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From The Editor

As I am editing this second issue of Volume VI, Campden is deep in snow and of course looks very pretty. We are so lucky to be able to communicate and work with email and computers these days, rather than being totally cut off, as we would have been in earlier times. A previous contributor from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, John Taplin, gives us the benefit of more of his researches, while one of this year's Archive Room visitors sends a story of the hunt for his Stanley family. Dennis Granger poses an interesting question about an important military man, Monica Bedding draws for us a small picture from the Archives of the Post Office work at the turn of the last century and a further short extract from the Griffiths's Memoir throws light on two school masters of the late 1800s. We are also glad to receive comment on some recent issues of Notes & Queries now available on our website www.chippingcampdenhistory.org.uk. Thank you all for sending such interesting and valuable contributions to Notes & Queries and please keep them coming!

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

Letters to the Editor

In September 2008 we heard from **Steven Avery** of New York, who had read in N. & Q. Vol. V No.3 Autumn 2006 the article by Diana Evans on Miles Smith, Bishop of Gloucester who died in 1624 and a seemingly incorrect story in a book claiming he had walked out of a sermon in Chipping Campden and had gone to the pub because he was bored! Steven Avery requested more information as he was investigating another 'quote', which he considered to be doubtfully attributed to Miles Smith about Richard Bancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, and organiser of the King James Bible of 1611. Steven felt that the Ven. John Tiller's (author of the DNB entry on Miles Smith) comments quoted in the CADHAS article show that this story is attributed to the wrong Miles Smith. Moreover, he mentions *'Visitation Articles and Injunctions of the Early Stuart Church'* by Kenneth Fincham, which shows that Miles Smith (bishop) 'was involved in setting up standards for ministers and included standards e.g. no rowdy stuff like drinking'. It would there appear highly unlikely that the story given in *'The Power and the Glory'* by Adam Nicolson had any basis in fact.

Michael Baron from the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society wrote last autumn having enjoyed reading the piece on George Macaulay Trevelyan's quote on "The Finest Street" in N & Q Vol. VI No.1 Autumn 2008. "I wanted to tell you that GMT had retired as Master of Trinity before I went up to Cambridge, but one weekend some vulgar American friends of my parents turned up to visit me. Arthur Neufeld was his name from Chicago. He had read GMT's *English Social History* and knowing that he lived in Cambridge, insisted on meeting him. So somehow or other I was dragooned into visiting GMT with these ghastly Yanks at his home on the other side of the Backs. Did we have tea? Was it served in a silver teapot - and, being Cambridge, was there "honey still for tea?" Did the great man sign a book? What did they talk about? Was the admiration slavish or nuanced? 58 years on I am annoyed that I did not make notes nor keep a diary. I think I quickly fell into cringe mode and tried to give the impression that I had been forced into this thing! I recall that it was the summer of 1951 and GMT was kind and gentlemanly, even though this fan and wife interrupted his routines and disturbed the Sunday afternoon repose of an aged historian. One can almost hear the conversation back in Chicago over the dinner table - that far off time before Michelle Obama was born - 'Honey, do you know whom we met in little old Cambridge England, an absolutely darling old man called George Trevelyan - Artie said he's such a good historian ... and so nice... and shall I tell you about the bathroom there ...?'"



Following N. & Q. Vol. V No.4 Spring 2007, which contained an extract from the Emily Hale papers, describing a gentleman living 'in the last of a row of humble cottages with a thatched roof facing the vicar's garden and opposite a pump', **Diana Evans** brought to my attention a Jesse Taylor photo she had found of Benfield Cottage in Lyesbourne, pointing out that it had a thatched roof. Jesse Taylor took photographs of Campden between c.1897 and 1938, so she suggests that

with these dates the Emily Hale's written cottage description fits Benfield Cottage.

A Canadian's Journey to a 'Narrow Valley With Fields'

Al Shoemaker

In the late 20th century, when I started this genealogical hunt, I had a hand-drawn copy of a Stanley family tree prepared in about 1947 by cousins Emily and Edie Stanley of Charles Town, West Virginia. This family tree had hung in my mother's home in Guelph, Ontario, Canada for decades. When her house was broken up in 1992, I inherited the tree, knowing no more than that this family came from England sometime in the 19th century. I had no indication of specific locations; the only dates were those recorded on the family treeⁱ and none of my contemporary relatives had additional information.

My first clue came from a marker in Woodlawn Cemetery in Guelph, where my family had always planted and watered flowers. I knew that this plot contained the remains of my maternal Great-Grandmother. The inscription on the stone recorded that "Alice Abbey Stanley" (1837-1891) was a "Native of Prestbury, Gloucester, England". The Stanley family tree told me that Alice Morris was the wife of John Lichfield Stanley (1837-aft.1901). This Morris surname made sense, since I had a contemporary uncle Morris (Alfred Morris Smith, 1899-1995) who was a grandson of Alice Abbey Stanley (née Morris). His mother, Alice Abbey Smith, (née Stanley, 1866-1939), was the only daughter of Alice Abbey and John Lichfield Stanley.

In addition, some of the older surviving pictures in the Smith family album were captioned 'Uncle Morris' by my aunt, Violet Faith Smith (1902-1995). This man turned out to be William Morris Stanley (1864-1932), latterly of Charles Town, West Virginia, one of the three sons of John Lichfield Stanley, and the father of Emily (1900-1980) and Edith (1904-1986) Stanley. However, there were a number of problems: there was no civil death certificate for Great-Grandmother Alice Stanley, or her husband John, in the province of Ontario. However, using microfilmed Canadian census records, I found that her family, although living in Guelph in 1881, was not in the area in 1891. In addition, I also discovered that John L. Stanley was not interred in any cemetery in Guelph, nor indeed, was there any record on-line of his internment in a cemetery in the province of Ontario.

Reasoning that Great-Grandmother Alice must have been buried from an Anglican church (probably in Guelph), I discovered that the parish records of the Diocese of Niagara were stored at the library of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. A visit to that archive verified that Alice Stanley's funeral service was recorded at Guelph's St. George's Church in December 1891. I also discovered that the recorder had started to write out a cause of death in the parish records, but had then stroked it out. Later, I was to find that my aunt, Violet Faith Smith, had written a letter explaining that Great-Grandmother Alice had died of cancer.

Additionally, it became evident that the Guelph Public Library held microfilms of some surviving area newspapersⁱⁱ from the era. Fortunately, the issues for December 1891 still existed and I learned that the family of Alice and John Stanley were living in Parkdale, Ontario (a current section of Metropolitan Toronto) at her death.

So I then decided to discover something about our roots in Britain. I finally found Prestbury in a British road atlas index and reasoned that the Gloucester on my Great-Grandmother's cemetery marker, although an English city, was probably Gloucestershire, the county, which, although still less urbanized than other parts of Britain, was of a fair size, both in geography and populationⁱⁱⁱ.

My next clue came when I was looking for the historical roots of the Stanley family name. I discovered, in a book on the ethnography of English surnames, that it arose out of the Germanic Anglo-Saxon words, "Ston" (stone) and "Leigh" (meadow). This book also indicated that there were a number of "shires" in "Angle Land" that had Stanley families in their history. But "Gloucestershire", with its town of "Stoneleigh", jumped out and I continued to narrow my search.

I had a distant memory of seeing as a teenager, (some four decades before), a green slip recording the baptism of my Grandmother Smith (née Stanley), at a place called "Halford" or "Alford". This modern slip had appeared at my parents' home sometime in the 1960s, the probable result of a trip to England by cousins, Emily and Edie Stanley or my uncle, Morris Smith. I went searching for that slip, but initially found nothing, either physically or in the memories of my family^{iv}. So, amongst quite a number of other combinations, I tried 'Googling' the phrase "England Halford". It turned out that there was indeed a Halford, in Warwickshire^v, England, with its name arising from the Anglo Saxon for "ford in a narrow valley". The 1851 census found no Stanley families in Halford. However, the return for 1861 showed John Lichfield Stanley, single and aged 23, as a miller and landowner with his 60-year old housekeeper, Sarah Keyte, his widowed aunt, and both people reported that they had been born in a place in Gloucestershire called Campden^{vi}. The next Halford census return for 1871 was a lucky strike. Not only did it record John Lichfield Stanley and his wife, Alice, but all of their four children^{vii}. There were also three visitors, Ulric Stanley, Kate Stanley and Elizabeth Hickman, in the house with these visiting Stanleys reporting that they had also been born in Campden, Gloucestershire. This census listed John Lichfield as a landowner, but the census taker had written, and then ticked out, Miller. Additionally, the family was no longer living at the mill house, but were in Halford's former parish rectory. In the spring of 1871, affairs looked to be going well for the family of John and Alice Stanley^{viii}.

So, I became very interested in genealogical records for a place called, Campden, Gloucestershire and, in the days before Ancestry.com and FreeBMD became available, that took me back to a Family History Centre of the Mormon Church, probably still the greatest archive and network for genealogical records.

One of my first discoveries at a local Family History Centre was of the 1851 census CD (only four counties) of England that the Mormon Church had put together to test out the possibility of using that media for its genealogical recording and data dispersal. One night, frustrated in my attempts to trace down some of the clan of Alice Morris on microfilms ordered in from Salt Lake City, I started entering names from the Stanley family tree into this search engine. Much to my surprise, I found Alice Abbey Morris, born in Prestbury, Gloucestershire, living with her widowed aunt, Alice Coney, in Crick, Northamptonshire. I also found a John Samuel Morris (1828-1907)^{ix}, also born in Prestbury, visiting at the home of John Shailer in Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Unfortunately, the 1851 census CD did not include Gloucestershire itself, but I did notice the family of a William and Elizabeth Stanley farming at Quinton, Warwickshire. Although this William was also born in Campden, as were all of his children^x, I was somewhat doubtful that this was my forebear's family, because the Stanley family tree had told me that Sarah Johnstone was the wife of my Great-Great Grandfather, William and also, being unfamiliar with the geography, I was uncertain if Campden (which I had been unable to find on any map of England) and Chipping Campden were the same places. Additionally, my Great-Grandfather, John Lichfield,

was not in that household. ("A farmer with an able-bodied teenaged son not listed in a spring census? - unlikely. But the names and dates are somewhat similar to the ones on the family tree, so maybe relatives?") So, I noted down the family and pressed on with my search.

Some time after this, I discovered (on-line) that Campden and Chipping were both derived from the Germanic Anglo-Saxon language, meaning "narrow valley with fields" and "market town" respectively. There was also reference to a group of Anglo-Saxon leaders gathering there in the 700s to plot strategy against the existing British kingdoms. So I did finally conclude that Campden and Chipping Campden were the same place.

Within the following weeks, I received the microfilm of the 1851 census for the area of Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. I spent several nights looking for a teenage John Stanley and his parents William and Sarah. I was more than a little frustrated to find that there was no such family anywhere in the census area of Campden, Gloucestershire. However, it made me even more curious about the farming family of William and Elizabeth Stanley at Quinton on the 1851 census.

Some months later, I was to discover the then-newly-extant CD-Rom set of the 1871 British census issued by the Mormon Church. I quickly found that Sarah Keyte, who had been keeping house for John Lichfield Stanley down at the mill in Halford in 1861, was "boarding" on the High Street of Chipping Campden, in the home of William and Elizabeth Stanley and this William and Elizabeth were the same people who had been farming in Quinton Gloucestershire in 1851, right down to Great-Great-Grandmother Elizabeth's birthplace of Limerick City, Ireland.

So, in the late Fall of 2003, I knew that I would go to England in the following spring and see what family history I might discover in the "Village of Priests", the "Market Town in the Valley with Fields" and the "Ford in the Narrow Valley".

ⁱ In the early 21st century, I also discovered in Charles Town that any detailed genealogical notes that my West Virginia cousins might have gathered were gone into history.

ⁱⁱ The Guelph Herald, which my maternal grandfather, Alfred Ephraim Smith (1871-1948) was helping to print at the time.

ⁱⁱⁱ Gloucestershire, on the 1871 census, had a recorded population of slightly over 250,000 people while its modern population is about 833,000. Its geographical area is 3,150 square kilometres.

^{iv} This slip was to turn up, some months after the events of the following paragraph, folded neatly into the pages of my Grandmother Smith's bible, which I also inherited.

^v I did spend sometime finding that the English counties of Gloucestershire and Warwickshire were contiguous to one another. I also discovered that there were not many detailed maps of those counties outside of Ontario's University libraries.

^{vi} The same British road atlas mentioned earlier showed that Halford, Warwickshire and Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire were within 10 miles of one another.

^{vii} William Morris (1864-1932), Alice Abbey (1866-1939), Lichfield Hubert (1868-1932) and John Lee Ulric (1871- probably 1873).

^{viii} I was to discover later (on-line) that within weeks of this census my Stanley great-grandparents, with their three eldest children, were to emigrate across the Atlantic and land in New York City. The youngest son, John Lee Ulric, would be christened in St Mary's Church in Halford after their departure.

^{ix} To those with knowledge of Chipping Campden's history, it is sufficient to say that this is the same John Samuel Morris who is buried in St James's Cemetery.

^x Heubert aged 6, Ulrick aged 4 and Katherine aged 2.

Extract from: **Memoir of the life of Guy Desmond Griffiths**

In Notes & Queries Vol. V, No 6 Spring 2008, there appeared a Memoir extract, courtesy of Ronald Desmond Griffiths of Australia, the grandson of Guy Desmond Griffiths b.1879 who was the youngest son of William Higford Griffiths of Bedfont House 1829 -1910 and his wife Ellen 1837-1912. This is a further short extract for the few years following about 1888 and gives us a picture of life at Campden Grammar School.

Then began, I think, the happiest time of my life. Pat and I and another brother about 5 years older than me [*this could be Heston b. 1874*] were all to go to the Grammar School in the village. It was a very old school dated back to AD 1400 I believe. The headmaster was a clergyman in the Church of England, pretty old; he was and very kind, considerate and sympathetic with his boys. I never knew him give any boy a hiding, but if any boy transgressed he duly got a severe lecture. Everybody liked him, not only the boys, but everyone in the village. [*Ed. At the Campden Grammar School the headmaster at this time must be Rev. Joseph Forster.*] Nearly all the local boys went to this school, mostly all farmers' sons, and the sons of the village tradesmen. I now set my mind seriously to study, and worked hard at all the lessons I was set. We were taught a lot of different subjects, Latin, French, Arithmetic, Geometry, Algebra and a variety of others ...

Things went on very much the same at school till the headmaster left and a new one took his place [*This must be Mr F. B. Osborne, appointed 1889.*] The new head was just about the opposite of the old one. He used the bullying method towards the boys and thrashings and canings were plentiful. He never touched me except once; that was when some of us went up to Oxford to take the exam. Every evening he used to make us go over the subjects for the next day's exam; I think we were there about a week. The evening before the exam in Euclid, he got into a terrible rage with me because I couldn't do the translation to his liking. He ended up by going for me and giving me a lot of open handed cuffs on the head; he hit me very hard, bruised my face and knocked me on the floor, then cleared out of the room. This did not increase my admiration for him; in fact I had nothing but contempt for him.

Not long after that he tried to give my brother a hiding in the big classroom of the Grammar School. Now Hess was a great big strong powerful lad and was wearing a solid leather belt, with a very heavy buckle he used to buckle around his waist. He used the belt for chaining his two dogs when he took them out for exercise. Now as soon as this man came up to Hess and endeavoured to give him a hiding, Hess just steps back and unbuckles his belt, grabs it by the leather end and swings the heavy buckle end as hard as he could at the Master's head. He repeated the swinging of the buckled belt till he had chased the Master around the classroom, and he gave the Master a jolly good hiding, put on his belt, left the room and never entered the school again. My parents never mentioned a word about it, but Hess stayed home for quite a while and then went to California.

Percy Hobart, Major General to Lance Corporal

Dennis Granger

In the darkest hour, on 10th May 1940, Churchill became Prime Minister. Days later, from 26th May to 2nd June, a large part of the British army was brought home from Dunkirk, but Britain was alone, U-boats were spreading their grip and the Blitz was under way. The new premier, with his experiences of WW1 still vivid in the memory, wrote in a memorandum to his war cabinet: "This war is not however a war of masses of men hurling masses of shells at each other. It is by devising new weapons and above all by scientific leadership that we shall best cope with the enemy's superior strength." Churchill was prepared to try almost everything that could bring about victory. In May he retained the office of Minister of Defence and close overall direction of the development and use of a range of new weapons.

Early in the war, he identified three men of unorthodox talents: Professor Frederick Lindemann, later Lord Cherwell, Professor of Experimental Philosophy at Oxford University and Millis Jefferies, Major, Royal Engineers, a dangerous genius for making explosives, who progressed to Major General and a knighthood as the war progressed.

The third recruit to this small group was Major-General Percy Cleghorn Stanley Hobart, born in 1885, commissioned into the Royal Engineers, awarded the MC at Neuve Chapelle in 1915 and the DSO while serving in Mesopotamia 1916-1918 where he also earned an OBE. In 1923 he had joined the Royal Tank Corps, convinced that the future of the Army lay with armoured forces and became recognised by Liddell Hart and the German General Guderian as an expert in handling tanks who had vision and a dynamic sense of mobility. He did much to develop the tactical methods and wireless control required for fast moving operations with other arms and tried out, in practice, the theory of deep strategic penetration by an armoured force operating independently. In 1933 he was appointed Inspector of the RTC and also commanded the 1st Tank Brigade fiercely pursuing meticulous training on Salisbury Plain.

In 1938 Leslie Hore-Belisha, the War Minister, created Britain's first Armoured Division, under the command of Hobart to replace the cavalry division training in Egypt. Thus Hobart created the 7th Armoured Division, later to become the famous Desert Rats, from a collection of obsolete light and medium tanks, Ford trucks and WW1 armoured cars. The conversion made him unpopular with cavalry officers who were reluctant to allow fast-moving desert exercises to displace cavalry traditions. Hobart's quick ideas, impatience and bullying attitudes made enemies among more senior officers and eventually led to him being replaced early in 1940 despite the recognition that he had produced a capable fighting formation. Six months after he was compelled to retire at the age of fifty-five, the division he created won a famous victory over the Italian army. Hobart wrote letters of protest to the war office, even to the King, asking for other useful military employment, but to no effect until Churchill set out to discover an original thinker on tank warfare for his 'research and development unit'.

Churchill was reminded of Hobart's talents, sought his ideas on armoured vehicles development and in November 1940 he was appointed to command and train a newly formed 11th Armoured Division earmarked for service in North Africa, but despite Churchill's intervention, at fifty-seven he was not able to persuade a medical board

that he was fit to go on active service overseas and on 15th October 1942 had to hand over his command. Hobart was given a new and secret appointment to develop units primarily for special roles and secondly as normal tank formations in preparation for the invasion of France.

Early in April 1943 he took command of the 79th Armoured Division to organise various groups of troops and specialised vehicles which would swim ashore, flail through dense minefields, blast pill boxes and gun emplacements, lay tracks across soft ground, fill ditches with rolls of timber or throw bridges over canals without incurring heavy casualties among unprotected engineers and assault troops. Development of vehicles for new and unusual purposes, often from obsolete or inadequate tanks, helped to carry the allied forces across Northern Europe and eventually to the Rhine crossing and on to the capture of Bremen. The 79th Armoured Division was disbanded soon after victory in Europe and Hobart sent his farewell message on 20th August 1945.

There is one episode in Hobart's career, which merits a note in CADHAS's records:

When Churchill asked for his tank expert to be brought out of retirement, Hobart had already appealed to the King for reinstatement in a role where his services could be used, but he was effectively discarded and so he had already found a new vocation. On 9th March 1940 Major General Percy Hobart, now on retired pay, became a Lance-Corporal in the Chipping Campden Local Defence Volunteers (precursor to the Home Guard). When Liddell Hart and General Pile (another "wasted brain") persuaded the reluctant "Hobo" to set aside his grievance and respond to an invitation to visit Churchill at Chequers on 13th October 1940, where he was to be interviewed by the Prime Minister and Clement Atlee, he asked for advice. "Do I come dressed as a civilian, as a Major-General of the British Army or as a Corporal in the Home Guard?"

Hobart's service in the Campden Home Guard lasted only seven months, but do we have any other notes about his place in Campden's history? Did he return to his retirement in the town at the end of the war? [Ed. *Where did Percy Hobart live in Campden? Why was he here? He died in 1957 in Farnham, Surrey.*]

I am grateful to my friend, Selwyn Evans, for recommending "*Churchill's Secret Weapons: The Story of Hobart's Funnies*" by Patrick Delaforce which he found in Campden Library.

Post Office Accounts and Notebook

Monica Bedding

In 2007 Mrs Nancy Avery of Hatherley gave CADHAS an Accounts and Note Book from Chipping Campden Post Office dating from 1887-1921, which contains some interesting facts. Deliveries to Broad Campden were started in 1894 and the postman was paid 3/- per week for this duty, in addition to his salary. He was expected to leave Chipping Campden at 8.05am, clear the post box at 9.0am and return to the post office at 9.20am. In 1894 it was necessary for postmen to have served for 3 months continuously before they would be paid for working Sundays, Good Fridays, Christmas and Bank Holidays. Substitute postmen under the age of 18 years of age were paid 28/- per week, those over 18 years 36/- and those over 23 years £2-4-0. Between 1887 and 1898 annual takings by the Campden Post Office averaged more than £6,000. During the late 19th century commission on the sale of stamps and

licences was £1 per hundred. At this time some postmen are listed as being 45 minutes late, incapable, presumably drunk.

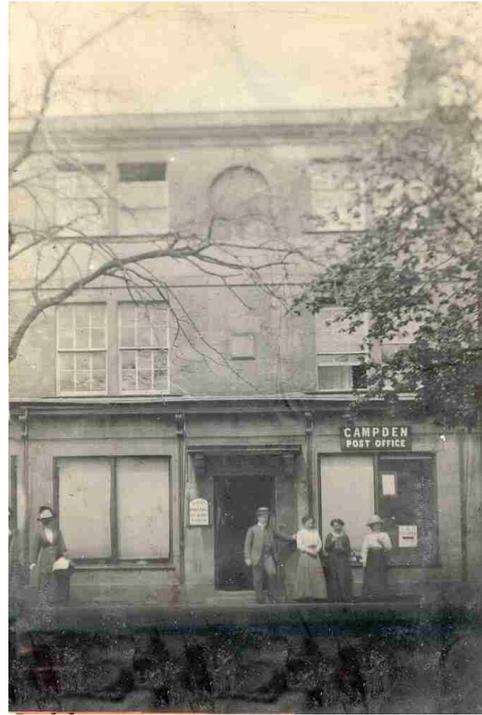
In 1921 some women clerks' names are listed. The names are Eleanor Ena Roberts age 26, Winifred May Lester 17, D. Eulalie Collins 25, Eleanora Maude Lester 26, Edith Roberts 28 and Mrs G.M. Lester who left in 1922.

A message on a postcard had been recorded:

“Dear Wife, come home on Saturday morning - because if you don't come home, I shall jack up my work. If you will come on Saturday you can go back Monday & 8/2 ain't much, you ought to 'ford that”.

The pages of this notebook have been photocopied to view in the Archive Room.

[Ed. Until 1889 the Post Office was at Ardley House, now The Kings, with postmaster and grocer Robert Keyte, age 54, his daughter Rebecca age 17 a telegraphist and son William age 16 a postal messenger and thereafter at London House, shown here, with Mr Julius Neve, postmaster and draper age 43, assisted by his 20 year old daughter Muriel a postal & telegraph clerk. When did it move to Elsley's? Can anyone add more?]



The Noel Family's Shakespeare Connections – Part 1

John Taplin

The Noel family's connections with Chipping Campden have been widely recorded, being synonymous for many with their relationship to Sir Baptist Hicks and the marriage of Sir Baptist's daughter, Juliana, to Sir Edward Noel. Edward Noel was the grandson of Andrew Noel, who in the land rush that followed the Henrician Reformation, acquired, amongst other property, the former preceptory of the knights of St. John at Dalby-upon-Wold in Leicestershire. Edward's father, also Andrew, was a favoured member of Elizabeth's court and was knighted by his royal mistress. According to Burke,ⁱ the extravagant lifestyle he maintained led to financial difficulties forcing him to alienate *[Ed. transfer]* his Dalby holding, prompting the queen to remark:

“The word of denial, and letter of fifty,
Is that gentleman's name who will never be thrifty”

Burke's attribution of this rebus to the queen and its reference to Sir Andrew Noel is probably misdirected. John Manningham, in his diary entry for 30 December 1602, credits it to Sir Walter Rawly (Raleigh) and the response by Mr. Noel as:

“The foe to the stommacke, and the word of disgrace
Shewes the gent(leman's) name with the bold face”ⁱⁱ

Rather than Sir Andrew, Mr. Noel was most probably his younger brother, Henry Noel, who had also been favoured by the queen and by her Lord Chamberlain, Henry Carey, 1st Lord Hunsden, patron of Shakespeare's acting troupe, the Chamberlain's Men.ⁱⁱⁱ John Manningham, a Middle Temple student, had earlier recounted a story

doing the rounds of a tryst that a lady admirer of Richard Burbage, Shakespeare's colleague, had arranged with him at a time that Burbage was playing the lead in *Richard III*. Shakespeare, having overheard the details of this clandestine meeting unobserved, proceeded to arrive at the rendezvous ahead of Burbage and 'was entertained'. On his arrival, Burbage was informed that he had been forestalled because William the Conqueror came before Richard III.

Apart from Dalby, the Noels had also property at Brooke in Rutland and Sir Andrew served as a sheriff for the county three times. He married Mabel, a daughter of Sir James Harrington (or Harington)^{iv} of Exton, Rutland, and his wife, Lucy Sidney.^v Mabel was sister to Sir John Harrington, created 1st Baron Harrington by James I in 1603, to whom he was distantly related.^{vi} Sir John was charged with the protection and tutorship of Princess Elizabeth, eldest daughter of James I at Coombe Abbey, near Coventry, and during her time there she became a target for the conspirators of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605. Harrington evidently entertained lavishly at his Warwickshire and Rutland houses. Correspondence between Jacques Petit and his master, Anthony Bacon, the brother of Sir Francis, tells of a performance by the Lord Chamberlain's Men, probably including Shakespeare, of *Titus Andronicus* at Burley-on-the-Hill, Rutland, at the Christmas and New Year celebrations of 1595-6. Petit was at Burley acting as gentleman servant to the mysterious Monsieur Le Doux.^{vii} Again, in 1602, the letters of John Chamberlain advise that:

"Sir John Harington meanes to keepe a royall Christmas in Rutlandshire, having the Erles of Rutland, and Bedford, Sir John Grey, and Sir Henrie Carie, with their ladies, the Erle of Pembroke, Sir Robert Sidney, and many other gallants"^{viii}

Princess Elizabeth later married Frederick, Elector Palatine of the Rhine and Sir John accompanied her to Germany after her marriage at Whitehall on St. Valentine's Day, 14 February 1613, but died on 23 August that year at Worms on his return journey. Harrington's service to the royal family had been a heavy financial burden and at his death he left huge debts. Sir John's heir was his son, also Sir John Harrington, but he died unmarried within a year of his father and with his death the barony became extinct.^{ix}

Following the death of Sir John Harrington, 2nd Baron Harrington, Sir Baptist Hicks purchased the manors of Exton, Horn, and Whitwell, in Rutland, together with the mansion of Exton Hall from the executors of Sir John's estate.^x This purchase was probably prompted by the existing Noel association with the county, together with their Harrington kinship into which circle Sir Baptist's daughter, Juliana, had married and may have been somewhat opportunist in light of the Harringtons' financial plight. Sir Baptist Hicks was raised to the peerage in 1628 as Baron Ilmington, Warwickshire, and 1st Viscount Campden, but dying without a male heir in 1629 the titles passed to his son-in-law, Sir Edward Noel as 2nd Viscount Campden. Sir Edward had himself previously been elevated to the peerage as Baron Noel of Ridlington^{xi} and the subsequent elevation of his grandson, Edward Noel, to the earldom of Gainsborough, a reflection of the family's ancient holdings at Grandborough,^{xii} Warwickshire, is well documented.^{xiii} There is an echo of Shakespeare in the marriage of this earl to Elizabeth Wriothesley, granddaughter of Henry Wriothesley, 3rd earl of Southampton, the patron and dedicatee of Shakespeare's first published work, the poem *Venus and Adonis* (1593) and its sequel, *The Rape of Lucrece* (1594).

In terms of the Noel-Shakespeare connections there are three avenues that need to be considered. Firstly, Mabel Harrington, Sir Andrew Noel's wife, was the sister of Theodosia Harrington, who married Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley.^{xiv} Sutton's legitimate progeny eventually descended into the Ward family, baronial lords Birmingham and earls of Dudley, whose fortune was enhanced through their investments in the eighteenth century industrial revolution, epitomised by their magnificent homes at Witley Court and Himley Hall.^{xv} However, Edward Sutton also had another, illegitimate, family through his 'concubine', Elizabeth Tomlinson. A servant of Sutton, John Bagley of Dudley, who was probably married to Elizabeth's sister, Agnes or Ann Tomlinson, had a son Edward, whose own son, also Edward Bagley, became the executor and principal beneficiary of the will of Shakespeare's granddaughter, Lady Elizabeth Bernard.^{xvi} Lady Bernard had been born Elizabeth Hall, daughter of Susanna Shakespeare, the Poet's eldest child, and the physician John Hall. Elizabeth had married firstly Thomas Nash, a local Stratford gentleman, but their marriage ended childless with his death in 1647. She married two years later John, subsequently Sir John, Bernard (or Barnard) of Abington, Northampton, the son of Baldwin Bernard of Abington and Eleanor Fullwood of Ford Hall. The Fullwoods were kin of the Shakespeares through the marriage of Mary Hill, the stepdaughter of Robert Arden, Shakespeare's maternal grandfather, to John Fullwood of Little Alne near Stratford, a cadet branch of the Fullwoods of Ford Hall and Clay Hall, Warwickshire.

The second Shakespeare connection also involves Mabel Noel née Harrington in that another of her siblings, Sir James Harrington, 1st Baronet Ridlington, married as his second wife, Anne D'Oyley or Doyley, née Bernard, a sister of Baldwin Bernard and aunt of Sir John Bernard, the second husband of Shakespeare's granddaughter. Margery, Anne's daughter from her first marriage to John D'Oyley, married Sir Edward Harrington, Anne's stepson from her husband's first marriage to Frances Sapcote. Through this line the baronetcy of Ridlington in Rutland has continued to the present 14th baronet, Sir Nicholas John Harrington, who lives in Worcestershire. The genealogical complexity of the marital and extra-marital relationships that connected the Harrington, Sutton, and Bernard families and the extensions of these via the Fullwoods to the Ardens and hence the Shakespeares is such that much of it has eluded Shakespeare biographers. Indeed, the choice by Lady Bernard of her 'loveing kinsman', Edward Bagley,^{xvii} an obscure London pewterer, as her executor and the main beneficiary of her will barely rates a mention by recent writers and as a consequence the connections outlined here, to which the Noels can now be added, are largely unrecognised.

The third Noel-Shakespeare association involves another branch of the Noel family, the Noels of Kirkby Mallory, and will form the second part of this study.

ⁱ Burke, *Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, pp.386-7, London, 1844.

ⁱⁱ Robert Parker Sorlien, *The Diary of John Manningham of the Middle Temple, 1602-1603*, pp.161-2, The University Press of New England, 1976. John Aubrey also quoted a version of the pun on Raleigh's name, but without the Noel rebus that apparently prompted it. Aubrey, *Brief Lives*.

ⁱⁱⁱ Stephen W. May, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*: entry for Henry Noel.

^{iv} The spelling of the Harrington family name is, like many names of the period, spelt in alternative ways. Most existing 1600s contemporary records the spelling of the name was with a double 'r', however that it should be noted that the single 'r' is used in some instances and this is the way the family spells their name today. It has been suggested that the single 'r' spelling was adopted after one of the family was a signatory to Charles I's death warrant in order to distance the rest of the family from the regicide after the Restoration.

^v Lucy Sidney married James Harrington about 1540. She was the daughter of Sir William Sidney of Penshurst, Kent. In 1552 Edward VI made a gift of Penshurst to his loyal steward and tutor, Sir William Sidney. The Sidney influence increased further when Sir William's son, Henry Sidney, married Lady Mary Dudley, whose powerful family included John Dudley, duke of Northumberland and his sons Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester and Ambrose Dudley, earl of Warwick. Henry Sidney's son, Sir Philip Sidney, was to achieve great fame as a poet, soldier and the singular noblest example of the ideals of a chivalrous age. Lucy's sister, Frances married Thomas Radcliffe, earl of Sussex and she became the foundress of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. At her death in 1589 she left £5000 and other gifts to help establish the college, though this proved inadequate. The main executors of her will, supervised by Whitgift, were Sir John Harrington and the lawyer Henry Grey, earl of Kent.

^{vi} Grimble, *The Harrington Family*, p.144. Grimble gives this relationship as 12th cousin through a common descent from the family of Bruce. Sir John Harrington was sometime Recorder of Coventry and is mentioned, together with Sir Fulke Greville and Sir Thomas Lucy in an instruction for a muster in 1590. See *Coventry Leet Book or Mayor's Register*, Vol. 2, p. 833, transcribed and edited by Mary Dormer Harris.

^{vii} Burley, near Exton in Rutland, was another property of Sir John Harrington, later owned by the Villiers and Noel families. The episode at Burley involving Petit and Le Doux is outlined in Daphne du Maurier's *Golden Lads* (1975). Le Doux is proposed by some Marlovians as the nom de guerre adopted by Christopher Marlowe in his disguise as a Frenchman, subsequent to his supposed faked death at Deptford in 1593. For more on this hypothesis, see A.D. Wraight's *Shakespeare: New Evidence* (1996) and Peter Farey's website at <http://www2.prestel.co.uk/reyl/>.

^{viii} *Letters of John Chamberlain*, Camden Society. The extract quoted is taken from *The Worthies of Warwickshire who lived between 1500 and 1800* by Rev. Frederick Leigh Colvile.

^{ix} PROB 11/123, 383/343, will of Sir John Harrington of Exton, dated 19 February 1613-4 and proved 21 April 1614.

^x Middlesex county records: Volume 4: 1667-88 (1892), pp. 329-349. This source incorrectly cites Sir James Harrington as the tutor of Princess Elizabeth.

^{xi} Sir Edward Noel of Brooke, Rutland, was created a baronet in June 1611 and baron on 23 March 1616-17. He died 10 March 1643.

^{xii} See *A History of the County of Warwick* (VCH), vol. 6, pp.94-6, for early Noel associations with Grandborough.

^{xiii} Edward Noel, 4th Viscount Campden, was created earl of Gainsborough in December 1682. He was buried at Exton on 8 April 1689.

^{xiv} Theodosia Harrington, daughter of Sir James Harrington of Exton, married Edward Sutton at St. Benet Fink, London, on 12 June 1581. Edward Sutton was 14 years old when he married Theodosia Harrington.

^{xv} Himley Hall, Staffordshire, was a home of Humble Ward, 1st Lord Birmingham, after Dudley Castle the traditional home of the Sutton-Ward family, Lords Dudley, was slighted in the Civil War. Himley remained in the possession of the Wards, by then earls of Dudley, into the 20th century and was the honeymoon location for the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Witley Court was also theirs having been purchased by William Humble Ward, 11th Baron Ward of Birmingham, in 1837. They sold it in 1920 to Sir Herbert Smith, after which it was destroyed by fire in 1937. Interestingly, Witley was previously owned from the late 15th century until 1655 by the Russells of Strensham, one of whom, Thomas Russell, was an overseer of Shakespeare's will.

^{xvi} PROB 1/42, 2, will of Dame Elizabeth Bernard, dated 29 January 1669-70 and proved 4 March 1669-70. She was buried in the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Abington, near her home Abington Manor. Today the manor is a museum. Her grave, lost for many years, was re-discovered in 1988.

^{xvii} J. Taplin, 'Shakespeare's Granddaughter and the Bagleys of Dudley: An investigation of their relationship and that of others to the last direct descendant of William Shakespeare', *The Blackcountryman*, 38, 4 (2005), pp.6-11, 39, 1 (2006), pp.6-13, & 39, 2 (2006), pp.6-15, (The Black Country Society).