

Signpost



The Journal of Chipping Campden History Society

Issue no. 8

Spring 2018



Bringing local history to life



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From the Editor

This Signpost demonstrates to me the huge value researchers find in diaries, correspondence and newspaper reports as sources of information. Michael Luntley's analysis of an 1876 legal case was prompted by a diary note made by Joseph Arch. Graham Pearson's article using newspaper reports and correspondence tells us about Mrs Perkins' early interest in plants when living in Seattle and the importance of her 1930s trips to Campden and England. From Seattle, USA to Jenny Bourne's search for the background of a convict transported Australia and with other enquiries from Switzerland and Australia, we have developed quite an international flavour in this edition. Campden's wartime years are again brought to life from diaries and letters in Deja Whitehouse's concluding part of her article about Frieda Harris. The Committee's report on its varied activities during a very busy year concludes this issue. I hope you all enjoy reading yet another fascinating Signpost and my thanks to all contributors. Please keep your news, comments, research findings and articles coming in to me.

Signpost is published by Chipping Campden History Society. © 2018 ISSN 2056-8924

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Front cover illustration:

This photograph (ref: lib0037561) of the back of Stamford House in Leysbourne is featured along with others in the article by Graham Pearson about Mrs. Edith Carroll Perkins on page 11. The owners of Stamford House say that the house looks different now with more windows and fewer chimneys. These photos are originally hand-coloured glass lantern slides taken in the 1920s and 1930s and appear with permission of RHS Library Collections. Having examined the correspondence that is held by the RHS, Graham Pearson thinks that Mrs. Perkins commissioned a professional photographer, Reginald Malby, to take them. He died in 1924 and his wife, Eleanor Malby, continued the business after his death and again from correspondence it appears she travelled with Mrs Perkins. You will see these garden photographs in colour when this Signpost is posted on the CCHS website in a couple of months.

Correspondence

There is a **correction** for hardcopy readers to the last *Signpost* No 7 Autumn 2017 on page 13. Pickwick House was never called Huckleberry – it was The Lindens, further along Back Ends, where the father of the then owner of Pickwick lived, that was called Huckleberry for a short while. The current owners of Pickwick House believe that it is only the gate posts, not the gates, which are listed.

Mary Fielding brings the following website to our attention as a fascinating resources for browsing through, for instance see the exhibitions pages - <https://folgerpedia.folger.edu>

Another enquirer has referred us to this website, which gave him much information about Campden: <http://www.greatervancouverparks.com/Chipping.html>

The Campden Society has also recently launched its website: www.thecampdensociety.org and it contains much good information and photographs of Campden. Its associated Facebook page is currently based on photographs both old and new of our town. ‘Then and Now’ photographs test your knowledge of locations in Chipping Campden and ‘Events from the Past’ are regular features.

A chance meeting by a committee member with **John Boodle** (Query ref. 17.100) revealed another interesting website for The Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society which have been digitised and can be searched. For instance read on page 21 a report of a meeting the Society held on Tuesday 11th Sep. 1923 in Chipping Campden and the history tour they took of the town. https://archive.org/stream/transactionsofbr45bris/transactionsofbr45bris_djvu.txt

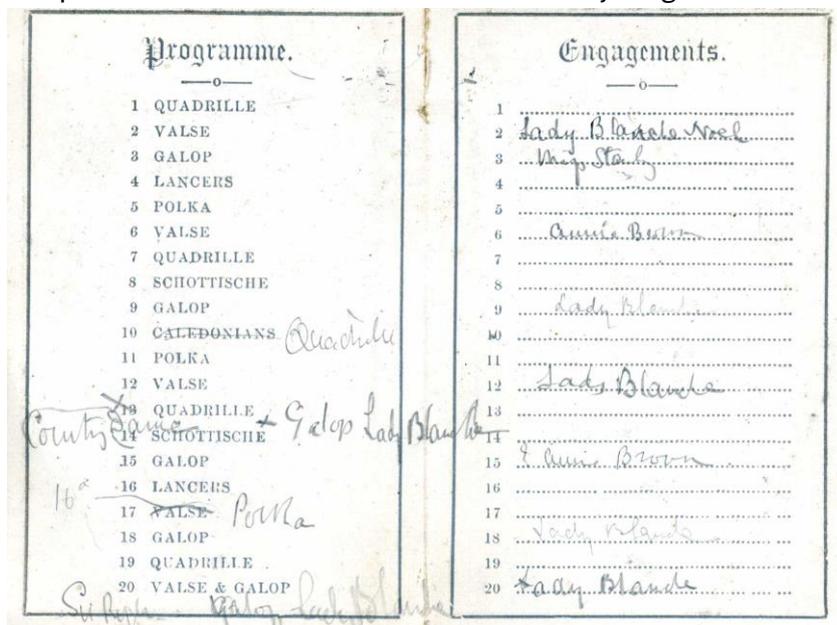
If you would like a **Guided Walk of Winchcombe** to learn more of its fascinating history, please get in touch with Sue Smith on winchwalks.13@gmail.com or phone Winchcombe Tourist Information Centre 01242 602925 or 07754 776508 or just turn up. Walks are on Sundays at 11am and 2.30pm from Easter to October and start at the Winchcombe TIC.

John Ebsworth (Query ref: 17/107) emailed from Henty in Australia, a sleepy town with population of 1,000, halfway between Wagga Wagga and Albury in NSW, with its main claim to fame being that the first crop harvester was invented there. It seems that an Ebsworth started the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (now the National Australia Bank) and a John Macarthur, who established the Australian wool industry, would not have accomplished this without advice from the Ebsworth family, who on two separate occasions saved his endeavours. The enquirer is researching his family roots, came across Jackie Radford’s article in *Notes & Queries* Volume VII, page 43 on Marmaduke Tennant and his connection with the Miles, Singleton and Ebsworth families of Campden. We wait to hear more.

Another enquirer, **Alexandre Solcà**, from Switzerland, (Query ref: 17/104) who is researching Mrs Elizabeth Nicholas, an SOE (Special Operations Executive), in order to write a book on her, recently asked if we knew anything of her and her friend, Diana Rowden, with whom she is logged drinking at a pub in Moreton-in-the-Marsh and visiting the Oddington old Church in 1937. She appears in a touching book about some courageous people and daring operations to save many lives in WWII under German occupation, called *Death be not Proud*, pub. Cresset Press, London, 1958. Elizabeth was a travel correspondent and wrote more than ten important articles for the Sunday Times between 1955 and 1961 and also for the Birmingham Daily Post. The enquirer thinks that, because the Cotswolds, Hidcote and Chipping Campden are very precisely mentioned, she could have lived very near to Hidcote possibly in the 1930s and later in the 1950s. It seems she was married with one daughter called Miranda. She also published some books with the journalist Leonard Russell and was also in Singapore in 1955, returning from Australia around 1955. CCHS was unable to help identify this Elizabeth Nicholas, but the enquirer hopes that some of our Members may remember something? Contact the Editor if these names mean anything to you.

Chris Cobb (Query ref: 18/003) wrote asking about his great grandfather, Dr Charles John Smith, b. 6th May 1838, who lived and practiced as a recently qualified and very Junior Doctor in Campden for a few years in the 1860s (possibly between 1864 and early 1870, because by the 1871 census he is a doctor in Hove with his family and a new baby daughter of 8 months, born in Hove). So in Campden he was in his mid to late 20s with a young wife Sarah Ann (née Clode, who was three

years older than him) and baby son Charles Aubrey Smith (b.21st July 1863 in London). Chris told us he is transcribing his mother's diaries and found interesting references to the North Cotswolds Rifle Corps in which Charles participated, winning several shooting competitions. In the family's possession is a Dance Card (see left) for a Rifle Corps Ball held on Aug. 29th 1867 in the Campden Town Hall, which revealed that Lady Blanche Noel was booked to dance six times with



Charles!! Lady Blanche Noel presented the prizes for the afternoon's sports and the Rifle shooting competition and a silver Bugle to the N.C.R.C. on behalf of the Countess of Gainsborough. The enquirer wondered where the bugle was now?

We were able to tell the enquirer that Lady Blanche Elizabeth Mary Annunciata Noel was the eldest sister of Charles William Frances Noel, who was eventually to become 3rd Earl of Gainsborough. Her father was Charles George, 2nd Earl of Gainsborough and her mother was Ida Hay, daughter of William, 17th Earl of Erroll. Blanche was born c.1845, so she would have been about 22 at this Rifle Corps dance. In the book 'Memories and Wanderings', Norah Noel, her niece, wrote:

*'My Aunt Blanche, my father's eldest sister, had a fascinating personality and was adored by poor people. Her lovely white skin, blue eyes and bright golden hair went far to give the impression of beauty'. However only three years after this dance, on 6th March 1870 she made a runaway marriage with Thomas Peter Murphy, who was two or three years younger than her. The Evesham Journal reported on 12th March 1870, that he was abruptly dismissed from Earl of Gainsborough's employ as organist (at Exton, Rutland) and soon after, Lady Blanche was found missing from her home, Exton House. Detective police were called and traced them to Spitalfields. The marriage was registered in Chelsea (Ref. 1a 360). They have not been found in the 1871 census. They emigrated to America, where for many years she contributed delightful articles to the American Press. She had no children and after her death on 21st March 1881 her body was brought home and buried at Exton. There is a rare book written about Blanche and her family, her life in America and her writings called *Daughter of an Earl* by Ellen Louise Bigelow, from which this photo [see right] of Blanche is taken.*



Mary Taylor: 'Knowing One's Place' - Rural Crime & Punishment in Late C19.

Michael Luntley

This article results from a contact made by Michael Luntley from the newly formed Princethorpe History Group, Warwickshire. Michael is a retired academic and Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at University of Warwick. He is researching Joseph Arch of Barford, founder and first President of the Agricultural Worker's Union, who started his campaign to unionise agricultural workers at a meeting in Wellesbourne on 7th February 1872.

Joseph Arch's diaries (little pocket note books) contain little narrative detail. They mostly list his travel and living costs on speaking tours throughout the country in 1876 – 1878. However, in 1876 he saw fit to record the following:¹

Mary Taylor of Chipping Campden in July 1876 was sent to Gloster jail for 7 days to hard labour for going into Campden Church to take her daughter from the altar to prevent her marrying a Roman Catholic. The two Church Wardens summonsed her. The mother Mary Taylor has borne 21 children and was 66 yrs of age. No previous stain on her character. The husband name John Taylor. ... Magistrates ... were Revd. Bourne of Western Subedge Chairman, Mr Bartletts & Mr Johnson. The two latter... begged hard for her release but the Chairman insisted upon a conviction without the option of a fine although the husband 71 years of age begged hard for a fine.

We do not know what struck Arch about Mary's story. He provides no commentary. This short paper explores some of the issues it raises.

Here is how *The Evesham Journal* reported the case²:

The Evesham Journal, Saturday May 20, 1876, Petty Sessions Wednesday last. Before the Rev. G. D. Bourne (chairman), T. S. Shekell, and E. Bartleet, Esqrs.

DISGRACEFUL CONDUCT IN A CHURCH. *Mary Taylor, of Campden, was charged by Messrs. W. Rimell and W. Stanley, churchwardens of Campden, with being guilty of riotous, violent, and indecent conduct at the parish Church of Campden, on Monday last, the 15th instant, during the performance of a service – to wit, the holy rite of matrimony. Defendant pleaded guilty, and expressed sorrow for her conduct. – The case was proved by Rev. T. B. Champney, curate of Campden, who stated that he was performing the rite of matrimony, on Monday morning last, between defendant's daughter, Mary Taylor, jun., and Michael Kea, when defendant entered the church, and, addressing the bride, interrupted the service. In reply to the Bench, he did not hear her use bad language to himself. Sergeant Rose was present. – The Chairman: Oh, indeed! Was he there as one of the wedding party? – Rev. Champney: No, he was there at the request of the vicar. We had an idea that there would be a little unpleasantness. The Chairman: Were either of the parties under age? – Rev. Champney: No, Mary Taylor, the bride (daughter of the defendant), was 24, and the bridegroom 28 years of age. – The Chairman: Then why was it necessary for the police to be called in? – Rev. Champney: Because, from what had come to our knowledge, we were afraid there might be a disturbance. – Mr. Champney was further interrogated by the Bench, but, out of kindness to the defendant, he gave very reluctant answers, so that the Bench considered it necessary to call Sergeant Rose, who stated that on Monday morning last he was on duty at Campden Church, during the celebration of the service of matrimony between Michael Kea and Mary Taylor, junior. He followed close up behind the defendant, and heard her make use of very bad language towards the bride. She also caught hold of the bride, and using very disgusting expressions towards the bride-groom, tried to get the bride to come away. He (the sergeant) took hold of defendant to remove her, when she used language towards him which was unfit for publication, and he had to use force to remove her from the church; her language was something disgraceful. After a consultation, the Chairman said: Mary Taylor, You have pleaded guilty.*

¹ Arch's diaries are held at the Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading.

² From *Evesham Journal* archive, microfiche, Evesham Library.

You can now say what you think proper. – Defendant then entered into a long rambling statement, stating that it was sorrow for the fate of her daughter that excited her, and the idea of her daughter marrying a widower with children so overcame her that she could not control her feeling. She asked forgiveness, and pleaded hard for mercy. The Chairman: You have had time to think this matter over. It is a very serious case. You have, however, expressed your sorrow for your conduct previous to coming here. You now stand committed for seven days' hard labour at Gloucester. The husband of defendant afterwards came into court, and asked the clemency of the Bench to impose a fine, instead of imprisonment. This the Bench refused, stating that she had been most leniently dealt with.

Mary's story raises a number of issues, including religious intolerance (according to Arch) and potentially a gender issue – why was the Chair of Magistrates so determined to send her down for 7 days hard labour? Would it have been the same if the father had tried to prevent his daughter's marriage? What struck Arch about this and why it is still worthy of our attention?

The main points of difference between Arch's account and the *Journal's* are:

1. There is no mention of the groom being a Catholic in the *Journal*, Mary's explanation for her behaviour is unclear - 'rambling'
2. The *Journal* gives no age for Mary Taylor, noting only her daughter (also Mary Taylor) as 24 and the groom Michael Kea as 28.
3. The main point that the prosecution makes against Mary Taylor is that she is guilty of 'riotous, violent and indecent conduct' at the parish Church of Campden.
4. Arch has the name of one of the magistrates wrong ('Johnson' for Shekell) and has 'Bartletts' for Bartleet.

Taking the policeman's evidence at face value (as the court appears to have done), it points to Mary having physically tried to intervene in the wedding and to have done so in a manner that was considered 'indecent' due to the bad or very bad language used; furthermore, it took a physical intervention from the policeman to stop her interrupting the service. So the case is a matter of physical interruption of a church ceremony accompanied with 'indecent' language. No mention of difference of religious faith.³

Resolving the accounts

The ages given in Arch's account are at odds with the Census records, although those records also show some variance. On the assumption that he was told the story while visiting in the area after the event, rather than reading the case for himself, then if his informant is mistaken, so is Arch. According to a report in the *Evesham Journal* for July 29th 1876, Arch was speaking in the area on Saturday 22nd July at Welford. If he heard of Mary Taylor's story during that visit, that would account for why he dates it July 1876. The date might simply be the date he heard it, rather than when he thought it occurred, even if he thought it was broadly contemporaneous with his hearing of it. Arch's errors with the names of the magistrates further suggests his account was derived from a verbal report after the event.

Whether or not Arch has the ages wrong (or was told them by an informant who had them wrong) there is clear evidence that the Mary Taylor of whom Arch, is writing is the one whose daughter married in May. The Parish register has the daughter at age 24 by her wedding and that agrees with the family details in the 1871 census although that has Mary at 55 in 1871, making her only 61 at the time of the wedding, not Arch's figure of 66. But the census record is not consistent over time. Furthermore, previous research by her descendants has identified Mary Taylor as born Oct 16th 1811 – Mary Hiron. That would make Mary 65 at the time of the wedding, not so far from the age that Arch reports.⁴

³ The church is St. James' Parish Church, Church of England.

⁴ Thanks to Carol Jackson of the Chipping Campden History Society for the census returns and Parish Register entries for the Taylors.

Note also, that Michael Keough is a 'Glover' (The *Journal* got his name wrong – 'Kea', which is close to pronunciation of 'Keough' {key-oh}.) Daughter Mary was in the same trade at the 1871 census (so too was her mother in the 1861 census). There is no reasonable doubt for challenging the proposition that the marriage entry in the Parish Register is the wedding mentioned in the *Journal* and the same wedding that Arch wrote about. He has the date of the wedding wrong and the ages of the parents a little wrong. But on the supposition that he heard of this when in or around Welford two months after the event, it only needs the story to have passed through a couple of hands for the ages to get muddled.

Throughout the censuses the Taylor family live in Victoria Street also known as Park Road, [Ed. see below looking towards St Catharine's Catholic Church.] The changing fortunes of the father (John Taylor) are worth noting.

In the 1841 census he is a hawker; in 1851 he is a 'general dealer and lodging house keeper'; in 1861 a general dealer; 1871 a drover, at the wedding a dealer and by 1881 a dealer still. Daughter Mary is widowed in 1885, as records show that Michael Keough was buried that year. She re-married in 1887 to 28 year old James Bennett, a fishmonger



in Chipping Campden, and in that wedding register, her father (now 77) is listed as a labourer.⁵

Arch states that Mary had borne 21 children. Census data for 1861 and 1851 show evidence of 7 children and baptism records from 1833 onwards give evidence for 9 births. In addition, there is evidence of a 10th in family records (from the line of daughter Mary's descendants), a son Charles, who the family have as born in 1844, but if so, he does not survive to the 1851 census, but neither does he figure in baptism records.

Arch has Mary objecting to the wedding due to the groom's Catholicism. In the *Journal* report Mary has pleaded guilty and then pleas for mercy, playing down her responsibility for her actions. The fact that St James is C. of E. has no bearing on whether Keough was a Catholic. Keough is a widower, a 28 year old glover with young children and he has found a glove maker prepared to take them on and who can assist in that same trade.⁶ It is, however, very likely that Keough was a Catholic. The wedding register shows him as of Chipping Norton at his marriage in 1876, but the family record has him born in Ireland in 1847. Perhaps Mary's objection was a mix of his being Irish and Catholic? But you would not expect her to raise this in court - invoking religious intolerance is not a gambit when petitioning for mercy!

So Arch's account of the case is not so far out of line with the facts as we are able to establish them. The dating in July 1876 is a minor mistake, everything else clearly focuses us on the wedding recorded in May of that year. His ages for John and Mary are, in Mary's case, only wrong by one

⁵ Much still to be told about rural employment patterns through the 19th century; despite the rise of unionisation from the 1870s onwards, wages rose very little and there were mass lock-outs, especially with the return of a Conservative Government in the 1874 election which emboldened landowners.

⁶ Note, to date, inspection of the Campden Census gives no sign of Michael Keough's children from his first marriage. They do not appear in any subsequent listings of Mary.

year. In a context in which the Census has her age varying by much more than that over the decades, one year is pretty accurate. On the issue of Catholicism, Arch is, on balance, correct; Keough surely was a Catholic, whether practising or not. Whether Mary was anti-Catholic, we do not know. The alleged bad language was ‘unfit for publication’, so it is possible that Keough’s religion was a target for her language. The only matter on which Arch is widely mistaken is the number of children that Mary has borne. The figure of 21 has no documentary support and is possibly an exaggeration by Arch’s informant. There is no evidence for a figure larger than 10 for Mary’s confinements. Arch has it mostly right. But why did he record this story? Why does it or should it matter to us now?

The Punishment

Two members of the bench pleaded for a non-custodial sentence, as did the husband. Quite why the Chair insisted on a 7 day jail term with hard labour is unclear. The fact that he was a Reverend might have contributed to his sense of outrage at her behaviour in church.

There is a lot to be understood about the court procedure and the sentence given. Local cases reported in the *Journal* between May and July of 1876 provide some context:

1. William Lyddiat ‘old man’ of Broad Campden, convicted of stealing 17 eggs, sentence: 10 days hard labour.
2. Anne Cartwright ‘labourer’ of Oldbury, convicted of stealing a pair of boots, sentence: six months hard labour.
3. Henry Pooler ‘hawker’, Thomas Yarnold, ‘labourer’, Richard Dadford ‘labourer’, convicted of stealing a duck at Hartlebury. Sentence: Pooler, 1 month hard labour; Yarnold (previous convictions for felony) jail for 12 months with 7 years police surveillance; Dadford, 6 months hard labour.

Lyddiat’s case, like Mary’s, was heard at the Petty Sessions and is closest in severity of sentencing. The *Journal* report for the Cartwright, Pooler et al cases states that those cases came before the ‘Second Court (Before Mr. R. Harington)’. It seems unlikely that this was anything other than another Petty Sessions court, the offences hardly warrant referral to a Quarter Sessions, the next tier of criminal justice. It is likely that ‘Mr R. Harington’ is a volunteer JP, but experienced enough to hear a case on his own. Petty Sessions did not require a Bench of three. He might also have been a stipendiary magistrate.

The Petty Sessions is the forerunner to the Magistrates Court which superseded them in the 1970s. There are important differences, clearly visible in the above cases. Prior to the Prosecution of Offences Act of 1879, there was no public prosecution service. After that Act, prosecution of a case was done by the police. Many police forces developed their own legal departments although they were not required to act on the lawyers’ advice. It was not until 1985 that the CPS was established as a body independent of the police and, incorporating the legal departments that the police had established, charged with making all decisions to prosecute as representative of the Crown, the state. Prior to 1879, prosecution was not done by a representative of the Crown or state.

In the cases above, the prosecutor is the complainant: the owner of the eggs, the Churchwardens of Campden, the father of the woman from whom Cartwright obtained the shoes, etc. Although Petty Sessions use the apparatus of the state in their sentencing, what brings a matter to court is a prosecution from the party injured in the crime – the owner of the eggs, the officials representing the Church, etc. It would be a mistake to read these reports as representing an institution driven by a professional judgement about the nature of infringement of the law and of the quality of the evidence available to prove the case. Prior to 1879 there was no such apparatus for making those decisions. Petty Sessions operated more akin to a tribunal in which the aggrieved party brings evidence to court and the defendant defends themselves. Either party might, if they could afford

it, engage a lawyer to represent them, but the decision to prosecute lies with the aggrieved party, not with a public servant representing the law of the land.

The above cases give some feel for how law was applied in Mary Taylor's time. The sentence of 10 days hard labour for Lyddiat seems harsh, but there is the plain fact, proven by police, of property having been taken. A chief function of the law has always been to protect and enforce property rights and the owner of the eggs has had his rights infringed. As that case notes, Lyddiat had nothing known against him by the police, he was 'unable to work, being lame' and 'His friends were respectable'. Whether we might think it harsh to send him down for 10 days hard labour, for all we know this old man was close to starving, the judgement reflects the times.⁷ Nevertheless, 7 days hard labour for an altercation that upsets protocol in Church with some boisterous behaviour and bad language still seems harsh.

The charge against Mary Taylor, brought by the Churchwardens – 'riotous, violent and indecent conduct', is much less clear cut than stealing 17 eggs. The *Journal* report is equivocal at best regarding evidence for the occasion being 'riotous' and 'violent'.

The social and political context – the rural poor

If we are to understand why Arch noted this case, we need to reflect on the wider social and political context. None of the above defendants were people of any standing – 'old man', labourer, hawker and woman. None of these would have enjoyed political franchise in 1876. Property requirements on the franchise were common throughout emerging democracies in the 19th century. John Adams' reasoning for this is interesting.⁸ For Adams, those without property are dependent on the will of others; voting should be restricted to those, subject only to their own will! In other words, if you don't hold property, you are beholden to others and, as such, do not have the will to contribute to the common purpose politically.

It is worth reflecting that this idea would not have seemed so compelling prior to land enclosures. When much of the land was held in common, the significance of property as such as a mark of political power, rather than military force, might not have been so obvious. It is the commercialisation of property, the enclosing of land so that all of it represents a financial power and one that rapidly accrues in a proportionately small fraction of the polity that is the move that makes property as such a source of social and political power. On this view, enclosure is one of the defining political impositions that makes the modern world and the English diaspora. The masses no longer know their place as somewhere they hold in common, but are left to 'know their place' as subjects of the will of others.⁹

The 1832 Reform Act had extended the franchise slightly. The property requirement for the Counties was extended to include small landowners, tenant farmers and shopkeepers and in the boroughs the franchise was extended to households who paid a yearly rental of £10 or more (for a craftsman of the time that's approximately 2 month's pay). Disraeli's 1867 Reform Act gave skilled workers the vote so that 2.5 million out of about 30 million had the vote, about 40% of males. Not until 1884 did approximately 66% of men gain the vote (18% of total population). Not until 1918 did all men over 21 gain the franchise (women over 30) and it is 1928 before women get the vote on equal terms with men.

These defendants in 1876 were all dis-enfranchised individuals faced with an apparatus that was in place to protect property, and, in Mary's case, protecting the status quo re behaviour. One has to

⁷ Go back another century to Georgian England and theft was often met with the gallows or, if lucky, a reprieve in favour of passage on the transports to Botany Bay.

⁸ Adams had drafted the constitution for the state of Massachusetts and was one of the founding fathers of the US Constitution. The Constitution left the determination of the franchise to individual states (they could not agree a common account) and Massachusetts kept the property requirement longer than most.

⁹ But see also the earlier debate between the Leveller Rainborough and Cromwell's son-in-law Ireton on the scope of the franchise, see E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*, 1963, p.24ff.

consider also, in Mary's case, whether the status quo in question concerned the behaviour of women. There is room for much speculation, but the Chair's remark that 'it is a very serious case' stands out. There is no evidence of blows being struck; it reads rather as if Mary pulled at her daughter, tried to get her to leave, and the policeman had to physically extract Mary from the Church, she didn't go quietly. Manners are affronted, but is it that the perpetrator is a woman that so upsets the sensibility of the complainants and the policeman?

The context here, as in Arch's crusade for agricultural workers, is a wider conflict between the dispossessed, economically, in property and in franchise and those hanging onto their position of privilege, power and property. In Adam's terms, the former are all people who by the nature of their trade or position are not subject only to their own will, they are beholden to others; lacking property they are people who should 'know their place'. Disraeli's 1867 Reform Act was a gamble, Lord Derby called it 'a leap in the dark'. Disraeli persuaded his supporters that the English working man would make limited demands on politicians - keep him housed, fed and clothed and he would vote Conservative for ever. That was the Disraeli plan. The Act was a gamble to preserve the status quo while making changes that would stop agitation from below. It is a status quo that, since enclosures, had left the many with no voice and no power other than to agitate and to organise – Arch's project.

Look again at the outline of Mary and John's lives in their census returns – John as hawker, dealer, general dealer, drover, dealer and labourer. Mary as gloveress and then no trade, at best she gets 'dealer's wife'. Where is there for them to know and find their sense of place and who they are? Mary's outrage might have included a religious or ethnic intolerance; Michael Keough was Irish and doubtless Catholic. But oftentimes, as we know from present circumstances, it can be like this: when folk have no secure place to know and find their sense of who they are, so then they reach for the easy slogans that provide facsimiles of an identity – religious or ethnic origin, colour, gender and sexuality – and use that to lash out at others who are probably equally lacking a place to know. And in the ensuing fracas in a 19th century church, as in the immigration camps of Calais, it is only those who have hoarded what was common, who manage to buy their way out of these places of riotous, violent and indecent behaviour.

Editor's Note:

Canon George Drinkwater Bourne: Rector of Weston-sub-Edge for 55 years from 1846 'til his death in 1901, a wealthy and powerful parson. Instrumental in stopping the Cotswold Games after 1852.

Edwin Bartleet: Member of a family in Campden since the 17th century. Campden Bailiff in 1868 and 1874. He died in 1876. Two years later, in 1878, his children, including his son, Canon Bartleet, erected the Last Judgement window over the Chancel arch in St. James's Church in his memory and that of his wife, Henrietta – see plaque on the south wall of the Chancel.

Reverend Thomas Barton Champney: Curate of Campden approx. 1874-1877.

Michael Keough: b.c.1847 in Limerick, Ireland, can be found in 1871 in the Chipping Norton census, age 23, glove cutter, with his wife Elizabeth, age 22, a machinist born in Birmingham and five month old son George Henry Keough. There is a marriage for Martina Elizabeth Smart and Michael Keough, (ref.3a 1042) in the July-Sep Q 1869. Martina Elizabeth died in the Oct-Dec Q 1873.

A Wood Turner named Steel

Jenny Bourne

This personal research story comes out of an enquiry to the Archive Room from Australia (Query ref: 17.057).

For my family, Alfred Steel was an enigma. He was my mother's Great Grandfather and a wood turner of good repute in early Sydney town. His story had been told and embellished over the years, until he had become a tall, good looking young man from Maidstone, Kent who according to family legend won the heart of Maria Baker with his stylish outfit and the gift of a handmade workbox. This workbox, was kept, treasured, in the family for years, but was mistakenly sold with a number of other items kept in storage for many years.

His arrival in Australia was never detailed, after all every immigrant arrived by ship. However through searching the internet we found he was a convict, charged with bigamy, tried on 4th January 1836 at the Leicester Quarter Sessions and sentenced on March 8th. With a few more internet clicks we discovered that on 12th April, 1836, Alfred arrived in Kent, from Leicester Goal, with a group of men who had been tried in the same court, some on the same date as Alfred, and all were convicted and sentenced to 7 years transportation to Australia. Alfred's occupation was recorded in the ship's convict list as 'Turner and chair maker'.

Despite being unable to discover more about the charge of bigamy or his earlier marriages, we tracked him from the criminal register for Leicester County in 1836 to his assignment to a master in Australia and his subsequent Certificate of Freedom in January 1843. Interestingly, several sources provided a description of him - 5'7" tall, with dark sallow complexion, with dark brown hair and hazel eyes. Along with many other convicts, he had a number of tattoos – the information found in the NSW Australia Convict Indents for 1788-1842. He had a man and woman on his lower inside right arm, a tree, a letter A, the word 'fame' and his initials AS on his lower left arm. He also had scars on his left hand forefinger and thumb – perhaps obtained from his trade.

There is a portrait photo of him, [see right] probably in his early 60s, a straight backed man, well dressed and confident. His death certificate showed that he died in Sydney in 1876, of chronic degeneration of the kidneys, Morbus Brightii, at the age of 66, so his birth was in approximately 1810.

It stated that he had been born in Canterbury, England and his father was Saul Steel, a turner, his mother Esther Scott and his wife Maria Baker, as we knew. Maria's portrait, [see overleaf] shows her in black with lace collar and cuffs, hat, earrings and a fan but slightly more careworn and grim.



Above: Alfred Steel

The death certificate also stated that his time in the Australian Colonies was 30 years, implying that he arrived in Australia around 1846, rather than 1836, as we know. People with convict pasts, in those early days, were very keen to hide the fact. That date could have been chosen as he had started his own business by then and, although there is no record of his marriage to Maria, his first child was born and registered in Sydney in 1847. So, by implication, he had started his new life in Australia.

The next search was for Alfred's birth records and pre-convict days, but his birth in Kent could not be found. A search for the marriage of his parents, Saul and Esther, showed they were married by Banns in 1800, in the church at Preston in Rutland and there were 3 sons: Saul Henry (b. 1801) and Charles (b. 1803) were baptised in Leicester and their third, Samuel, (b. 1807) in Coventry. Of Alfred, in 1810, still there was nothing, though it appears that Esther died in Worcester in 1816, when Alfred would have been 5 or 6 years old.

To date no further records for Saul Henry or Charles have been found, but Samuel, according to census records, also a wood turner was living in Sheep St, Stratford-upon-Avon, whilst their widower father, Saul Steel, in 1841 lived alone in High St, Chipping Campden, born in Gloucestershire, his occupation given as a 'turner'. Remember Alfred had been transported 5 years before.

Finally, that led me to Saul's baptism record in Chipping Campden on 30th December 1774, son of Benjamin. *[Ed: Benjamin Steel was baptised on 2nd June 1737 at St James', Chipping Campden, son of Samuel Steel of Chipping Campden, and Mary Hawker of Childswickham. Benjamin Steel, turner, is also found in connection with the deeds of The Thatched Cottage in Sheep St (see right, modern photo taken by Jim Smith). A deed of 1770 conveyed the cottage from John Gibson to Benjamin Steel for £25, with its tenant, Richard Hide. On 7th November 1787, Benjamin Steel sold to Thomas Mathews, a Weaver, for £29. Like other owners, Steel does not seem to have occupied the cottage, as there was still a tenant, William Bates. Benjamin was buried at St James' Church on 4th December 1810 at the age of 70.]*



Saul had an elder brother Charles, also baptised at St James' Church, on 18th January 1771. Although born in Chipping Campden, it seems that Saul certainly travelled to other parts of England: Rutland, Leicester, Coventry and Worcester, to marry and find work. *[Ed: I wonder if the Noel family played any part in Saul's life? The fact that Preston is not far from the Noel estates in Rutland is*

interesting. Two years before 1800, Gerard

Noel Edwards Noel had inherited the Exton and Campden properties from his unmarried uncle Henry Noel, who had died on 8th April 1798.]



Contact with CCHS gave me information, previously prepared by Peter Gordon, about a house on High St, called St Anne's. It was originally a burgage plot, set up for the use of artisans, merchants and tradesmen. In the 1838 deed Samuel Hiron, Surgeon, bought the property which had a 'silk manufactory', 4 cottages and the turner's shop occupied by Saul Steel in the rear. This in a previous deed dated 1827 was referred to as a brew house. So it seems that sometime between 1827 and 1838, Saul had returned to Chipping Campden and set up shop as a wood turner. Was Alfred with him in these early years?

Left: Maria Steel, née Baker, Alfred's wife

As a wood turner in a prosperous community such as Chipping Campden in its heyday, Saul, or

his forbears, may have ornamented public and private buildings with finials, balustrades and posts or intricately turned furniture. A woodworker friend suggested that, as Saul's power source was most likely his own manpower, he could have used any of a number of simple lathes, such as spring-pole lathes which relied on the movement of the bow/pole to rotate the wood, first in one direction and then in the other, utilising the springiness of a green limb. They were commonly used even in the early 20th century. Larger items such as bed posts and table legs, balusters and newel posts for stairs would have been produced on larger lathes. More sophisticated lathes used a treadle wheel to provide continuous motion but could still be operated by manpower.

Saul may also have produced and repaired utilitarian goods, such as yarn turners and spindles, bowls, plates and mugs, cylindrical boxes for storing spices or tea, tool handles, candlesticks, rolling pins, bodkins, knitting needles, spinning tops and toys, spinning wheels, pegs for furniture and chair legs, using a smaller bow/pole/spring lathe

Chipping Campden did not particularly benefit from the industrial revolution, because it had no large centres of population nearby to supply workers, no major rivers to power modern factories and relatively undeveloped transport links. It did remain, however, a wealthy town until the decline in agriculture nationwide. Nevertheless, craftsmen like Saul were affected by competition

from industrial production methods which produced more goods at less cost.



Samuel Hiron, the Elder, bought the St Anne's property as it was in 1838 and then on 30th April, 1842 he conveyed it to his son, Samuel Hiron, the Younger, who intended to pull down all the buildings then standing on the property, in order 'to erect and build upon the site a substantial Dwelling House with offices, coach house, stable and other outbuildings' and

Above: St Annes, the tallest flat roofed house. Montrose is the smaller adjacent property on its left

'pleasure ground'. The work according to documents accompanying the deeds, had largely been completed by 1846, when Samuel also extinguished the right of way from the yard of St Anne's to the premises of Montrose, owned by his younger brother William Hiron. In this way the original business property was completely altered to a gentleman's residence and there was no place for Saul or his workshop. At the age of 66, after a lifetime of physical work supporting himself and his family, he was no longer able to carry out his trade and sometime after Census night, 6th June 1841, Saul found his way to an unknown future in the workhouse at Shipston-on-Stour. His death certificate records that Saul died 'a pauper' on March 1st 1842, the cause of his death being a 'Visitation of God'.

However, what of Alfred? He could read and write. He could see how vulnerable a skilled craftsman such as father was to the vagaries of fashion and economics. He would have been aware of stories of ex-convicts making good in Australia, especially those with skills and crafts such as his. Did he fabricate or organise his crime to gain himself free passage to the colonies, a place without established industries, but with endless opportunities? His gamble paid off, I have to say, but more of that another time.....

Mrs. Edith Carroll Perkins and Chipping Campden Gardens

Graham Pearson

In my article on T.S. Eliot and Chipping Campden in Signpost 7, Autumn 2017, I described how T.S. Eliot visited Campden with much enjoyment at least thirteen times when Dr. and Mrs. John Carroll Perkins, a retired Unitarian Minister from Boston, Massachusetts, usually accompanied by their niece, Miss Emily Hale, stayed at Stamford House in the five years between 1934 and 1939, with the exception of 1936. I also noted that in 1948, T.S. Eliot had written to Mrs. Edith Carroll Perkins, then living in Boston, Massachusetts who had been his hostess in Chipping Campden, to tell her that Hidcote was going to be taken over by the National Trust - *I was particularly pleased, because I remember so well your taking me there; and of all the gardens I have visited (mostly with you) that is the one I loved the best.*¹

Further research shows that Mrs. Carroll Perkins was a keen and widely recognized gardener. Her husband was the pastor of the University Unitarian Church at the University of Washington in Seattle for 12 years up to 1926. Interestingly, the *Seattle Times* recorded on 19th April 1922 that Mrs. Perkins was appointed to the governing board of the Seattle Garden Club and a year later on



25th March 1923 a full page article described “How a Seattle Woman Forced 4,000 Foreign Flowers to Bloom Here Simultaneously”. The article reports that:

In 1911, when Dr. and Mrs. Perkins were sojourning in England, Mrs. Perkins became deeply interested in the English appreciation of flowers, and decided then to adopt flower growing as a hobby. When they returned to this country in 1914 and came to Seattle to take charge of the University parish, Mrs. Perkins at once planted gardens and started preparing herself for the culture of foreign flowers by making an extended study of botany.

It goes on to report that she will give a series of garden talks in Seattle and other cities in Oregon and Washington State saying that “I want most of all to instill an interest in the women of Seattle and the surrounding country in the possibilities of gardening in this wonderful climate,” and concludes by noting that Mrs. Perkins is a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Left: Mrs. Edith Carroll Perkins in the Seattle Times of 19th March 1924

Two years later, on 11th June 1925, the *Seattle Times* reported that:

Mrs. John Carroll Perkins, well known in Seattle for her garden lectures ..., was presented this afternoon with the Emily D. Renwick medal of achievement at the annual general meeting of the Garden Club of America. ... The medal is awarded each year to the person considered outstanding in the garden world for her own practical or research work, and for inspiring and increasing interest in and love for gardening.

Interestingly another article in the *Seattle Times* on 25th June 1928 reports that “The garden experience of the English people is of more value to us in the Northwest than the experience of other sections of America, because the Seattle climatic conditions are so similar to the English.” Then on 28th June 1931 another article explained that Mrs. Perkins and Miss Hale had spent some time in recent years at Calendars [Ed. a Guest House] in Burford “wandering about the gardens of the Cotswolds, getting lecture materials – one of the pleasantest of September memories”.

¹ As quoted by Edward Malins in *Burnt Norton*, Garden History, Vol. 7, No. 1 (Spring, 1979), pp. 78-85

Two months later it was reported that a lecture had been given to The Sunset Club in Seattle by Mrs. Perkins who has become internationally famous as a garden lecturer. The article stated that:

Later the guests assembled in the ballroom to hear the colorful [sic] story of English gardens in the Cotswold. Geographically the Cotswold is the name given to the hilly country of Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Yorkshire, [sic] where high up on the wold the sheep found abundant grazing in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. ... From the owners of these pastoral flocks have come down the charming old stone manor houses and castles around which the most fascinating gardens, outlined by age-old yew hedges, are to be seen today. ... Mrs. Perkins possesses the rare gift of bringing to her audience the old world charm of the English countryside, where each quaint village boasts an untold wealth of beauty within its garden walls. The lecture was illustrated with colored [sic] slides, showing borders of box and privet outlining masses of heliotrope and begonias, lavender and rosemary. English blue-bells – “a bit of fallen sky” – and garden dahlias.

The article concluded by saying that *Among the gardens described were those of ... Chipping Campden, home of the Craftsmen's Guild; ... Broadway, where Mary Anderson lives ... each one steeped in a memory, romantic, historic, poetic.*

Right: Mrs. Edith Carroll Perkins in the Seattle Times of 21 June 1931



So, Mrs. Perkins then spent most of her summers from 1934 to 1939 in Stamford House in Chipping Campden. I have now discovered that on Tuesday 2nd March 1948, Mr. T. S. Eliot on behalf of Mrs. Perkins made a presentation of her collection of over 450 lantern slides of gardens in England and Scotland to the Royal Horticultural Society. Some 65 of the slides were then shown to the audience and these included slides of Hidcote and of Court Farm, the home of Mary Anderson de Navarro in Broadway.

The following day, T.S. Eliot wrote² to Mrs. Perkins telling her about her slide presentation event on the previous afternoon. He told her that Lord Aberconway, the President of the R.H.S., had first introduced T.S. Eliot to the audience and that he (T.S. Eliot) had then spoken for about ten minutes, in which he had remembered the visits that he had made with Mrs. Perkins to Cotswold gardens. He also recalled what Mrs. Perkins had done to make American audiences aware of British gardens. He then told her that he had formally presented the boxes of her slides to the Royal Horticultural Society and that that Lord Aberconway had then thanked Mrs. Perkins for her generous gift of the slides, expressing his appreciation of the value of the slides themselves.

He went on to relate that a presentation was then made by Mr. Taylor in which he showed and commented on some 65 slides. Mr. Taylor recalled that in travelling around Britain he had often preceded or had followed Mrs. Perkins in visiting the gardens. T.S. Eliot told Mrs. Perkins that the audience was very pleased with the slides and that there appeared to be two major groups in the audience – some who were very knowledgeable about gardens who especially appreciated the details shown in the slides, the planting combinations and clever integration of natural features and some who were less knowledgeable, but gave applause to the more picturesque locations and views such as Berkeley Castle.

T.S. Eliot's letter went on to mention that at the presentation, he had seen Effie Cresswell of Charingworth Manor and Mrs. Bennet-Clark of Darby's House, Chipping Campden, the latter who was reporting on the presentation for the Evesham Journal and he added that Mrs. Bennet-Clark

² This letter is in Folder RHS/P3/4. Education: lecturers/lectures. Presentation of lantern slides by T.S. Eliot in the Archives of the Royal Horticultural Society, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2 PE.

was very particularly pleased, that a slide of her garden was included in the collection of slides presented to the R.H.S. T.S.Eliot concluded by telling Mrs. Perkins that Lord Aberconway finished the event by proposing a vote of thanks to Mrs. Perkins for her gift of the slides, saying that the R.H.S. would take great care of the collection and that they would be shown on future occasions not only in London but also in other parts of the country.

Right: Rose garden at Mrs. Bennet-Clark's – Darby's House. Courtesy of RHS Library Collections ref: lib0037436



Mrs. Bennet-Clark also wrote³ to Mrs. Perkins saying:

I promised Lord Aberconway that I would write at once and tell you of the wonderful afternoon we all had at Vincent Square on the 2nd of March. He said he would be writing at once but asked me to be sure to do so too. I feel sure Mr. Eliot is doing it too as we all were deeply moved. The Lecture Hall was crowded to suffocation and chairs had to be fetched if possible. I spoke to Mr. Eliot before the meeting opened and he said he remembered me very well but naturally you were his thought.

She went on to add that:

Then the slides were shown and we had one and one-half hours of sheer beauty. The slides had been chosen by Mr. Taylor and I do think he chose well and spoke well too of the gardens we went through in spirit. The great English gardens from the South to the North were shown; ... Finally we came back again to Hampton Court, Hidcote and Madame De Navarro's garden. After this Lord Aberconway spoke again more especially of the great record and memorial these slides represented.



Left: Syringa and blue iris looking into the Old Garden at Hidcote. Courtesy of RHS Library Collections ref. lib0037467

The article in the Evesham Journal

on Saturday 13th March 1948 reported:

All those who were present at the lectures given by Mrs. Carroll Perkins of Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., some ten years ago, must still remember the pleasure they received from the artistic and exquisitely coloured slides with which she illustrated her words. She herself is a very fine speaker and, as a member of the great gardening community of the U.S.A., commands attention and is a great influence in horticultural circles. It was therefore with much appreciation that it became known from

³ This letter is in Folder RHS/P3/4. Education: lecturers/lectures. Presentation of lantern slides by T S Eliot in the Archives of the Royal Horticultural Society, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE.

her that she was presenting to the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain her collection of over 400 coloured slides of the great gardens of England and Scotland. As she had worked mostly whilst resident in the Cotswolds, a countryside which she clearly loved, it was natural that, some of her friends from Chipping Campden were asked to go and see the slides again, when they were formally presented by her friend, Mr. T. S. Eliot, O.M., to Lord Aberconway, President of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Right: Stamford House. Courtesy of RHS Library Collections ref: lib0037562

It continued by saying that:

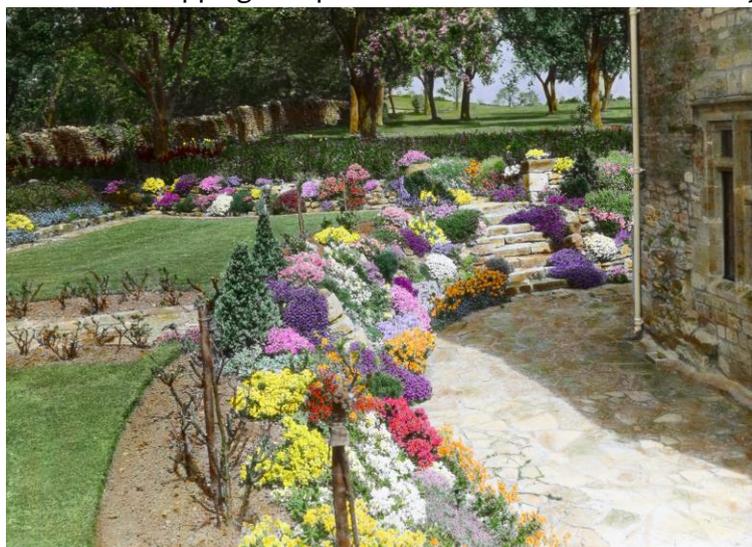
Lord Aberconway, expressing his own great gratitude, invited Mr. Taylor to show the slides. There followed a full hour of beauty of colouring as we were taken through most of the great gardens of England and Scotland. ... But for the Cotswold lovers – and Mrs. Carroll Perkins



was one of those – their own gardens are very satisfying and Hidcote, owned by Mr. Lawrence Johnston, and the Broadway garden of Madame de Navarro stood out well. The show came to an end and Lord Aberconway said this was a great record of an art and civilization fast fading, but it was well to know that it had once been and to hope it would return again. He asked all present to send Mrs. Carroll Perkins their great appreciation of a very gracious act of friendship, sent through her as from the U.S.A. It would form a link from past to present and one we needed to preserve.

Naturally, the large audience responded very eagerly, and I don't think anyone could forget the feast of beauty shown to us. One heard from all sides that the lecture room had never been so well filled, as on this occasion, nor had the audience received so great a pleasure.

These slides continue to be held by the RHS. They are dated as being “ca. 1920 – 1930s” and are described as “hand-coloured glass lantern slides”. The collection includes four coloured slides of Hidcote and from Chipping Campden there are four coloured slides of the garden at Stamford House, one of the rose garden at Mrs. Bennet-Clark's, one showing the tower of St. James's Church and one described as The Rock Wall, Chipping Campden. The latter slide was listed as an unknown location in Chipping Campden – I have been able to identify this as being a view of the garden in



Shepherds Close, Westington. These provide a lovely insight into how these gardens looked some 90 years or so ago.

Left: Rock wall at Shepherds Close. Courtesy of RHS Library Collections ref: lib0037405

A listing of Mrs. Edith Carroll Perkins slides held by the Royal Horticultural Society at the Lindley Library has been provided to the CCHS Archives and is available for consultation.

Rolling Stone Orchard - the Artist's Wartime Retreat. Part 2

Deja Whitehouse

You may remember in the Autumn 2017 Signpost, No 7, Deja Whitehouse described the time that artist, Frieda Harris, spent in Chipping Campden from 1939-1947 using the diaries of Sir Percy Harris, her husband and correspondence with occultist, Aleister Crowley, [see also Signpost 6 Spring 2017] as her sources. Part 2 continues in Spring 1941.

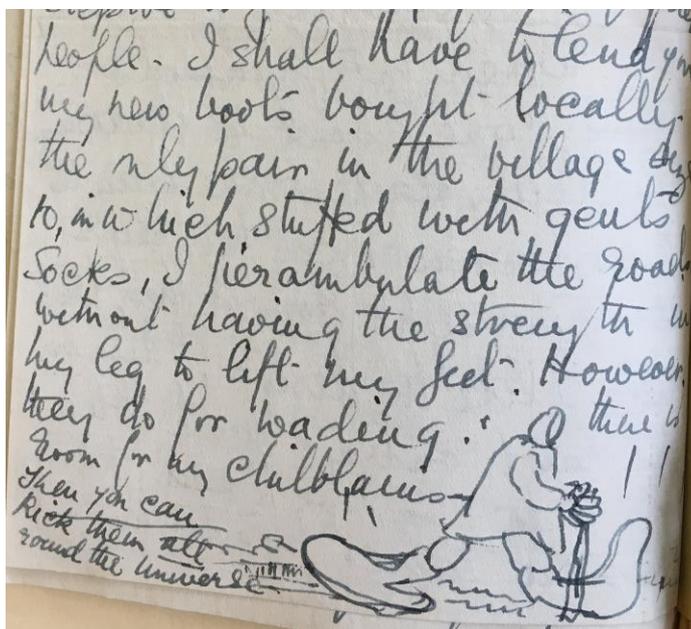
Before Frieda established herself in Campden, Crowley had been a regular visitor at their London home, Morton House. However Percy became increasingly concerned about Frieda's involvement with him. On one visit he noted: 'Found Frieda rather tired. I am inclined to think Crowley, who has been to see her, an exhausting influence'¹. He also worried about the amount of financial assistance Frieda provided. Frieda took pains to ensure that Percy and Crowley never visited Campden at the same time and asked Crowley to leave her alone when Percy was staying. Ultimately the strain on their marriage was too great and towards the end of 1942, Percy stopped coming to Campden altogether. He did not return until June 1944, by which time the couple had managed to resolve their difficulties. However, rather than stay at Morton House when she was in London, Frieda had already taken rooms in Devonshire Terrace, Marylebone.

Food, clothing and petrol were all rationed, as was use of the telephone. As early as September 1939, Frieda told Crowley, 'I am rationed for petrol so I can't fetch & carry you... I am limited to 3 minutes on the telephone price 2/- any time. I don't think we can buy 2/- of conversation in that time?'²

The postal services were also disrupted: 'Apparently, my letters hang fire (the only thing that does) for I sent yr stipend nearly to the day & do not worry about it – it will come.³ I can't help the German bombing about Campden & upsetting the posts.'⁴

According to Frieda, 'the post office is kept by an emaciated ogre. Through terrible round glasses he looks at you with cruel eyes. He keeps a trained batallion [sic] of snails in the basement. They are trained to crawl off all gum from envelopes & stamps & slime out & tear brown paper parcels. In the marsh where they live, is thrown every package which is to go by post. If it is perishable, it remains a year, other parcels trickle out when conditioned to suitable pulp. This Campden news might account for the parcel.'⁵

Right: Frieda's 'Wellies' Letter: courtesy of the Warburg Institute



¹ Sir Percy Harris's diary, 29 September 1940, The Papers of Sir Percy Harris, Parliamentary Archives [henceforth PA], HRS/1.

² Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, [September 1939], Aleister Crowley Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Library [henceforth Syracuse].

³ Frieda paid Crowley 1 guinea a week for his magical tuition until December 1942.

⁴ Full reference: Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley [September 1940], Yorke Collection, Warburg Institute, University of London, [henceforth Yorke] NS37.

⁵ Ibid, assumed March/April 1944. CCHS thinks the Post Master then was Mr Merson Tucker, 1896-1986, born in Meare, Somerset as he was registered living at the Post Office in 1939's electoral roll.

Everything was in short supply: 'There is no paper in Campden, no envelopes, no toilet paper, no brown paper, no sealing wax.'⁶ 'I shall have to lend you my new boots bought locally, the only pair in the village, size 10, in which stuffed with gents socks, I perambulate the roads without having the strength in my leg to lift my feet. However, they do for wading & there is room for my chilblains.'⁷

Initially she revelled in the isolation. 'Some of these privations like petrol & night-lights are lovely. The sky here at night is glorious & one's eyes are rested by the absence of trumpets of illumination. Also no-one can come & see one after dark-- what a chance reading & solitude. Ye Gods what treasures!!'⁸ By 1944, she felt differently: 'Oh my! it is dull here, 48 hours & I haven't spoken except to the char & it is so damp I am covered with rust & no magical inspiration only the stomach ache as being the heart of the country, no vegetable can be bought & I went out in despair collected a salad of dandelion leaves & since then have had internal gripes.'⁹

Frieda also had to contend with troops in Chipping Campden itself: 'All the Army have parked their lorries on the patch of grass outside, they have chewed up the road, they stand & talk & make maddening jokes & they start their cars & they stink. I would like to shoot them all. I have already carried stones to impede their passage & propose to deposit glass. I have implored the Captain to remove them ... I must learn not to mind so much.'¹⁰

Petrol rationing continued throughout the war so when Crowley asked Frieda to help him move

home in January 1945, she replied: 'Even if I had a car & a licence & petrol I should be hung, drawn, & quartered if I drove it more than 10 miles radius, even with a doctor's certificate! I also have a doctor's certificate saying I must have a car as I have injured my back & may not walk or carry things but that does not soften the heart of the local petrol authorities, not that I've tried much as I can't crank the car & it is demobilised & has no battery & there is no-one to mend it or start it or garage it here.'¹¹

Frieda was invited to show her paintings as part of Campden's 1942 Battleship Week. Initial interest was lukewarm: 'so far 4 people in 2 days have visited them so they weren't a draw. Have to sit there in icy cold 2 - 5:30 p.m.... They made over £1000 on visiting the local gun factory, it is really funny. I am sure they want & like a war & only understand that plane of living ... in the face of the Tarot, they look ashamed & a bit awed or else they want their silly fortunes told. I could really cry sometimes.'¹²



Left: BATTLESHIP WEEK CARD, Used with permission from the Eberly Family Special Collections Library, Penn State University Libraries

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, January 1940, Yorke OS EE2.188.

⁸ Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, [September 1939], Syracuse.

⁹ Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 2 April 1944, Yorke NS37.

¹⁰ Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 6 December 1941, Yorke NS37.

¹¹ Ibid, [21 January 1945].

¹² Ibid, 22 March [1942].

However, the exhibition began to attract people and Frieda provides some lively accounts of her diverse visitors, which include ‘very stuffy old ladies & very ancient men’ and ‘at least 8 little boys today & they ask intelligent questions & go solemnly round & stare.’¹³

Ultimately she was pleased to report that ‘[t]he Exhibition has been successful & many people have asked me to open it once a week in order that they may return & meditate on the cards! I have said yes as long as they remain there but I don’t suppose that anyone will really come. Anyhow it airs the room. In the meantime I have made the room dark & taken the pictures that seemed a bit damp off the walls.’¹⁴

By 1944, relations with Percy had improved and he was spending weekends in Chipping Campden again: ‘I am having Percy weekends, rather difficult, still it is awful in London.’¹⁵

When Germany surrendered in May 1945, Frieda had mixed feelings: ‘I’m glad it is partially over but the result is to come. Percy is staying with me. I am really quite dead & I don’t think I shall ever recover.’¹⁶

Once again domestic obligations encroached on her painting: ‘Life is so difficult, then Percy at present is a problem which is inclined to be supine¹⁷ & I think if I am able to give him a friendly shove for the moment I might be able to help him not to sink into a morass of idleness ... My sister is only here a short time, she’s a good chap but oh Lord how dynamically inartistic. She cheerfully comes in & hangs her hat on my picture, umbrella in the paint-box etc.’¹⁸

She was spending less and less time in Campden and at first considering letting the Orchard, but in October 1946 she told Crowley, ‘I must either sell the Orchard or return to it or the local Council will take it. Lovely eh! It is in the market but no bidders.’¹⁹

She put all her possessions from Rolling Stone Orchard into storage, prior to her permanent removal to Devonshire Terrace. In June 1947, the move was complete and she reported ‘I am about to get at my stored books at Evesham & the Crowley Shelf will be inaugurated in the flat.’²⁰ The wartime retreat had served its purpose and, as recorded in the Editor’s Post Script to Richard Kaczynski’s article, Frieda sold Rolling Stone Orchard to a Mrs Crosthwaite in 1951.



Above: Rolling Stone Orchard C.1939



Right: Today

¹³ Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 25 March [1942], Syracuse.

¹⁴ Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 29 March [1942], Yorke NS37

¹⁵ Ibid, 14 July 1944.

¹⁶ Ibid, 12 July [1945], Yorke NS37.

¹⁷ Percy lost his seat in Parliament in the Labour landslide election victory of July 1945.

¹⁸ Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, [November 1945] Yorke NS37.

¹⁹ Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, [assumed 6 October 1946] Yorke OS EE2.180.

²⁰ Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 12 June 1947, Yorke NS37.

CCHS Annual Report 2017

Members of our Society can look back at the achievement of the year's programme of talks, projects and research with considerable satisfaction. Those who have actively contributed to the successes of the year are to be commended and deserve the gratitude of us all; their numbers include those not on the Committee, but who contribute their knowledge and skills when called upon. Altogether we remain too few in numbers for our future wellbeing.

An invitation in the Report of 2016 for members to join the Committee, repeated from previous years was again unanswered; we are currently four committee members short. The mention of the word committee, as used in our Constitution is, without doubt 'a turn off'. It should be thought of as the Management Team, whose role is to focus on delivering our principal objective of bringing local history to life through a range of programmes and initiatives. Committee meetings occur at eight weekly intervals, each of a maximum of one hour and a half; would you please consider giving of your time and skills to help the Society to continue, and to progress? The AGM is Thursday 19th April.

Finances

A condition of the receipt of the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Old Campden House project has required our Treasurer to account separately for the associated expenditure. This reflects in the format of our Statement of Income and Expenditure which will be presented at the A.G.M. in April and which will show a satisfactory surplus for the year of £1696 against last year's relatively modest surplus of £192. This is mainly due to the full year effect of the 2016 increase in membership subscriptions together with continuing good book sales of the Society's publications. In the light of this position the Committee is proposing that membership rates remain unchanged for the year ahead.

Membership

During the year the Society welcomed a net increase of 5 new members bringing the total membership to 245; while 21 new members joined, this was offset by 16 non-renewals. It is encouraging that membership continues to hold up and indicates good support for the Society and its activities.

Programme of Talks

Attendance has been good this year, and we have even managed to avoid disruption from the snow. There has been the usual mix of topics, from the opening of new galleries at the Corinium Museum to Alan Barclay's talk on the development of modern farms in Campden after the passing of the Inclosure Acts. Next year we can look forward to a talk by our President, Professor Christopher Dyer, on '*People on the move in Campden and District in the Middle Ages*', as well as a Christmas talk from the 'Historic Gardener'. The lecture by Professor Bernard Capp on radical movements during the Civil War will support the work we are doing on Old Campden House. Another one to look forward to is by Derek Taylor who will talk about his new book '*Who do the English think they are?*'

Publications

While sales revenues were slightly down on the previous year, a reflection of the 'maturity' of the range of publications on offer, a book on the history of Old Campden House is in preparation, with publication planned for Autumn 2018.

We have been invited to provide a display and bookstand at a Symposium on the Arts and Crafts Movement which Court Barn will hold in Campden School Hall on the weekend of 8th and 9th June.

The range and calibre of speakers suggests a well-attended event, an opportunity for book sales and to raise the profile of our Society. So book early, through the Court Barn website <http://www.courtbar.org.uk>.

Website

Whilst on the subject of the Society's profile, a significant achievement in the year was the redesign and upgrade of our website. Although the services of a website designer were obtained, the task of specifying our detailed requirements for content and style, was taken on and successfully delivered by two of our members. To their great credit this was delivered 'seamlessly' and on time, resulting in a website which is a credit to our Society.

Archives

Work continues to sort and catalogue the Josephine Griffiths collection, while volunteers have been transcribing her writings, which include a vivid description of Campden during WWI.



A donation of traders' tokens received during the year was particularly welcome, prompting research into shopkeepers in the late 17C. The tokens came into use when the Royal Mint ceased to operate during the Civil War and they were an alternative to small change essential to facilitate buying and selling. Many were issued by publicans, had unique markings and were usually with a face value of a farthing or a halfpenny.

Left: Robert Montgomery receiving the gift of tokens for the Archives from Richard Falkiner.

The old market bell was another welcome donation, the provenance of which was verified in photographs of the cattle market, where it was rung at the start of each cattle market day.

More photographs were digitised and catalogued before being stored in acid-free folders. Some, showing houses and people in very early days, allowed us to identify building alterations and to link them with owners. The digitising of an increasing volume of documents has the two-fold benefit of reducing pressure on space while making our collections more available to enquirers.

We are grateful to everyone who assists in answering queries, on transcriptions, digitisation and cataloguing to simplify our research.

Queries

In the calendar year to December, volunteers in the Archive Room received and responded to 106 queries, an increase of 21% on the previous year, back to levels seen in recent years. As usual the majority came from within the U.K., family history related, although enquiries about houses and locations increased. In the main our website was the initial source for the professional researchers, writers and house buyers among those who sought our assistance.

Research

The Changing Landscape Group has been studying the information emerging from the 1609 survey of Campden commissioned by Lionel Cranfield. Considerable variation has emerged in the number of yardlands (i.e.32 acres) of farmland held by residents. For some, their holdings were sufficient to support a family, while others had up to four times as much land, leading to surplus at each

harvest. For others, the small size of their land required them to seek casual work with one of the larger landholders or with tradesmen in the Borough, for income to sustain their families.

A further source of information is the 1609 survey of Gloucestershire's able-bodied men, *Arms and Armour*, which underlines the importance of agriculture to many of the Borough's residents. Arising from the preparation and processing of farm produce, a range of occupations developed including milling, baking, butchering, leather preparation, shoe making, weaving and dyeing. This growing interdependence of the residents, with their varied skills, was the basis of community in Campden.



Right: Campden Hill Farm, which featured in Alan Barclay's January talk on Campden Post Inclosure

Documents and photographs from the Griffiths family sparked research into Bedfont House and gardens to the story of the house and families who lived there and who played a significant part in the history of the town. At the AGM 2016 two members of the research group gave short presentations on Josephine Griffiths' life and sketches and on her father, William Higford Griffiths, who developed the gardens. Using other sources, including British Newspapers Online, the censuses, plans and maps, the research is continuing. It is intended that a future talk at the Family History Group will address this subject and link Bedfont House, Woolstaplers Hall, the Cotterells and the Griffiths families.

Park Road was first mentioned in a 1645 deed as Mill Lane before being aptly named Watery Lane in the 1800s, followed by the latest title in the early 1900s. We are gathering archive material augmented by people's memories to complete a detailed history of that part of town.

Old Campden House

In addition to the two excavations, we have enhanced our insight into the architectural characteristics of 'The Howse that was so Fayre' through visits to Aston Hall and Hatfield House, two outstanding examples of Jacobean style. With the approval of Landmark Trust, for which we are grateful, a further dig will be carried out in



March 2018.



Meanwhile work is continuing to trace the course of the water supply from the Conduit House to Campden House, using as source material a report written by the late Gordon Croot, with the aim of confirming the route and outlets along the way. The associated visit by a gardens historian prompted more consideration of water engineering.

Left: Nick Holt examines the Westington trough for the survey of the Campden House water supply.

Workshops have been held covering a range of topics including ‘*Transcribing Old Handwriting*’ and ‘*Marking up Finds*’ (from the dig) and ‘*Using social media*’.

‘*Life in a Tudor household*’, the subject of a fascinating Family History Group talk prompted by the Campden House project, gave the audience the chance to examine and handle clothing and household items of the period.

Continuing research into Baptist Hicks, his family and life in Campden at that time, together with the results of the excavations and records examination, will be brought together in the book to be published in Autumn 2018.

Family History Group

Meetings during the year have attracted good audiences, responding to a varied programme of talks. Among those was one on the extraordinary Mitford sisters, ‘*Mormons in my Family*’ by David Stanley and another on the Hartwells of Ebrington and Campden. Two talks of particularly strong local interest resulted in full audiences: Charlie Bennett provided a detailed reflection on five generations of his family and their work as bakers and traders in Campden, while Judith Ellis gave some insight into ‘*The Mystery and History of Campden Town Hall*’ and described the problems of trying to date the alterations to the building over the centuries. Another lively programme is being planned for 2018.

Meanwhile, remaining talks for the season are:

In the Town Hall at 7.30pm

- Thurs 15th March:** “*Chipping Campden, the Cotswolds and the Earls of Chester*”
Peter Coss, Emeritus Professor of History, Cardiff University.
- Thurs 19th April:** AGM followed by “*Baptist Hicks: Behind the Public Persona*”
Mary Fielding, CCHS.

And **Family History Group** in the Court Room at 7.30pm

- Tues 27th March:** Campden House water supply - Vanessa Rigg & Rob Grove
- Tues 24th April:** The Griffiths family and Bedfont House
Bedfont House Research Group
- Tues 22nd May:** Members research evening - three presentations

President Professor Christopher Dyer

Vice-Presidents Jill Wilson, Carol Jackson

Committee 2017-18

Chairman	Robert Montgomery
Vice-Chairman	Philip Ord
Secretary	Vin Kelly
Treasurer	Alan Barclay
Programme Sec	Ann Hettich
Archivist	Judith Ellis
Research	Stephen Nixon
Family History Grp	Sue Badger