 1940], Yorke NS37.

comfortable & he is there for week-ends.’<sup>35</sup> The room in question was at Mrs Mary Crump’s [see below right] home, the three storied building in Leysbourne now called Hicks House [see left].<sup>36</sup>



Despite her misgivings, Percy was happy: ‘occupied my own room “Chez Crump” furnished by Frieda with many of our belongings.’<sup>37</sup> A nice warm fire, comfortable bed & a hot fire.’<sup>38</sup>

Work commenced with the inevitable disruption. Returning from a visit to Hove, she discovered that the builder had ‘had dug up the orchard to insert a drain, disconnected even the soak-away & I could not empty a tea-cup

without drowning the plumber, so that for once I was so overcome I actually cried with misery.’<sup>39</sup> Her only option was to move out until the Orchard was habitable. Accordingly, she relocated to ‘a barn designed by the Devil.’<sup>40</sup> This was ‘a furnished house like a passage which I can’t heat & is also dismal.’<sup>41</sup> Presumably this is where she and Percy spent Christmas. He did his best to help and spent some time ‘digging drains in Frieda’s Orchard & making enormous holes. But the trouble is to get the materials to make necessary alteration to the house & get licence for such things is terrible.’<sup>42</sup>



Frieda could not escape her domestic and social obligations. ‘Nick has come home on leave – I have been delighted but am quite unable to cope with maternal life, cooking & households & Percy & politics, so have been bewildered, caught a bad cold & am making strange guttural noises. No servants or helps! available so do cooking rather badly – gave party for Valentine’s Day, about 20 locals, quite hard work & lost my voice. Nick is very grand & mentally resides like all you men – in the Ritz – so difficult with rations & no food in the hotels even.’<sup>43</sup>

There was no question of leaving Campden: ‘if I go away for a day, the workmen do the Orchard all wrong because the angle they work from is how a thing looks & I merely want to use the place & not decorate, which is the Cotswold idea of what a house is.’<sup>44</sup> By March she was at the end of her tether: ‘I have a hateful house, freezing cold & can’t paint or read... I am getting to know far too many people here & week-ends with Percy are painfully social.’<sup>45</sup> Luckily she was able to return to the Orchard in May and Percy would stay whenever he could. Whether she realised it or not, Percy was conscious of the effort she put in. ‘She does not spare herself & if attempts anything does it thoroughly.’<sup>46</sup> ‘What a wonderful cook she is but does seem a bit of a waste that she is using her time this way.’<sup>47</sup> To be continued

<sup>35</sup> Ibid, 3 December 1940.

<sup>36</sup> Research by CCHS has revealed that Mrs Mary Crump ran Leysbourne Stores, Haberdashery and Drapery Shop and let out her upstairs room. Mrs Crump later served on the Town Council and is considered one of Campden’s characters

<sup>37</sup> Frieda used items from her previous studio in Richmond as well as from Morton House.

<sup>38</sup> Percy Harris diary, 29 November 1940, PA HRS/1.

<sup>39</sup> Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley 20 December 1940, Yorke NS37.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid, 3 February [1941].

<sup>41</sup> Ibid, [February 1941].

<sup>42</sup> Percy Harris’s diary 23 December 1940, PA HRS/1.

<sup>43</sup> Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 3<sup>rd</sup> February [1941], Yorke NS37.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid, [February 1941].

<sup>45</sup> Ibid, [March 1941].

<sup>46</sup> Percy Harris diary, 24 December 1940, PA HRS/1.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid, 26 December 1940.

## Honeymoon Hotel

Carol Jackson

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*An enquiry in 2017, (Ref. 17.065 Comp. Place) from Geoff Marshall asked about witches in Campden and thereafter this article developed, using past queries, archive information and members knowledge! Thanks to the various contributors.*

“In 1973 my wife Cathy and I had a lovely honeymoon in Chipping Campden staying at the Seymour House Hotel. One evening we tried to enter one of the local pubs for a quiet drink (I think it was the Eight Bells but cannot be sure) and could not find how to enter it although clearly there were people inside. We gave up and moved on to another pub. On our return we explained that we were unable to gain access into the pub and we were told it was only open for the local witches’ coven that particular evening. I just wondered if there was any truth about that or were they just having a joke with “the young newlyweds” as we were known at the time. Over the years we have revisited Chipping Campden and it still has a magic charm.”

CCHS replied that it was an amusing and unusual query, that we had no knowledge of witches in Campden, that witches maybe would not meet in public place and we felt it was probably a joke - they were being teased as newly-weds and the pub was probably closed for a private function. We also mentioned Meon Hill and the unsolved murder there on 14th February 1945 of Charles Walton, a 74 year old cheery inoffensive farm labourer, who some thought evil, casting spells on the crops, and whose body was found at the foot of Meon Hill with a hay fork through his neck and a bill-hook embedded in his body. The murder was never solved; Fabian of Scotland Yard even investigated it. Speculation that the date was the first day of February by the old calendar – the day when Druids performed human sacrifice to ensure fertility of their fields - was rife and the murder was likened to the killing of Ann Turner in 1875, who had bought ill by the use of her ‘evil eye’. However, this exchange about witches brought more nostalgic information about life at Seymour House in 1973:

“In 1973 the Proprietors of the Seymour House Hotel were Mr and Mrs N[orman] G[eorge] Hitchman. Our total bill for the week for the two of us for Bed and Breakfast and an evening meal, tea and coffee was £54.65. I still have the original letter confirming our booking and our bill. After we left our wedding reception in Harrow, we had to thoroughly clean our car, which delayed us. In those days cars were treated to having loads of old cans attached to their rear bumpers, shaving cream sprayed all over the paintwork and ‘Just Married’ written in lipstick etc. Well, it was a very hot summer evening when we finally set off (with no air/con) to our Honeymoon destination, Chipping Campden. We used an AA Route map to get there with Cathy reading out instructions. I still have the original route map. We duly arrived very late (11pm ish) and we were immediately told off.



Not a good start! Although once it was realised we were on our honeymoon, we were made very welcome and of course we were known for the whole week as the “young newlyweds.” We had a lovely week there. Hollyhocks were growing wild everywhere in the village. They were still abundant 25 years later in 1998 and also when I visited on a day trip in July 2014. They always remind me of Campden.

“If you are wondering why we chose Chipping Campden as our honeymoon location, it was simply by looking at an *AA Guide to Britain* book and choosing from it. Additionally in the AA member’s

handbook in those days they listed and recommended hotels and that is where we found the Seymour House. We had never been anywhere near Chipping Campden before and knew nothing about it.



“At the back of Seymour House Hotel was a rose garden, followed by a reasonable car park and then an enormous vegetable garden which went all the way to the “Back End”. There was sufficient width to drive a car from the car park and exit onto Back End through the Seymour Gates with the vegetables growing on both sides. Food was grown in this large vegetable garden, picked in the morning and we would be eating it for our evening meal.

**Left: 1973 1st day of married life**

“When we returned 25 years later in 1998, the vegetable garden had gone and was made into a mini estate with large houses built there. The small garden which was mainly lawn still survived though. It had been taken over by a larger hotel chain and at the time much work was going on. They appeared to specialise in business meetings, corporate events etc. - very different to our cosy Honeymoon Hotel. However cars could still drive through Seymour Gate from a smaller car park onto Back End.

“In 2014 on a day trip I believe the site was now a small B and B and when I walked round to Back End, the Seymour gateposts, which I believe were listed so cannot be removed, were still there, but a modern house had been built just inside the closed gates. Progress!”



**Right: 2014**

“In 1973 the village was empty first thing in the mornings, but by late morning there were many coaches with visitors. On my day trip in 2014 I had difficulty parking when I arrived around lunch time and there were many tourists visiting. But the magic was still there!

Mr Marshall also asked if we had any history about the gates or Seymour House. Diana Harding, née Hitchman, explained that “originally the entrance was directly on the road and was closed by wooden doors; however, as traffic increased in Back Ends, guests using the car park were finding it tricky to exit safely. Consequently my parents decided to set the stone posts back into the garden by several feet and they commissioned an Oxfordshire blacksmith to make the gates. We cannot remember the date exactly but believe that this was the late 1950s. What was the entrance drive now passes under Pickwick House property and on under neighbouring properties towards Seymour Cottage. The current entrance was constructed on land that belonged at one time to Stanley Wood.”

From the deeds of Seymour House [CCHS Archives ref: 2017/012/DS, WS1 Temp] we have gleaned the following dates and owners, although the list is incomplete:

The earliest document is an 1823 Mortgage, taken out by Oswald Smith, a Maltster, who with his wife Mary were the occupiers and the property was described as a messuage with malthouse, yard, close, stables, gardens and orchard. Remember the building to the right of Seymour (now called the Malt House), which still has a large malthouse in the rear, used to be part of this whole messuage.

In 1831 Oswald Smith leased it to Lucy Cotterell, who then married George Ffawler Tilsley of Chipping Norton. In 1833 they leased it to James Turney of Chipping Campden, Innkeeper, where he was living in the 1841 census aged 60, described as a Maltster, with Mary his 45 year old wife and Samuel Dunn,

a servant, age 35 and another female servant. In 1851 James Turney and wife were still there, maybe just in the Malt House, with also a 40 year old widowed daughter Ann Taylor and a house servant. John H. Booker, a 42 year old butcher, his wife Mary and his four sons seem to be living in the rest of the property. James Turney must have bought it sometime before he died, because on the death in 1856 of his widow Mary Ann Turney, the house that she lived in was auctioned and conveyed to John Franklin Hiron. However Mary left The Malt House to her nephew Samuel Dunn and his heirs. The 1861 census reveals that John F. Hiron was aged 57, a widower and Licentiate of Apothecary Hall (not practising) and was living at Seymour House with scholar sons Samuel age 13, William H. age 9, Russell age 8 and daughter Henrietta age 4, also with a governess, a cook, a housemaid, a nursery maid and a groom!

After J.F. Hiron's death on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1866, Seymour House was bought at a public auction at the Lygon Arms on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1867 by John Samuel Morris, a butcher of Chipping Campden, but in 1871 census it is Samuel Franklin Hiron, age 36, then Rector of Aston Subedge and Headmaster of Campden Grammar School who was living there, married with two scholar sons, William Wykeham age 12, and Gilbert McPherson age 8, and a servant. There was quite a scandal involving Samuel, his wife Mary (née Keyte) with a Mr Wood and counter accusations of Hiron's 'sin with his housemaid', which had led to their 1868 separation. [Glos. Arch. Ref. D1395]. Samuel was the son of silk throwster Samuel Hiron and a nephew of John Franklin Hiron, the previous property owner in 1856. Samuel Dunn, the 68 year old Maltster and his family were still at the Malt House in 1871.

In 1872 J.S. Morris sold to Joseph Swinson of Chipping Campden, Gentleman, who then sold it in 1879 to Charles William Morris of Chipping Campden, Surgeon. In 1854 Charles had been an executor of the will of surgeon William Hiron, a brother of J.F. Hiron above. His address is given later as Cotswold House and he must have bought Seymour House as an investment, as an 1879 document mentions Frederick Gimson as the occupant. From the 1881 census we learn that Frederick William Gimson age 41 was a retired (for ill health) marine mercantile mariner (importing lumber from Canada), born in Chelsea and his wife Elizabeth (née Fox) age 35, from Stow on the Wold, with their children John Fox Gimson age 6 and Elizabeth Eloise Gimson age 5, both born in Toronto, and little Blanche A., born 2 years before in Campden. They also had living with them Frederick's brother, John F. age 47, born in St Pancras, a merchant of Toronto and his 36 year old wife Maria born in Ontario, Canada and Lucy Fox and Mary Fox, Elizabeth's sisters and their father, Charles Fox, were also there visiting.

In a document dated 1895 the name Seymour House is first used to identify the property. Where does



this name originate? It is interesting that an enquirer [Ref. 08.025 Fam G] told us that Elouise and Blanche Gimson became actresses in the early 1900s and the stage name they used was Seymour. Their grandfather, Frederick's father, Joseph, had been Secretary to the Royal Academy of Music in London in 1851 and 1861. Frederick died suddenly on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1882 in Bourton-on-the-Hill, so they must have moved from Campden soon after the census and by 1891 his widow and family were in Lower Swell with her 76 year old widowed mother, Ann Fox.

C.W. Morris died in 1894, his only child Charles Edward Morris inherited and in 1898 he sold to Edwin Ellis of Chipping Campden, a Carrier, although Edwin Ellis sold it on just a few months after purchase to Catherine Sarah Clark of Maida Hill, Middlesex. The document mentions that part of the property was occupied by Miss Fox-Warner. A recent enquirer [Ref. 17.040 Comp Place] sent CCHS a photo of an ancestor's 1902 Certificate of Merit

from the Misses Fox-Warner's School (*see left*). This school for girls seems to have operated at Seymour House from about 1891 - Kelly's Directory of 1891 lists Misses S.E. & R. Fox-Warner Principals of Ladies School. Sarah Ellen and Rosa Warner came from a teaching family – their father, mother and brother were all teachers. In 1891 census they had 5 girl pupils living in and in 1901 8 pupils with an extra teacher.

It is not clear what happened next, but in 1908 Lancelot Trevelyan Scott Morris leased Seymour House to William Henry Welsh, a retired Civil Servant, who then bought it in 1910. In 1918 W.H. Welsh sold to Walter Matthew Cox of Chipping Campden, retired School Master. Again papers are missing from this date, but it is known that in 1907 girls were first admitted to the Grammar School and their boarding house was Seymour House. In 1923 the matron was Miss Hannah Louisa Bristowe, in 1927 Mrs Jessie N. Alexander and in 1939 Miss G. Evans. Boarding ceased in 1946.

Diana Harding further told us: “My parents bought Seymour House at auction on 3rd July 1946 (*see right*) with possession on completion and we moved in shortly afterwards. There were a number of signs of the girls' occupation. Three that I remember - the walls of the side entrance were festooned with a large collection of the black and white signed photos of film stars that teenage girls collected avidly at that time; for several years we were digging up long-lost balls in the garden near the tennis court; bedrooms appeared to have been distinguished by names of flowers and trees and for years afterwards we still referred to the attic rooms as 'Treetops'. The main building was in quite good order, but the out-buildings less so. In time my parents converted the stable and tack room into a cottage and the coach house to a garage. The former was sold off by the Taylors and they also converted the coach house to a holiday let. The garden which Mr Marshall remembers was taken in hand from the beginning and contained some fine trees including some still evident in Seymour Gate and a group of mature yews in the lower garden. Fruit trees included several apples, a few pears, peaches, a quince, greengage, walnut and a mature mulberry. The latter was of great interest to guests and day visitors often brought friends and family to see it. Apple and mulberry tart was a Sunday favourite.”

**Particulars of Sale.**  
**FREEHOLD—WITH POSSESSION ON COMPLETION,**  
 At the low upset figure of £6,000.

**“SEYMOUR HOUSE”**  
**CHIPPING CAMPDEN, GLOS.**

Well situated on the sunny side of the High Street, substantially built in Stone with Dormer Windows, Oak and Elm Timbers and other characteristic Cotswold features.

The accommodation includes:—  
 Entrance Hall, with fireplace, 12ft. x 11ft.  
 Morning Room, 15ft. x 13ft. 6in., fitted cupboards.  
 Drawing Room, 17ft. x 15ft.  
 Dining Hall, 21ft. x 14ft. 9in., with fitted dresser and cupboards.  
 Kitchen, 16ft. x 15ft. 6in., with No. 1 "Ideal" boiler, built in drying cupboards: 2 fitted shelves and 4 iron drying rails.  
 Scullery, with sink, having H. & C. water.  
 Large Larder.  
 Principal and secondary staircases.

On the First Floor:  
 No. 1 Bedroom, 12ft. 6ins. x 16ft., fireplace with Dutch pattern tiles, alcove, facing the garden.  
 No. 2 Bedroom, 17ft. x 15ft. 6ins. with fireplace, fitted cupboards in recess.  
 No. 3 Bedroom, 17ft. x 14ft. 6ins. with fireplace, small store adjoining.  
 No. 4 Bedroom, 19ft. x 11ft. with Georgian period fireplace.  
 No. 1 Bathroom and separate W. C.  
 No. 2 Bathroom with 3 lavatory basins.  
 2 Good Secondary Rooms.

On the Second Floor:  
 2 Capital Bedrooms having Dormer windows.  
 4 Staff Bedrooms, with Dormer windows.  
 Bedroom and Store-room.

Outside:  
 2 W.C.'s, large Coalhouse.  
 Quaint old stone-built and stone slated garden house.  
 Large stone-built Garage, will accommodate 2 Cars.  
 Stable with loose box, Stall, Harness Room and Loft overall.

The Grounds, extending to about one acre, are a most attractive feature of the property and include a full-size Tennis Court, with a rustic Summer House. Well-stocked and productive Kitchen Garden containing Bush Fruit and about 40 Fruit Trees of the choicest varieties, in full bearing.

The property has a frontage of 60ft. 6ins. to the High Street and about 115ft. to Back Ends.

The Residence is in good structural and decorative repair. Company's Electric Light, Gas, Town water and Main Drainage are installed.

The property is suitable for occupation as a Private School, Guest House, etc., or lends itself for inexpensive conversion to two or three smaller residences. There is also an admirable site for further erection of a small house, without detracting from the amenity of the principal residence.

**ALFRED BOWLER**  
 Has been favoured with instructions from W. J. BRIGHT, Esq., M.A.,  
 to SELL by AUCTION, at  
**The "Lygon Arms," Campden,**  
 On **WEDNESDAY, July 3rd, 1946,**  
 At 3.30 p.m.  
 Subject to conditions to be then read.

Particulars, which will permit to View between 2 & 4 p.m., may be obtained from  
**Messrs. NEW & SAUNDERS, Solicitors, Campden, Evesham & Broadway,**  
 or from the Auctioneer, 22, London Road, Southampton (Tel. 3021).

An advertisement for Seymour House Hotel in 1951 describes it as “private & residential, Hot & Cold throughout, gas fires in all bedrooms, grass tennis court, 2 acre garden and garage.” In c.1965, another says “established and run by Mr & Mrs Norman G. Hitchman for the last 20 years.” An auction note of 1970 for the Malt House records that it was purchased by N.G. and R.H. Hitchman of Seymour House Hotel. Diana continued: “After 40 years in business my parents sold the hotel including the Malt House to Roxbee Associates Ltd., a consortium. It was headed by Lord Kings Norton who was interested in securing a garage and rear entrance to Westcote House. At this point the Associates decided to sell off the vegetable garden for building and newly-built houses in Seymour Gate were being marketed by 1987. David Hallet ran the hotel for a few years before it was bought by Snr. Val. Mellini” – do you remember the lovely conservatory restaurant with the vine and Manager Felice Tocchini? Snr. Mellini retired, the hotel closed about October 2004 and the building became the private house of Peter and Sarah Taylor and family, (from c.2010 sometimes offering B&B) until they sold and left Campden in 2016.

## Sir Thomas Smith - his first wife and their daughter Grisogon

Simon Mynott

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Correspondence with Simon Mynott, a descendant of Sir Thomas Smith, sometimes spelt Smythe or Smyth has brought us details of Simon's research into the Smith and Jenour families, which have been placed in the CCHS's archives [Ref. 16.077 Comp. People]. The important canopied tomb of Sir Thomas Smyth stands in the north-east end of the Chancel of St James's Church, where he is shown with his two wives, Elizabeth Fitzherbert and Katherine Throckmorton, and thirteen children. He lies on the tomb dressed in full armour, his head resting on his helmet. He was a page at the court of Henry VIII and married the heiress of half the manor of Campden.

I discovered last year that Sir Thomas Smith is an ancestor of mine, via his daughter Grisogon. That discovery led me to research not only Sir Thomas's career, but also to trace the origins of his first wife, Elizabeth Fitzherbert, Grisogon's mother. Most of this article is devoted to contributions on the Fitzherberts, on Grisogon and on the Jenour family, into which Grisogon married.



I begin, however, with some points relating to Sir Thomas himself. In 1544 he went to France. The English already controlled Calais, but Henry VIII decided to send forces across the Channel with the objective of taking Boulogne. The King went to support his men and Thomas Smith (not yet Sir Thomas) was also present. Outside Boulogne, on 4th September 1544, he was granted a coat of arms<sup>1</sup>. Ten days later Boulogne capitulated and King Henry entered the town on 18th September. I have read what is written about Sir Thomas in the "Guide to St. James's Church", but I believe one of the statements made there is incorrect. He is described as the first Governor of our East India Company. However Sir Thomas died in 1593 and history books record that the East India Company was not founded until 1599 / 1600. Their Governor was presumably a different Sir Thomas. Sir Thomas of Campden died at his daughter's house in Orcle,

Herefordshire<sup>2</sup>; the daughter was Elizabeth, married to Hugh Walshe of Herefordshire<sup>3</sup>. The 1623 *Visitation of Gloucestershire* refers to a marriage between her and Walsh of Co. Hereford. No other daughter is known to have lived in that county.

Thomas's first wife, Elizabeth Fitzherbert, came from a family which had long been established in Derbyshire as Lords of the Manor of Norbury. However her great-grandfather, John, made a

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<sup>1</sup> The full text of the grant of arms to Thomas Smith Esq., taken from College of Arms records, is given in an 1836 publication by C. P. Gwilt "Notices relating to Thomas Smith of Campden". Mr. Gwilt had consulted a wide range of sources and provides appropriate references to them. A professional modern researcher, Mr. Roger Whitworth, has provided me with a transcript of Gwilt's work.

<sup>2</sup> CADHAS Fact File.

<sup>3</sup> C. P. Gwilt "Notices relating to Thomas Smith of Campden".

career for himself as a senior official in the Exchequer in London. The source which best documents the two generations between John and Elizabeth is a 1558 *Visitation of Essex* from which we learn that Henry, son of John, married Cecylie Molyneux and Eustace, son of Henry, married Jayne Mering. Eustace & Jayne were Elizabeth Fitzherbert's parents.

Henry died while his father, John, was still alive, so the heir named in John Fitzherbert's will of 1502 (proved in 1503 at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury) was Eustace. When Eustace died on 16th September 1517 he left two infant daughters, Joan and Elizabeth. Elizabeth was then 9 months old, so probably she had been born in December 1516; Joan was 15 months or so older. According to Mr. Gwilt, Joan inherited Perry Hall in Staffordshire and some lands in Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire from Eustace.<sup>4</sup> This helps to explain why it was Elizabeth who became the heir to the moiety of the manor in Campden which had belonged to the Molyneux family.

A document in CCH Society's archives<sup>5</sup> - Jane Dobson's research on the Ludlow family - refers to the belief that Cecylie Molyneux's husband was a kinsman to Cecylie. The Fitzherbert side of the relationship was as follows<sup>6</sup>:

- the grandfather of Cecylie's husband, Henry, was Sir Nicholas Fitzherbert who died in 1473 (John's father)
- Sir Nicholas had taken Isabel LUDLOW of Stokesay as his second wife
- John however came from Sir Nicholas' first marriage. Isabel Ludlow, therefore, was John's stepmother, so step-grandmother to Henry.
- Cecylie herself was great-granddaughter of Margaret de LUDLOWE who died in 1419
- however I do not know how Isabel fitted into the Ludlow family tree.

Now to Grisogon Smith, the origin of which name I have wanted to discover for some time and with the help of a colleague, a possible explanation has been found. A saint named Chrysogonus appears in the list of Feast Days observed by the Roman Catholic Church. He was commemorated on 24th November. "Grisogon" could be a rendering of his name and if the Smith's child had been born on his Feast Day that might explain why she was christened Chrysogon/Grisogon. Grisogon went on to marry Andrew Jenour, from an Essex family who were Lords of the Manor in Great Dunmow.

Another question I have tried to answer is: how did the Gloucestershire and Essex families become acquainted? One answer to that question could be through contacts between lawyers in London. Grisogon's brother, Henry, studied at the Middle Temple, according to Mr. Gwilt; Andrew's father and grandfather had both practised as lawyers in London - in the father's case, that probably also had involved studying at the Middle Temple. There had been further links with Essex via the Fitzherberts, Grisogon's mother's family. Elizabeth Fitzherbert's first marriage was to Edward Smyth of Cressing Temple, Essex (he was unrelated to Sir Thomas so far as I know). Earlier still, Elizabeth's grandmother, Cecylie (Molyneux), had taken John Josselyn of High Roding, Essex, as her second husband.

The name Grisogon was perpetuated for a while in Essex. In Dunmow itself there were four baptisms in that name between 1566 and 1586, all in families seemingly unconnected with the Jenours. It may be that parishioners were choosing the name as a mark of respect for Andrew & Grisogon, the Lord and Lady of the Manor. Within the Jenour family, two of Grisogon's granddaughters were also named after her. In 1626, when she was about 88 years old, Grisogon made a will in Dunmow, a key part of which she wrote herself, as the will states<sup>7</sup>. Female literacy was still uncommon in this period - it is estimated that about 10% of females in 1600 could write.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Mr. Gwilt gives his source for the information on Joan Fitzherbert as Add. MSS 6364, p. 111, Orig. of Exchequer, 24 Hen. Eighth (1532-33), together with Shaw's *Staffordshire* - the latter was published in two volumes in 1798 & 1801. Perry Hall, which Joan inherited, was situated where Perry Barr is, i.e. now forming part of Birmingham.

<sup>5</sup> Accession ref 2013/054/DS C2S1 and 2013/053/DS C2S2

<sup>6</sup> The Fitzherbert pedigree is taken from John Burke's *Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry*", pub. 1837

When Grisogon married Andrew Jenour, his father, Richard, was already dead. Richard had inherited a substantial manor in Gt. Dunmow and then bought two more manors in Essex at Lindsell and Witham, which were passed to Andrew<sup>9</sup>. Andrew's mother was a Catesby by birth, from a Northamptonshire family<sup>10</sup>. She had been christened Weburgh (sometimes spelled Wyborough in Essex). This is the name of a pre-Conquest English saint, who had been popular in the Middle Ages but is now almost unknown.

Kenelm Jenour, son of Andrew & Grisogon, was created Baronet in 1628, but it is Kenelm's sister, Mary, from whom I descend. She married into another Essex family who were of gentry status at that stage. However my line continues through younger sons in successive generations thereafter and gentry status was soon lost.

### **CCHS Programme 2017 - 18**

Meetings are held in the Town Hall, Chipping Campden at 7.30 pm

**Thurs 21st September:** *"Stone Age to Corinium – Recent Excavations at Bourton-on-the-Water"*  
Dr. Alison Brookes, Collections Development Officer, Corinium Museum.

**Thurs 19th October:** *"The Architecture of Memory: War Memorials of the Great War"*  
Adrian Barlow, Former Director of Madingley Hall, University of Cambridge.

**Thurs 16th November:** *"Renaissance Architecture in England, the View from Bristol"*  
Nick Molyneux, Principal Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas,  
West Midlands Historic England.

**Thurs 7th December:** *"The Quicksilver Doctor – the Life and Times of Thomas Dover"*  
Jan Pelczynski.

**2018**

**Thurs 18th January:** *"Campden Post-Inclosure: the Creation of Campden Hill and Lapstone Farms in a Modern Farming Landscape"*  
Alan Barclay, CCHS

**Thurs 15th February:** *"Bodicacia: A New Lady of Quality from Cirencester"*  
Neil Holbrook, Chief Executive, Cotswold Archaeology.

**Thurs 15th March:** *"Chipping Campden, the Cotswolds and the Earls of Chester"*  
Peter Coss, Emeritus Professor of History, Cardiff University.

**Thurs 19th April:** AGM followed by *"Baptist Hicks: Behind the Public Persona"*  
Mary Fielding CCHS.

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<sup>7</sup> Grisogon's will was proved on 6th July 1626 at the Archdeaconry of Middlesex, which had jurisdiction over certain Essex parishes. The will is held at the Essex Record Office, catalogued as D/AMW 4/16

<sup>8</sup> Ian Mortimer *"Time Traveller's Guide to Elizabethan England"*.

<sup>9</sup> Manorial tenure in Essex is recorded in Morant's *"History and Antiquities of Essex"*, pub. 1768.

<sup>10</sup> The will of Richard Jenour reveals his wife's maiden name because he appointed as an executor Anthony Catesby "my father-in-law". The will was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 15 February 1548/49, PROB 11/32/350.

## News from the Committee

### The Howse That Was So Fayre

It has been an exciting summer for the Campden House project with some discoveries and a few disappointments. In April we embarked on the second of our digs on the site of the House, on this occasion using the geophysical survey which identified the outline of the foundations. Three trenches were exposed. The first was chosen as it was thought to be the site of further Civil War fortification as revealed by



the first dig. However a well-constructed pathway was revealed which was at odds with our initial thinking. The second trench, chosen to find where a wing of the House may have stood, revealed only evidence of later construction. The third trench however, which extended into the footprint of the House, produced finds of glass, handmade nails, fragments of pottery - remnants of the House and its occupiers. There was insufficient time to extend the dig to the foundations but a further excavation may achieve this. Subsequently the finds were bagged, carefully washed and marked up by volunteers using tiny writing on some particularly small fragments; demanding on those with poor eyesight.



Over 100 people attended our Open Day at Campden House and we had the pleasure of showing them around and demonstrating our new found knowledge and terminology. An interim report covering both digs has been completed and given to various authorities while a further dig is planned to test our provisional conclusions.



**Above: Explaining the dig to visitors at the Open Day**

## Outing to Aston Hall and Soho House, Birmingham

Soon after the dig we were able to test our thinking about the design of the house with a visit to Aston Hall, built at the same time and possibly by the same architect (more research needed). The panelling at Aston Hall explained why we had found so many nails; the complete pots and glass windows were familiar from our little pieces, and the plasterwork ceilings gave us a real feel for the imposing interiors of Campden House. The Long Gallery, a feature that is now quite familiar from Chastleton House and others, was particularly impressive. The tour guide was very informative and gave us many insights into life at the time – the grand chambers reserved for the visits of the King and important guests, and the domestic details including, inevitably, the lavatories – or lack of them.

Soho House was from a much later era, the time of the Lunar Club, entrepreneurial businessmen and inventors of the eighteenth century including Matthew Boulton and Josiah Wedgwood. Again we had a knowledgeable guide who explained the background and significance of the objects on display and gave us a very good understanding of a different century of influence.

## Talk by Tim Mowl

In May a talk by Prof Tim Mowl on '*Some Curious and Artificial Banqueting House*' - *Pleasure and the Jacobean Garden*, was followed by a walk around the old Campden House gardens, when he explained his view that the lower part of the garden was more likely to have been developed in the 'Carolinian style' by Lady Juliana Noel, after the death of her father. This was quite strongly debated and not everyone was convinced, so more research will be done.

## Campden House Open Weekend

The Landmark Trust opened the site and buildings over the Open Gardens Weekend. We put up a display about the project and in spite of the very hot weather well over two hundred people came to find out more about our discoveries, including a representative of the Heritage Lottery Fund. On the first day two volunteers sat marking finds and this encouraged interest and conversation. One unexpected visitor was the Director of Archaeology for the German State of Hesse and he identified some interesting sherds of pottery from that region. The pottery and the glass fragments (probably Venetian) found in the trench were expensive items imported for Sir Baptist Hicks' new mansions in Campden and Kensington.

## School project

Two volunteers prepared a session for the top class at St. James' School, taking food and quizzes to show the meals eaten by rich and poor people – the pottage was surprisingly tasty! The pupils tasted spices and made their own sweetmeats, using fondant icing rather than marchpane. A few days later they came to one of the Banqueting Houses to recreate the dessert course, complete with musical accompaniment, 'Greensleeves' on guitars. The sweetmeats were a little the worse for wear, but we offered biscuits from an original recipe.



**Right: St. James' school children learning about Jacobean food**

## Visits to Hatfield House and others

A possible source of inspiration for Baptist Hicks' new mansion was Hatfield House, built 1609-11 by Robert Cecil, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Salisbury, who was a family friend. So the visit was both a pleasurable outing and useful research. Again we admired the long gallery and the beautiful plasterwork, and could imagine how the look of Campden House could have been influenced by Hatfield, although on a less grand scale. Not everyone admired the modern fountain but we could see that it was just the thing that Baptist Hicks would have enjoyed – a real feat of engineering combined with 'bling'!

**Right: The loggia at Hatfield House has now been enclosed, but Campden House could have had a similar entrance.**

During the summer various members have made individual visits to other houses of the period – Stanway, Montecute,



Longleat and Chastleton, all providing examples and ideas for our attempts to rethink 'the burnt howse'. The design and layout of the gardens, an important part of the project, are still being debated and more visits to comparable estates will hopefully provide some clues, although hardly any have retained their original features. Some are planning to visit the Garden Museum, based in the church where John Tradescant the Elder is buried. He was gardener to Robert Cecil and created an 'Ark' of curiosities, to which Sir Baptist Hicks was a benefactor.

## Research

A variety of activities have also been undertaken in 'armchair' research: the wills of the Hicks family and many other old documents have been transcribed, giving a fascinating insight into life and attitudes at the time. Several members of the research group have been searching the internet for references to house and garden design and others are studying the water course from the Conduit House. Two volunteers have signed up for online learning courses: on Jacobean food and Elizabethan life. Another went to a talk in Bath on the fashion in gloves and came back with a Hicks connection to follow up. The coming year is likely to be similarly packed with action.

**Would you like to take part? Let us know.**

**Look at our project blog via the website to see what is going on.**

## From The Archives

The Archive team has been very busy over the past few months with preparations for the new website catalogue. We had a training day with Community Sites, the website developer, learning how to enter new items and discussing changes that could be made to searching the catalogue. We have also been reviewing the boxes of documents on the shelves, adding new ones to accommodate the increasing amount of donated material. The Photo Library continues to grow, not least with images of all the new shops – it is difficult to keep pace with the changes! We continue to transcribe censuses and other records and we are scanning documents where possible which saves space and helps in answering queries. We are looking for a new volunteer to hold a

brief for the house sales, keeping track through the internet or the estate agents. This is valuable information for our house history files.

Some interesting items have come into the Archives: letters to the Town Trust in 1899, and some plans about the use of the 'Reading Room' by the Debating Society, which adds to our knowledge about the history of the Town Hall; reports on Campden floods in recent years (we now have three boxes of documents relating to floods and flood alleviation – luckily none to add for this year, at the time of writing!); and some very old photographs of the High Street, which highlight the changes that have taken place with certain buildings. We look forward to hearing from anyone who would like to join the Archive Room team.

### **New Look to the CCHS Website**

Our website is four years old, which in computer terms is ancient, so with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Campden House project we have commissioned an upgrade from Community Sites, who designed the original site. The 'new' website went live in mid-August, so we hope by now that you have already seen it and browsed the pages – most of which have, of course, been transferred from the former website, but with new features.

We are always looking for new material so please don't feel shy and do send us anything you may have about the history of Campden, Ebrington, Paxford, Broad Campden. If you have been researching the history of your house, your family or a particular aspect of Campden life please send details. Jill Wilson is providing a wealth of short articles, formerly published in the Bulletin, on quirky aspects of our history which are ideal for the website. It would be wonderful if others followed suit – it may be something you have already written for your own records which would add greatly to the sum of our knowledge about the area. If you have photographs or images as well, that helps.

We are particularly keen to get items of news, so do let us know about any snippets of information that pass your way, or any ideas for new pages on the website.

Email your contributions to [mary@friarsacre.com](mailto:mary@friarsacre.com) or [enquiries@chippingcampdenhistory.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@chippingcampdenhistory.org.uk)

### **From the Chairman**

When one considers that all of this has been delivered by such a small group of volunteers, it is a truly remarkable record. The extremely small number of current volunteers, however, is a cause for concern and potentially a threat to the continued operation of the Society as we know it.

For the immediate future, Members can look forward once again to a programme of talks which will inform and stimulate. Preparations for a further book are in hand, the subject of which is old Campden House in the light of the two recent archaeological digs and the research underway. Other research projects continue, while enquiries based on genealogy and local history require attention and responses. Archive work is ongoing.

This programme of work will be delivered by a committee of six volunteers with the active support of a similar number of others. This is simply not sufficient; when our age profile is taken into account, it is a worrying low number which needs to be increased. The society has 240 members, quite a few of whom have directly contributed to past achievements; we surely have the means to increase the number of those prepared to play an active role.

There is no requirement for any skill beyond a willingness to get involved, whatever form it may take; more assistance is required now. Can you help?

## Family History Group

Last season's talks were enjoyed by good audiences and we look forward to seeing more people at future meetings. Meetings are informal and open to CCHS members and guests for a small donation.

**All meetings are held in the Court Room, Old Police Station, at 7.30pm**

- Tues 26th September: **The History of the Hartwells of Ebrington and Campden** - Tess Taylor
- Tues 24th October: **Life in a Tudor household** - Cherry Hubbard  
(part of the Campden House project)
- Tues 28th November: **The Bennett family - 5 Generations of Campden retailers** - Charlie Bennett
- 2018**
- Tues 23rd January: **Water, water everywhere** - Judith Ellis & Jenny Bruce
- Tues 27rd February: **George Ballard – from Mantua maker to Oxford Beadle - and his uncle, John Ballard, a benefactor of Campden** - Christopher Fance
- Tues 27th March: **Campden House water supply** - Vanessa Rigg & Rob Grove
- Tues 24th April: **The Griffiths family and Bedfont House**  
Bedfont House Research Group
- Tues 22nd May: **Members research evening**.- three presentations

### Committee 2017-18

Bob Montgomery - Chairman  
Philip Ord - Vice-Chairman  
Vin Kelly - Secretary  
Alan Barclay - Treasurer  
Ann Hettich - Programme Secretary  
Judith Ellis - Archives Coordinator  
Other Committee members: Stephen Nixon, Sue Badger