

Signpost



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Bringing local history to life



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From the Editor

I hope you will find this another interesting read. Alison Gough's article on the Corn Mills of Campden brings together so much researched information from different sources, with much groundwork done by CCHS member Stephen Nixon. There will be more about Pye, Broad Campden and Pudlicote Mills in the next Signpost. I wonder how many readers will remember Nurse Groom, who was important in Campden for 26 years as seen in Judith Ellis's information about the original Nursing Association in Campden. How sad that Mary Koster-Saelle never managed to see her name in print, although in her final days she knew that her memories of the Keyte family in Sheep Street were planned for inclusion in Signpost, which she enjoyed reading in recent years. Once again correspondence with enquirers has provided us with much interest and new information. This Signpost will be entered onto our website in a few months' time for a wider audience to read. Grateful thanks go to all contributors. Please keep your articles, notes or comments coming - they are useful, well read and valued.

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Front cover illustration: A 'Tableau Vivant' in 1909, part of a fund-raising event for the Campden Benefit Nursing Association. Norman, Arthur, Michael and Jack were all around 8 years old, Dorothy was 15 and Edith was 23. Jesse Taylor photo, CCHS Archives. See Judith Ellis's article on page 16.

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Correspondence

A query from 2019 (Ref: 19/015) asked for a picture of **Sir Baptist Hicks**, as the enquirer was writing a book. Now published, your editor has been sent a copy: *English Legal Histories* (ISBN 978-1-5099-1229-2) by Ian Ward, Professor of Law at Newcastle University. The book takes the reader beyond the narrow confines of legal doctrines and cases, inviting consideration of the contexts in which English law has been shaped – the politics, economics, the people who made the laws, or who suffered from them, human stories of justice, injustice and peculiarities. As far as Baptist Hicks is concerned, pages 145- 148, in Chapter 4, 1613: *Private Law* and a section on *Capitalism and Sin*, Ward writes about the Worshipful Company of Mercers in Cheapside, the most powerful and wealthy Company in the City. Lionel Cranfield rose from apprentice to become Lord Treasurer in 1620 and twice became Master of the Company. [It was Cranfield whose purchase in 1610 of the Campden Rectory with the tithes resulted in a long running Court case with Baptist Hicks who claimed he owned it through his purchase of the Campden manor from Anthony Smythe; the dispute ended with a ‘deal’ in February 1617.] Another wealthy merchant, importing silks from Portugal, Paul Bayning, was an Alderman of the City and High Sheriff in 1593 and prominent in 1600 in the new East India Company. After his death in 1616 his business had monies owing to it by ten earls, one viscount and five barons. Baptist Hicks likewise supplemented his income as a money-lender, owing his early success to his brother Michael’s contacts at court and providing ‘silks and rich mercery’ to the newly arrived King James 1 in 1603, for which he received £3000 and a knighthood. In 1608 he and a group of other merchants lent the Crown £63,000 secured by a bond. In 1621 Hicks and his son-in-law William Herrick, a Cheapside goldsmith, lent Elector Frederick of the Palatine, the king’s son-in-law, £30,000, which was never repaid. Then in 1626 Charles 1 borrowed £10,000 from Sir Baptist and not long after this Baptist became Viscount Campden. By now he had bought up several aristocratic estates and built mansions in Campden and Kensington.

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Another enquirer Michael Hendry (Ref: 22/072) asked about the special school for maladjusted youngsters from the LCC area at **Burnt Norton**, (see photo left) begun in 1959. In 1961, 31 boys were attending. The lease of the estate was for 21 years, but the tenancy actually ended early in 1973, though it seems that the boys moved out the previous year. There had been a significant fire in 1970. CCHS had no information on where the School went next. The enquirer sent us a copy of a 1963 Government Inspection report, its third year at Burnt Norton after moving from Murray House, Cranbrook, Kent on 1

September 1960. The school was initially set up by Derek Brunt, a former LCC child welfare officer and previous warden of a working boys’ hostel in Stockwell London and of an Invalid Children’s Association school at Seaford, Sussex, run with his wife Irene. The report recorded that there were 40 boys aged between 10 and 15 years, plus three who were able to go to the local Secondary Modern School in Moreton. The mission of the school was ‘to provide a stable, though lively, environment in which a boy can steadily mature until strong enough to return to his own home or begin working life on his own.’ The inspectors noted several things that were needed for the school, such as a hard surface for games, a playing field, camping equipment, rooms for art, craft, science, woodwork and a library, plus more fire prevention. There was a senior master and two younger

teachers, a matron, a nurse (wife of the Warden), a cleaner, a housemaster, gardener and two part-time handymen. The uniform was black blazer and trousers, sandals, with jeans out of class. The fees were £468 p.a. with no extras; 16 boys were from LCC, six from Middlesex, seven from Buckinghamshire, five from Berkshire, two from Bristol, one each from Liverpool, Gloucestershire and Hertfordshire. The enquirer told us it had moved in September 1972 to the Cheswardine Estate in North Shropshire, where it remained active until about 1983.

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In last Signpost, we noted that the Woodland Trust had shortlisted for the UK Tree of the Year 2022 Competition the **Twelve Apostles lime trees** from 1770 in the approach to St James's Church. I can report they were not chosen as the favourite historic tree in the country. The Waverley Abbey Yew, a 480-year-old yew tree whose roots grow in the ruins of Britain's first Cistercian abbey, a monastery founded 900 years ago, was crowned tree of the year and will now be put forward to represent the UK in the European tree of the year contest. See: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/tree-of-the-year>

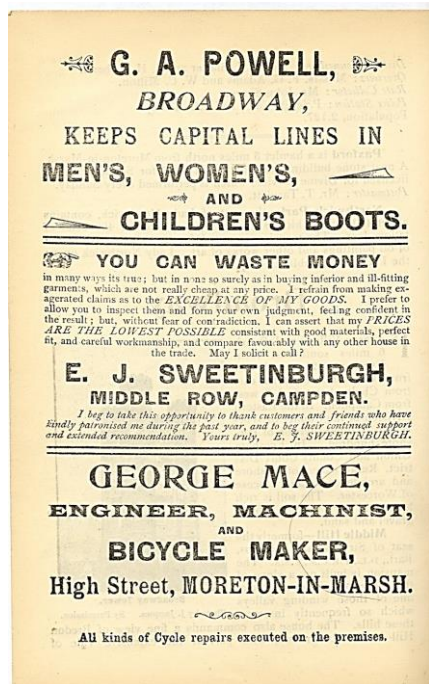
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Another query (Ref: 22/078) alerted us to *Unbelievable! A Working Country Life*, a biography of a working-class man, (born in the 1950s) who now lives in Wiltshire but was raised just outside Campden. The author, Victoria Walsh, says the story is of the type of person whom history often forgets, a character who always lived and worked in the countryside (as a farmer and river keeper); it is not a rose-tinted portrayal of country life, but with several 'rough', even naughty bits, humorously illustrated, written as the words sound and with a section at the beginning about rural life in Chipping Campden in 'the old days'. The subject of the book is **Martin Aris**, son of Gunter Aris, German prisoner of war who stayed in Campden after the WWII and married Pat, a Land girl; they lived at Longlands House farm (near Hidcote,) but later in Sheep Street, Campden. For more information or purchase, email victoriawalsh.info@gmail.com. Riverside Publishing Solutions Ltd, Hardback 120pp, £13.99 + P&P ISBN: 978-1-913012-88-5.

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A CCHS member, currently living in Boston, USA, sent this link - <https://youtu.be/fAe22FB7Avo> - worth taking a stroll through Campden!!

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A message from Scotland left on the Archive Room answer machine was an enquiry (Ref: 22/077) about a photo found when clearing an Aunt's house and on talking with the enquirer, we were told of her grandfather, 'papa', **Edward Thomas Mabutt Sweetinburgh**, born in Chipping Campden c.1905. His father was Edward John Sweetinburgh, a tailor from Newbury, where the family is buried; his mother was Mary Annie Miriam, née Mabutt. We were able to find the baptism at St James's Church of a sister Dorothy Grace Elizabeth on 6th March 1909 and the burial this little 15 months old girl 3 days later on 9th March 1909 – so she must have been ill when she was christened and they feared for her life. Sixteen months later on 11th July 1910 the child's mother Mary Annie Miriam Sweetinburgh, aged 31 years was buried. Interestingly when the graveyard survey was done in 1995, we found no gravestone for a Sweetinburgh, so maybe the grave is one of the unmarked spots. It seems that after his mother's death, when Edward was about 5, his father, who was quite wealthy, with ancestors in the slave trade in

Bristol, took Edward and his two brothers, aged c.6 and 4, to Glasgow and left them on a farm with an unconnected lady to look after them, not telling the rest of the family where they were. As a child the enquirer knew her grandfather until he died, but he never talked about his past – they knew nothing about it. It seems that Mary Annie Miriam Mabbutt’s family had a gun factory in Birmingham and their artefacts were deposited in the Armory Museum in Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon. Another part of the family named Wigington had an antiques and armoury business in Shipston-upon-Stour. The 1901 Campden Census records Sweetinburgh Edward J. age 29 (Master) Tailor, born Newbury, Berkshire and his wife Mary A. age 22, born Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, living in the High St, Middle Row.

Right: Middle Row, Cotswold Luxe building, see the timbered section with the noticeboard

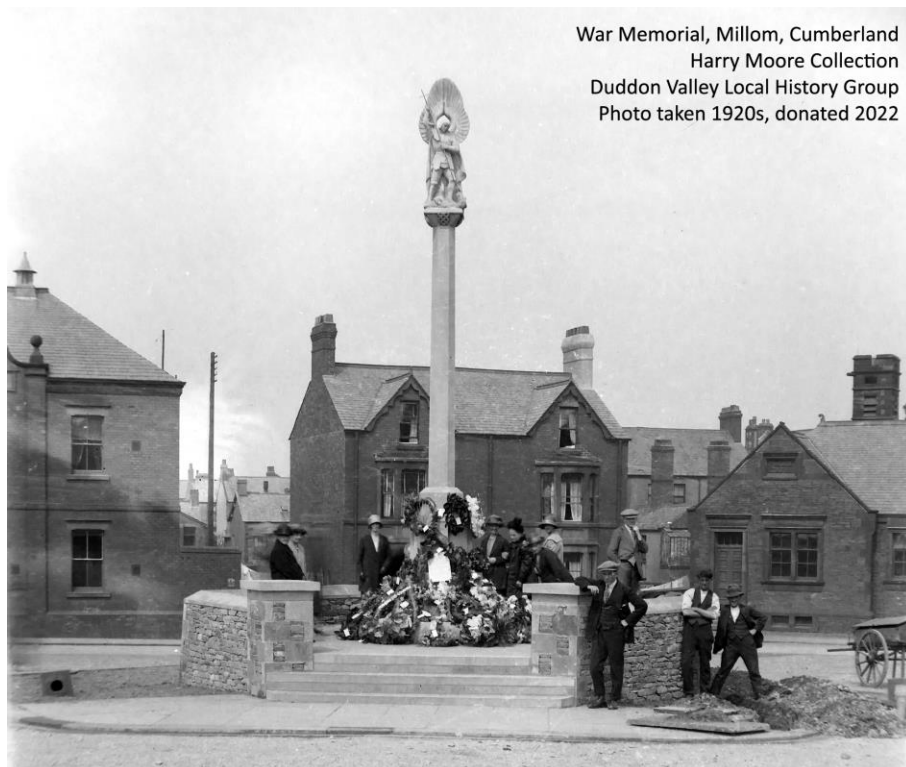


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While dealing with a completely unconnected query, (Ref: 22/060) the enquirer’s address in **Millom, Cumbria**, was noticed, so she was asked if she knew anything about the lovely War Memorial on a roundabout in Millom, made in Chipping Campden by **Alec Miller**, one of C.R. Ashbee's Guild of Handicraft Craftsmen. We received back some photos and information. The Sankey Photographic Collection has photos of the unveiling of the Millom War Memorial by General Major Sir Louis Vaughan of Bombay KBE, CB, DSO on 24th May 1925. There are 213 men’s names inscribed on the memorial and the dedication was given by Dr. West Watson, Bishop of Barrow-in-Furness.

Right: must be mid-1920s, after unveiling.

War Memorial, Millom, Cumberland
Harry Moore Collection
Duddon Valley Local History Group
Photo taken 1920s, donated 2022



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The Corn Mills of Campden: Part 1

Alison Gough

The Cam looks a small stream today, but for centuries was sufficient to power a number of mills along its course to supply food for local people and their animals. In his history of the town, Rushen¹ explained how the water rises in Tilbury Hollow and flows through Coombe Manor to Westington Mill, then along the southeast side of Watery Lane (Park Road), powering the Silk Mill and Town/Middle/Haydon's Mill, before dividing at Pool Meadow, the northern stream supplying Old/Berrington Mill, then re-uniting at Shekel's Meadow. From there, it flows on towards Paxford, to feed Pudlicote Mill, right on the edge of Campden Parish Boundary. Pye Mill, hard by Paxford village but still within the parish, was fed by the Knee Brook, and the putative Broad Campden Mill by the stream which rises on Campden Hill.

There must have been mills already in Anglo-Saxon times of which we have no evidence, but by the Domesday Survey of 1086, there were two mills in Campden,² possibly at Broad Campden and/or Westington or Berrington. By 1295, there were four mills operating to feed the expanded population³ which had almost doubled during the 13th century from about 350 in 1200 to 600-700 in 1300 according to one estimate.⁴ They were valued at £18 per year - a huge amount when, for example, 320 acres of arable land were valued at only £4 per year. This brings home how central the running of a mill was to the community at the time.



The driving of the mills would have been one of 3 different types - "overshot" (where the water fell from above over the wheel), or "undershot" or "breastshot" (where the water hit the paddles at axle level and which required less water), but the only one which we know about is Berrington Mill. Notes in the Campden Archive compiled by an architect who lived there in the 1970s⁵ say that the iron-rimmed wheel there measured 14 ft in diameter and was of the superior "overshot" type: *The paddles were of elm and produced sufficient power to operate two sets of grinding wheels and ancillary machinery.* He described the millstones as being 48 ins, 42 ins and 36 ins across, and they ground either 5, 4, and 3 1/4 bushels of corn per hour respectively into flour, or else 10, 8, and 6 1/2 bushels of coarse cattle meal. The actual grinding querns at the mills would have been either of millstone brought from the Peak District, or of French burr stone from the Seine area, which was considered the best available, and was imported to London then distributed to mills all over the country via the river network.

Left: 'Overshot' waterwheel thought to be from Berrington Mill

¹ Percy Rushen *History & Antiquities of Chipping Campden* 1911, p 107

² *Ibid*, p 2 and Domesday Book

³ *Ibid*, p 9

⁴ Whitfield *Campden Population Estimates* CCHS Archives 2006/127/PP Box B11

⁵ Leonard J Multon Notes CCHS Archives 1999/057/DO Box C2

Interestingly, the two teenage granddaughters of the miller at Berrington who died in 1693,⁶ were to have *the two black Stones in my Mill and my iron [?Tow] and the materials belonging to the black stones* in due course; such was the value of these assets to prospective suitors. Multon recorded that *Some of these stones can still be seen, set into the floors and paving at the front of the mill*; at Pye Mill an old millstone inscribed with its name, still exists as a house sign in the garden of the property.

Since 1066, the old Anglo-Saxon staples of rye bread and oats had gradually evolved into a diet based on wheat, and the cottagers would take their corn to the mill to be ground into either fine grade flour for domestic consumption, or seconds or middlings for use as pig feed.

It is reckoned that the population of the town at the time of the Poll Tax in 1381 was between 800 and 1000, up again after the ravages of the black death in 1348. Interestingly, although the Poll Tax gives the names of all adults and their occupations, none appears as a miller. Of the 483 adults, by far the most lived within the *borough* - what we now think of as the town centre - 309 in all; 78 dwelt in Broad Campden, 55 at Westington, and 41 at Berrington.⁷

Following the death of Sir Roger de Somery in 1273, the manor was divided between his four heirs, and amazingly the records survive giving the names of the millers for a brief time 800 years ago.⁸

They were:	name of demesne & its lord	holding	annual worth
Walter	boro' Sir John Extraneus	1 burgage & 1 shop	xviii d
Alured	Biriton [Berrington] " " " "	1/2 virgate	---
Alice, dtr of Robert	boro' Henry of Erdington	1 messuage	iiii d
Geoffrey	boro' Sir Walter de Suly	1/2 burgage	iiii d

(Incidentally, Walter, the *molindarius*, was imprisoned in Gloucester Castle the following year after being accused of murder and his name also appears in the Sheriff's records for theft.)

The earliest traces of these mills only go back to the 17th century, according to their *Listed Buildings* entries and nothing remains of the mill wheels, etc. The 1913 Lloyd George Land Survey shows that of the three corn mills in town, although Town/Haydon's Mill was the largest - at over 90 acres - it was actually **Berrington Mill** - about 59 acres - which was the most valuable. But with the advent of the Great War and changing practices in food production, they had all gradually ceased operating by the late 1930s, and the mill houses converted to highly desirable homes.

At the turn of the 17th century, the mill at Berrington was known as Barnes Mill. We know this because the will of Thomas Norris of Pye Mill, dating from 1597, sets out that £20 from two leases of Barnes Mill [was] to be distributed hereafter as I shall think good.⁹ He bequeathed the outstanding leases to his great-nephews Thomas Norris and then Richard Norris if the former had no children.



Right: Berrington Mill sketch by Leonard Multon, CCHS archive box C2 1999/057/DO

⁶ Rowland Wallington CCHS Archives 1991/1/9 C2S2 Box 369

⁷ Estimates of Chipping Campden population - CCHS Archives 2010/020/DS S3 B1262

⁸ Percy Rushen *History & Antiquities of Chipping Campden* 1911 pp 6-7

⁹ PRO.11.97.561.

But in the 1630s the Wallington family took over as millers. John Wallington was from a family of millers throughout the north Cotswolds in the 17th century; his brother Simon had the mill at Wyck Rissington and Daniel and Rowington and Bushwood near Stratford - and we know this from his will in 1636. He entrusted his own mill to his brother, Thomas Wallington, who continued till his death in 1667, which means that he was drawn into the mystery of the “*Campden Wonder*” in 1660 when John Perry and his brother, Richard, claimed to have murdered Thomas Harrison and thrown his body into *the great sink at Wallington’s Mill* - a tale later disproved when the supposed victim resurfaced after two years, after the brothers and their mother had been hanged for the supposed crime.

However, as our colleague, the late Jill Wilson, pointed out in 2010 when researching her book “*Mr Harrison Is Missing*” about the mystery, the *great sink* in question is actually more likely to have referred to the mill pond at Town Mill as the topographical detail better fits the account. The murder had supposedly been committed on the Coneygree and the fictitious body carried into the Garden - presumably the great garden of Campden House - and John Perry instructed by his brother to check that no-one at the Court House nearby was awake - this detail would be irrelevant if the story actually related to Berrington Mill. Furthermore, it was the Town Mill which had a large pond and dam - as the 1722 Estate Map in the Campden Archives shows - not Berrington, whose pond was much smaller.

What is certain is that some 13 years after the event - in 1673 - Thomas Wallington’s son, Roland, took as his second wife *the widow Perry*, though what exactly the connection was between this woman and the convicted murderers is not clear - possibly Richard’s widow. Roland ran the mill until his death in 1693 but had no son to take over. The old parish register mentions a *Crisp Wallington senior* miller, who was laid to rest in 1698 and was probably Roland’s brother, Crispiany. His name appears on the 1672 Hearth Tax survey of Berrington¹⁰ - wrongly - as *Christopher Wallington*. His son, also Crispiany, born in 1670, left Campden to run the mill at *Dowintown*, now the site of Donnington Brewery. There is also mention in the records of a Francis Wallington at Westington Mill whose child was baptized there in 1660, so we can see the extent of the family interest in milling at that time.

We learn a lot about Roland’s circumstances from his will; written in 1693, as well as listing many family names, it give details of the contents of the mill house itself. The remaining six years of the lease he willed to his niece, Margaret Wallington, who seems to have been living with him. According to the 1672 Hearth Tax survey, the mill house had two hearths, and the inventory gives a fascinating glimpse into a late 17th century farmhouse:

My two Calves and one Lamb and the best horse gelding or mare, the best cow and the best pig, two Carts my Plough and Harrowes and gears or harness for cart horses

The bed and furniture thereof in her chamber and on which she now usually lyes and the bed and furniture upon which John Dyer lyes [his servant] , four pair of sheets

Three of my best pewter dishes, one bason, the two best Chaires, two join’d stooles, two Chests, two Coffers, one little Trunk and one little box, one round Table and the long Table in the Buttery, the Skreene in the Hall, the old Twiggen Chair

My best half hogshead and three little barrells, one brewing Cowle [a vessel], a baking Cowle [?] and Cheese Cowle, two Churnes, my biggest kettle, my iron pots, the port posnett [small three-legged metal pot with handle], the least kettle except one, the Chess press and all the cheese fats

The Bark Spitt, [barke = box] , cobirons [iron bars which supported a spit over the fire], Fire shovels, tongs, Bellowes and dripping pan, Dough steel and the powdring troughe [for powdering or salting meat]

In the 1780s, Land Tax records show that Charles Gillet ran Berrington Mill till his death in 1786. Then in the early years of the 19th century, the miller was James Barnes, who had moved up from London with his wife and your family. But he died aged only 36 in 1815, and his widow, Sarah, continued to

¹⁰ Online TNA, E179/247/14, 26r

run things on behalf of her son, Lewis, till he could take over. He did run the mill for a time but by 1841, was living in Leasebourne and employed as a letter carrier. (Sarah Barnes was in fact the town's first postmistress, penny stamps having been introduced only the previous year.) Lewis Pritchett Barnes also died young, but his own son, James, went on to be a miller too, not in Campden but at Sutton-under-Brailes in the 1870s and 1880s.

The 1839 Robson's Directory shows that the new miller was Isaac Righton, whose brother James was a farmer/miller at Hidcote. He does not feature on the 1841 census though his wife, Ann, was still living there and the mill was being run by their nephew, George Righton, 20, and a grinder, William Batchelor, 27. George ran Berrington Mill until the late 1860s and was followed by the time of the 1871 census by Henry Simms, 25, from Barton-on-the-Heath and his family, but his tenure was only a few years. The next occupant was Joseph Walker, a 32-year-old widower from Long Compton, and he stayed at the mill for the next 40 odd years. He was popularly referred to as *Sloshy Walker*. In his memoirs, F.W. Coldicott¹¹ recalled how a captured German field gun was brought to the town in February 1920 to be displayed on a concrete base near the Market Hall, but was secretly removed at night and *found in Sloshy Walker's mill pond at Berrington Mill*, though he gives no further details of how this came about. Joseph died later that year, but the mill had ceased operating by this time, and in 1922, the mill was sold as a private house, along with orchards and pastureland on the Coneygree. In 1933, the owners then sold the Coneygree land (a little over 13 acres in all) to the National Trust at a cost of £1,500: this was to ensure its preservation - the Trust agreed to erect boundary fencing and retained the right to draw water from the mill pond.

The Town Mill, referred to now as Haydon's Mill after the family who operated it for about 150 years up till its closure in 1935, is situated off Calf Lane down a track adjacent to the grounds of Campden House. The building dates back in part to the 17th century but is much altered. In Elizabethan times, the mill was leased from the lord of the manor, Thomas Smyth, by Augustine Lee, and when he wrote his will¹² in 1591, he granted the remainder of the lease to the two sons of his *loving and especially good ffriende*, Edward Shakle, who died in 1599. The lease dated from 20th January 1588, and the will states that *this mill was called and known by the name of Paynes mill or middle mill*, implying that the Payne family had been millers there for some long time in the 16th century for their name to be associated with it. Christopher and Edward Shakle, however, leave no further trace in the records as the old parish register does not go back beyond 1616.



Right: Town or Haydon's Mill

In the early 17th century, Thomas Staple's name appears in the 1608 Muster Roll as *milner* of Town Mill: he was then aged about 40, was of lower stature and thus deemed suitable to serve with the *calyver* in times of trouble. He had a son *Xopher Staple*, who was aged about 20, and of similar build - no occupation is given but presumably he assisted his father. A document entitled *The Demesne*

¹¹ F.W. Coldicott *Memories of an Old Campdonian*, 1994, p 20

¹² CCHS Archives Campden wills 1594.4

Landes in Mr Smithes one Occupacon and for certeine somes to be redeemed at his pleasure,¹³ notes that both Thomas Staple's mill at Berrington and Richard Duffield's mill at Westington were valued at £17. 4s. per annum.

We now jump forward in the records to 30th November 1736, when we hear that Thomas Dyer, late of Weston Park, leased from the Earl of Gainsborough *a tenement and water mill called Middle Mill, two orchards, and Flag Close* for a term of 21 years at £10 per annum. The 1784 Land Tax records show that it was then known as *Wm Barns Mill*, but it must have fallen into disrepair, for the next tenant, Richard Horsman, who took the 90-year lease in 1790, spent considerable sums of money *re-building and repairing a Water Grist Mill and Mill House* there. Unfortunately, though, he was declared bankrupt not long after this, and the mill saw another change of name and became Haydon's Mill. (Incidentally, Rushen makes an interesting comment about the Horsman family¹⁴ who had been prominent for a short time in the commercial life of the town at the end of the 18th century: ... *one is struck by the brevity of history. Until recently there were persons in the town who well recollected Richard, Edward, and John Horsman ... the father... was no doubt well acquainted with old Barnes, the Almshouse man, [who died] aged 99 in 1712 ... and this person could actually talk of the death of Sir Baptist Hicks, the burning of Campden House, and Stow fight from personal or contemporary knowledge.*)

It was in the closing years of the 18th century that John Haydon came to Campden from Ilmington to take over the mill: he married Ann Weston from Ebrington in 1797 and by the time their daughter, Mary, was born in 1799, they were living here. When he made his will, in 1832, he said that he had for *many years past carried on the business of baker and miller at Campden*. He stipulated that the mill should be operated by others until his son Joseph, born in 1814, reached the age of 21 when he could take over. Thus, in the 1841 census, we find Joseph Haydon running the mill, but not living on site: the family resided at 16, Church Street by the corner of Leysbourne and bread baked from flour they had milled, was sold out of one of the front room windows. The family continued this arrangement into the 20th century, and Joseph's son, Robert Henry Haydon, spent his whole life living there till his death in 1929. Of his five sons, it is his middle one, Dudley Haydon, and his grandson Ronald, whose names are still remembered. Ronald and his wife, Hilda Pook, lived in Mill Cottage, the unusually built house with two eyebrow dormers on the west side of Calf Lane, beside the Church Rooms.

Haydon's Mill continued in operation until 1935, latterly grinding oats, barley and beans. Local boy Don Wheatcroft remembered it before it closed: *My memory of Haydon's Mill is the big rotating wheel. This mill was tucked away behind the High Street in Calf's Lane and I believe was operated by Dudley Haydon and his family. My brother Lewis once fell into the mill pool there and was hooked out with a pitchfork through his clothes!*

The mill at Westington, locally known as *Wessington*, is believed to be one of the two mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, though the first reference does not appear till the 1540s when a royal licence was issued for Francis Savage to sell lands in Campden to Thomas Smyth *except the water mill here called the Over Mill in Westington*.¹⁵ An inventory of the demesne lands in the early 17th century reveals that the miller at this time was Richard Duffield, the 1608 Muster Roll describing him as then aged about 40, and as befitted his height, in the event of unrest, he was one of two local men considered suitable pikemen.¹⁶

Duffield cannot have stayed on much longer though, as the 1614 will of Richard Harward of Westington,¹⁷ bequeathed *the mill and mill house wherein I now dwell* to his wife, Joan. He had

¹³ CCHS archives *Cranfield Papers* 1995/001/D Box A4.

¹⁴ Percy Rushen *History & Antiquities of Chipping Campden* 1911 p 128

¹⁵ PRO Pat Roll 38 Henry VIII

¹⁶ Percy Rushen *History & Antiquities of Chipping Campden* 1911 p 47

¹⁷ Campden Wills 1615.116

several Carts and plows and horse harnes[s] with harrowes and other Implements of husbandry, and



these were to go to his son, William. Interestingly, the will says that the Campden baker, John ffreeman, owed him *Eight pounds nine shillings and Eight pence*, which sounds large amount of money for the time, considering that his daughter, Anne, was to receive £6.13s.4d when she reached 18 and the other unnamed children £6. 8s. 4d.

Left: Westington Mill

In around 1709, the miller was James Oldacker or Oldaker, who had formerly run the mill at Childswickham before his marriage. His name appears in the Churchwardens' Accounts¹⁸ receiving payment for unspecified services, as does his son, William's, 60 years later, though he was unable to sign his name and left only his mark by way of receipt. William, born in 1713, must have taken over the mill at a young age as his father died in 1721, when he was only eight and the mill premises fallen into disrepair. A lease from 1728 refers to 15-year-old William Oldacre at *Upper Mill* at Westington, which included four small plots called the Mills Green and Mill Closes, and a washpool for sheep, with the right to the customs belonging to it. He had the *liberty to pound, shut, or stop the water in the new pool in order to repair the demised mill*.¹⁹ Repairs were done and the mill provided a living for William until his own death in 1779, but no children were born to either of his two wives to carry on the business. The Land Tax records show that by 1784, a new family had settled; the Keen name would be synonymous with Westington Mill for nearly 150 years.

There was already a yeoman living in Westington in the late 18th century called Thomas Keen, and his will, drawn up in 1786, leaves a bequest to his nephew, *Richard Keen at the Mill in Campden*. When Richard died in 1812, his son John Keen, took over and he ran it for the next 30 odd years. The first census in 1841 shows him there, aged 55, working with his son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Eliza Keen. Later census records show that they had a large family and 3 of their sons continued it on, until it ceased operations in 1924: John (born 1840) was the miller, Richard (born 1842) was the carter and William (born 1846) was the baker; they were assisted by their sister, Bessie, (see right) who was remembered years later as *an old character, like someone out of one of Dickens' books in her old Victorian clothes and bonnet. She had a very bad cast in one eye; we used to say she has one eye in the pot and one up the chimney*.²⁰



¹⁸ *The General Accounts of the Churchwardens of Chipping Campden 1626-1907*, CADHAS 1992 p 255 & p 352

¹⁹ Percy Rushen *History & Antiquities of Chipping Campden 1911*, p 39

²⁰ F.W. Coldicott *Memories of an Old Campdonian*, p 35

Young Don Wheatcroft, who grew up next door at “Yverdon”, recalled Billy and Bessie in the 1920s: *Billy’s laugh is still a vivid memory when he would take me upstairs to watch the mill operating. He would sit on the timbers of the mill as they slowly revolved and then jump off with a laugh ... [Bessie] always wore a smock and one of Billy’s caps! I remember as a boy going with my father, Harry Wheatcroft, on the dray pulled by our horse, Prince, to take sacks of corn to be milled by Billy. Sitting on these sacks I often waited; Father would let me old the reins. We used the milled corn to feed our pigs. The mill pool at Westington was also used as a sheep wash.*²¹

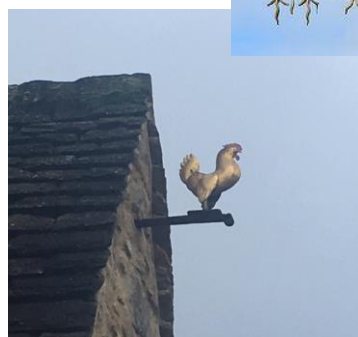
In the early 1900s, a bathing lake was dug beyond the mill by Charles Ashbee’s guildsmen and volunteers after years of fruitless discussions about making one at the other end of town on the Coneygree; up until this time, boys - no girls - had had to make do swimming in the stream between the Town Mill and Berrington Mill. This new lake was accessed by a path which continued past the mill, and Bessie Keen collected *thrupence* from those heading there for a swim. According to the plan, it measured 153’ x 105’, with a depth of 3’6” and the shallow end and 7’6” at the deep end. A photo in the CCHS Archives shows a gala in c1905, challenge cups being presented to the best swimmers by Lieutenant Montague Glossop in the first few years.²²

However, the lake fell into disuse with the demise of the Guild of Handicraft in 1908 and its families’ departure from Campden, followed by the Great War, although children still played there until the mill itself closed in the early 1920s. In 1926, Westington Mill was sold for the first time in its ancient history - a woman from Southport bought it for £1,000. Three years later, it sold again, to Gerald Strafford who ran it as a riding school. It has changed hands many times since then, latterly in 1975, to the Honourable and Mrs Gerard Noel, whose family had been the original landowners 350 years previously. After 40 odd years, the mill was again sold to the present owners, who are currently undertaking radical rebuilding work.



Follow Up:

Following Michael Hill’s article on the Campden Signs in Signpost 17, it was brought to our attention that at the rear of the **Bantam Tea Rooms**, the old missing sign has been reused on a gatepost, painted and turned upside down and the gilded cockerel is on the end of an outbuilding. So not lost to Campden for ever!!



²¹ CCHS Archive Made with Stoneground Flour
²² Campden A New History ed. A Warmington, 2005, p 235

Sheep Street and the Keyte family

Mary Koster-Saeller

This family story of Sheep Street, from the memories and several years correspondence with Mrs Mary Koster-Saeller, née Jones, who was born in 1932, brought up in Campden and latterly resident in the Isle of Man, was stimulated by the article on Dr Dewhurst in Signpost 13, Autumn 2020 with its question posed about Eleanor Keyte. As this was being edited, we heard of Mary's peaceful death on Tuesday 20th December 2022.

I do not know the precise date of Eleanor's birth, the eldest child and the first daughter of William Keyte¹ and his wife Charlotte, née Andrews, but she was baptised at St James's Church on 31 August 1879. William and Charlotte Keyte's home was Cross Cottage, Sheep St, Campden (see left). Doctor



John Henry Dewhurst and his wife, the former Miss Ethel Johnson, came to Campden early in the 1890s, making their home at Ardley House in the Square. For their first child, Michael born on 3rd January 1899, a nurse was engaged and Dewhurst, knowing Mrs William Keyte of Cross Cottage through attending one of her daughters Catherine Lucy, who with a heart defect from birth required regular medical attention, employed another daughter Eleanor Keyte, aged 19, as nursery nurse to help the nurse care for his son. This was Eleanor's first employment and over time she settled into work in

the nursery, on her afternoons off or in free time walking to Sheep Street and Cross Cottage to join her father, mother, and siblings.² On 18th September 1901 Mrs Dewhurst's second son Dennis was born and Eleanor continued to enjoy her work, caring for the two boys as they grew up. Doctor Dewhurst purchased a motor car and some afternoons would drive Eleanor and the two boys to Stratford-upon-Avon where they attended a Shakespeare play at the Memorial Theatre. At the end of the play Doctor Dewhurst was waiting in the car to drive them home to Campden. A pianola was delivered to Ardley House together with a chaise long with matching chair and a piano stool, which contained pianola rolls of music. This furniture was for the front drawing room and in the evening Doctor Dewhurst, with an open window overlooking the Square, would play one of the rolls of music on the pianola. Then, in ones or twos, men would drift into the Square and soon a small crowd was standing and listening to this music, all classical, Chopin, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, which they had never heard before, for electricity was yet to be connected to many homes.

In the early 1900s Mrs Keyte arranged to receive coal on a regular basis from a South Wales coal mine for resale and from the business profits sometime before 1912 Mrs Keyte purchased five cottages in Sheep St, numbers 7, 8, 9, (see right) 10 and 11, for £100 and she eventually willed these cottages to her unmarried daughters Eleanor and Annie Alicia Keyte. Of the other sisters, Catherine Lucy died from her heart condition aged 20 and was buried in the parish churchyard. Alice worked in London where she met Herbert Parker Church and they



¹ Known as 'Napper', 1881 Petrol dealer, 1891 Corn Haulier, 1901 Coal & General dealer, 1911 Coal Merchant

² Sisters Alice Cotterill Elizabeth 1881 -1969, Annie Alicia k/a Nan 1885- 1963, Mary Maria k/a Molly 1888-1963, Catherine Lucy 1890-1912, May Charlotte 1893-1981 and brothers Garnet Ewart 1883-1970, William Henry Thomas 1896- 1979.

married in 1911 in Saint James's Church, Campden. Mary Maria, known as Molly, married George Haysum in 1910 at St James, after which George and Molly went to live at Abertillery in Wales, where George was employed by a grocer delivering to isolated farms and cottages by horse and cart and collecting payment at the time; he was never waylaid or robbed.

On the Scuttlebrook Wake weekend in 1914, Percy Theodore Jones from Bromley Cross, Lancashire drove into Campden with friends - Harold Harwood, son of a cotton mill owner, his wife and Miss Tennyson Jess, a writer later to become a war correspondent. They were visiting Harold Harwood's mother who lived in Cotswold House. It was this weekend when May Keyte, Eleanor's youngest sister, met Percy Jones by chance at the Wake and struck up a friendship, promising to keep in touch.

Campden was full of the rumour that Doctor Dewhurst had lost money on a bad stock investment, for shortly afterwards Doctor Dewhurst sold Ardley House and he and the family, with Eleanor, now aged 33 years old and unmarried, and Tom and Alice Sandals, the gardener and housekeeper who were living at Adlestrop, moved to The Martins. A sale was held of the furniture not required for The Martins; Eleanor's sister Alice and her husband Herbert Parker Church purchased the pianola, the piano stool with many rolls of music and also the matching chaise long and chair.

Then in August 1914 England declared war on Germany. Percy Jones keeping his promise came back to Campden and told May that he was going to London to enlist, to join the Army Service Corps driving a lorry, delivering stores and ammunition to the front line. Alice's husband, Herbert Church, was also called up and Molly's husband, George Haysum, living at Abertillery, Wales, was posted to India where he served throughout the war years. Garnet Ewart Keyte had married Ethel Smith and lived in Coventry; they had a daughter Evelyn and a second child was on the way. Garnet's work was classed as war work. Youngest sibling, William Keyte, known as Will, aged only 15, enlisted not telling his mother, saying he was 16 years old and was posted to the front. However, he was shot in the arm and ended as a patient in a Birmingham hospital, before being discharged to the care of his mother at Cross Cottage and slowly regaining the use of his arm. In Campden he was able to help his mother with the coal, delivering on a sledge to cottages in Sheep St and Lower High Street. From the coal business's profits two more houses in Sheep Street were purchased by Mrs Keyte, each for



£25 - a pair of brick semi-detached houses, number 12 and 13 (see left) and by deed of gift she passed number 12 to son Garnet and number 13 to Will.

In the spring of 1916 Mr William Keyte age 62 on his way to Mr Withers, the blacksmith, to have a halter repaired, had a heart attack as he walked past Bedfont House and died. Alice in London and Molly in Wales were sent telegrams to return home to Cross Cottage. Garnet Ewart Keyte returned to attend the funeral. Thus, the children of Charlotte and William Keyte attending the funeral were: Miss

Eleanor Keyte, Mrs Herbert Church, Mr Garnet Keyte, Mrs George Haysum, Miss Annie Keyte, Miss May Keyte and Mr Will Keyte. After the funeral Molly Haysum and May Keyte asked their mother's permission to go to Birmingham to work in the munitions factory of BSA and Rudge Whitworth; a friend living in Campden arranged their accommodation and work. They returned to Campden in 1919 when the munitions factory was closed down; Molly rented number 12 Sheep Street from her brother Garnet and terminated her tenancy of the cottage in Abertillery. Soon George Haysum who had spent the war years in India returned to England and gave his notice to the grocer who had employed him in Wales before 1914. George then bought two war horses and a waggon from the GWR railway station and started his transport business. In 1919 Percy Jones, now a trained motor engineer, returned to Campden asking Mrs William Keyte's permission to marry May her youngest daughter and they married by special licence at Saint James's church on 18th August 1920. A

thatched cottage in Sheep St was purchased for £100, converted to the Campden Garage and Percy and May lived at Jasmine Cottage nearby.

Meanwhile, Garnet Ewart Keyte was living at his property 12 Sheep Street with his wife Ethel and their two children Evelyn and Tom, but Ethel, pregnant with her third child, suddenly became seriously ill, died aged only 34 years and was buried at St James on 21st March 1919. Garnet, left with two small children, decided to take Evelyn and Tom across Sheep Street to Cross Cottage to his mother and unmarried sister Nan who would care for the children and he started courting Mrs Frances Beatrice Merriman who lived at West End Terrace, the widow with three children³ of Mark Merriman (before the war an enameller working for a jeweller Mr Bill Mark of the Guild of Handicraft) who had been killed in action in Italy on 16th June 1918. So, Garnet moved from 12 Sheep St to West End Terrace and was able to let number 12 to his sister Molly and George Haysum. Garnet and Frances Beatrice were to have 10 children⁴ together, eventually moving to 4 Station Road as the family grew.

After the war Dr Dewhurst decided to move away from Campden to Havant, Hampshire, and Eleanor Keyte now aged 40, single, with no home of her own, her father dead for several years and her mother ageing, moved away with the Dewhurst family.

In 1924 the Earl of Gainsborough sold all his properties in Campden. George Haysum made a bid £800 for a parcel of land in Sheep St and purchased the property known as High House, the flower and vegetable garden with a pigsty, the orchard frontage on Sheep St and an acre of agricultural land. At High House Mr Rose the master of the Campden elementary 'Top' School was the tenant, until he retired in 1929 leaving Campden, allowing Mr and Mrs George Haysum to move from 12 Sheep St Campden to High House, to be their home until their deaths in 1963. The two war horses were sold, a motorised lorry was purchased and George transported the goods on the platform of the lorry from the GWR railway station to the shops in Campden. This lorry eventually in the war years of the 1940s was sold to R.R. Smith, fruit and vegetable grower of Berrington Orchard in Station Road, Campden.

In June 1926 Mrs William Keyte aged 74 died, with the funeral on 1st July at Saint James's church Campden. In 1926 Garnet on behalf of the family was able to purchase Cross Cottage with the yard, Jasmine Cottage (see right) and Landgate Cottage for £300. His unmarried sister Nan was living at Cross Cottage still caring for his children Evelyn and Tom; Percy and May Jones were living at Jasmine Cottage and Landgate Cottage was in a very poor condition. In 1927 Mr Herbert Parker Church husband of Alice Keyte, purchased Jasmine Cottage from his brother-in-law Will Keyte for £100 and later Mr Joe Warmington, builder of Sheep St Campden built an extension to Jasmine Cottage for them. On the 12th April 1929, a son named John Theodore was born to Mr and Mrs Percy Jones at Jasmine Cottage. In 1930 Mr Will Keyte sold Landgate Cottage to his sister Mrs Percy Jones for £100 and later that year 1930, the builder Charles Steward [?] of Broadway, Worcestershire



³ Wilfred Mark, Margaret Mary and Robert k/a Bob

⁴ Garnet Henry k/a Harry 1919-1929, Kathleen Jeanette k/a Betty 1921-1939, Mary Eileen k/a Molly b. 1922, Eleanor Elizabeth b. 1924, Audrey Beatrice b. 1925 d. age 5 at West End Terrace, Stella Frances b. 1926, William John Higford 1927-1985, Marion Rosalind b. 1929, Andrew Howard 1930-1971 and the last child Ronald Claud b. 1932

demolished the wall of Landgate Cottage and at a charge of £500 rebuilt Landgate Cottage. Mr & Mrs Percy Jones moved from Jasmine Cottage into Landgate Cottage in 1931 (see left).



Meanwhile with Garnet and Frances Beatrice Keyte's family growing they moved to number 4 Station Road, Campden in the spring of 1932, although three of their children were to die young. In March 1939 their second child Kathleen Jeanette, known as Betty, died aged 17. Her sister Mary Eileen, known as Molly, was living with her uncle and aunt, Percy and May Jones. Molly on the death of her sister became seriously ill. Attended by aunt May, Molly was to convalesce at the invitation of Doctor

Dewhurst at his home in Havant, Hampshire, which he had called Cotswold and where Molly's aunt Eleanor helped return her to good health and to their home in Campden.

Of the Keyte sisters Mrs Alice Church was living at Jasmine Cottage, Miss Annie Alicia (Nan) with Evelyn and Tom, children of Garnet Keyte by his late wife Ethel were at Garnet's Cross Cottage, Miss Mary Maria (Molly) Haysum lived at High House and the youngest of her sisters Mrs May Jones lived at Landgate cottage.

Once again in Campden there was thought of war and on the 3rd of September 1939 England declared war on Germany. In the will of Mrs Charlotte Keyte her properties numbered 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 Sheep St Campden were left to her two unmarried daughters, Eleanor Keyte and Annie Alicia Keyte. After the end of the Second World war, in the winter of 1946, Eleanor Keyte, now over 65 years old, frail, not in good health, unmarried, with no home, very little money retired to Campden. She lived initially at Landgate Cottage, home of her brother-in-law Percy Jones, my father, who kindly offered a bedroom and I myself at the age of 14 was sent to High House to live with my aunt Molly Haysum - this was to be for the next five years. In all weathers, dark evenings, I walked from my home Landgate Cottage to High House to be with my uncle and aunt. Eleanor Keyte had no alternative but to accept the offer from Percy Jones as accommodation at Cross Cottage was unsuitable, first there being no bedroom available and secondly the only lavatory was in the yard and the door opened into the yard where the wind blew directly up the yard. Mrs Alice Church and Mrs Mary Maria Haysum would not consider giving accommodation, so that left Percy and May Jones only.

However, she wished to live in one of her own properties, number 10 Sheep Street, where for many years had lived Mrs Clifton, a widow of 70 years. This was discussed by Mrs Jones and her sister Molly Haysum and they agreed to serve notice on Mrs Clifton. It was the law that to evict a tenant, alternative accommodation must be available and offered, so the vicar of Saint James, Reverend Brian O'Loughlin, was asked if the church would give Mrs Clifton an almshouse. Notice was served on Mrs Clifton together with the offer of an almshouse as alternative accommodation, but she replied that she would not accept. This state of affairs lasted for many months, with the news of it discussed all over Campden, most people supporting Mrs Clifton. Finally, a court order was obtained, by Mrs Jones at the Magistrates Court; the magistrates decided that, as the property number 10 was the rightful property of Miss Eleanor Keyte who now was of an age, not in good health and must have her own home, Mrs Clifton should move to the almshouse. The agreement was put to Mrs Clifton and after a while was agreed and she moved. Number 10 Sheep Street had no inside lavatory; there were several in the garden, shared by cottages number 7, 8, 9 and 10. Soon a bathroom was installed at 10 Sheep Street, some furniture and other necessary things found and Eleanor Keyte moved to her own property of 10 Sheep Street, Campden, where she lived until her death in 1956 age 76 years. She was buried at St. James on 4th February 1956.

Campden Benefit Nursing Association

Judith Ellis

Campden Home Nursing provides very important present-day community support, but it is not the first such service in the town. Campden Benefit Nursing Association had already been in existence for twelve years and was being well used by families locally when Miss Margaret Groom arrived in Campden in 1910 as the new District Nurse. Nurse Groom's predecessors had only stayed a short time, but she was to stay for 26 years, and leave a strong memory for those who knew her. Mary Whatcott, née Thornton, remembered 'She was firm, but kind. Mother was an assistant nurse to her and sometimes walked to Ebrington or Broad Campden to see someone. She came to our house every day for a meal and paid mother 6d. She had a lovely red lined cape.'

Right: Nurse Groom at the window of Thatched Cottage 1920s



The Countess of Gainsborough, President of Campden Benefit Nursing Association for over thirty years, recalled at the Annual General Meeting in 1914 that: "she was pleased to think that she was present at the first meeting seventeen years ago, when she was told nurses were not required, and cold water was thrown on her proposals.

However, Her Ladyship stated she would not give the matter up and rather than do that would guarantee the nurse's salary."² Led by the Countess, the ladies of the town, supported by the doctor and businessmen, formed the Campden Benefit Nursing Association with the intention of providing qualified nursing on a graded subscription basis, enabling poor families' care to be subsidised. Although no definite date has been reported, it appears that the Campden Nursing Association was formed shortly afterwards, in 1897/8, with the Countess as President.

The first home nursing service was started in Liverpool in the 1860s by William Rathbone, the businessman and philanthropist who later advised on the foundation of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute (QVJI) for training home care nurses. The movement to provide professional care for sick and injured people extended into rural areas, firstly with institutions: Moreton-in-Marsh Cottage Hospital was founded in 1873 and the Ellen Badger Hospital in Shipston-on-Stour in 1896. People could be treated in the hospitals on the production of a voucher from the parish, ensuring that only the 'deserving poor' were treated. But people still needed care when they returned home, and nurses for recovering patients could only be afforded by the well-off families, leading to a determination by the Countess of Gainsborough and Campden families of note to form a local Nursing Association, in line with others in the county.

The term 'nurse' covered a number of roles – in the 1901 Campden census fourteen nurses can be identified, but several were 'Domestic nurses' looking after children or older people in the bigger houses. Others were also privately employed, leaving only two, Fanny Averill 'District Association Nurse' and Alice Savage 'District Nurse', in Broad Campden, employed to visit recovering patients and instil an understanding of better hygiene and health in the home – a strictum passed down from Florence Nightingale who had also advised Queen Victoria on the setting up of the Institute. Although Fanny and Alice are described as district nurses, it seems from subsequent Campden

¹ CCHS Archives: audio recording with Mary Whatcott 20 April 2004

² Evesham Journal 7 March 1914

Association reports that most of the nursing was done by resident nurses, who lived in the cottages of the sick until no longer needed, a situation that must have been uncomfortable for all concerned. By 1905 a number of resident nurses of varying experience and expertise had been employed and the Campden Committee decided that the needs of the community could be better met by employing a district nurse and a resident nurse. The district nurse did not stay in the patient's house but visited with medicines and treated their needs as directed by the doctor: greater professionalism was seen as the goal to improved health.

This was one of the difficulties facing the development of a home nursing service – the clash between the expectations of a professional service, at some expense, and the need to provide a more available service to a wider range of people. This was shown in the vigorous debate between Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute and the founders of the Holt-Ockley system, which trained women in basic nursing care in their locality. Mrs Green and Mrs Thornton were two such 'Assistant Nurses' in the early days in Campden, local women who in previous times would have been 'goodwives'. The ill-feeling between the QVJI and the Holt-Ockley management came to a head at a conference in 1909 when the registration and quality of training was debated: both sides illustrated the shortcomings of the other. The Campden Association was associated with the Holt-Ockley system and was not a member of the Gloucestershire Nursing Association until 1935, prompted, it would seem, by the possibility of grants for training.³

In the early years there seemed to be a constant change of nurses, several staying for only a short time: the Parish Magazine reported in 1910 that Nurse Lynn had resigned and Nurse Thurogood had taken her place, but she too left six months later. Nurse Margaret Groom arrived and became established in Campden life. Her qualifications are not clear: she was born in Cullercoats, Northumberland in 1871 and ten years later she and her widowed mother were lodging in Tynemouth. Ann Groom was a schoolmistress, so Margaret will have been reasonably educated, but this does not seem to have been extended to training, as in the 1891 census she was listed as a 'Ladies Companion' at the home of George Crutchley, a Methodist minister, and his wife in Staffordshire. Margaret was still with them ten years later in Hunslet, Yorkshire, as a 'Mother's Help'. It is not clear whether she worked for the Crutchleys or in the town, but she must have picked up some experience and skills in looking after sick people. It is possible that she was trained through the Holt-Ockley 'basic nursing' system and placed in Campden, or she may have been recommended through the Methodist network. There is no evidence of her nursing qualification when she came to Campden, but the 1939 Register lists her as being a retired State-registered Nurse and Midwife so it is possible

that she did formal training later. In March 1912, the Parish Magazine reported Dr. Dewhurst's comment at the Annual Meeting that 'Nurse Groom continues to win golden opinions from all she comes in contact with, and it is impossible to speak too highly of her skill and devotion in discharging her arduous duties in this district.'

Left: Nurse Ida Johnson, outside the Nurses' Home



In 1911, according to the census, Margaret Groom was living in Thatched Cottage, Park Road, with Anne Madden, age 35, also listed as a District Nurse. Accommodation was part of the employment 'package', furnished over the years with donations from the ladies of the Association as noted in the inventories that seem to have been carefully checked at each handover.⁴ The Committee also supplied a bicycle for getting around the district, but possibly did not pay any costs that arose - Nurse Lynn was

³ Gloucestershire Archives: D6043/1/19 Correspondence

⁴ Gloucestershire Archives: D6043/1/18 Notebook of furniture and other effects

found guilty of riding on a footpath on 1st January 1909 and fined 2s. 6d. and 5s 6d. costs. Mr New, defending, explained that she was 'due to meet the doctor on a case in Ebrington at a stated time and was rather late in starting out and as the roads were bad, she rode on the footpath part of the way down Station Road.' The fine seems a little harsh given that there were no houses in Station Road then and no cars, just a rough road travelled by carts.

The finances of the Campden Benefit Nursing Association were based on graded subscriptions with fund-raising activities in support and in the early years deficits in the annual accounts were usually covered by donations from the main supporters.

The Rules were set out in a leaflet:

1. *If the District Nurse is wanted by a subscriber direct application to her is all that is necessary. She will leave word at her house where she is likely to be found, and the approximate time of her return. Non-subscribers must apply through a member of the Committee or to the Secretary.*
2. *Subscribers are entitled to the services of the District Nurse on payment of fees according to scale as follows:*

<i>Class I Labourers:</i>	<i>2sh; visits 1d.</i>
<i>Class II Artisans, Gentlemen's servants etc.:</i>	<i>4sh; visits 3d.</i>
<i>Class III Farmers, Tradespeople:</i>	<i>7/6d; first visit 1sh; 6d. after.</i>
<i>Class IV Gentry:</i>	<i>10sh; visits 2sh; two visits in one day 3sh.</i>

[The subscriptions were collected quarterly and, just like insurance, the family would decide whether to take a subscription or take a chance]

Non-subscribers:

Class I: 6d; Class II: 1/-; Class III: 2/-; Class IV: 2/6d.

There were other specified charges for confinements, care after operations, hire of the waterbed and sitting up at night (undertaken by auxiliary nurses) ending with:

*Massage is only undertaken by special arrangement with the Secretary.*⁵

The higher rates for the tradespeople and the gentry were used to subsidise the care of poorer families. If a family was not a subscriber and needed help, they could seek an emergency visit but were encouraged to join the scheme. But fund-raising efforts were, as now, an important part of raising money and awareness of the need. In 1899 a 'Grand Alfresco Fete' was held in old Campden House grounds, with exhibitions of arts and crafts, children's entertainment and dancing. In 1907 another (perhaps more exclusive) Fete was enjoyed at Ivy House, organised by Mrs. New, wife of the town's solicitor. This seems to have been less of a community event than the 1899 Fete, with the maids in attendance on the beautifully gowned ladies.

Right: 1907 Fete at Ivy House: a nurse in the foreground?



⁵ Gloucestershire Archives: D6043/1/2 Rules of the Association

The Countess of Gainsborough was clearly very committed to the nursing scheme and she was vigorous in gathering the necessary support, with one effort proving to be momentous. In 1909 she organised an evening of entertainment that included a talk by Cecil Sharp, the first occasion that the famous folk song collector visited Campden. The Evesham Journal reported: *Cecil Sharp in Campden: On Wednesday, January 13th 1909, Cecil Sharp delivered a 'concert lecture' on "English Folk Song" in Chipping Campden's town hall in aid of the Campden Nursing Association. The concert lecture comprised the first part of a two-part entertainment, delivered to crowds at both a matinee and an evening performance, the second half consisting of a history of nursing in 'tableaux vivants', singing and recitation.*⁶ (See left)

CHIPPING CAMPDEN,
TOWN HALL.

On Wednesday, January 13th, 1909,
At 3-15 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Under the direction of
The COUNTESS of GAINSBOROUGH

AN

ENTERTAINMENT

Will be given in the above

TOWN HALL

For the benefit of
CAMPDEN NURSING ASSOCIATION

A
LECTURE ON ENGLISH FOLK SONGS
By MR. CECIL J. SHAGS, with Vocal Illustrations by
Miss Mattie Kay, Hon. Robert Noel & Mr. W. H. King.

A SERIES OF TABLEAUX VIVANTS
Representing NURSING from the earliest Middle Ages down to the present time.
will be organized by CAPTAIN WINDSOR CARY-ELWES, assisted by
Mrs. Dewhurst, Miss Cameron, Miss Wixey, & Mr. Neve.

The following **VOCALISTS** have promised to assist:-
The Members of Miss Carrington's Choir,
The Ladies Agnes & Norah Noel, Miss Edith Cary-Elwes,
Hon. Robert Noel & Mr. W. H. Wing.

PRICES OF ADMISSION:
AFTERNOON: - Reserved & Numbered Seats, 3/6; Reserved, 2/-; Unreserved, 1/-
EVENING: - Reserved Seats, 2/-; Unreserved Seats, 1/- and 6d.
Tickets may be obtained from Mr. Neve (where a plan of the hall can be seen,) & Mr. W. Horne.

Wm. C. Chubb, Printer, Stockport, and London, U.K.

Fund-raising continued in similar fashion to efforts today, with a variety of events and donations from, for example, Holloways Travelling Theatre, who performed in the yard of the Red Lion. In 1936 the Association put out a printed leaflet appealing for more subscribers, saying, *We appeal to all who have known the comfort of a skilled nurse; we would remind others still in the enjoyment of good health, that it is a duty and privilege to help those who are less fortunate than themselves.*⁷ 1936 was an eventful year: the Association finally joined the Gloucestershire Nursing Association and thereby the Queen's Nursing Institute; the Association moved the nurses to 'Greenstead', one of the houses built by C.R. Ashbee in Catbrook and owned by Matthew Cox; the appeal for subscribers

was launched; and Nurse Groom retired. *The farewell presentation took place in the Town Hall. As Nurse Groom was mounting the platform, Miss Betty Coldicott presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. After many congratulations on her years of service Mr. Matthew Cox, headmaster of the Grammar School, presented Nurse Groom with a gold bracelet watch and a cheque for £59 6s. She retired to Tedmore Hall in Shropshire with Mrs Susan Jacson, the widow of the Rev. Owen Jacson, Campden's vicar for some years, and died there in 1941, aged 70.*

The National Health Service Act came in 1948 and district nurses became part of statutory provision. The Association continued, providing additional transport to take people to hospital and paying nursing fees incurred by subscribers and "deserving cases". In 1988 the charity was dissolved and its assets transferred to the William Keyte Charity of Ebrington, the Poor's Piece charity of Aston-sub-Edge, and the Chipping Campden United Charities. But the gap between needs and provision widens again and we are fortunate to have a professional local nursing and support service today.

Right: Nurse Groom with Sylvia Pieters in the garden of Thatched Cottage.



⁶ Evesham Journal 16 January 1909

⁷ Gloucestershire Archives: D6043/1/12 Appeal leaflet