



# NOTES & QUERIES

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Contents		page
From the Editor		1
The Other Campden – Then & Now – A Brief History of the Research Association	Celia Jones	3
Saintbury and Willersey – Life in the Fourteenth Century	David Vince	5
Memories of Chipping Campden	Dorothy Boyesen	6
A Young Man in Campden between the Wars	Michael Philip Grove	8
A Note on Local Quarries – some C19 and early C20 Records	Jill Wilson	10
Where is Campden?	Allan Warmington	11
A Note on C19 Canning		2
Queries		2
A Reply		2

## From *The Editor*

Welcome to the first issue of the fourth volume of *Notes and Queries*. I doubt if any of the original editorial committee in 1996 thought that the supply of new and interesting articles would continue to flow so freely.

Unusually this issue contains items only from the earliest and the latest centuries of Campden's history. Two further instalments of the history of the C20 are included and a fascinating glimpse into mediaeval life. Research for the new town history is providing much of this material.

A forum is also provided for potentially controversial ideas, such as Allan Warmington's question 'Where is Campden?' Chipping Campden as a new town on a 'green-field site' is an appealing thought. Comments and views are requested.

In addition occasionally enquirers for local information are prepared to allow their own stories to be recorded. We are grateful to one such, Mrs Boyesen, once head girl of Campden School.

## Queries

*If you can contribute an answer please reply (preferably in writing) to the editor or to the enquirer if an address is given.*

**Kempson family.** In 1769 William Kempson, then of Broadway, married Elizabeth Davis, also of Broadway. He was a stonemason and, as the marriage bond was for £1000, he seems to have been in a fair way of business. William may well have come from elsewhere as no information about his parents or possible siblings has been found. Other Kempsons are known from Mickleton, Moreton-in-Marsh and Bourton-on-the-Hill and another William Kempson from Moreton married Mary Francis Cotterell of Broadway in 1698. Does anyone have any information on this family? [048]

**Lawrence Banks.** His name may be spelt in a variety of ways; he was rector of Stanton from 1591 to his death in 1623, and his will gave a number of charitable bequests including to the poor in the parishes of St Laurence and All Saints in Evesham. Mr Richard Cann, 31 Loftus Hill, Sedburgh, Cumbria, LA10 5 RX, is writing an article about him and another charity he founded, and would be grateful for any further information about his life. Mr Cann is already in possession of photocopies of the relevant pages from E. A. B. Barnard's *Stanton & Snowhill*. [049]

## Reply

*Thanks are given to the correspondent who has provided this information. If you can add to it or reply any of the other outstanding queries please write to the editor.*

[R 045] **Prisoner of War Camps.** “When I was a teenager during the early ‘40s, I used to cycle from Oxford to Chipping Campden where I had relatives living (and still have). I usually used the Moreton-in-Marsh, Bourton-on-the-Hill, Broadway road (A440). I remember seeing a war camp on the south-western side of this road, somewhere opposite the Blockley and Chipping Campden turns. Is this the one you are looking for?”

## A Note on Nineteenth Century Canning

The following information from John Keegan's *A History of Warfare*, Hutchinson, (1993) throws light on early canning practices and indicates the need for a research facility into food processing methods.

“Military diet was revolutionised in the middle of the nineteenth century by the appearance of canned meat (as early as 1845, though by a process that threatened lead poisoning to those too dependent on it, and the cause of many deaths in Franklin's polar expedition), . . .”

## **The Other Campden - Then and Now**

### **A Brief History of the Research Association**

**Celia Jones**

#### **Part III**

On January 1st 1995 the Campden Food and Drink Association became the Campden and Chorleywood Food Research Association, having merged with the Flour Milling and Baking Research Association from Chorleywood, Herts. The following year staff from Chorleywood relocated to Chipping Campden. At a cost of £2 million the new Chorleywood Building was completed to house the 50 increase in staff numbers. In June 1996 the Chorleywood building was officially opened by the Princess Royal.

Research work carried out by the Chorleywood staff in the sixties had made it easier to use home grown wheat in bread production; this had been difficult with earlier processes because of lack of protein in the wheat. The process they developed is known as the Chorleywood process. With the amalgamation of Campden and Chorleywood a vast area of expertise was available to industry and the Association continued to thrive by serving the needs of its members, undertaking their research projects, providing information on subjects such as environmental law or food safety, and training their employees. CCFRA had become a highly successful and efficient independent organisation.

Its scope and influence were to spread further as in 1998 the Association established a subsidiary company in Hungary, taking over a research organisation in Budapest that had dealt with frozen and chilled foods. Work went on to help Hungary prepare for entry to the EU. For example, EU legislation requires hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP). This is a very important control technique for ensuring the safety of the product during production, and assessing the risks at each point, rather than measuring success at the end of the line. The subsidiary has done a lot of work in this area. It also operates in several central and eastern European countries. Expert contract and consultancy knowledge is available for hygiene issues, food safety, food and environmental law, including labelling, and language abilities, amongst other things.

In 1998 Lord Plumb, the Cotswold Euro MP became the new president. In 1999 there were 370 members of staff at Campden and 20 at the company in Hungary. Campden Research Association had had 12,500 visitors in 1999. Many of these people stayed in hotels in Campden, bringing trade to the town. American members particularly would often continue their visit to the station with a tour of the Cotswolds.

Work is carried on in four different divisions: Food Science, Food Technology, Cereals and Cereal Processing, Research and Scientific Administration. Each division is divided into departments. For example, the Food Science Division is divided into the departments of Agriculture, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Consumer and Sensory Sciences.

In 1999 CCFRA discovered that canned tomatoes and spaghetti were posing a threat of poisoning from too much tin. Shelves were cleared at the relevant time. By 2000 work on new product and process development was going on, and investigations into detecting genetically modified organisms in food; product safety was a major concern. Quality and packaging services had expanded. Research was done into cases of food poisoning, and botulinum studied. No animal testing is done at the station. When the

Food Standards Agency was set up in 2000 it took over from MAFF the responsibility for the funding of all safety work. Other funding previously carried out by MAFF was continued by DEFRA (the successor of MAFF) and the Department of Trade and Industry.

The association deals with food “from plough to plate”, as they say at the Association, from farming methods through processing, freezing, chilling, packaging, providing micro-waving and other cooking instructions, to marketing and quality control.

The various company members who belong to the Association suggest and vote for the research they would like to see done each year and so the Association is serving the immediate needs of industry and remains in touch with their problems. One of the more surprising groups of people that the Association deals with is loss adjusters who have acquired consignments of food products as a result of insurance claims. They need advice on the safety and quality of food that has, for example, had its packaging tainted from smoke damage. The influence of the Association is widespread and it is internationally renowned. Scientists have travelled to Eastern Siberia and Alaska advising on the canning of salmon. There is a world-wide membership of about 1,600.

In 2000 work began on a new £2.5 million building programme, which would provide offices, microbiology laboratories and new training facilities. There are viewing platforms and lecture rooms. Consumer and Sensory Science laboratories were completed in 2001. These contain state-of-the-art tasting booths, computer linked, masked by grey lights so all the food looks the same. Food to be tasted is handed through to the individuals in their booths and these trained testers log their results onto the computer. Something as apparently so subjective as taste is in fact a matter of science.

The old red brick factory from the beginning of the twentieth century has turned into an impressive new complex of modern buildings by the beginning of the twenty-first. Mr Clarke would be surprised to see the changes, and perhaps even more surprised to know that his vision had eventually come to something of world importance.

## Saintbury and Willersey – Life in the Fourteenth Century

David Vince

Recently I went to the Records Office at The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust to study a rare Evesham Abbey Estate document. I was following a trail trodden some years ago by R. H. Hilton, who was Professor of Medieval Social History at the University of Birmingham. The manuscript is a battered, torn and partially illegible document made up of two membranes of parchment sewn together. There are two lists contained here – the first one with the heading torn off and the second one from Michaelmas 1368 to Michaelmas 1369. I was particularly interested in its references to Willersey and Saintbury, but it sheds light on the demographic collapse of the last 25 years of the C14<sup>th</sup> when the population may have been reduced by between a third and a half. The document could shed light on the deserted medieval villages of Norton-sub-Edge (at Burnt Norton House) and nearby Poden. The Peasants Revolt of 1381 was strong in our area. The prior of the cathedral at Worcester was unable to attend the Benedictine General Chapter of 1381 because of fear from it.

Henry Phillippe of Poden (a now deserted settlement between the deserted medieval village of Norton-sub-Edge at Burnt Norton House and Honeybourne) took up a yardland in South Littleton for 18s. a year, four autumn boon reaps, mowing services on the meadows, the obligation to provide adequate buildings and reversion of the holding's obligations after his death to the ancient custom of bondage. An unmarried man could acquire a holding by marrying the sitting female tenant and paying an entry fine, and other burdens as well as those paid to the lord. This happened to John Franks, an outsider who took over a yardland in Saintbury, in customary bondage, for the previous rents and services owed to Evesham Abbey. John paid an entry fine of 13s. 4d. and agreed to provide a home for the previous tenant, who had surrendered the holding, with provision of three quarters of grain every year. Another Saintbury yardland holding was surrendered the same year by John Bonde for the benefit, *ad opus*, of a relative, Agnes Bonde. A suitor, John Chapellin, paid 20s. for her entry fine, and another 20s. to take her as a wife, and the holding with her. He agreed to let John Bonde have a room over the byre, with free entry and exit, an acre of growing wheat at his choice, and three quarters of grain each year. The level of rents and entry fines suggests Evesham Abbey was by no means losing its grip as a landlord.

The document also shows to us the recruitment of lay officials of Evesham Abbey. The first list records a John Bonde (previously mentioned) a serf of Saintbury, who surrendered his holding to a female relative whose husband engaged to keep him for life. The second list for 1368-69 records a John Bonde of Saintbury. He is granted, in full court, the office of 'Bernward' within the abbey banton, (the supervisor of the central grain store). He was to have the customary stipend and livery (that is, payment in kind) and cloth from the wardrobe, as for the abbot's officials, for his tunic and hood.

Are these two John Bondes the same person? Is the John Bonde who surrendered his service holding in Saintbury about 1367, a servile tenant in retirement, who had made humble provision for his keep, the same John Bonde who next year occupies an important office at Evesham Abbey appropriate for a free man? Perhaps Saintbury had, side by side, servile and free families in the same village with the same family name.

This document shows us a glimpse of life in Saintbury and Willersey between the Black Death and the Peasants Revolt. We see a conservative institution (Evesham Abbey) trying to preserve the customary relations between itself and its tenants, despite the fact that the conditions on which those relations had developed had changed.

This work could not have been done without the late Rodney Hilton's great work. The manuscript is in the Leigh Collection at Stratford-upon-Avon.

## Memories of Chipping Campden

Dorothy Boyesen

[These memories were sparked by reading Fred Coldicott's *Memories of an Old Campdonian*. Mrs Boyesen was adopted so her adoptive mother, Mrs Keeley is sometimes written of by name and sometimes as 'mother.' She has asked for help in remembering the time when she lived here – any reminiscences received will be forwarded to her. In particular she is seeking a photograph of Church Cottage.]

At the age of four I was adopted by Mrs Keeley, who lived at Church Cottage, now demolished, in Church Street which had formerly been tenanted by her parents, Mr and Mrs Sharpe. I was a sad child when I came to Chipping Campden. My mother had died, and my father disappeared. But the light of that childhood healed it all. I had a happy childhood in Campden and many wonderful memories. Leapfrogging over the staddle stones on the way to school, walking along the wall past the almshouses, skipping past the Eight Bells, loving the learning offered to me. Pre-grammar school days [at the school in] the High Street were very happy. The heavy studded door, flagstone passage, the library boxes, the partition pushed back when we did our plays (O soldier, soldier, won't you marry me?). I won a prize for handwriting.

Chipping Campden Grammar School, such happy and fulfilled years, except during the war when we had to take turns in the kitchen – peeling potatoes, washing up, the awful greasy smell. I went to look at Dulcie Thomas as she washed up – how could she be successful with her piano studies when her hands were soaked and greasy?

I was very interested in the French language and enjoyed lessons with Mr Pope (his only son aged 18 was killed in a motor-bike accident). Cookery lessons were held at Lower High Street just past the boys' boarding school (held in awe). I noticed on my last visit this house was for sale by Jackson-Stops Agency. (Mrs Stops became a close friend in later life.)

I used to walk many miles after school to the Swimming pool, a little open air place on the way to Broad Campden. I was so keen I was often the only person there in wet and cold weather. But I became an excellent swimmer! I had a friend, Alma Hopkins, who used to roam all over the fields and once walked to Broadway. On Saturday we often cycled to Stratford-upon-Avon to see a Shakespeare play.

I went to piano lessons with Miss Loveday in Aston Road, who lived next door to Mrs Horne, also a piano teacher. Miss Loveday married a soldier in the war, and died in child-birth about a year afterwards. (She had twins; I visited them many years later in a 'home.')

I made friends with a man who lived near Bennett's the bakery, and he lent me books from his vast store, and directed my reading. He took me to a concert at the big posh

hotel in the square to listen to a string trio. I saw Vivian Joseph playing the cello. I must have been about 12 years old then. That summer I picked plums in an orchard in Station Road and worked as a waitress at the Kings Arms. In October my mother took me to Evesham on the bus and I bought a cello for £15, - that and the piano became my livelihood. Every Saturday I waited in the market-place to take the bus to Cheltenham, where an elderly gentleman gave cello lessons above the Cadena Coffee House. Incidentally, when I was 22 and went to London to study cello, my teacher was Vivian Joseph, who I listened to on that memorable outing with the professor at the hotel.

Another wonderful experience was the concert given by the Italian P.O.W.s in St James church. I had never heard Bach before and was overawed. In all the horrors of war, the violin still had wonder for us all. I was also very inspired by our English teacher, Olive Thomas, and in the 6<sup>th</sup> form longed for her lesson times. We read lots of poetry (Paradise Lost).

The vicar was Rev. McLoughlin and he had Irish wolfhounds, which I used to climb up the boarded gate to look at. I made up my mind that I would have one of those dogs one day, (and I did, all my life). Saturday I used to have rides in Mr Haydon's milk float. Often we would sit at the bedroom window in the afternoons at Church Cottage to watch the weddings at St James.

Church Cottage had a holly hedge all round, and large snakes used to bask on the hedge. They laid their eggs on the compost heap where the lavatory bucket was emptied. The field behind Church Cottage was our joy, there was an old car which we sat in, and a horse, pigs, a big barn and a woodpile for climbing. We played in the churchyard often, there was a very long grave mound, which became a myth, many great stories. We used to climb the belfry steps and watch the clock. We watched the water mill in Calf Lane. A weekly chore was taking the accumulator to the garage (Lower High Street, just past Gabbs). This enabled us to have the radio on. The radio was on the window-sill overlooking the field, overlooking the ruin and the old car. We went to Evesham fairly regularly. My mother used to take me to the cinema and buy cream cakes for tea. She took me to see a film called 'Pear Tree Wedding' because my brother was in it. However I cannot remember seeing him and have never met him or my older sister.

Mrs Keeley had a brother Jim, who died when I was about 8 years old, and I sat in the room with his body and played the piano to him. We had no gas or electricity, so used oil lamps which cast lovely and gentle moving shadows on the ceiling. My mother said it was Angels' wings coming for his body.

I liked Mr Chamberlain's shop, stationer, near the post-office – it was quite empty, but it was dark and musty and had exciting things like drawing pads and geometry sets. A new hairdressing shop opened near the post office called Myosotis. We thought it very smart. I had no idea it was 'forget-me-not.'

I left Chipping Campden for college in Cheltenham, and entered into a very different life. I had eight children (and always played the cello and piano) two were lost. My husband died when the youngest child was 10 years. Picasso drew a picture of me and my first child (we lived in Cannes, and my husband worked for him). – When my husband died he left nothing, and we have had a struggle to survive. However I now have six wonderful children, all artists and musicians, and during all the struggles the bright memories of Chipping Campden have lighted the way.

**A Young Man in Campden between the Wars  
- a further excerpt from the Memoirs of**

**Michael Philip Grove**

.... Now work is looking up. Building is going on, so I am able to get at it. I worked on the County Council houses, Aston Road, Campden. There were two blocks built in Station Road, and four blocks of two at Broad Campden. At that time most of the materials were carted in horse drawn vehicles. Anyway 1921 was a good year for work, also it was the hottest and driest for many years. I did work at Saintbury, old School House and at the vicarage there. Then work faded out again, unemployment everywhere. So in 1922 I obtained a job as Steward on the Red Star liner, *Laplant*. That line operated from Antwerp to New York, calling at Southampton and Cherbourg. Other ships of this company were *Zeeland*, *Greenland* and *Finland*. I did two trips on this ship but it was no good to me. We started at three thirty a.m. washing floors, cleaning and laying tables and it was after eleven p.m. before we were finished. I packed the job in after those two runs. It did not suit me being below decks all the time and I suppose I was quite a bit 'Love Sick' as well.

Anyway work was beginning to improve again in the building line, and I was soon going full time. We used to work a fifty-hour week, often longer. We did two houses in the Station Road, Campden, the two more at Willersey and an alteration at Pool Farm. I think we worked from about 7.30 till 6.00 p.m., at one time 6.30 p.m. We used to cycle. Sometimes I walked with the old hands. You had to be there for start time and did not get away till knock off; no travelling in firm's time then. I used to have to cycle into Broadway to get the wages money from the bank. The employer was a John Wayne from Gretton. Not a bad fellow at all, but like the rest of us had no money. He had to get a cheque off the owners each week, at any rate he was fair.

In the end the work with him was finished. So it was time to get another job. I began work with J.W.Pymment and Sons early in 1924 where we had a splendid run of work; several houses in Station Road. I was now right on top form with top rate of pay – this was poor enough pay in these times – real sweated labour. So you can tell we only lived week to week, no savings.

Now I was beginning to make my presence felt, by the quantity and quality of my work. I was given charge of jobs now, and used to see them through from start to finish. Also I did a good deal of stone working, some of it in spare time and week-ends; mullion windows, kneelers and apex stones, copings and moulded work. I did a big balustrade which is now in the garden at Norman Chapel. All of this stone carving was with stone as quarried, no saws then. There were gravestones and memorials of all kinds, and I worked a lot with Alec Miller. He brought me out, encouraged me to go on, with a hint here and there, until I could turn out quite intricate jobs. I once worked a fortnight on a life size of a squatting figure which we called the Sphinx. This was done in Caen stone (French) which we took to Burlington House, London, and was accepted at the academy. Fred Coldicott carried it in, and there is a newspaper picture of us taking it in.

I did a good bit of letter cutting too on all memorials I handled. Also about this time I carved the tops of the pinnacles on the tower out of big blocks of stone from Guiting. It ought to have been harder stone but I had to use what they provided.

I took a sixteen foot high Crucifix to Formby Churchyard near to Southport, also a "Hopton Wood" panelled headstone to St. Mary's churchyard, Wimbledon and a Mansfield Stone Obelisk to Lapworth churchyard. I also fixed on the sloping windowsill inside a church at Nottingham – or was it Northampton? – a beautiful figure carved and painted by Alec Miller. I had to cut a recess in the sill to set it level. Fred Coldicott was our lorry driver and so was with me on all these occasions.

I married my dear wife at Whitsun, 1925. This became the most precious part of my life but I shall not write about it, as it is a personal thing, except to say we have two fine sons. Now back to work. My firm had priced a big job at Minchinhampton only because I had said I would do it if it came along. This was early in 1927. The result was that the job was ours. All Pymont had to do was sign the documents. I was working at Saintbury at the time. Harold came down in his car and told me about it and I said I will do it. So he took me back to the office where we talked it over. I said yes, otherwise they would turn it down.

It was a large house with cottage and garage, long drive and entrance gates, with shaped stone wall and pillars. Actually I was there thirteen months. We lodged in a cottage close to the work, my wife and son Tony. I still have a letter of thanks etc. from the owner, Mr Sidney Wales. Time goes on, and there were quite a few jobs we did (but only on condition I was on the job). I do not like to think I am bragging but it was so. I always tried to give my best in the quickest way. In those times building was heavy work. Concrete was all mixed by hand. The aggregate was stone, broken by hand hammers, so was rough and it was hard to handle, being coarse, it was hard work to get a fatty surface and to level it up. There were no concrete mixers about. They came later, as did the new types of plastic. What a blessing they were! They took a lot of hard work away from jobs.

My next big job was at Westington Mill, Campden, difficult but interesting. Here, I copied a canopy over the entrance to "Poppit's Alley," and set it up over the front door. I had to do a lot of work "spare time" to find money to pay doctor's bills. Wages were not much in those days; about one and fourpence for trades and ninepence for labour, per hour. And of course, unless there was a job under cover, you lost all wet time. And although I was in charge of work, I never had any benefits. I only had what I worked for.

I controlled the big house in Sheep Street for Ralph Heaton and even corrected the Architect's mistake. He showed a beam, carrying a gutter over the main landing at four foot nine inches from the floor. I found this out when I was measuring up the timber required for the roof etc. This job involved taking down two or three cottages to prepare the site.

I also handled the first two houses in the "Clay Garden" site, now called Grevel Lane. We are now beginning to hear murmurs of war .....

## **A Note on Local Quarries some nineteenth and early twentieth century records**

**Jill Wilson**

In 1858 the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury authorised the publication of the *Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and of the Museum of Practical Geology Mining Records and Mineral Statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland*, in two parts. This was intended to include records of every quarry and source of minerals in the realm with details of the geological formations, owners, quarrymen, nearest railway station, prices of stone at the quarry, average annual production and vast amounts of other information. Gloucestershire is represented by 86 entries, including those for the Forest of Dean. None however is a quarry that can be recognised as anywhere near here. Since no quarry is shown with a railway station nearer than Cheltenham it seems certain that Westington and other nearby quarries failed to complete the relevant returns.

In 1910 John Allen Howe published his work *The Geology of Building Stones*, (recently reprinted (2001) by Donhead Publishing), which does include a considerable amount of information on the limestone quarries of north Gloucestershire. Page 209 states –

Quarries have been opened in the outlying masses of Inferior Oolite at Bredon Hill and Stanley Hill, and at Longborough, Broadway and Westington Hill, about two miles south of Chipping Campden and Blockley.

Later, page 219, some details of Westington Hill Quarry are given –

*Chipping Campden Stone*, Westington Hill Quarry. The upper bed, 5 to 6 feet thick, is a hard, brown current-bedded shelly oolite, with closely-packed grains; it is used for planking, covering drains and culverts, and similar rough work.

The 'Yellow Bed,' 5 to 7 feet, is an oolite freestone used for carving.

The 'White Post,' from immediately above the latter, is used for general building purposes; it is 6 to 7 feet thick.

More details of the quarry can be found in the account of the outing of the Geologists' Association to the Vale of Evesham and the North Cotswolds from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1904. The party travelled by train to Evesham, where they stayed at the Crown Hotel. On 2<sup>nd</sup> April –

Saturday was devoted to an examination of the country around Chipping Campden and Blockley. The members left Evesham by the 10.46 a.m. train, and on arrival at Campden at once started on their walk. The first halt for geological purposes was made in a cutting through which the lane to Dover's Hill passes, and in which marlstone was admirably exposed. . . .

Ascending Westington Hill the members had a fine view over the town of Campden, and Mr Richardson pointed out Meon Hill, the most northern point of the Cotteswold (sic) Range; and Dover's Hill, upon the summit of which in the past were celebrated "Mr. Rob. Dover's Olimpick Games."

After lunch in the Westington Hill Quarry, the members proceeded to examine the section. Mr Richardson observed that most of the buildings in Chipping Campden had been constructed of stone quarried here by means of mines, . . . . As this section at Westington Hill is one of the finest in the North Cotswolds . . . .

The account here includes a lengthy table giving details of the 10 exposed beds. The party collected a variety of fossils, then moved on in the direction of Blockley and Northwick Park. The party finally 'drove past Northwick House and by way of Paxford to Chipping Campden Station.'

## Where is Campden?

Allan Warmington

This article is meant to be controversial. It is something I have been trying to get clear in my mind for years, and it has arisen again as I have been struggling with the history of the early middle ages in Campden. I do hope that someone will come up with a counter argument so that we may arrive eventually at a synthesis. To state the thesis boldly it is that the name Campden is derived from the geography of Broad Campden, that for some centuries up to the mid twelfth century Broad Campden was the chief settlement in Campden manor, and that the first lord's court and church were situated there.

To appreciate this idea, one must first of all forget the present structure of roads and buildings in Campden and imagine what the area was like from the time the first settlers arrived here, right up to the early middle ages, when there was no market in Campden and High Street was part of a meadow or of arable fields running from the Hoo down to the brook. From prehistoric times there had been roads and tracks across the hills, and one pre-Roman road running from near Andoversford passed near Roel and Lynes Barn (between which two places it is known to this day as Campden Lane), east of Farmcote, past Buckbury Camp, to Stumps Cross and thence along modern motorable roads to the Cross Hands, whence it probably ran down the hill somewhere near the present footpath from Horsmans Corner through Broad Campden, and then across the fields to Ebrington Hill and on towards Banbury, with a branch along by Middle Hill to the iron age camp at the top of Willersey Hill.

People (Saxons or Romano-British) travelling along that road and looking for somewhere to settle would have needed a place with water, not too thickly wooded, and with reasonably fertile and easily worked soil. The tops of the hills were good for defence, (hence the prehistoric camps that abound there) but unless there were springs, they were without water and had only thin soil. The lower slopes of the hills were thickly wooded and the lowland could be boggy. However, there was one spot on this road where there was a little brook in a steep valley surrounded by rich cultivable land where agricultural settlers could flourish. As population increased over the centuries other settlements, too, grew up a mile or so away, one west of the original settlement, the other near rising ground to the north.

As time went on, boundaries began to be drawn around the various estates, and powerful lords took control. In the case of Campden the three settlements were grouped together as one manor with approximately its present boundary being set. Most of the estates round this manor became holdings of large Benedictine monasteries - Worcester, Pershore and Evesham. The manor of Campden eventually fell into the hands of the Ealdormen of Wessex, and, just before the Conquest, of King Harold himself. It was the Saxons who first named the estate Campedene or Caumpedene, and so it remained throughout the middle ages.

How did it acquire this name? It is generally said to mean "Valley with encampments." However medieval writers always seem to have had some difficulty with it and it may be that the name is not purely of Saxon origin. The most common medieval spelling is Campedene, but it is characterised by an unusual variety of different early spellings, including Caumpedene, Kaumpedene, Chaumpedene and Compedene. which seem to show an unusual lack of familiarity with the construction. The first element, '*Camp*', may have been derived either from the Old English meaning a field or enclosed piece of land, or indirectly from the Latin meaning a fortified place or encampment. As for the second element, *dene*, this is probably derived from the Saxon *denu* meaning a valley, the deep wooded vale of a rivulet.

There are a number of places in England with this suffix ‘-den’, but, logically, most are preceded by an adjective, such as Meriden (*Pleasant valley*), Grendon (*green valley*), Nevenden (*Even valley*), or by natural features, (e.g. Standen) or vegetation (Rushden). The two substantive elements *Camp* and *denu*, both nouns, do not fit easily together in this way. There is another suffix *denn* from the old English meaning a woodland pasture, especially for swine, but this does not fit with local agricultural practice and *Camp* and *denn* used together are rather tautological.

However, one must remember that names were given to places quite early on, and that Celtic influence in this part of the country remained quite strong up to the seventh or eighth century. Now, there is a Celtic prefix, *Cambo* often found in old river names, meaning crooked. Although there is apparently a grammatical difficulty with the construction, it could possibly be that the original name was a mixed Celtic and Saxon name *Cambo-denu*, meaning a crooked valley, or possibly the valley of the brook called Camb or Cambo<sup>1</sup>. It does have the merit of describing fairly accurately a natural feature of Campden, which is in Broad Campden, where we have suggested the earliest settlement may have been placed. In those early days when the area that became Campden was largely wooded and impenetrable the name would have been applied to one small locality rather than to the whole of the present parish, and there is no reason why *denu* should be applied to any other part of settled Campden, where there is no other “steep wooded valley of a stream”<sup>2</sup>.

If this is so, and the name *Campedene* will have referred to the main settlement in the manor, then Broad Campden was the principal settlement, at least when the manor was first given an English name, which could have been as early as the sixth or seventh century. At the time of the conquest Broad Campden was almost certainly the most populous, Berrington and Westington (whose fields lie to the west of Broad Campden, but to the south of Berrington’s) always having been smaller.

Another possible indication of the pre-eminence of Broad Campden is the Norman Chapel, which was built in the early twelfth century and was almost certainly the first religious building in Campden, if not indeed the first stone building. Church buildings were rather sparse at that time, and would have been built near the lord’s court or manor house. There would not have been more than one church in Campden, so why was it in Broad Campden, unless that had been the chief place in the manor?

Of course, all this ended in the late twelfth century with the establishment of the market and borough, when the whole balance of population and of economic activity shifted about a mile and a half northwards, High Street was laid out, Hugh de Gondeville founded the chapel of St Catherine, probably in Berrington, and the lord’s court moved there, too. The three agricultural hamlets remained in being, but were probably overshadowed by the activities going on in the borough. The largest of them retained the name *Campedene*, but was now *Parva Campedene* and later became *Brode Campedene* to distinguish it from Campden Market.. Indeed about 1199 it was hived off from the rest of the manor and granted to another lord.

This is just a hypothesis, to stand, as Popper said, until falsified. Please try!

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Notes

<sup>1</sup> Nothing to do with the present River Cam, which is a back formation derived in the twentieth century from the name Campden.

<sup>2</sup> The mixture of the two tongues is not unknown. As Finberg has shown, Churchdown in Gloucestershire comes from a Celtic and a Saxon name, both meaning Hill. And Winchcombe combined the Saxon *Wincel* meaning crooked and Celtic *Cumb* meaning valley to arrive at the same derivation as suggested here for Campden.