

Signpost



The Journal of Chipping Campden History Society

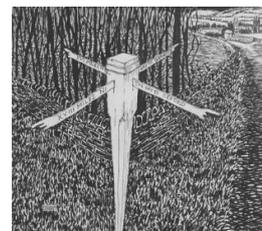
Issue no. 12

Spring 2020



Including CCHS
Annual Report
2019-20

Bringing local history to life



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From the Editor

Once again, we have received some useful and fascinating contributions to our Signpost research journal. Robert Noel's finding in the College of Arms Archives and Evelyn Lyon's article about an evacuee demonstrate coincidence and sometimes hitherto unknown connections with Campden, while John Sermon's research into the Old King's Arms gives us much new information about the building. Mary Fielding's analysis of a 1614 letter to Baptist Hicks leads to us question what he really was like and just who was telling the truth. The Archive Room query team too has been busy helping enquirers with Campden connections or interest. Each Signpost is entered onto our website a few months after publication. This is useful when you want to see a photograph in colour or larger, for instance, the Woodroffe windows. My sincere thanks once again go to all correspondents, researchers and contributors – please, keep your articles coming - they are valuable and valued.

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Front cover illustration: Photograph of the Old King's Arms, Campden High St, for sale and derelict, before Griggs's renovation of 1929. CCHS Archives. See article by John S. Sermon on page 6.

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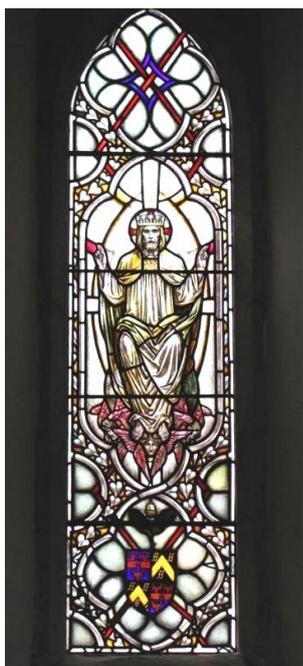
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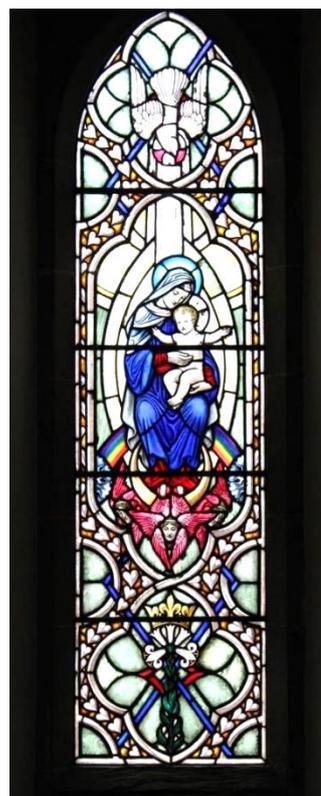
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Correspondence

A previous enquirer, **Alexandre Solcà**, (Query ref: 17/104) researching Elizabeth Nicholas and Diana Rowden, (see Signpost No. 8, Spring 2018) has written with new information about these two childhood friends. One statement must be corrected: Diana Rowden was in the SOE (Special Operations Executive) in WWII, but Elizabeth Nicholas was not. She was the author of the book *Death Be Not Proud*, pub 1958. Page 32 recounts a 1937 trip they took together to the Cotswolds and Oddington Church, 7 years before Diana was betrayed and put to death without trial or defence at Natzweiler Concentration Camp in July 1944. At the time of their travels together in the Cotswolds, she was Miss Elizabeth Winifred Cox, born 16.10.1915. She married Major Alfred John Nicholas in Jerusalem on November 9th 1943 when she was a Foreign Office official there. Her father was Robert Ferdinand de Lesseps Cox.

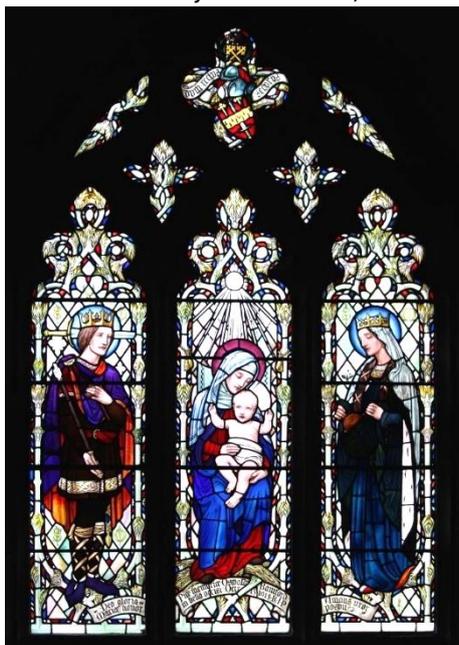


Andy Parkes (Query ref: 20/001) has been corresponding regarding two lancet windows in Holy Trinity Church, Hadley, near Telford, asking about Paul Woodroffe and what we know about these windows. The north sanctuary window (right) has a plaque indicating that it was donated by the Mothers Union in 1931 and was made by Woodroffe; the Lichfield Diocese faculty petition, held at Staffordshire Records Office, gives an estimated cost of £60. The south sanctuary window (left) has a plaque explaining its commemoration of Rev. James Barton, who died 21.03.1902, but Andy asked for confirmation of the maker. On checking with Peter Cormack, he says that both the Hadley



windows are by Woodroffe; the earlier window may have been made

while PW was still working in London.

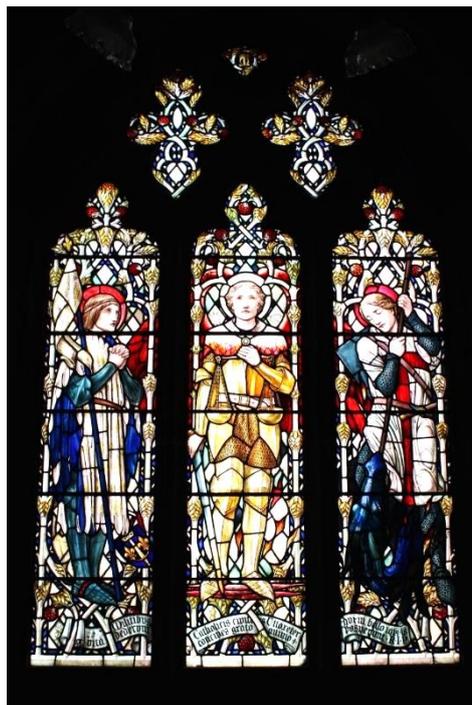


right is St. Margaret, English princess who married the Scottish King Malcolm III.

The 1920 Uttoxeter window (right) is a WWI memorial to the local men. Again, the Staffordshire Advertiser on 12th June 1920 reported the unveiling at a Mass attended by Capt. H.J. Bamford (Oswald's cousin). The window of 3 lights designed and made by Paul Woodroffe contains St. Michael in the centre, St. George soldier patron of England on the right and St. Joan of Arc, 'newly-canonized Maid of Orleans, probably the first window representing St. Joan, who saved France at a critical period of her history'. These latter two both have the Paul Woodroffe woodruff flower rebus (left) and the dates fit with reopening his Little Hay Westington Studio in Campden after the war.



St. Michael in the centre, St. George soldier patron of England on the right and St. Joan of Arc, 'newly-canonized Maid of Orleans, probably the first window representing St. Joan, who saved France at a critical period of her history'. These latter two both have the Paul Woodroffe woodruff flower rebus (left) and the dates fit with reopening his Little Hay Westington Studio in Campden after the war.



Mike Hopkinson (Query ref: 20/001) corresponded about his links with Campden and Ananda Coomaraswamy, an Anglo-Sinhalese geologist and scholar Prince from Sri Lanka. He tells us that his grandmother, Ethel Annie, was born on 6th



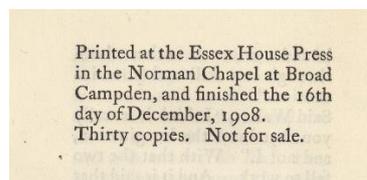
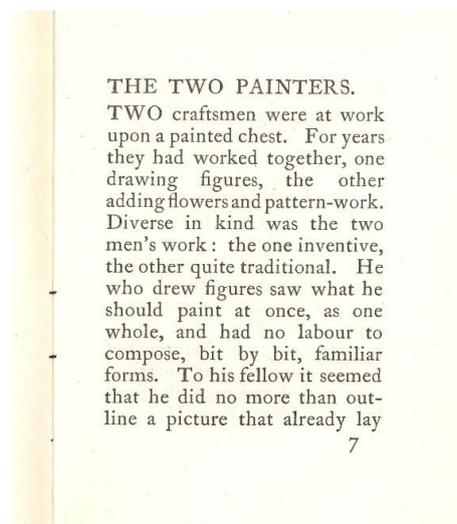
November 1888 in Rowley Regis, Staffordshire to Hannah Cooper, but was adopted by George and Pamela Beresford and christened Ethel Annie Beresford on 3rd December 1888 at Rowley Regis. Sometime after/around 1908 she moved to Chipping Campden to open a Fish and Chip Shop with her good friend Gertrude Louisa Sutton. It seems Ethel also sang in the Chipping Campden Church Choir.

Left: Ethel in c 1904 age 16.

During her time in Campden she made the acquaintance of Dr. A.K. Coomaraswamy who bought C.R. Ashbee's Essex House Press in 1907 moving it to his recently Ashbee-restored home, the Norman Chapel at Broad Campden. Dr. Coomaraswamy gave Ethel some notable items during this time, which are still prized by her descendants and family after 112 years, in particular, two 1908 limited edition publications from the Essex House Press:

Right: The Two Painters by A.K. Coomaraswamy

And *Conradin: A Philosophical Ballad* written by C.R. Ashbee, a limited edition of 250 with 6 full page illustrations by P.A. Mairet, who was Ashbee's architectural assistant helping to oversee the restoration of the Norman Chapel and who, when the Press was sold to Coomaraswamy, worked for him on the printing of Ananda's own book *Medieval Sinhalese Art*. The *Conradin* copy given to Mike's grandmother was unnumbered, uncut and not collated into book form, possibly therefore a printer's proof or test sheets.





Left: Ethel in 1914 age 26

After Campden Ethel must have moved nearer to Birmingham, as she was married on 16th April 1915 at St Cyprian Church, Hay Mills, Worcestershire, where she, a waitress, was living at Kings Road; her husband, William Creswell Hopkinson, age 23, of Small Heath, was the son of a merchant and also a waiter, so perhaps they met at their place of work. Gertrude Louisa Sutton was one of the witnesses.

Mike Hopkinson writes he 'spent many holidays with his Grandmother when younger, but she never once spoke of her time in Chipping Campden. Her life was not easy, because her husband, my grandfather, never returned from WW1 leaving her at the end of hostilities with my father William Ernest Cresswell-Hopkinson and his two sisters all under two. Interestingly she eventually married again

in 1926 a coppersmith, Frederick Edward Ward, who worked for large brewery, but who spent hours making Arts and Crafts style copper artefacts.' On the 1910 Campden Electoral Roll and the 1911 Campden census, CCHS was able to find Ethel's adopted parents, George Ernest Beresford, a gardener, age 47 and Pamela Mary Beresford, née Edwards, age 48 with children George Ernest age 12 and Arthur John age 9, living in Watery Lane (at Daphne, in what is now Park Road). A baptism on 21st March 1893 at Aston Subedge of John Arthur Johnson showed that Pamela's younger sister and brother-in-law, Comfort Lucy and Henry Johnson, were then living in Littleton. Did the Beresfords follow Comfort and Henry to this region? Or did Ethel and Gertrude learn about Campden from Comfort, Ethel's aunt? Did George and Pamela follow Ethel to Campden and how long did they stay in Campden after Ethel left? Where was Gertrude Sutton's Fish and Chip shop? Can anyone help?

We have had contact with **Malcolm Sanders** (Query ref: 19/065) who is researching Prisoner of War camps in the UK during WWII. To date he had published details for Camps 1 to 165 on his website www.ww2pow.uk. He was enquiring about Springhill, camp 185, so watch this space. Each page has 20 POW Camps, listed numerically, not geographically.

Rob Whitaker contacted Court Barn about the photograph (c.1906) of the Guild of Handicraft and a young man at the front, aged around 16, holding his knee, called Stanley Keeley. Rob wrote 'Stanley was the son of Henry Keeley (1858-1936) who owned Keeley Stores on the High Street, as well as a number of cottages in the town. Stanley was one of six sons: Henry Frederick who was in service in Eaton Square but eventually returned to Campden; Ernest who lived to 98 died in 1984; Wilfred lived to 94 and died in 1986; Louis [Lewis] lived to 93 and died in 1988; and Golden lived to 79 and died in 1977. Golden wrote several books on metalwork used in schools for teaching. Stanley, after he finished his apprenticeship, rather sadly died in 1914 at just 24, slipping into a diabetic coma. The use of insulin to treat diabetes only came in around 1925. Stanley is described as a Silversmith on his death certificate. These six brothers were cousins of my grandmother.' It seems that Golden is the young boy next to Stanley. The earlier history of the Prout-Elsley-Keeley shop, more recently the Post Office, now Sam Wilson, is covered in *Trading Places* and three of these Keeley brothers (Ernest, Golden and Lewis) feature in Paul Hughes book *Campden 1912-18*.



The History of the Old King's Arms

John S. Sermon

This is an extract of a fuller text in CCHS Archives (Query Ref: 19/049) the result of research undertaken for the owners of the property by John Sermon. John acknowledges the help of W. Bro. Paul Leadbetter and W. Bro. A.T. Fowles's 'First Fifty Years of Chipping Campden Lodge No 5452', a copy of which is now deposited in CCHS Archives (Ref: 2020/010/DS Box C20) and which is most useful for lists of Lodge officers, members and assets. W. Bro. stands for Worshipful Brother, a title used throughout the world in masonic circles for someone who has been a Worshipful Master of a Lodge.

The property is a typical sixteenth century building, with a considerable amount of internal half timbering and very interesting roof. Built around the middle of the sixteenth century, shortly after the Reformation when Chipping Campden expanded, especially along the High Street connecting what had been at least two villages. From its erection it was probably an artisan's house or even more likely an Alehouse.



Right: Very early photograph of Chipping Campden High Street, with the Old King's Arms on the right.

From some records in the possession of the Chipping Campden Temple Company, John and Nicholas Izod purchased the building from the Gainsborough Estate in about 1710. The purchase included the buildings stretching from the Old Grammar School, including the Bantam Tearooms and extending back to Calf Lane. In the mid eighteenth century the property was sold by the Izod brothers to a Mr D. Hughes who opened it as an Inn or Alehouse, called the 'King's Arms', probably after King Henry VIII. No one knows for sure what happened to Mr D. Hughes, but by 1790 it was mortgaged by Mr W. Phillips, from then until 1876 it underwent numerous re-mortgages, conveyances and leases. According to the Evesham Journal In November 1869, a young lad, James Harwood, drowned in a slurry pit in the yard behind the building and in 1874 it is reported that a swarm of bees were found in a nest at the 'King's Arms', while in 1875 John Wyatt was reported for permitting drunkenness 'after hours'. Eventually in 1882 it was purchased by Richard Arkell, a Brewer from Donnington near Stow-on-the-Wold. In 1891 Charles Brace, Inn Keeper and Tailor, was charged with selling liquor 'after hours' and had his licence refused. He was the last landlord of the old 'King's Arms'. After his death, a large quantity of horsemeat was found in his vats, which probably accounted for the potency of his drink.

It was about this time, when the licence was refused, that the premises changed its name from the 'King's Arms' to 'The Old King's Arms' because another 'King's Arms' was opened in the town. At the Petty Sessions when the licence was refused, the building was described as in a very dilapidated condition, not fit for a public house in its present state. The local Police Superintendent suggested that it should be demolished. Shortly afterwards the building was bought by the local Grammar School for £700 as an annexe and used from 1893 for Science, Woodwork and Domestic Science classes, including evening classes right up to 1928. When the new school was built off Cider Mill Lane, the building was vacated and became empty, tenantless and no longer licenced.

Up to this time the front of the building had been constructed with only the gables half-timbered and infilled with brickwork. The first floor was also constructed in brickwork and the ground floor faced in stone, with no overhang. The brickwork appears, from photographs taken at the time, (see



front cover photograph) to have been painted, most likely white. There were two large sash windows either side of the entrance door on the ground floor and two similar sized windows with hoppers on the first floor. The front main door opened into a room or hall, rising right to the roof, there appears to be no first floor over. From photos of the interior, when it was a classroom, there were two stanchions, where the existing dividing wall is situated, and no main beam from the

rear wall to the front of the building. The existing fireplace has not been altered and remains as it was to this day.

Beyond the Alehouse/Technical school there were two medium sized cottages and a smaller two up and two down one at the far end, all fronting on to a communal yard with a pump, which served the cottages including others behind 'Stuart House', at that time known as the 'Live and Let Live', which served as lodging houses of dubious repute. There was then a footpath from the yard leading to Calf Lane and a garden where the house 'Alderney' now stands. The two cottages were drastically altered during time they belonged to the Grammar School and are not too different from what is there today. The first floors of the cottages were combined to be used as the Carpentry and Science classrooms, with the ground floor used for Domestic Science with a Kitchen for Cookery classes.

By 1928 the building was in a poor state of repair, empty and unlicensed, when it was purchased by Sir Philip Stott of Stanton, an amateur architect and Freemason. In 1929, he in conjunction with Norman Jewson and F.L. Griggs, gutted and completely reconstructed the front of the building in the current popular neo-Tudorbethan style, with a jettied overhang, with the initial idea of turning the building into a Theatre.



Prior to that the front of the building was a flat brick facade, with no evidence of any overhang. F.L.Griggs also designed the wrought iron signs for a number of buildings, including the one that once hung on the front of the 'Old King's Arms'.

The half-timbered gables are the only part that remains of the original frontage. The entrance hall was changed into a hallway, flanked either side by two smaller rooms with low ceilings to create one single room above. Sir Philip's plans were for changing rooms on the ground floor, with the theatre in the large room, now the Lodge Room. This accounts for the rather unusual appearance of the front of the lower floor with the small regular windows. However, the whole idea of the theatre never materialised and 'The Old King's Arms' was purchased by the Campden Trust in 1930. At the same time Stuart House and the cottages behind were sold separately to Mr T. Elsey. The Courtyard was also divided up as it is today.

After a couple of years, the Campden Trust leased the Old King's Arms to Miss Margaret Lloyd-Roberts, who opened the front of the building as a restaurant using both floors, known as 'The King's Arms Pantry Tearooms'.



The Chipping Campden Masonic Lodge was formed around this same time. Masons Charles Wakeman, proprietor of the Noel Arms, with W. Matthew Cox, retired headmaster of the Grammar School (1913-1926) and Wilfred J. Bright, headmaster from 1927-1951, both of whom knew the building well, were the prime movers.

At a meeting at the Noel Arms on March 22nd 1933 it was discussed if there were enough numbers to support a Lodge in Campden, that furniture from a fellow Warwickshire Lodge was for sale and the foundation was agreed by all. Consecration took place on 26th February 1934, the Lodge leasing the upper rooms on the first floor over the guest rooms of the King's Arms. The living and sleeping accommodation for the occupants of the King's Arms Pantry was above the storeroom at the far end of the yard, accessible by the staircase, now also used as the fire escape, from the Lodge Room.

However, not long after, Miss Lloyd-Roberts, the proprietor of the King's Arms Guest House, whose lease with the Campden Trust was to end in June 1935, disclosed that she was giving up, which meant that the Lodge would be faced with the prospects of paying the extra rent for the whole building and at the same time would have no one to cater for the Lodge dining. The Lodge negotiated a new lease with the Trust, while Sir Phillip Stott offered to pay the rent of £35 per annum, and the restaurant on the ground floor was sub-let to another Miss Roberts, (the daughter of the Lodge Assistant Secretary, W. Bro. Roberts), together with Miss Hart as a co-tenant. These ladies provided the necessary meal after the Lodge Meetings, the lodge purchasing their own crockery, glassware and cutlery. The two ladies ran the restaurant very much as before, except for the guest rooms, and continued to live in the two rooms over the store at the rear of the premises. Living there was not very convenient, as to reach their bathrooms, it was necessary to go downstairs, into the yard and then through the kitchen and dining room. A request was received from them for access to the bathroom through the Lodge Room and down the front stairs. Regretfully the suggestion was refused by The Lodge committee.

When war with Germany was declared in September 1939, the Lodge was in recess, the September Meeting was cancelled and the programme of meetings was put on 'War Footings'. Regular Meetings were held in the Summer months, as it was difficult with the blackout for Brethren to travel at night. In 1940 Miss Fisher took over the lease as the 'King's Arms Pantry' and this was the name by which the restaurant was known until 1976. It was Miss Fisher's request that the existing partition that divided the two anterooms on the first floor was erected. One of the two rooms (now the Committee Room) became the living accommodation of the tenant, making access more convenient to the Bathroom, just down the front stairs.

Miss Fisher married in 1942 and four years later gave up the lease. The Lodge reacted very quickly, afraid that the local authority might make a requisition for housing or offices and quickly found a new tenant in 1947, a Miss Barks. In 1950 the Lodge's lease with the Campden Trust was due for renewal and the Trust asked for £160 rent p.a. The Lodge offered £120, at the same time suggesting

that the Lodge might be interested in purchasing the property. The Trust would not sell but offered to reduce the rent to £150. At an emergency meeting of the Lodge it was agreed to offer £135 and the Trust agreed. Two years later the Trust asked for £200 per annum rent. To meet the increase, the Lodge decided to raise the rent of the Restaurant. The tenant obviously found the increase difficult, because in 1953 the lease was transferred to Miss Elsie Forrester. Costs all around were steadily increasing and in 1961 The Campden Trust decided to put the property up for sale with a £4,000 purchase price.

A Lodge committee was appointed in 1962 to consider the possibility of purchasing the property, and an architect was commissioned to carry out a survey of the property. By March his report was received and immediately an emergency meeting was convened to consider the purchase of the building with the ramifications of doing so. It was clear that if any outside body or person were to buy the property, the rent to the Lodge would be increased, irrespective of whether there was security of tenure or the Lodge would have to find a new home. In 1940 a fund had been set up to purchase the building should the opportunity arise, but by May 1962 there was only £1,397 in the account, far short of the sum required. However, when it became apparent that the rent would be increased to £300 p.a., the Lodge eventually raised £4,200, the premises were purchased and the Chipping Campden Masonic Temple Company Ltd. was formed with offices at 'The Old King's Arms'. The income was to be made up by yearly subscriptions included in member's fees and rents from the Lodge and the Restaurant tenant.

Since the tenant catered for the Lodge, there was always some further bargaining over the price of the Lodge Dinners. For example, in 1964 the charge for the Christmas meal was £1 per head, against 14 shillings for the usual price of a meal. To put the finances of the Lodge on more stable footing, the annual subscription was fixed at £5.5s, but no longer included the Dining Fee. Costs, however, continued to increase so that by 1983, the subscriptions had increased to £25, including an increased contribution to the Temple Company. The responsibility of ownership with the need to maintain the building in a good state of repair meant an ever-constant demand on the finances of the Company, which from November 1969 were looked after by W. Bro. O. H. Lowe, who also acted as Company Secretary. Oliver Henry Lowe, by now age 37, with his parents Albert and Kathleen Lowe, had run Lowe and Sons grocers in Campden in the 1950s and 1960s. Oliver later founded OHL Stationers in Evesham in 1981.

Since the 1928 Griggs alterations and renovation, little had been done to the building apart from a few minor repairs and interior decorating until 1966, when the Lodge Room (see below) was thoroughly cleaned, painted, beams treated with a preservative and a new checked carpet replaced the original one, first purchased in 1933. The antiquated poor heating system caused dry rot requiring serious action in October 1971 and eventually new heating systems and re-plastering and decoration.

In 1975, the tenant (Elsie Forrester) who had leased the restaurant since 1953, assigned the lease to two men, who created a new image, which many felt was not in keeping with the character of 'The Old King's Arms', changing the name of the restaurant to 'The Fat Cavalier', replacing the old signs with new ones, considered to be in bad taste and totally unsuitable. Live entertainment was introduced in



the dining room in the manner of a 'sleazy night-club' and having persuaded the Temple Company to renovate the ground floor of the old store at the rear of the premises, without permission they turned it into a kitchen. In arrears with the rent, one of the partners absconded, leaving the other to face bankruptcy charges, owing considerable sums to their suppliers, as well as the rent to the Lodge. 'The Fat Cavalier' was closed very suddenly by the Official Receiver in September 1977 and the Evesham Journal on 16th March 1978 reported that Graham Huxford of the Fat Cavalier had liabilities of £24,571. Prior to this the standard of the meals had deteriorated and the service become so bad that the Lodge had moved to dine at the 'Lygon Arms', High Street, Chipping Campden. The restaurant was vacant for about a year until a new tenant was found. However, this one also failed to make a success of the business and in 1986 a new lease was issued to 'Caminetto', an Italian style restaurant, a successful business which lasted some twenty-one years, until September 2017 and the retirement of the proprietor, Danni Perez, following the death of his wife. W. Bro. A. Timms a member of the Lodge then took over the tenancy and completely altered the image of the restaurant naming it 'The Eatery at the Old Arms' providing coffee, lunches and evening meals. Though investing a great deal of time, inspiration and money into the project, the restaurant was unfortunately forced to close early in 2019.

This was an opportunity to have a thorough clean and de-clutter, getting rid of the shed in the yard, repairing and repointing the wall in the yard, enlarging the door from yard into the restaurant, providing disabled access and an improved fire escape. The down pipes on the front of the building were cleaned through and repainted a lead colour, but on inspection one of the hoppers feeding into the down pipes, was found to be split. Made of tin the hopper had to be soldered by a specialist and now functions correctly.

Fortunately, a new tenant was found quickly - Marco and his wife Yola took over the tenancy on a nine-year lease. Marco had previously worked at 'Huxley's in Chipping Campden and his restaurant opened for business on the 2nd August 2019 under the new name of 'Da Luigi'. Marco continues the provision the meals for the Lodge meetings.



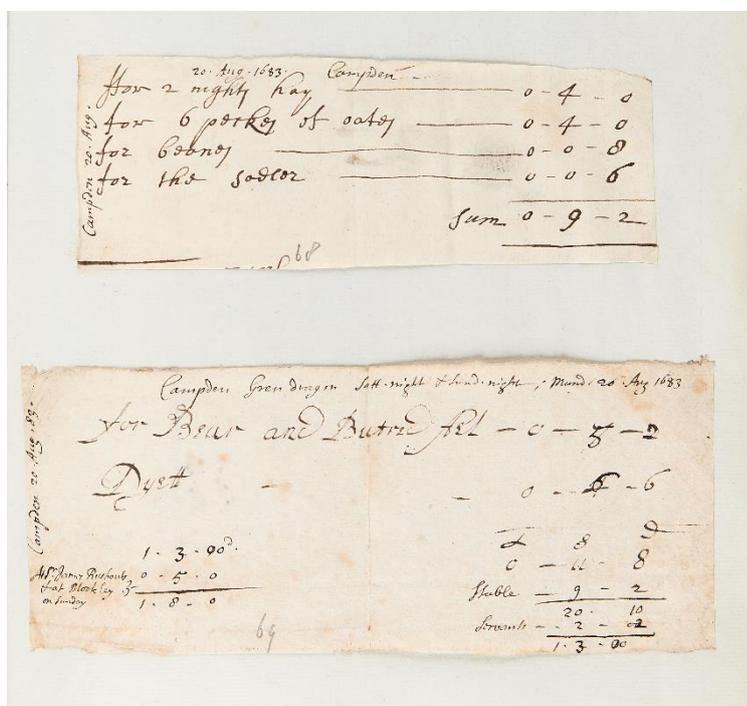
A Heraldic Visitation to Campden on 19th August 1683

Robert Noel

Robert Noel, the younger son of CCHS's friend Gerard Noel, who sadly died in July 2016, is Lancaster Herald at the College of Arms and has recently come across an interesting document in the College's archive.

From 1530 to circa 1690 there took place so-called heraldic visitations of the counties of England and (most) of Wales; they occurred about once every thirty years. The purpose was the compilation of what was in effect a heraldic and genealogical census of the gentry; they applied a test: 'Do you use a coat of arms? Please let us test the evidence by which you claim to hold it of long right ...'. In this fashion the gentry found themselves summoned and interviewed, perhaps even interrogated. The monarch's commission, commanding these visitations, was issued to the senior 'provincial' heralds known as the provincial King's of Arms. These were two in number, Clarenceux King of Arms and Norroy King of Arms. They often delegated the actual day-to-day work to the middle-ranking heralds (whose titles today are Richmond, Windsor, Lancaster, Somerset, Chester and York) or the junior heralds (whose titles today are Rouge Dragon, Rouge Croix, Bluemantle and Portcullis). The task was to ensure that the local gentry responded to the summons. The visiting team took bed and board at a convenient inn and there they carried out the interviews. The resulting books of drawings and pedigrees are in the library of the College of Arms today. Those interviewed were obliged to pay a fee; it was, in effect, a tax on armorial bearings. This tax was (through the ingenuity of officials at the Treasury) revived in about 1799 and lasted (in high theory) until 1945.

The document found in the College of Arms Library by the Archivist, Dr Lynsey Darby, is part of the Heraldic Visitation of Gloucestershire 1682-1683, when Henry Dethick (Richmond Herald) and Gregory King (Rouge Dragon Pursuivant) lodged on the 19th August 1683 at '[the] Green Dragon' in Campden (my childhood home, now Green Dragons in Lower High St); the bill [see left] that the landlord presented to them remains to this day in the library of the College of Arms. It reads:



20 Aug 1683 Campden

two nights hay	4 shillings
(for the horses)	
six pecks of oats	4 shillings
and 'beanes'	6 pence

There was sixpence for the saddler too.

The second piece of paper is headed Campden Gren (sic) Dragon Sat night and Sun night, Monday 20 Aug 1683. Beer and 'dyett' (food) were a little dearer at over five shillings each, with the total bill being £1.3 shillings, including stabling as above and servants.

The careful accounting would have been insisted on, as part of the profits of this Visitation was intended for the

cost of rebuilding College of Arms office (my current place of work) which had been destroyed in the Fire of London of 1666.

Editor's Note: Robert Noel has also sent for the CCHS archives [Accession Ref: 2020/001/DO, Digital Archive Box A8] a copy of the Presidential Address given by his colleague, P.L. Dickinson, on 20th March 1999 at Gloucester and printed in the *Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucester Archaeological Society* No 117 pp11-33¹. Mr Dickinson was a schoolboy in Stroud and thus has an interest in Gloucestershire matters. The article covers a description of the Gloucestershire visitation over the whole of the 1682-3 period.

Thomas May (Chester Herald) and Gregory King (Rouge Dragon Pursuivant) arrived in Stow on 28th July 1682, staying overnight in the King's Arms. They had been in Northamptonshire and Rutland in the previous July 1681, and again in March and April 1682, thence to Warwickshire and Leicestershire, with July to September 1682 spent in Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire. The following year in August and September 1683 they were back again in these counties, plus Monmouthshire and Herefordshire. Their Gloucestershire route in 1682 took the Heralds, usually spending just a day or two at each, from Stow, to Burford, Cirencester, Tetbury, reaching Sodbury by early August, then to Bristol, Bath, Badminton, Dursley, Micheldean, Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Cheltenham, reaching Chipping Campden on 15th August, thereafter to Evesham and Worcestershire. It seems the Heralds used the Hearth Tax Returns, imposed from 1662 until 1689 and collected on Lady Day (25th March) and Michaelmas (29th September), as a useful indicator of the economic status of the likely local people to be interviewed.

In 1683 Thomas May², who was ill 'of an ague' was replaced by Henry Dethick³. Between 30th July and 26th September, he with Gregory King⁴ travelled 451 miles through Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, arriving at Campden on Saturday 18th August, when they stayed at Green Dragon Inn. They left on the 20th August, travelling to Tewkesbury, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Minchinhampton, Wootton-under-Edge, Sodbury, Bristol, leaving there on 1st September for Monmouthshire, Mitcheldean, Herefordshire, Tewkesbury, Winchcombe, ending the visitation at Stow on their way back to London on 24th September.

Below: The earliest photo which CCHS has found, a postcard dated 1908, of Green Dragons, the large light-coloured property on the far left, then trading as a shop.



¹ BGAS website: http://www.bgas.org.uk/tbgas_bg/v117/bg117011.pdf

² He was in fact 39 years old and died not long after in 1689.

³ Richmond Herald, who died in 1707.

⁴ He later was promoted, achieved some eminence and then notoriety in early 1700s when he was suspended for malpractice; his second wife's sister was married to Thomas Savage of Elmley Castle.

George Woodard, 1926-2000, Evacuee

Evelyn Lyon

I have been investigating part of our family history, or to be more precise that of my son-in-law's family, and an amazing coincidence was found in Campden. This sounds complicated, but please bear with me! Although, as I'm sure is often the case with historical research, I've ended up with more questions than answers, so if anybody reading this knows more, please let me know.

In 2008 our daughter, Noeni, married James Woodard from Leicestershire in Campden at St James's church and amongst the guests at the wedding was James's grandmother, Kathleen, who told us that she had a silver tea strainer made by Harts Silversmiths in Campden. She explained how this had come about. As a child, Kathleen's husband, George Woodard, was evacuated to Chipping Campden at the start of World War II and he stayed with Charlie and Mary Downer⁵ in the house attached to the Old Silk Mill, in Sheep Street. George was 13 when he arrived in Campden from the Isle of Dogs, London, which was bombed early in the war, coming with others from Millwall Central School in 1939, along with some of their teachers who stayed here too.



When George and the 55 other children from Millwall, arrived in Campden it must have been very exciting, but also frightening for them⁶; and for the people of Campden who welcomed them it must have seemed like a second invasion of Cockneys in Arcadia.

Left: Silver tea strainer, with initials K and G

Kathleen's son, Norman, said George attended school in Campden. The CCHS archive has some school records about evacuees, but these are incomplete. However, the Gloucestershire Archives evacuee records show, although some of their records also had missing pages, that:

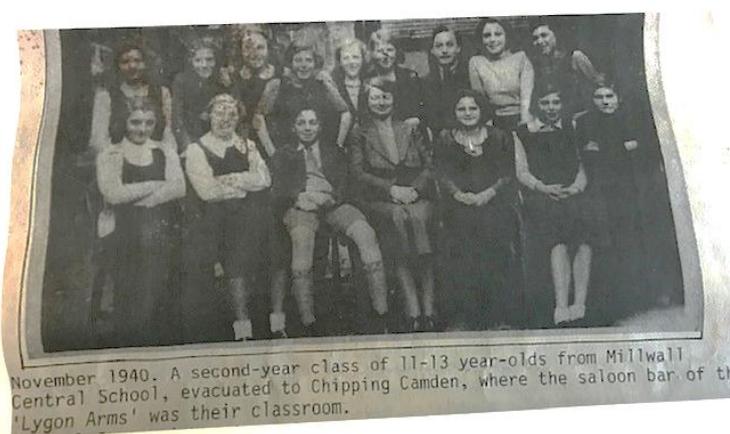
School number 73 Chipping Campden Junior School Mixed, date Feb 41 -Dec 42, admitted 14 children.

School number 73 Campden CE Senior School, 1939-1944, admitted 33 children

School number 74 Chipping Campden RC School 1940-45, admitted 24 children

School number 1192, (description missing) Campden had 69 children, including 56 from ... (missing, could be Mill) wall and ... (missing, Isle) of Dogs, date of admission 4.9.39. Note: the day after war was declared!

George Woodard's name was not in these lists, but as all the names were missing from the record of School number 1192, he must have been in this school. He definitely had lessons here, because, a photo (see right) in a



⁵ Charles James Henry Downer b. 27 March 1876 in Poplar, Reg. ref. 1c 627, Mary Downer née Gwin b. 5 May 1876 Mile End, Middx, married 30 June 1910 at St Mary the Virgin, Walthamstow, Essex, when they were both c.34.

⁶ 'Poplar to Campden' Campden Bulletin, No. 206 April 2001 pp 16-19, and other correspondence regarding evacuees, in CCHS archives, queries 07/091, 15/069 & 16/016 and www.islandhistory.co.uk.

newspaper cutting⁷ dated November 1940 is of a second year class of 11-13 year-olds from Millwall Central School, in their class room, which was the Saloon Bar of the Lygon Arms; George Woodard is in the second row, third from the right.



George was the youngest of 13 surviving children⁸ and while he was staying with the Downers, his mother came to visit him. George's son, Norman, lent me some family snaps, taken from this visit to Campden. [Ed.: Note Charlotte is wearing different clothes in 2 photos, so did she stay overnight or come more than once?]

Left: George in the Downers' Garden

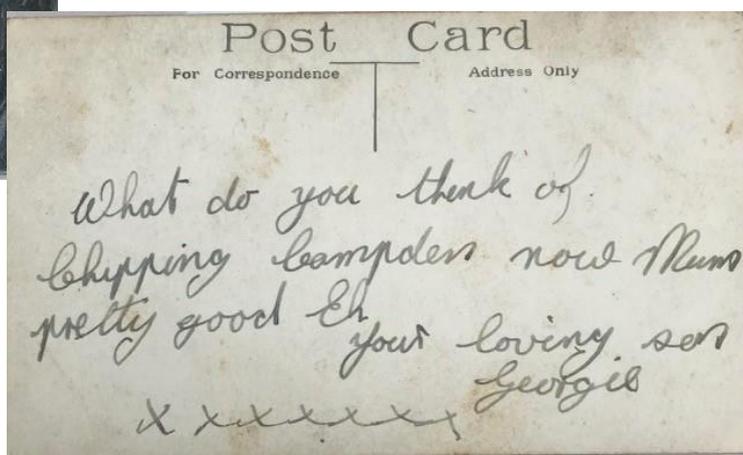


Right: Charlie Downer with George's mother, Charlotte.

After her visit George sent his mother a post card: 'What do you think of Chipping Campden now, Mum, pretty good eh? Your loving son Georgie xxxxxxx'



Above and right: Both sides of the postcard



Left: Charlotte left with Mary Downer on the steps of the Guild House, behind the Silk Mill.

Charlotte was living with her husband Charles and several of their children at the family home 13 Plevna St, Poplar, when the 1939 Register of every member of the civilian population was taken on 29th September 1939, but very sadly George's mother died while George was evacuated in Campden

⁷ CCHS archives

⁸His father was Charles Woodard b.23.8.1880, mother was Charlotte, née Morgan b. 26.2.1881, they married 2.7.1900, their children were Charles Edward b.1900, Ann Elizabeth and Ellen Jane twins b.1902, Walter Bernard b.1905, Alice Maud b.1906, Rose Mary b.1908, Thomas b.1910 d.1911, Charlotte Elizabeth b.1912, Violet b.1914, Janet Beatrice b.1916, Hilda Millicent b.1918, Amos Alfred Thomas b.1920 and George Arthur b.1925

not long after the happy photos of her in the Downers' garden. Her death at the age of 58 was registered in January 1940 (ref: 1e 556).

George was a lively lad and got into trouble with another boy for stealing apples. Campden must have seemed very different to London for the 13-year-old George and a lot of evacuees got into scrapes of one kind or another. When Charlie Downer had first arrived in Campden in 1902 as part of Ashbee's Guild of Handicraft, he was very homesick for London,⁹ so perhaps he understood how George was feeling. George was a bit of a character and so was Charlie¹⁰, whose amateur dramatics, jokes and mimicry had entertained his colleagues in London and Campden. Charlie Downer was an ornamental blacksmith, who made screens, fire irons, lamp fittings and garden gates of high quality, occupying a forge in the Silk Mill grounds¹¹. He had been brought up in Poplar with his parents,¹² joined the Ashbee Guild, elected in 1898 and moved to Campden with the Guild in 1902. He was living in Park Road with his new wife in 1910 at which time he was 34, but by 1914 was living at the Guild House at the back of the Silk Mill¹³, where he was still residing when he died on 11th Jan 1962. After the Guild of Handicrafts closed in 1908, he had continued to work in Campden with Bill Thornton, another blacksmith.

So, in 1939, when evacuee George arrived, Charlie and Mary would have been 63 years old; Charlie was a special constable¹⁴ and had been a Church Warden.¹⁵ When George was old enough he joined the Fleet Air Arm and was sent to train in Canada. He was then offered either to drive a landing craft or to be a rear gunner on the Lancaster bombers. He chose the latter. In the September after his marriage to Kathleen¹⁶ in 1946, he started an engineering training course at Loughborough and they settled in Lancaster Street, Leicester as Kathleen was from that town. They had two sons, Norman and Alan, moving in 1958 from Lancaster Street to Knighton near Leicester and then again in 1966 to Thurkaston. The Downers remained friends with George and Kathleen for many years, with visits by Charlie (his wife, Mary, died in 1952). Norman remembers his parents hiring a car and the family coming over from Leicester to Chipping Campden to see Charlie Downer in the 1950s. One time Charlie stayed with them for a week and on another occasion he gave them the tea strainer, as a thank you present and to remember George's time in Chipping Campden. David Hart has told me that the hall marks show that the tea strainer was made in 1960 by Harry Henry Warmington, who was apprenticed to Harts in 1912. George Hart described Harry as 'one of the finest silver smiths in the country.'¹⁷

Right: Harry Warmington, silversmith.



⁹ *A Simple Life*, Fiona MacCarthy p 47 & *Campden a New History*, CADHAS, 2005, p289 on the life of evacuees and how well they were welcomed here.

¹⁰ *A Simple Life*, Fiona MacCarthy p 86, 'the Whitechapel wit ...re-established as the Gloucestershire comedian.'

¹¹ *Campden a New History*, CADHAS 2005

¹² Thomas Richard Downer, a Ship rigger & Mariner, and Lydia née Barron married 12 Sep 1859 at All Saints Church, Poplar. They seem to have had 7 children: Sarah Lydia b.c.1860, Elizabeth Anita b.c.1864, Thomas Richard b. c.1866, Robert Barron b.c.1869, Louisa b.c.1871, Charles James Henry b. 1876, Richard b.c.1880.

¹³ Electoral Rolls

¹⁴ 1939 Register

¹⁵ *A Simple Life*, Fiona MacCarthy p 185

¹⁶ Née Memory, b. 1916, m. June 1946, d. 2005

¹⁷ *Campden a New History* CADHAS

All this has set me wondering. It is now 80 years since the children were first evacuated from cities to safer places in the countryside. Maggie Andrews, Professor of Cultural History at the University of Worcester, has a new book 'Women and Evacuation in the Second World War'¹⁸, about the women, like George's mother, who saw their children evacuated. At the start of World War II when a lot of children were evacuated from cities they were often sent to friends or families living in safer places.



Although it was 25 years after the arrival of the Guild from East London, could it be that Millwall Central School chose Chipping Campden because they were still in touch with some of the Guild families who moved here in 1902? Charlie Downer was born in Poplar, East London, near Millwall, his wife Mary in Mile End, Middx and the Essex House was in the Mile End Road to where the Guild's workshops relocated in 1891. This is all the same part of London as the Woodard family's home.

Left: Charlotte with Mary Downer behind the Silk Mill.

George's mother looks very happy in the photos with the Downers when she came to visit, so perhaps they already knew each other? There is, however, no evidence of this - yet!!

George Woodard would be pleased to know his descendants are now frequent visitors to Chipping

Campden!

Note: The British Evacuees Association, at www.evacuees.org.uk, provided general useful information e.g. What the evacuee children were allowed to take with them: The child's gas mask, a change of underclothing, night clothes, house shoes or plimsolls, spare stockings or socks, a toothbrush and comb, knife, fork and spoon, mug and plate, towel and handkerchiefs, a warm coat or mackintosh if possible, food for the journey - sufficient food for 1 day, apples or oranges are most suitable. Any parcels that the child carried should be labelled with his or her name, home address and school.

Remaining 2020 Lecture Programme. Meetings in the Town Hall, at 7.30pm

2020

Thursday 20th Feb: 'Voyages to the House of Diversion - Hanwell Castle, 17th Century Water Gardens and the Birth of Modern Science',
Stephen Wass, Oxford University Department of Continuing Education.

Thursday 19th Mar: 'The History and Mystery of Campden Town Hall',
Judith Ellis, CCHS.

Thursday 16th April: AGM and 'Reflections on GCHQ's Centenary',
Tony Comer, Senior Historian, GCHQ.

Family History Group (FHG) meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month in The Court Room, Old Police Station, starting at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. £1.00 per person

2020

25th February:	<i>Campden Shops</i>	Mary Fielding
24th March:	<i>Sights, sounds and smells of Campden</i>	Di Smith
28th April:	<i>Children of scandal: the illegitimate children of the Duchess of Devonshire</i>	Emma Defries

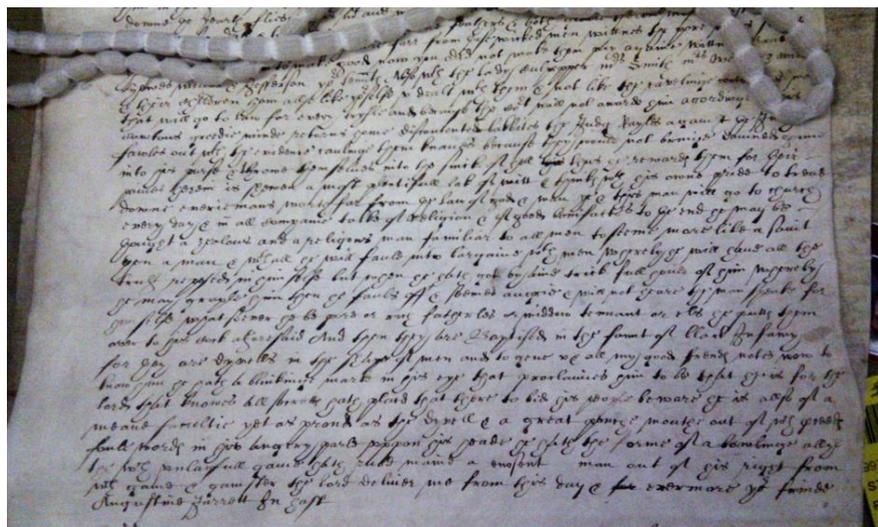
¹⁸ The Observer, 18 October 2019

A Libellous Letter: Part 2

Mary Fielding

In the first part of this history (published in *Signpost* 10, Spring 2019) I introduced the protagonists and some of the background leading to Augustine Jarrett, a maltster of Campden, writing a letter to Sir Baptist Hicks, which is in the National Archives at Kew under catalogue reference STAC8/182/24. This article examines the letter itself to try to explain why Hicks took such exception to it that he sued Jarrett for libel¹.

The letter is quite a puzzle because it appears to be praising Hicks rather than libelling him, noting his gifts to the town and church, describing ‘wicked men’ but saying that Hicks is not like them. But



Jarrett ‘doth protest too much, methinks’ as Gertrude (almost) says in *Hamlet*. The negative words outweigh the praise; what remains in the mind after reading the letter is not that Hicks is a good lord of the manor, but that he is a ‘base-minded, covetous, greedy, peddling landlord who grinds the face of the poor tenant’ and ‘the cavilling contentious man that will

go to law for every trifle and because the Court will not award him according to his covetous greedy mind, returns home discontented, backbites the Judge, rails against the Jury, falls out with the evidence, ... therein is shown a most plentiful lack of wit & thinks with his own pride to tread down every man’s worth far from the law of god & man’.

It seems obvious from the style and vocabulary of the letter that Jarrett had had more than an elementary education and it is highly likely that he and his brothers, Anthony and Richard, attended Campden Grammar School. A grammar school education at this time concentrated on learning Latin grammar and vocabulary and, for the older boys, the study of classical Latin – and perhaps Greek – prose and poetry such as Ovid, Juvenal, Martial, etc. They would spend long hours translating Latin into English, English into Latin and undertaking exercises in rhetoric, disputation, and so on. In theory, at least, boys would be literate on entering grammar school, having learnt the basics from their parents, the local clergyman or at a ‘petty’ or ‘dame’ school.

The letter is dated 20th January 1614, by which time Hicks was well-established as Lord of the Manor of Campden, despite outstanding lawsuits with the Smyths and others which were to continue into the 1620s. Although Hicks has already made a number of donations to the town and church ‘*witness the Alms house, the bell and the pulpit and the gift u [sic]² bestowed of the vicar*’ Augustine Jarrett and his brother Anthony were not happy with some of his other actions, specifically the proposal to enclose much of the manorial lands.

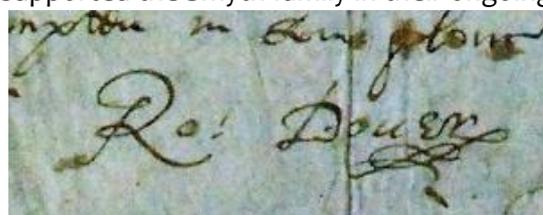
Jarrett begins by claiming that information that he ‘*utter[ed] some speeches of disgrace against u [sic] and tax u with cruelty [?] [?] of bonds and the like*’ are untrue, complaining that he is the one offended

¹ The whole text of the letter can be found at <https://www.chippingcampdenhistory.org.uk/content/history/people-2/a-libellous-letter>

² Square brackets in the quotes from the letter indicate my corrections or additions; [?] is where a word in the letter is illegible.

against; ‘u are much offended with me and think hardly [harshly] of me without a cause and withal I understand you put disgraceful terms behind my back to my Countrymen as calling me knave, proud Rascal and the like ...’. As mentioned in my previous article, to call someone a ‘knave’ at this time questioned his morals as well as his manners, and a rascal was not just mischievous but ‘low-born’ and ‘scum of the earth’. However, we should note that Jarrett is capable of similar language - witnesses state that he called Sir Baptist Hicks ‘a cankered churl and an unconscionable man and other unseemly words’.

One section of the letter is particularly interesting for Campden historians. Jarrett writes that Hicks has abused ‘a gentleman ... of great respect and calling and despising and disgracing him ... as a scurvy lawyer,’ but that this concerns his brother Anthony, not himself. Anthony Jarrett had been quarrelling with Sir Baptist Hicks ever since Hicks acquired the Manor of Campden in 1609. Between 1610 and 1614 Anthony Jarrett was the Complainant in a lawsuit against Hicks concerning property in Broad Campden. This included a bond (loan) for £100, which Hicks claimed had not been repaid under the terms agreed. Anthony Jarrett also actively supported the Smyth family in their ongoing dispute over the sale and purchase of the Manor to Hicks and it is in a document relating to this dispute that we get a clue about the ‘scurvy lawyer’, because it is signed ‘Ro. Dover’, acting on behalf of Anthony Jarrett. So, it is possible that, contrary to popular belief, Hicks and Dover were not on friendly terms!



Augustine Jarrett uses irony to disparage Hicks regarding his motives for making donations to the town and church:

‘These were not given like he that published his good works in the street or like the proud ambitious man that cut it out in brass or marble yet thinks that not sufficient to satisfy the common people paints it upon a wall with ex dono significans³ upon it of worth and value hypocritically Mathew the vith...’.

Ex dono significans refers to the inscription recording someone’s public gift, such as that on the pulpit



Part of the inscription on the pulpit at St. James’s Church.

given by Hicks to Campden Church which reads EX DONO BENIGNE BAPTISTAE HICKES ANNO DOMINI 1612. Jarrett refers to Matthew Ch. 6⁴, employing similar words to the biblical text to emphasise his meaning: ‘... hypocritically Mathew the vith. But it is not so with u, witness the gift u bestowed of the vicar⁵,

³ ‘conveying meaning from the gift’ (with thanks to Christopher Fance for the translation)

⁴ Mathew VI: ‘Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. 2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: 4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.’ (King James Bible)

⁵ I have not discovered what this might have been.

... but like yourself with bounty & charity, that the one hand does not know what the other gave’.

Jarrett then launches into some striking invective, apparently not about Hicks, but actually implying quite the reverse: ‘... like the base-minded, covetous, greedy, peddling landlord who grinds the face of the poor tenant, yet not altogether be seen to do it himself but protects his man under him to do it, which man the world hath spewed up already & doth scorn.’ and this is how Sir Baptist Hicks, himself with a classical grammar school education (probably St. Paul’s School, close to Hicks’s home on Soper Lane, Cheapside) would have read it. This use of irony is familiar to us through Shakespeare’s plays. Think of Mark Antony’s speech in Julius Caesar:

*He was my friend, faithfull and just to me;
But Brutus says, he was ambitious,
And Brutus is an honourable man.*

...

*O masters! If I were disposed to stir
Your hearts and minds to mutiny and rage,
I should do Brutus wrong, and Cassius wrong,
Who – you all know – are honourable men.
I will not do them wrong: I rather choose
To wrong the dead, to wrong myself and you,
Than I will wrong such honourable men. (III, ii)*

There is more. Jarrett is saying that Hicks doesn’t even do his own dirty work, but has someone do it for him and, moreover, this man already has a bad reputation in the world.

‘He may be compared to a Cock whose stature is an ell⁶ long, whose mouth is wide whose comb is long & forked, whose swallow is great, whose back is deformed yea, hated of the hen his mate, whose spurs are sharp to strike in to the hart of the pore tenant so done rest him in his grain scrat[che]s the earth upon him and for a funeral peal crows & claps his wings, stamps down the earth, flies to his [?], and, instead of a cloak, spreads his broad wings to shelter him from the scandal & takes it upon his own feathers & both glory therein most atheist like...’

This obviously refers to Anthony Elcock, Hicks’s steward. I have yet to discover whether there is any justification for this tirade. It may well have been that Elcock had some physical deformity and was harsh in his dealings with Hicks’s tenants. If anyone has any suggestion for an interpretation of the later part of this quote, I would be very glad to hear it. I feel that it must relate to some folk tale or fable. However, it is certainly not complimentary. One of the deponents, Thomas Bravell, testified that ‘[Jarrett] said further that the Complainant’s [Hicks] man Elcock was a scurvy or paltry knave and that he the Complainant kept him to blind some of his scurvy businesses’.

Accusing someone of atheism then was not necessarily saying simply that they did not believe in God. Michael Hunter, in a paper read to the Royal Historical Society in October 1984, says ‘... from the time of its introduction into English in the middle years of the sixteenth century onwards, the word “atheist” was frequently used to mean “godless” in a rather broad and loose sense. Thus, the word was commonly employed to describe a failure to espouse the new Protestant creed ... and in this connection lack of enthusiasm for the new religion was often conflated with a continued attachment to the old. ... Broader still was the usage of the word to describe godlessness in the sense of evil living...’⁷.

Jarrett refers to seven Campden people who, he implies by false flattery, Hicks has treated badly: the afore-mentioned Bravell, Ambrose Hewes, John Willis and Thomas Jefferson and ‘3 widows & their children’ - Lady Culpepper, Mrs Smith, Mrs Weoley. However, the evidence of Thomas Bravell

⁶ An ell = 45 inches.

⁷ Hunter, M., ‘The problem of ‘atheism’ in early modern England’, Proceedings of the Royal Historical Society, Oct. 1984.

and Thomas Jefferson says otherwise. Bravell ‘Compounded with Mr Smith sometime lord of the manor of Campden and Berrington, but ... Smith departed with the said manor before he did seal any lease of the same and that afterwards [Bravell] made suit to the Complainant Sir Baptist Hicks to have his estate (so paid for) made good, which he could not have until he had sealed a bond to Mr Anthony Elcock servant to the Complainant to give him £10, which bond being forfeited he was arrested ... and was to have paid the forfeiture and charges, which amounted to more than £20. [But Bravell] submitted himself to the Complainant Sir Baptist Hicks, who then took ... only £6 13s 4d for the bond and forfeiture, and hath confirmed his [Bravell’s] estate of a house, half a yardland and two beasts pasture and sayeth that when he took it of Sir Baptist Hicks it was worth an hundred marks.’

Jefferson, ‘having no former estate but at the mercy of the Complainant’ received ‘an estate for three lives three quarters land worth 20 nobles by year, and paid to [Hicks] but 20 nobles for such estate ... and doth acknowledge that the Complainant dealt very well and worshipfully with him, in that he this deponent also held one meadow which also the Complainant granted and confirmed unto him without any Consideration’.

All in all, it appears that Sir Baptist Hicks dealt very fairly with his tenants and copyholders, even if his servants and agents might have overstepped the mark occasionally.

In his formal Answer to the Complaint against him, Jarrett says that thinking ‘how he might free himself from the oppression and wrong of the Compl^t⁸ did in the end resolve to write a private letter... and therein not only to excuse himself of any wrong ... thinking that that would be an occasion to cause the Compl^t to relent and be sorry for the wrong he had done this Deft but also to lay before (him) some other matters which... the Compl^t had done to others, this Deft hoping and imagining that thereby the Compl^t would... forbear to persist in prosecuting his malice against the Deft any further...’. He stresses that the letter was ‘Closely sealed up with hard wax’ and not seen by anyone else, ‘by which letter this Deft had no purpose to traduce or slander the Compl^t nor to bring him into infamy or disgrace with any of his Tenants or with any of the Inhabitants of the Town of Campden ... but only to defend himself from the [out]rages and violence of the said Compl^t.’

Nevertheless there can be little doubt that Jarrett intended to vilify Hicks; the final section of the letter continues the abuse, makes a further reference to Elcock – ‘his Cock aforesaid’ – and if there were any doubt left writes: ‘And then they are Baptised [Jarrett’s capitalization] in the fount of black infamy for they are devils in the shape of men and to give u & all my good friends notes now to know him, he hath a blinking mark in his eye that proclaims him to be that he is, for the lord that knows all secrets hath plac[e]d that there to bid his people beware. He is also of a mean faculty yet as proud as the devil & a great pouch mouth⁹ out of which proceed foul words ...’.

So, once more Jarrett is using physical characteristics, this time attributed to Hicks himself, to imply that Hicks is morally corrupt. Finally, a reference which might add some weight to the theory that Hicks had built a bowling alley at Campden House: *He hath the form of a bowling alley, the which unlawful game hath rubbed many an innocent man out of his right from which game & gam[e]ster the lord deliver me, from this day & evermore’.* The reference to bowls being an ‘unlawful game’ is technically true. In 1541 Henry VIII had banned bowls for all except gentlemen and the law remained ambivalent towards the game until the nineteenth century.

There is so much more to this case to be investigated and it is frustrating that, at this point, I do not know if the case was proved or not. More research needs to be done. For the moment, I must leave this and say, as Augustine Jarrett did in his valediction:

‘Your friend,’ Mary Fielding, ‘In haste’

⁸ *Compl^t* = Complainant, i.e. Sir Baptist Hicks; *Deft* = Defendant, i.e. Augustine Jarrett.

⁹ ‘a mouth with thick or protruding lips’ (late 16th century), OED

CCHS Annual Report 2019 -2020

This has been a rewarding year for the Society which has achieved several important objectives.

Membership numbers have increased, as has attendance at our monthly talks; the first Jill Wilson essay prize has been awarded and a framework has been designed which will enhance our research capability. Furthermore, the AGM will see proposals to fill the vacancies on the Committee, so we return to eight from its current level of six Committee members. The nominees are Jennifer Fox and Nick Woodward, who in the work they have undertaken over the past year, have shown a commitment and level of enthusiasm which will be of great benefit to the Society.

Once again, our Programme Coordinator provided us with a consistent high standard of talks, which have both informed and entertained. One which stands out in the memory was a talk announced as '*Coins and other Discoveries in the North Cotswolds*'. That topic was covered quite briefly before the speaker took us on an entertaining journey from Jerusalem to Portugal, explaining the discovery of the hidden treasures of the Knights Templar, discovered not for the first time, some might suggest, and the subject of an approaching Sky TV programme. Other topics ranged from outbreaks of the Pox, to the impact of the Poor Law in the 18th century on parishes, while the local focus has been maintained with talks about the Town Hall and on Nelly Erichsen, artist and a one-time Campden resident.

Attendances have on more than one occasion reached the capacity of the Town Hall, augmented by the addition in the year of 24 new members which takes our current membership to 259, after some non-renewals. New members, we hope, will bring commitment and positive involvement.

Despite a disappointing level of interest from pupils of the Chipping Campden School, an essay on *Baptist Hicks and his Impact on Campden* was the winning entry in the first year of the Jill Wilson prize for local history. As there is no provision for teaching local history in the School curriculum, we are having discussions to redefine the criteria for the award of the Prize for this coming year and beyond, with the aim of achieving an improved level of student participation.

Representations have been made to the Committee concerning the absence of outings in our programme. While there are no plans in place, your suggestions for venues and ideas will be given full consideration, including their relevance and practicality; there is still a vacancy on the Committee for an Outings Coordinator or volunteer to make the necessary arrangements for Outings.

Finances

Our finances remain in a healthy state and the reserves have increased once again. As a result, the committee proposes that annual subscriptions should be unchanged for a further year and represent excellent value at £25 joint/£17 single.

Website and Electronic Mailing Report

Last year we launched our new Members' Section of the website, which is password-protected, and contains more detailed information which subscribers can browse through to help them (and CCHS) with their own research, whether this be family, house or general history of the area. Currently 52 members are registered for access to this section, which is a good start, but there are 176 members on the email list, so we have a way to go before everyone is signed up. If you would like to subscribe to the Members Section of the website www.chippingcampdenhistory.org.uk please contact the Archive Room.

Every month CCHS members, who have given us their email address and agreed to be contacted in this way, are sent an email reminding them of the details of forthcoming CCHS and Family History talks and updating them on any events, research and information. Audience numbers for our talks have increased since we began doing this.

In 2019, CCHS Archive Co-ordinator, Judith Ellis, created a new monthly feature – *From the Archives* – for the website. This is a nugget of information discovered in the Archives which, as well as being interesting on its own account, generally needs some further investigation, so it doubles as an appeal for volunteers to help. This is also included in the monthly email with a link to the web page. Topics have included an Apothecary's bill from 1765, which was transcribed by one volunteer, further research done by another and shared with the Archive team, demonstrating how collaboration and teamwork produces an excellent piece of research. Other Archive topics concerned Samplers, Scrapbooks, Cars and Carols – all of which need more volunteers to carry out further 'digging'.

Archives

By the end of the year significant progress had been made in sorting the boxes of documents and digitising many papers that had useful information for researchers but were not intrinsically valuable. These papers are now stored elsewhere. As well as saving space for the continuing new donations, digitised documents are easier to send to enquirers. During the coming year the Archives Team will be concentrating on collating and indexing our other digital material such as recordings and films. A review of the Graveyard Survey is nearly complete and details, together with drawings of the headstones, will put on to the website.

We made a visit to Berkeley Castle for a discussion with their Archivist who wanted to identify members of the family in photographs taken by Jesse Taylor at Foxcote Manor in the early 1900s and we learned much more about the family connection with the area. Strictly, Foxcote is outside our catchment area, but the link with Jesse Taylor and our collection made it an interesting exchange.



Right: CCHS Jenny Bruce with Berkeley Castle archivist Karen Davidson

The Muniment Room at St. James' Church contains some interesting ecclesiastical documents (although the most valuable have now been removed to Gloucestershire Archives) and the Vicar, Rev. Craig Bishop, asked us to consider how the collection could be catalogued. We have agreed to access the items into the CCHS catalogue, maintaining their location in the Muniment Room and creating a good shared resource.

The Archive Room query team have been busy in the year dealing with 78 enquiries, an average rate of just over 6 each month, predominantly concerning family, house or locations history, which are often interrelated; enquiries about well-known local people, general history and stand-alone topics account for the balance. While the total received is a little down on past years, it continues as a welcome source of financial donations and an inspiration for research subjects.

The Archive Room has been operating now for 18 years and the Society owes a debt of gratitude to all the volunteers, who over that time have helped its development and success.

Links with schools

One of the final achievements of the Campden House project was the set of workbooks for Key Stage 2 pupils in primary schools (see CCHS website: <https://www.chippingcampdenhistory.org.uk>

/content/archives/KS2 Learning Resources on 17C Campden.) We circulated these in the New Year and invited schools to use them for a competition in school. St. Catharine's School organised a project, with a guided tour of the Campden House site, followed by research in the classroom and a 'persuasive writing' exercise by the pupils, with an assessment of Sir Baptist Hicks's character.



Left: The prize winners, with overall winner Oliver Briggs (second from right), who received £25 donated by CCHS.

We hope that the schools will use the workbooks for another competition in the coming year.

During the summer term a Campden Academy student offered to create a website for the Society, for his special project. He came into the CCHS Room, where we showed him our Archives, especially the photographs. He decided to

produce a website about Campden Police Station and when it was complete, we created a link from our website.

In the autumn the Gloucestershire Archives building was reopened after refurbishment and CCHS was invited to put up a display in the Reception area. We featured our work with young people over the past few years and received very favourable comments from other groups who also find it difficult to engage young people in local history.

Family History Group

Our meetings have been very well attended over the season, with talks on Textiles, a Merriman in Canada, Almshouses, Police and Shops, amongst others. But the high spot must surely have been the May Pageant put on by some members – see *photo below*. This was led by Tess Taylor [with the beard] who adapted a script written by her mother many years ago for Campden WI. Even some of the costumes had lasted, although a little adjustment was needed for the better-fed actors! 'Family History Group' is a slight misnomer, as the topics are very varied and many of the audience have no long-standing Campden family connections, but the informal talks with memories are appealing to those who want to know more about Campden life.



Reaching out to the community

Several talks have been given to Campden groups and history societies further afield: the Campden House project is still a popular topic. The window in the Co-op has been used several times for displays and has proved very attractive to locals and visitors, resulting in improved sales of our books and a greater awareness of our work. On a noticeboard in the Library we maintain seasonal displays and we have a presence there twice a month with our 'Historic Embroidery Group', born out of the Campden House project.



Above: Enjoying a natter at the Coffee morning 23.11 2019

Members were invited to a Coffee Morning in November to thank them for supporting the Society during the year. It was also an opportunity to see a display from the 'Park Road Group' who hope to complete their research very soon.

The Society can look forward to the year ahead with considerable optimism. The programme of talks has been finalised, our financial reserves are sound, we have plans both to strengthen the Committee and to develop our research resources. As ever the active support of Members remains crucial to our long-term future and everything will be done to encourage that.