



Campden & District  
Historical and Archæological Society

Regd. Charity No. 10343979

NOTES & QUERIES

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From *The Editor*: I must begin this issue with an apology to Allan Warmington whose article on local Methodists was mangled in the last minute scramble to assemble and prepare the last issue. The simplest way to make amends is to repeat the piece with endnotes etc (hopefully) correctly placed and no omissions.

Geoffrey Lane returns with yet further family history. It provides a fascinating link between Campden and Pudding Lane, where the Great Fire of London began. Even more unexpected is the connection of John Oliver, 'the leading glass painter of his generation' with a master glazier born and perhaps trained in Campden.

We now begin to tell the story of how CADHAS itself was formed, twenty years ago. This may be thought a little self-referential but we have many new members who may find this and the characters involved of interest. A number of events are being planned for this year and for our twenty-first next year and this provides a lead-in for them. The first ten years of the society's history are covered here and the story will be brought up to date in the autumn issue.

Finally, a note on Izod's Post, by Alan Izod, adds to the information given in the last issue and two brief quotations illustrate what changes one hundred years can bring to law and order. It is doubted however that the 'accommodations' for vagrants had improved to any great extent.

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Editor: Jill Wilson CADHAS Archive Room, Old Police Station, High St, Chipping Campden, Glos. GL55 6HB

## More on Izod's Post

**Alan Izod**

With reference to Jill Wilson's article on Izod's Post (Notes & Queries Vol. IV, No. 3); although which Izod erected the Post cannot be very important, I should very much like to know which one did. If it was a Nathan, it has to be the earliest one I have on record who was born before 1646. The next one was baptised in 1656 and would be far too young.

The most likely candidate is the earlier Nathan's father, Nicholas who was born before 1600, married Mary Lysely(or Hysely) in 1621, and according to Rushen seems to have been dead in 1683. Being a churchwarden he must have been a fairly respected member of the community and, in his mind, couldn't be confused with any other N. IZOD. Another possible candidate is Nicholas's son, also Nicholas, baptised in 1622/3, but I think the father is the best bet. The younger one would still be busy earning a living.

## Warning to Vagrants!

The following notice may be found on a Board displayed in the Bar of the Noel Arms. It is still partly legible and the text below is the best attempt at reading it so far. Readers are invited to let the Editor have any corrections that may be noted.

*Borough of Chipping Campden  
July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1815      Notice is hereby given that  
any vagrants apprehended begging in this  
Corporate Town will be immediately  
taken up and prosecuted to the utmost vigour of the Law.*

## The Police Station in 1911

*Quoted from **The History and Antiquities of Chipping Campden**  
by Percy C. Rushen (1911)*

On the lower side of High-street, by the Market Hall, stands the Police-station, with court for Campden Petty Sessions and cells and comfortable accommodations for the police superintendent. It is a very well-built stone structure, convenient and suited to the purpose. It was built 1870-2 at a cost of £2,500, upon a site formerly occupied by two houses and gardens. One of these houses was the property of the Earl of Gainsborough and the other of Mr Thos. Hutchings. The latter was, prior to 1660 occupied by Francis Pleyden, a mason. In 1660 it was the property of William Nutto, a tailor, and afterwards by Mr. Perrins. In 1770 Nathan Giggs, a butcher, was owner; then his son William, who held it in 1816.



his trade before leaving home, his master can only have been Campden's resident glazier, William Lane.

By 1654, Taynton had become an influential figure in the Glaziers' Company. On 20 June, he was one of six members who signed an Indenture of Co-Partnership, to buy the lease of a Glasshouse in Newcastle on Tyne. John King, probably the oldest of the group, died just over a year later, and his will, drawn up in July 1655, provides valuable information on the scheme.<sup>5</sup> By then the partnership had purchased its first lease, and several others followed over the next two decades.<sup>6</sup> The aim was clearly to influence the availability and price of window-glass on the London market – Newcastle glass was carried on the same ships that supplied London with coal.

Of Taynton's five partners in this scheme the most interesting is John Oliver (1616-1701) – not merely a glazier, but the leading glass-painter of his generation. Since the Puritans took power, Oliver had been barred from religious images, and made what living he could from heraldic work for private clients and institutions like the livery companies. He also met a steady demand for glass sundials, which became popular in the 1640s. But Oliver, like his colleagues, was evidently keen to find new sources of income.

Robert Taynton also invested in a glasshouse on the south bank of the Thames at Woolwich. This must have been some time before 1660, when he paid £120 for a riverside property, with a wharf attached, known as the Black House. When his son Benjamin married in 1672, Robert drew up a marriage settlement, making over to him not only the Black House, but “the great messuage or tenement called the Glasshouse”, plus other buildings and wharves to the value of £100. These were good days for Robert Taynton, and like other prosperous Londoners he invested in property. Apart from Woolwich, he owned houses at various times in Nevills Alley off Fetter Lane, Long Alley near Moorfields, and St Margaret's Hill in Southwark, as well as three in his home parish of St Margaret's, New Fish Street.

No record of his first marriage has been found, but Benjamin was born about 1651 and apprenticed as a glazier about 1665, a year in which traumatic events caught up with the family. Plague broke out in the western suburbs in April, and spread to the City. Those who could escaped and it seems likely the Tayntons took refuge in Woolwich. They probably returned the following spring, only to be made homeless a second time by the Great Fire in September 1666. The morning after it started, Samuel Pepys was told by his maid “that above 300 houses have been burned down to-night by the fire we saw, and that it is now burning down all Fish Street, by London Bridge”. What most people remember is that that it broke out at a baker's in Pudding Lane. This was the very street where Taynton lived, and Thomas Faryner, who made biscuit for the Navy, was his neighbour and fellow-parishioner.

In his will Taynton recorded that he owned a house on the east side of Pudding Lane, and that it “lyes next to the place where the late dreadfull fire which happened in London 1666 begann”. This was the house on which the Campden charity was secured. It is clear from Robert's will that it was rented out, as was another house he owned on the west side. The Tayntons themselves lived in a third house in Pudding Lane, but its exact location is not given. By the second day of the fire, the entire parish, including the church, was a smouldering ruin, and we can probably assume that the Tayntons moved back to Woolwich while rebuilding got under way.

St Margaret's church was never rebuilt. Instead its former churchyard now became the site for the great Fire Monument – its height of 202-foot equivalent to the distance

from its base to the site of Faryner's bakery. The Monument, completed in 1676, was largely the work of the scientist and inventor Robert Hooke, while Oliver was responsible for the frame that supports the great flaming urn on top.<sup>7</sup> Both men visited the site from time to time, and Oliver probably dropped in on Taynton as well. Oliver had been burnt out of his own house in Little Trinity Lane, and the events of 1666 caused a dramatic change in his career. He and Hooke became Christopher Wren's trusty lieutenants for the rebuilding of the City churches, and both men went on to practice privately as architects. Oliver also became Wren's deputy in the great project of St Paul's Cathedral, and ended his long life as Master-Mason to the King, deeply involved in the expansion of Hampton Court for William III.

Taynton's life was shorter, and his progress less dramatic, but he did live long enough to see much of his ruined City rebuilt. No doubt he glazed a good number of the new brick houses and supplied the glass for a great many more. He also served his year as Master of the Glazier's Company – apparently in the early 1670s, to judge from an undated list of members' names. At some stage, he lost his first wife, whose name is not recorded. She was buried in a vault at Moorfields New Ground and in his will he asked to be placed beside her “without ceremony”. He married again, and his second wife, Mary – an heiress or wealthy widow – brought £1000 and a quantity of furniture to the marriage. By his will Taynton returned them to her, with an annuity of £100 and the lifetime use of the upper floors of their house in Pudding Lane. His son Benjamin having already taken over the Woolwich glasshouse, his other properties were divided between his two grandchildren, Benjamin and Anne Taynton. Three of the houses had charities secured on them – Robert Taynton's generosity extended not only the poor of Chipping Campden, but also to the poor children of Christ's Hospital and the poor widows and decayed freemen of the Glaziers Company.

*NOTE: A more detailed version of this article will be offered to the CADHAS archive. The writer would welcome any further information, which may be addressed to [geoffrey.lane1@btopenworld.com](mailto:geoffrey.lane1@btopenworld.com)*

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<sup>1</sup> C Whitfield: *A History of Chipping Campden* (1958) p 154.

<sup>2</sup> *Campden Churchwardens' Accounts*, ed Leighton Bishop, p 163.

<sup>3</sup> PRO: PCC Wills 1679/150: *Will of Robert Taynton*.

<sup>4</sup> *Churchwardens Accounts for St Margaret's New Fish Street: 1576-1678*, Guildhall Ms 1176/1.

<sup>5</sup> PRO: PCC Wills 1655/161: *Will of John King*.

<sup>6</sup> H J Powell: *Glass Making in England* (1932); D R Guttery: *From Broad Glass to Cut Crystal* (1956).

<sup>7</sup> S Inwood: *The Man who Knew Too Much, the Strange and Inventive Life of Robert Hooke* (2002).

## Twenty Years Ago

### How it all began for CADHAS - Part I

**Carol Jackson**  
abridged by Jill Wilson

*In September 1983, Reg. Martin put a notice in the Campden Bulletin suggesting the formation of an Historical Society and asking those interested to get in touch with him. In the next month this was followed by an informal meeting in the Lower Town Hall. Carol Jackson is compiling a history of the Society, using the minute books, and a copy of this will be placed in the Archive Room in due course. She has kindly agreed to allow an abridged version to be published in Notes & Queries as an introduction to this twentieth anniversary year. Some additional material from the CADHAS Bulletins has also been inserted.*

The inaugural meeting took place in the Lower Town Hall on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December. Forty-nine prospective members attended and Reg Martin took the chair. Following talks by Graham Stockham, Deputy Director of Gloucestershire County Council and Bryan Jerrard, Chairman of the Gloucestershire Local History Committee, the founding of a Local History Society was proposed by Derek Owen-Jones and seconded by a Mr Grieve. It was agreed that a Working Party, including Reg Martin, Stephen Pratt, Ronald Hamilton, Seumas Stewart, Leonard Multon and Geoffrey Powell, should produce a constitution.

The working party was quick off the mark, meeting the following week at the Noel Arms. Sue Samuelson replaced Ronald Hamilton, due to his ill-health. The name of the Society, Campden and District Historical and Archaeological society was agreed and the constitution and committee discussed. The working party met again in January 1984 to finalise details before the first meeting of the Society, for which Reg Martin had undertaken to do all the publicity.

At the first meeting of the Society, held on Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Reg Martin again took the chair. There were sixty people in attendance with several apologies submitted. The meeting approved the Society's name, constitution and elected the first committee, as follows:

Chairman:	Geoffrey Powell, who when he took the chair, said how grateful the meeting was to Reg Martin who had thought of and worked at the idea of a history society – and had got it off the ground.
Deputy Chairman	Reg Martin
Secretary	Sue Samuelson
Treasurer	Margaret Forrester-Paton
Librarian & Archivist	Kay Neville
Committee	Stephen Ball, Jean Gershom, Leonard Multon, Stephen Pratt and Seumas Stewart,

The minutes of the meeting include many familiar names amongst the proposers and seconders including Ivor Morris, Martin Samuelson, John Doran, Richard Price and Jim Allen – all of whom are still members. The subscription was set at £3 single or £5 family. Several small research groups were formed to investigate different topics. Amongst the members volunteering for these are more familiar names – Dorrie Ellis, Frank Owens and Ian Forster.

The first official Committee meeting followed quickly on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1984, when various logistical matters were discussed such as the bank account, meeting day and the possible lecture programme – and the Society was up and running.

The first Bulletin to members was issued within days of that meeting and before the second committee meeting, arranged for 15<sup>th</sup> March. By then there were seventy-nine members and nine study groups had been set up. The second Bulletin followed in June, giving a report on progress so far and listing the ten items donated or loaned to form the basis of the Archives and Library.

### **The first five years**

In the first year there were 96 paid up members and Ken Ingram was co-opted onto the Committee as Programme Secretary. In July that year Reg Martin resigned as did Leonard Multon and Stephen Pratt. In their place Allan Warmington, Doris Court and Martin Keer were co-opted and John Ellson was appointed publicity officer.

By January 1985 several important items of work were in progress including Craig Fees on the Church Muniment Room archives and the 1881 census, Derek Owen-Jones, with Leighton Bishop, an outside expert, on the *Churchwardens' Accounts* and Allan Warmington's paper on the 'Manor and Borough of Campden in 1273' had been completed.

At the AGM held in May 1985, there were a number of further changes to the committee. Seumas Stewart became Deputy Chairman. The first publication, 'A Child in Arcadia,' comprising a series of letters written by Mr Harry Osborne, was published in Spring 1986. Sheila Wood and Craig Fees handled the editing and publication.

Further changes to the committee occurred in the AGM in 1986. The Society's first Exhibition took place in the summer, opened by Gerard Noel. Members of the Sealed Knot were present in costume. Included in the exhibition were sections covering Cotswold Curios, Dover's Games, Agriculture, Field Walking, General Archaeology of the North Cotswolds, Ebrington Archaeology, Blockley Silk Mill Industry, 1851 Census, Electricity in Blockley, 1924 Sale Catalogue, Enclosure Award of 1800, 1782 Agricultural Orders. Thatching Display, Brewery exhibition from Hook Norton, Campden in Print – and a book stall. It was recorded that once costs were met, the exhibition made a surplus of £18.

During the year further committee changes had been dealt with by co-options, including Jill Wilson as Programme Secretary, and at the 1987 AGM two were ratified and yet more changes to the committee took place. Mrs Jacquetta Priestley was present and accepted the invitation to become the Society's first President. In the autumn the publication of 'Alec Miller, Guildsman and Sculptor in Chipping Campden,' by Jane Wilgress took place.

Later in the year a joint symposium with the Campden Society was planned to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the Guild of Handicraft by C.R. Ashbee in 1888. This event took place from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June 1988, timed to coincide with a new Exhibition at Cheltenham Museum, curated by Annette Carruthers. Speakers included Alan Crawford, Felicity Ashbee and Fiona McCarthy. Visits to the Cheltenham exhibition and to local houses connected with the Guild were arranged and a plaque was unveiled at the Silk Mill. By then membership had grown to 157, increasing to 169 by the next AGM.. In April 1989, Geoffrey Powell retired as Chairman, but was asked to be Vice-President, while Peter Gordon became Chairman.

### **The next five years**

Under the new Chairman, there were changes and developments to move the society forward, in spite of a period of illness. There were further changes to the committee and the post of Outings Secretary was separated from that of Programme Secretary. The lecture programme format changed, with the September meeting ceasing.

The year 1990 saw a new logo for CADHAS, the President's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and new Committee member Frank Johnson reported on the founding of the Guild of Handicraft Trust. Minor amendments were made to the constitution. A working group prepared the Society's response to the District Council's consultation on the Cotswold Local Plan. Up to this point it had been possible to keep the Society's archives in the Library but this clearly could not continue and the question of archive conservation and location was regularly discussed by the committee. By the end of the year membership stood at 172.

In 1991 Joan Atkins, of Montrose, offered a room in her house for the archives with access for researchers. In September the Secretary, Carolyn Mason, was absent through illness and in November came the shocking news of her death. The committee agreed that her research on the last 100 years of Campden's history should not be lost, although there would be some considerable delay before it could be published. (It is being incorporated in the 'New History of Campden,' now in hand.) Allan Warmington took over the post of Secretary on an acting basis.

The use of the room in Montrose enabled Peter Gordon to report at the 1992 AGM that 1992-3 was to be the year of archives and the gathering in from local people, attics etc of Campden memorabilia. He hoped 'that one glorious day all this Campden archival material can be on display in a Local History Heritage and Education Centre in the town.' An advance copy of the newly printed *Churchwardens' Accounts*, published by the Campden Record Series Group, on which CADHAS was represented, was on show.

During that year a number of new projects were planned including a graveyard survey and a new, twice yearly journal, *Notes & Queries*. The first issue came out in the autumn of 1993, with a manuscript goodwill message on the first page – 'May the past be brought alive - Jacquetta Priestley.' 1993 also saw tenth anniversary preparations, further consideration of a new Charity Constitution, plans for publications and more research in progress.

At the AGM in 1994 the Registration of the Society as a Charity was announced. Membership stood at 226, showing a steady annual increase. The Chairman, Peter Gordon, resigned after five years, to be replaced by Carol Jackson. Vice Chairman, Seumas Stewart resigned and Gordon Croot was elected in his place. Peter Gordon was appointed Vice-President of the Society.

In its first ten years the Society had achieved the establishment of an accessible archive room, extended its range of archives, reached a membership of over two hundred, had published a number of books, become registered as a Charity and research continued on several fronts. Notable lectures had been Peter Cormack's talk on Paul Woodroffe, Mick Aston's talk on the Cistercian Order and Hailes abbey, Paul Everson's talk on and subsequent visit to Old Campden House Gardens, Eric Ives talk on Thomas Seymour of Sudeley Castle and Margot Coatt's stories of the Coomeraswamys at the Norman Chapel.

## CADHAS Notes & Queries

### **A Note listing the Founders, early Committee Members and some others mentioned in this abridged version in Alphabetical Order**

*Considerably fuller notes on these and many more named members will be found in the complete version to be deposited in due course in the Archive Room.*

\* = Founder member                      d = deceased

\*Jim Allen            of Broad Campden.

Joan Atkins            A member of the Haines family, a stalwart member of the Society who kindly permitted the use of a room in her house for the storage of archives from 1993 to 2001. d.

Stephen Ball            A builder by trade and a keen amateur archaeologist, who lived in Ebrington and represented Campden on the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire. He gave several talks to the Society and kept the archaeological aspect of CADHAS to the fore.

Fred Coldicott        born in Campden; an early committee member; a fount of knowledge to researchers and author of *Memories of an Old Campdonian* (1994). He is now 95 years of age and though frailer is still prepared to help with information.

Doris Court            of Weston-sub-Edge, was a Cotswold Warden, author of a history, *Weston-sub-Edge* (1992).

Gordon Croot        joined the CADHAS committee in 1991, taking on the responsibility for press reports, publicity and often for organising stewards at exhibitions. He has been Vice-Chairman since 1994.

\*John Doran            Headmaster of St Catharine's Primary School to 1989.

\*Dorrie Ellis        keen local historian with a particular interest in oral history.

John Ellson            Publicity Officer of the Society in the early days.

Craig Fees            an American, researching his PhD (obtained in 1988 with his dissertation on 'Mumming in Campden. He also wrote 'The Maypole Dance in Campden). He helped set up the St James church Muniment Room and jointly edited *A Child in Arcadia* and *Memories of an Old Campdonian*. In 1985 he was elected an Honorary Member of CADHAS in recognition of the work he had done for the society in its early years. He has given a number of talks to the Society. He is now an archivist to a Children's Charity Trust.

\*Margaret Fisher    of Ebrington; a keen local historian, one of the joint authors of *Under the Oaks* (1977) and *Beneath the Clouds* (2000).

\*Margaret Forrester-Paton    Treasurer from 1984-7; no longer lives in Campden.

\*Ian Forster        retired engineer; a keen researcher.

Jean Gershom        a fount of much local knowledge being a member of both Keyte and Badger families. She no longer lives in Campden.

Peter Gordon        retired to Willersey, then moved to Campden about 1987. He was elected Chairman in 1989 and served for 5 years, becoming Vice-President in 1994. He researched the history of Campden's Listed Houses from their deeds and contributed to *Notes & Queries*. d.

\*Ronald Hamilton    historian and author, ill-health forced his withdrawal from the founding working party.

Ken Ingram            co-opted as Programme Secretary in 1984.

Carol Jackson        came to Campden in 1988; she was Programme Secretary 1991-4 and Chairman from 1994-99. She is a Vice-President, having been elected in 2003.

Frank Johnson        elected to the Committee in 1992, was archivist from 1992—7; he has been Secretary to the Guild of Handicraft Trust since its inception.

Martin Keer        (Major). a Blockley resident, co-opted to CADHAS Committee in 1984 as Programme Secretary; resigned from this post in 1986 and from the Society in 1989 because, as Parish Clerk of Blockley, dates of meetings regularly clashed. d.

\*Reg Martin        a Chartered Surveyor who came to Campden in 1974. He has been a major contributor and influence in Campden life over thirty years through his work on the Campden Society

## CADHAS Notes & Queries

committee, as Chairman of the North District Cotswold Wardens, Work Party Officer and as the founder Chairman of CADHAS. He still attends lectures even though he is now over 90 years of age.

Carolyn Mason Author of *Snowhill, A Gloucestershire Village*, (1987); began work on researching Campden, elected Secretary of CADHAS in 1987 and died prematurely in 1991.

\*Ivor Morris resident in Campden from about 1972; a Cotswold Warden and National Trust warden.

\*Leonard Multon an architect, who retired to Campden. An active member, keen historian and Campden conservationist; d. 1998.

Kay Neville Campden Librarian at the time of the society's foundation and *ex officio* CADHAS archivist.

\*Derek Owen-Jones retired from a bank, first Curator of St James Church Muniment Room and a prime mover in the arranging to have the *Churchwardens' Accounts* transcribed with a view to publication; d. 1991.

\*Geoffrey Powell (Colonel) FRHS. Retired from the Army in 1964; a well-known military historian and author. Moved to Campden in 1977; published *Book of Campden* (1982). Chairman of CADHAS from its foundation to 1989, Vice-President from 1989 to 1996, President from 1996 to present. He has been a guiding light of the Society for the whole of its existence and was the originator of the idea of a new town history, to which he is contributing.

\*Stephen Pratt retired headmaster of King Edward VI Boys' School in Stratford-upon-Avon.

\*Richard Price local solicitor (Evesham); helped with advice and in practical ways in the early days.

Jacquetta Priestley Archaeologist and author, (Jacquetta Hawkes); moved to Campden in the 1980s. She was elected President in 1987. On her death in 1996 a number of her books were left to CADHAS.

\*Martin Samuelson Town Councillor 1991 to present; Mayor 1995-8.

\*Sue Samuelson Founder Secretary, after three years transferring to Treasurer for two years, also later was Outings Secretary; a stalwart in the early years. Has also been Vice-Chairman of the Campden Society and Local Town Councillor amongst other local activities. She a Trustee Governor of Chipping Campden school and a past chairman of Stratford NADFAS.

\* James Seumas Stewart A Scot who became a real Campden character; he opened his antiquarian bookshop, Serif Books, in the early 1960s, retiring in the mid-1980s. From 1987 to 1997 he was Campden Town Crier, and the local reporter for the Cotswold Journal. A committee member of CADHAS from its foundation, Vice-Chairman from 1985 to 1994 and Vice-President 1995 to his death in 1997.

Allan Warmington born in Campden, retired to Campden in 1986 and has consistently been generous with his knowledge and personal archives. A committee member from 1984, took over as Secretary from 1991, Vice President from 1998. Many articles for *BGAS Transactions*, *CADHAS Notes & Queries* etc and *The Manor and Borough of Campden in 1273*, published by CADHAS (1996). General Editor of the new *History of Campden*, (in preparation). . He is also a founder trustee and treasurer of the Guild of Handicraft Trust.

Jill Wilson retired to Campden and almost at once joined CADHAS; co-opted as Programme Secretary in 1986, she has been almost continuously on the Committee since then; an editor of *Notes & Queries* since its beginning and is the present Chairman.

Sheila Wood Retired to Campden in the late 1970s. On joining the committee she took a major part in organising the printing of the early CADHAS publications. She is a past chairman and present Vice-President of the Campden Society.

Tony Wright elected auditor in 1986, serving until changing Charity Commission requirements made a non-member auditor necessary.

## The Methodists in Campden

Allan Warmington

The Methodist cause has never been strong in Campden. Historically Protestant Dissent in the town was numerically rather weak, and, except perhaps in the 1820's and 1830's, the Methodist Church never established such a secure base in the town as, for instance, the Baptist Church. Historically these two denominations had a relationship not wholly free from difficulty, and it would appear that the Methodists were particularly weak at those times when the Baptist church was strongest, and vice versa.

John Wesley knew this area, even in his younger years. He frequently visited Stanton as a very recent graduate of Oxford University, he knew Broadway and Buckland well at that time and very probably visited Campden. The daughter of the vicar of Stanton became his 'religious friend', and gave him much support as a young man. Much later in life, during his evangelistic journeying about the country he got to know Evesham well, and visited it many times. One of the earliest Methodists and an acquaintance of John Wesley, was the Vicar of Quinton, with whom Wesley stayed from time to time; he knew Broad Marston and Pebworth well, and often stayed and preached in those places. Indeed the Methodists at that time had, in Wesley's words, 'our own chapel' in Broad Marston, presented to them by the Vicar of Pebworth. However, there is no evidence that he ever preached in Campden, having apparently only visited it once. The entry in his journal for 23rd March 1776 reads :

I had been informed that Mr Weston, the minister of Campden was willing I should preach in his church; but before I came, he had changed his mind. However, the vicar of Pebworth was no weathercock, so I preached in his church, Sunday the 24th, morning and evening, and, I believe, not in vain.<sup>1</sup>

Mr Weston was known thereafter as 'the weathercock parson'.

Although it already had its own dissenting meeting house, Campden seems to have been little influenced by the teachings of the Wesleys for some long time and the next Campden reference to the Methodists I have discovered appears in Revd. Elisha Smith's Baptist Church book in November 1797, where he notes the admission to membership in his church of Mrs Sarah Harris, the wife of William Harris. Of her he said :

"She has long known the Lord, having attended here from the beginning. Has a quiet peaceable spirit ..... She has a brother who has been in Mr Wesley's Society - a worthy man, many years preaching in America. Name Richard Whatcott."<sup>2</sup>

Richard Whatcott (or. more usually, Whatcoat) was born in nearby Quinton and as a boy probably heard John Wesley preach on one of his visits there. His name is familiar to students of early Methodism, as a close companion of John Wesley, and one of the six Messengers he sent out to America to consolidate the Society there. Richard Whatcoat was one of those in America who, after the growth and success of their evangelism, remained loyal to Wesley's principles, and refused to accept the title of Bishop until after Wesley's death, and then under considerable pressure.

It is not until 1808 that the first reference can be found to a Methodist Society in Campden. In that year a group of six people applied to the Bishop of Gloucester for, and were granted, a licence for 'the house of William Robins, the property of George Manton, in the town and parish of Chipping Campden ... to be used as a place of religious worship by Protestant Dissenters of the Methodist Persuasion.'<sup>3</sup> The six

were: William Robins himself, John Dyer, Mary Allcock, Susanna Manton, Joseph Stanley and Susanna Dyer. The certificate is copied into the Hockaday Abstracts, and the subsequent licence still exists and is in the archives of the Stratford and Evesham Methodist Circuit.

A curious thing about this application is that in the same year George Manton was appointed a Trustee of the Baptist Church under Elisha Smith, and that at least four of the six applicants were Baptists : Mary Allcock and the wife of William Robins had both been baptised and admitted into Baptist membership in 1806, Joseph Stanley in 1807, and Susanna Dyer was to be baptised in May 1813.<sup>4</sup> There is no hint in the Baptist Church book of any dissension about this time that might affect these members, and knowing the warmth of Elisha's theology it seems possible that Elisha Smith's church was lending support to a group of fellow Christians in establishing a meeting among themselves. One cannot tell.

In the Evesham Circuit records for 1822 24 members are recorded as members of the Campden Wesleyan society. The society was then divided into two classes, led respectively by Joseph Wheatley and James Stanley. By 1824 the number of members had risen to 31, but it then fell, to 17 by 1829, 27 by 1835 and 21 by 1840.<sup>5</sup>

There is no mention of a chapel in the town until 1841, and it may be assumed that this Society met in private houses until then. In that year, however, they acquired the building that was to be their Chapel for the next 130 years. The Chapel, situated near West End terrace, just off Watery Lane, is said by Rushen to have been a private house, bought in 1830 by one Robert Miles and rebuilt then for his own occupation, but resold by him in 1841 to the Methodist Connexion, for conversion into the chapel.<sup>6</sup> There is no reason to doubt this. All official documents confirm the date of 1841, and one schedule dated 1873 states that there were 100 sittings, of which 30 were let, 35 free and 35 reserved for children. One reference in the deeds to the former Chapel says that from 1841 until 1867 it was held on lease, and the freehold only purchased in the latter year.

There is a legend about this Robert Miles, the owner of the house, that he was a very rich but eccentric man - so rich that he is said to have propped open the front door of the house on occasions with a bag of sovereigns. Whatever the basis of this story, its telling and survival through to the beginning of this century may at least say something of the honesty of early nineteenth century Campden!<sup>7</sup>

Campden Methodist Church was always in the Evesham, or for a time the Evesham and Stratford Circuit (now the Stratford and Evesham Circuit) of the Methodist Church — a circuit with a proud history. Evesham was the head of one of the first seven circuits established by John Wesley, the circuit extending then to an area almost as big as the Midland Association of Baptist Churches, to include Herefordshire and Shropshire. Although it later disappeared it had been reformed on a more modest scale by the time the Campden society is first mentioned.

In Campden, however, the Methodist cause does not seem to have prospered too well. As we have said, there is some indication that the Church may have acquired the freehold of the Chapel in 1867. However, in 1874 the chapel was leased to the Vicar of Campden for some unspecified use, optionally for either 7 or 14 years.<sup>8</sup> At this period the Methodists who remained seem to have met either in a house behind the High Street, or, in many cases, to have joined in worship with the Baptists. Significantly this was during the Baptist pastorate of Rev W.R.Irvine when the Baptist cause was at its strongest and most vigorous. In fact in 1881, after 7 years — and three

years after Mr Irvine's death — the Trustees claimed their chapel back from the vicar and the Methodists began using it again for services. The Baptist Church book of the time makes a number of references between Mr Irvine's death in 1878 and 1882, to 'those who once worshipped with us' who had left when he had died, and it indicates some concern by their then Pastor about the possible effects of the re-opening of the Methodist Chapel.<sup>9</sup>

An article in the *Methodist Recorder* of October 1903 notes that Mr Joseph Webb was instrumental in regaining possession of the building in 1881.<sup>10</sup> Mr Webb was then a baker in Campden and though never a Trustee of the Chapel, was a great benefactor to the Society, both in Campden and particularly in Mickleton, to which place he later moved and took up market gardening. The Methodist Church Hall at Mickleton is now named the Joseph Webb Hall in his memory and that of his son.

So far we have been concerned with the Wesleyan Methodists. From time to time the Primitive Methodists, who had a very strong society at Blockley, also had a presence in Campden. They were certainly holding services there in 1852, and during the winter of 1852/53 they rented a preaching room for a few months. Most services, as well as 'camp meetings' and 'protracted meetings' held at Campden seem to have been held in the open air over the next decade, but in the 1860's the Primitive Methodists acquired the old Quaker Meeting room at Broad Campden, which they rented for some years, until the mid 1870's. While occupying that chapel the Broad Campden society also had a sabbath school which in 1868 had thirty scholars. However in 1870 the following report was made in the Circuit Report to District:

At Broad Campden we have lost all our scholars, the parents of them all having been persuaded to send them to a newly commissioned Church of England Sabbath School in this village in consequence of the prospect of their children thereby becoming eligible for admission into a Free Day School at Chipping Campden in the immediate neighbourhood.<sup>11</sup>

This seems to have been a common happening in the neighbourhood. The Baptist Minister at Campden made the same complaint about this time, and in fact wrote to the Board of Education complaining of undue influence by the Church of England day school authorities on the Baptist Sunday School. In 1874 the Primitive Methodist Circuit report under Blockley (which was then in Worcestershire) makes the same point:

An obligation is imposed upon Scholars going to the National School to go also to the Church Sunday Schools. This makes our school very fluctuating, especially when only a National School is provided.<sup>12</sup>

In fact Blockley had had a (non-Conformist) British School for some years, financed largely by the non-conformist mill owners under grants made by the Government. With the new legislation in 1870 disallowing these grants, however, this had been closed. The Primitive Methodists in fact were using one of the old British school buildings as their chapel in Blockley.

Very few other details are available about the nineteenth century history of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Campden. Towards the end of the 19th Century the Church sent a travelling 'Joyful News' evangelist by the name of R. Kedward to Campden in an attempt to revive the cause there, but his presence and his insistence on preaching in the open air, in the middle of the town, under the Elm Tree, caused considerable controversy in the town. The case was quite notorious about 1899/1900, and correspondence and leading articles appeared in the *Evesham Journal* over his activities. As reported in the *Methodist Recorder* in an article in 1903,

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“Concertinas, bells, and other noisy instruments” failing to silence him, his persecutors adopted other means, and, in default of paying the fine imposed, the preacher was imprisoned.

Probably he would have served his time but for an accident to his mother ...<sup>13</sup> when Mr Champness, a leading Methodist minister and founder of the 'Joyful News' movement, paid the fine and secured his release.

During the last century, despite some periods of revival, membership gradually declined, and, although there were prolonged efforts to keep the church open, it was finally decided, reluctantly, in 1976 to close the society and transfer the membership of the few remaining members to Mickleton.<sup>14</sup> The chapel was sold to a builder, and converted back to its original use, as a house — or rather to two houses — which use it still retains. The lettering in the panel over the front door, which used to read ‘Wesleyan Chapel, 1841’ has since been excised and relatively few newcomers or visitors to Campden realise that this was ever a place of worship.

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<sup>1</sup> John Wesley : *Journal* 23rd March 1776.

<sup>2</sup> Gloucester Record Office Ref D3969 *Chipping Campden Baptist Church Books*, 19th November 1797.

<sup>3</sup> Stratford & Evesham Methodist Circuit archives, 30th November 1808; reproduced in *Hockaday Abstracts* (Gloucs Local Studies Library GDR 334b pp410-11)

<sup>4</sup> *Baptist Church Book* op cit. entries 1806 to 1813

<sup>5</sup> Stratford & Evesham Methodist Circuit archives.

<sup>6</sup> P.C.Rushen *The History and Antiquities of Chipping Campden* p 151

<sup>7</sup> “Methodism in Orchardland” *The Methodist Recorder* 1st October 1903

<sup>8</sup> Stratford & Evesham Circuit Archives

<sup>9</sup> For instance *Baptist Church Book op cit* - letter to Oxford Assn 27th May 1879; & Report to Oxford Assn 17 May 1880.

<sup>10</sup> “Methodism in Orchardland” op cit.

<sup>11</sup> Shakespeare Memorial Trust Record Office; Ref DR147/2-9.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> “Methodism in Orchardland” op cit.

<sup>14</sup> Details of these discussions are in the Stratford & Evesham Circuit archives.