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## NOTES & QUERIES

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### *From The Editor*

As I am starting to work on this edition of Notes & Queries, I have heard of the end of another piece of Campden's history. Jane Wilgress, daughter of Alec Miller, the Guild of Handicraft sculptor and carver, died peacefully at her home in California on July 20, 2010, aged about 93 years. She was born in Chipping Campden, and in 1939 she emigrated to California with her teacher husband John Wilgress. Jane was an archivist, librarian and rare book dealer and contributed a great deal of material to CADHAS and wrote a book about the life of her father, Alec Miller, of which a few copies still available. I am lucky to have met Jane on one of her visits to Campden in the early 1990s and maintained a contact with her in her latter years. Thank you all once again for your contributions to this very interesting edition of Notes & Queries.

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

## Letters to the Editor

Thanks to CADHAS members Sue Samuelson, Pamela Atkinson and others who confirmed the last issue details about **Garthaway** and Old Westington Farm.

In March 2010, a query was received at the Archive Room from Peter Leyel, asking if we knew anything of a **small factory** set up about 1937 or 1938 in or near Broad Campden that produced herbal products for the Culpeper shops in London, Bristol and other places, which were owned by his grandmother, Mrs C. F. Leyel. His mother once told him that the little factory at Broad Campden won an award as the most efficient in England. So below is what the Query Team found out about **Culpeper in Broad Campden:-**

J.P. Nelson's book on Broad Campden, printed 1971, wrote that at the Far End, "the group of farm buildings behind the wall in which the pillar box is situated and which belong to Briar Hill Farm had a curious use in the last war. They were taken over by the Culpeper Bio-chemical Company which made health foods, medicines and drugs for the R.A.F., using locally grown celery, parsley, carrots, cucumbers and so on. The machinery used was of German origin, so there was difficulty in replacing broken and worn parts, and it eventually had to close down. The engineer in charge, a man from Coventry named Shaw, lived at Briar Hill Cottage." Broad Campden farmer, Richard Potter, has confirmed this location.

A news item in the Four Shires Advertiser on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1942 entitled "Absentee Home Guard" was about a court case of Robert Charles Merriman, an employee of Culpeper Bio-Chemical Products Ltd of Broad Campden. He was charged with failing to attend Home Guard parades without a reasonable excuse. Since Feb 16<sup>th</sup> that year his attendance had been slack; he had failed to attend 56 out of 63 times and in particular on July 15<sup>th</sup> when he was called to explain. In his defence he said that between July 9<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> he was engaged on a government order collecting blackcurrants for juice, therefore he was unable. His logbook entries corresponded. The prosecution argued that he was employed by a chemical company at Broad Campden, which manufactured fruit juice and since his working hours were 9-5pm and he had not been asked to work after these hours, there was ample time for him to be on Home Guard Parade. Merriman replied that he did not know parades were compulsory, after all Home Guard was a voluntary post. Major John Howard Carpenter, controller of Culpeper Bio-Chemical Products Limited, appeared on subpoena and said that had he been asked he would have let him go. Merriman in his defence said that adequate supplies of blackcurrants were difficult to get – only small quantities from growers were available to purchase. So on 17<sup>th</sup> he was out purchasing supplies – he had needed 4-6 cwt. He was found guilty, fined £4 and 3/6d costs.

In subsequent correspondence the enquirer told us that in an old Culpeper catalogue in the Herb Society's (successor to the Society of Herbalists) archives, it lists "The Culpeper Vegetable Juices" made by the Culpeper Biochemical Products Ltd. It says of them - "Made in England by a method learnt in the German School of Medicine before the last war". The juices listed are blackcurrant, cabbage, carrot, coltsfoot, comfrey, cowslip, dandelion, garlic, horsetail, leek, lettuce, marshmallow, nettle, parsley, spinach and watercress. "The vegetables and herbs for the juices are grown in the Vale of Evesham. Before the war one of the Directors went through the German Government School to learn the process and imported machinery direct from Germany. This is the only machinery of the kind in this country and the process is the only one that preserves the enzymes of the living plants." It seems that this director who visited Germany before the war and imported the machinery for the factory, was the enquirer's father, Christopher Wauton Leyel (1906-1971) and Hilda Leyel (née Wauton) was his grandmother. Hilda Leyel lived at her Sussex home, Shripney Manor, near Bognor Regis during the time her son and his family were living in Broad Campden. She occasionally visited Campden, usually staying with Olga Hartley, an old family authoress friend, who had a town house in Campden. Very possibly it was Olga who found Briar Hill Cottage, Broad Campden where his family were living, (*see opposite*) at the time of his birth in Shipston-on-Stour hospital in August 1939. He was baptised in the "lovely Anglican

church” in Chipping Campden. He remembers riding his tricycle to Chipping Campden aged 3, watching maypole dances in the High Street, playing in the old ‘wool market’ and collecting sacks of dandelions with his mother from the nearby fields to be processed in the factory. “I also well remember Potter’s farm next door and my father shooting rabbits in the field opposite, when he was home on leave (seldom, as he was shipped out to Africa in 1942). And when my mother managed to set fire to the thatch (not once but twice!) - she used to get impatient when the fire, laid in the sitting room fireplace, did not take and impatiently poured paraffin on it - with resulting dire consequences. Anyway it was all very exciting seeing the fire engines race up and the men in their gleaming helmets rushing to extinguish the flames. Other memories from Cotswold days are of the Milne family (he was a painter and we have a couple of his water-colours of Campden here in Switzerland). Willie and Edith Mannheimer lived in a manor house nearby (they actually changed their German name to Manners) and an old Mrs Barrow had a lovely house also in easy walking distance. For me, Mrs Barrow seemed at least 100 years old - maybe she was.” During the war years Peter’s father served in the army having installed a manager to run the factory. It is not known exactly when the herbal factory closed – possibly the factory was still working around 1942.



The *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* gives the following about Hilda Winifred Ivy Leyel [*née* Wauton], [*known as* Mrs C. F. Leyel] (1880–1957), herbalist, “born in London on 6 December 1880, the daughter of Edward Brenton Wauton, an assistant master at Uppingham School from 1881, and his wife, Elizabeth Anne Drewitt. Hilda was educated informally at Uppingham School, where she developed a precocious interest in flowers and herbs; she also received some part of her education at Halliwick Manor. On leaving school she studied medicine. She then worked for a while with Frank Benson, the actor–manager. In 1900 she married Carl Frederick Leyel (*d.* 1925), a theatrical manager of Swedish descent, with whom she had two sons. The marriage was later dissolved. As a young society hostess in her flat in Lincoln’s Inn, Mrs Leyel proved herself a connoisseur of food and wine and made a number of influential friends, who rallied round her, when in 1922 she was prosecuted for running the Golden Ballot, which raised a large sum for the benefit of ex-servicemen and various hospitals. Her acquittal helped to establish the legality of such ballots. She was elected a life governor of St Mary’s, the West London, and the Royal National Orthopaedic hospitals. Soon, however, Leyel began to concentrate on the nearly forgotten craft of herbalism. Although she lacked a scientific training in botany, she acquired a profound and detailed knowledge of the work of the herbalist Nicholas Culpeper and his predecessors. In 1926 she wrote *The Magic of Herbs* and in 1927 she opened Culpeper House in Baker Street, a shop selling herbal medicines, foods and cosmetics, designed especially to appeal to women. Her imaginative and practical talents ensured the success of this and similar shops, which were decorated by Basil Ionides. Encouraged to apply her knowledge of herbs and their healing properties to the needs of patients dissatisfied with the drugs of orthodox medicine, she founded the Society of Herbalists, a non-profit-making organization for the study and application of the herbal art, and made available her own library, the nucleus of which was housed with the society. In 1941 the society’s life was imperilled by the Pharmacy and Medicines Bill, which, as drafted, would have destroyed the work of the herbalist in England. Again powerful friends rallied to her support and the bill was sufficiently modified to enable patients to obtain treatment on joining the society. She also co-operated with Sir Albert Howard in his campaign for compost versus artificial manure and with those working for pure water and pure food of every kind. She wrote a long series of works on herbs. She died in the Harley Street Nursing Home, 35 Weymouth Street, London, on 15 April 1957.”

*Do CADHAS members have any further memories of this Culpeper factory in Broad Campden or the Leyel family?*

## Ancient Yews And Other Trees In Campden

Diana Evans

There was a good response to the letter published in CADHAS Notes & Queries Vol. VI No. 1 (Autumn 2008) on the subject of Ancient Yews in Campden. The original research was begun to see if any proof could be found to corroborate the story that the yew trees found behind some of the High Street houses were planted to commemorate the coronation of James I in 1603. A list has been compiled from those who responded as below:

- Behind Elm Tree House (now in the garden of Linden House, Back Ends) the yew tree has a girth of 11ft 8ins. This appears in drawings of the early 1900s.
- Behind The Cotswold House Hotel the yew tree has a girth of 9ft.
- Behind St. Anne's the yew tree has a girth of 12ft 4ins. This is kept with a flat top approx 20ft tall, having 15ft cut off the top every 5 years or so.
- Behind The Martins the yew tree has a girth of 11ft. This is 30ft tall and is kept cut into a cone shape.
- Behind The Gables the yew tree is in fact two trees growing side by side with one canopy, the space between the bases being 1ft. One tree has a girth of 9ft 3ins and the other 9ft 6ins. Although extremely tall at the moment, a large part of the top was lost in a storm in the 1980s.
- Behind Westcote House the yew tree has a girth of 12ft 4ins. The tree surgeon, who tended this tree, believed it might be 500 years old.
- Behind Seymour House the yew tree had to be drastically cut back as it appeared to be dying, but has survived.
- Behind Grevel House the yew tree has a girth of 6ft 8ins. It is featured on a painting of the 1870s in Chipping Campden Town Hall where it is shown as about 15ft tall, shaped like an umbrella.

Away from the High Street, in St. James's churchyard there is an avenue of 22 Irish yews. These are kept trimmed to 10/12ft tall. Research shows that these were planted c1880. They are shown as established (but untrimmed) trees in photos by Henry Taunt taken in 1890. Two upright yews were found in Ireland in 1740 and it is from one of these trees that all Irish yews descend. They can only be propagated from cuttings and were only propagated commercially from 1820. (*Wikipedia*)

Otherwise there are 10 yews of various sizes around the perimeter of the graveyard, 4 or 5 are probably pretty old but it is not possible to measure them as they have split into many branches almost at the base.

There is an avenue of 12 lime trees (representing the 12 apostles) on the pathway from the gate to the south porch of the church, planted in 1770. At least 6 of these, and may be more, appear to be original.

In the old vicarage garden (now Covenant House), laid out in 1847 by the then vicar Canon Kennaway, a yew tree is 8ft 6ins in girth, a robinia pseudacacia 11 ft in girth and a copper beech 16ft in girth. There is an enormous Scots Pine in the garden of the current Vicarage (previously the stables of the old vicarage), which was supposedly planted to celebrate Waterloo, or if not, by Canon Kennaway in 1847.

Among other trees in the High Street is a ginko biloba outside Bedfont House known to have been planted in 1878 by the then owner of Bedfont House, Mr. Griffiths. (*Rushen*)

All the above Yew trees have been registered with the Ancient Yew Group, copied to the Ancient Tree Forum at the Woodland Trust. Tim Hills from the Ancient Yew Group visited Campden in April 2010 and saw the gardens of St. Anne's, The Martins,

The Gables, Westcote House and the churchyard. He considered that the trees behind these houses had all been planted at the same time and originally put them at 250-350 years old, but said that it was difficult to be absolutely precise. When he heard the tale that these trees had been planted to commemorate the 1603 coronation of James I he did not dispel this story and said it was distinctly possible, particularly with the history as is known, that 49 houses in Campden were owned by the Crown in 1609 (for reasons as yet unknown). (*Rushen has 1635 list of householders*). Tim Hills felt that those houses paying Chief Rent to the Crown could have planted them. The curator of the National Memorial Arboretum commented that it was known that yews were planted to commemorate special occasions. On Easter Day this year the very early service on the BBC came from the National Memorial Arboretum, taken by the Bishop of Manchester. He referred to a reading from the King James bible as being appropriate to the setting for the service "as he was responsible for the planting of thousands of trees". A most amusing e-mail from the bishop tells of how King James in his wish to boost the economy, sent out an Edict in 1608 addressed to various Lord Lieutenants around the country, encouraging the silk-worm trade. The surviving document shows that the following year he caused to be delivered ten thousand mulberry trees to each of these Lord Lieutenants. However, the whole project failed, as they were the wrong variety of the tree! The bishop learnt of this history when he was chaplain at Christ's College, Cambridge. In the garden of the college is a mulberry, incorrectly nicknamed Milton's tree, which is the only remaining one of 300 planted there at the King's wish in 1609. This gained King James a high reputation for encouraging tree planting across the country. The bishop felt that the inhabitants of Chipping Campden might have wanted to ingratiate themselves with the Crown!

Contact has been made with the librarian of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh to see if any evidence can be found there of James VI/I's interest in trees in Scotland in the 36 years he reigned there before he came south. He was unable to immediately "locate any definite references to 'Jamie the Saxt' being a tree aficionado", but will keep looking. This is probably as far as research can go on this subject. Enquiries at Kew Gardens and the Forestry Commission produced nothing. But if anyone has house deeds which show them paying Chief Rent from 1609 onwards and has a yew tree in their garden, it would be good to know. That is the case at The Gables.

## **“Then There Was The School”**

**Margaret Fisher & Pearl Mitchell**

*This extract is from a much larger piece of research deposited in CADHAS Archives, about Ebrington Church of England Junior School 1867–1893. More will follow in later editions.*

The Reverend Charles Edward Hornby left Ebrington a precious legacy in the form of a notebook, which contains the Government and Diocesan Inspectors' reports for the village school during the time he was Vicar of the parish and Corresponding Manager of the school. From these intimate personal notes the reader gains a unique insight into the life of Ebrington School and its masters during the Victorian era. Charles had been a much-loved parson but sadly retired, owing to ill health, to Ashendene in Hertfordshire in 1893, having been at Ebrington for 25 years. On the front of his book he instructed that it should be

sent "to the Vicar of Ebrington with a request that it may be put among the parish documents". He continued, "It contains, I venture to think, an interesting record of educational work and progress."

The third son of Joseph Hornby of Liverpool, Charles had matriculated in 1852 from Christchurch, Oxford aged 19 years. He gained his B.A. in 1857 and his M.A. in 1862. He became Curate of Mere in Wiltshire in 1864 and moved to be in charge of Much Dewchurch, Herefordshire in 1865. He remained there until appointed to the



position of Vicar of Ebrington at the end of 1867, his first living. He and his wife, Harriet Catherine, were in their mid-thirties and had two children, Caroline and Charles Henry St. John, both born at Much Dewchurch. Their first child to be born in Ebrington was William Meysey who arrived in 1870. He was followed by Elizabeth Beatrix St. George, who was baptised on Christmas Day 1874, and Eleanor Maud Swynfen in 1877. The 1871 census records the Hornby family living in the Vicarage with nine living-in servants, including a monthly nurse, an under-nurse, a gardener, a coachman, a cook, a housemaid and a kitchen maid.

At the end of 1867, when Mr. Hornby became Vicar, the village church and school were in a very sorry plight and he set about trying to improve the situation. Therefore, in 1870, to benefit the parish, he asked Lord Fortescue and Lord Harrowby to support his idea of a schoolhouse being built at Hidcote, to be used both as an infant school and also licensed for divine service and form a feeder to the main schools at Ebrington and Mickleton taking in the children of Little Hidcote (Hidcote Bartrim), which at the time was in Mickleton parish. However in spite of offering to part pay for this himself both Lord Harrowby and Lord Fortescue declined his request. ... At this time the attendance at the village day school had sunk to almost zero, i.e. only 6 children on the register and the teaching was considered to be by no means satisfactory, this being a period of great inefficiency in education throughout Britain, not only in Ebrington. During this year the master of Ebrington School had resigned and the Committee of Management looked at various applications and testimonials, having great difficulty in finding a candidate and after deliberation appointed, in 1868, Mr. James Hemming of Blockley with his wife, Marian, acting as the schoolmistress. Hemming was not a certificated teacher and although he tried to gain his certificate had not been successful. He was said to be interested in his work and very painstaking, but his want of method prevented him from obtaining satisfactory results. In December 1870 the School Inspector's opinion was that one third of the children were not being done justice to. This was the year of Prime Minister Gladstone's landmark Education Act for England and Wales, which made attendance at elementary school more or less compulsory. Mr. Hornby remarked that this Act caused "educational waves which flooded the whole country with the happiest results." In a letter to Lord Fortescue, dated December 16<sup>th</sup> 1870, Mr. Hornby stresses the difficulties with regards to Mr. Hemming as follows: "We have as schoolmaster a man of very respectable character, a man, too, who most certainly works hard and does his best, but then that best is not at all good. He is an old man (*he was actually 57 years of age*) who, if we dismiss him, will not get another situation, and here the question of feeling towards him comes in. But can we entertain that feeling? Must we dismiss him?" In the end the question of 'feeling' was overridden by the School Committee, who agreed

unanimously at their meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1871 that a change of master was desirable. Mr. Hemming therefore received a letter asking him to resign his post at Michaelmas. ... The Vicar was then empowered to look out for a certificated master, preferably a married man, who could also undertake the management of the choir. On offer were a comfortable house and garden allotment, a salary of £75 per year and an extra £5 if he could play the harmonium.

In the absence of a married applicant William George Wray was then appointed as Ebrington's first Government-certificated master, but this young man was only a moderate success. The Education Inspector reported that the new master 'was working'; the school now received a grant of £20 5s. for the nine months that this new teacher had been in charge. The winter of 1872/3 saw a landmark for Ebrington, the opening of a night school organised by Mr. Hornby and Mr. Wray for the young men of the parish who at this time had to leave school at the age of 13 years to begin work. Twenty-four scholars enrolled and the average attendance was 18, classes being available on 71 nights. Nineteen of these pupils were presented for examination and the government granted an amount of £4.7s.6d. to offset the costs. The general efficiency of the day school was also now said to be much improved "considering the difficulties the present master has had to overcome". However, it soon became apparent that all was not well; the school managers, at their autumn meeting of 1873, expressed concern about the great disagreements and arguments between William and his mother, Laura, who was staying with him in the schoolhouse. Mr. Hornby tells us that his bad personal example was due to his relationship with a married woman in the parish. As a result of this affair the managers at their meeting agreed to dismiss him immediately but 'allowed' him to resign to avoid a village scandal! Our rather handsome, disgraced, schoolmaster now had no position and not much chance of obtaining good references. Perhaps he read the many advertisements at that time in the local press and schoolteachers' magazines about emigration, for he soon determined to seek his fortune on the other side of the world. ... *[For the next steps in William Wray's life see the full research paper.]* Back in Ebrington March 1874 had seen the arrival of yet another young man, one with considerable teaching capacity, Mr. Thomas Jacques, accompanied by his two sisters, Mary Florence and Emily. Mary Florence fulfilled the Government Inspector's demand for the immediate appointment of a pupil teacher and Emily superintended the needlework. During the summer of 1875 the village celebrated the coming of age of Lord Ebrington. In his letter to Lord Fortescue, Charles Randall, the Fortescue Estate land agent, described the dinner for the tenants, which was much enjoyed. Then came unlimited tea and cake, given to between 80 and 90 Ebrington school children, which was followed by games and racing and he writes the "condition for the latter it seemed to me rather affected by the plum cake". The children had enjoyed the fun and carried away lots of prizes such as toys, knives and dolls. He makes us smile when he describes the young men engaged in sports befitting "children of a larger growth". The old people also helped to consume the beer and tobacco and it reportedly left them all in a state of the most good-humoured enjoyment. Also, in July this year the parish church was closed for a major restoration and Mr. Hornby gave £373.11s.1d for the restoration of the south aisle, bells and clock and £70 towards the heating apparatus and the school premises were consecrated for the period of the alterations by the Bishop of Gloucester, enabling services to be held in the schoolroom. ... At school the Inspector's report of December 1875 stated that "discipline, instruction and general efficiency was satisfactory".

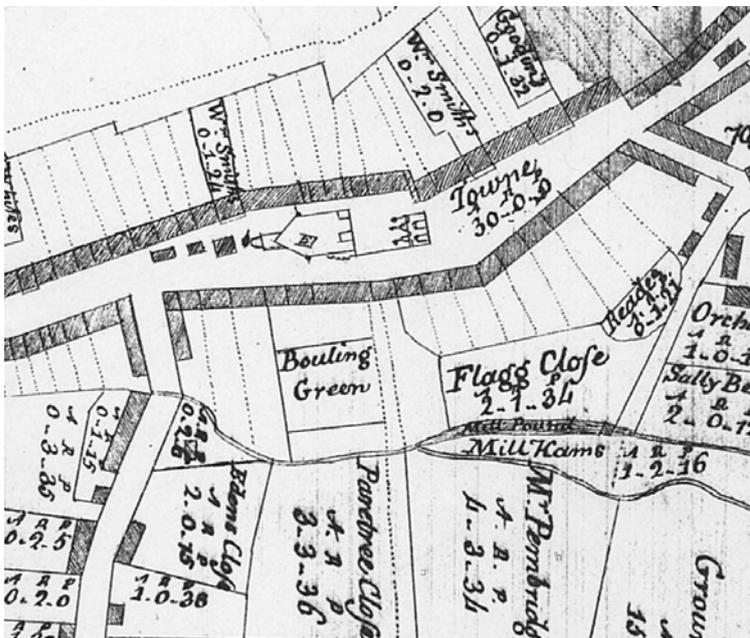
*What happened to Mr Jacques, other later teachers and the school? More will follow in future issues. A list of sources is given for this research in the full document.*

## Chipping Campden Bowling Club Centenary

### Gary Robinson

A map of Campden dated July 1722, which was the result of a survey of the Manor of Campden for Dorothy, Countess of Gainsborough, shows quite clearly a 'Bowling Green' near the Town Hall behind the High Street and adjacent to 'Paretree Close'. This bowling green existed behind the Noel Arms until about 1989 when it was sold for development. Gary Robinson, Deputy Chairman of the Chipping Campden Bowling Club has extracted some interesting facts from the Minutes Book over the 100 years since 1910, the year when the current club was formed.

Given the popularity of the bowls sport in Tudor times (Francis Drake, Henry VIII and mentions in Shakespeare, etc.) it is highly probable that the Campden estate had at least one bowling green when old Campden House was built. Bowls had been played informally up and down the country for centuries; around the turn of the



twentieth century (following football and cricket) clubs were formed, national associations set up and rules written down and harmonized. Cricketer W.G.Grace was the first president of the English Bowling Association in 1903 and was also involved in the Gloucestershire Bowling Association. One of the other reasons that clubs started to form at the turn of the century was that travelling to play other

clubs became more feasible.

The Campden club was formed on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1910 at a meeting at the Noel Arms, Chipping Campden. Present at that meeting were G.Haines (George, the farmer who later went to Canada), R.Haydon (Ron, the chemist), A.Tanner (Alfred, The Noel Arms Landlord), P.Dewey (Percy, the Schoolmaster), G.Phillipson, P.Prout (*Percy, the shopkeeper*), D.Haydon (Dudley, the dairy farmer), H.Ellis (Harry, the basket maker) and J.Bailey (Jack, the Guild of Handicraft Silversmith).

G. Haines chaired the meeting and the name decided upon was Campden Bowling Club (no Chipping) and subscriptions for the first year were set at 3/6. There was no mention of laying a green or setting aside land for this, therefore one concludes that the green had been there for some time before the club was formed. A Handicap competition was also introduced on June 25 as a '21 up' competition.

In this first year E.Roberts, C.Shepherd, S.Locke and G.Coldicott also joined the club and the first fixtures were with Blockley and Shipston bowling clubs, with Stow (who no longer have a green) and Moreton-in-Marsh subsequently added. A green-keeper was employed to look after the green.

In 1911 a cup was presented as a prize for the handicap competition. This later became known as the Club cup – see below. Names of early winners are inscribed on the studs and the band along the base.

The minutes mention tension arising with the Cricket Club over the price that they were asking the bowling club to pay for the hire of a roller and there appear to have been problems with the green and the green-keeper was replaced. There were discussions in 1912 over the rules for play and in particular whether it was acceptable to play anywhere on the green (like crown green of today) or whether the club should migrate to the rink system (that is playing up and down one lane or rink on the green and centring the jack, as with lawn bowls). The 1913 season had to be extended in order to complete the club competitions and by 1914 the club was becoming more professional with the purchase of measures, mats and lockers. Any current green-keeper will be deeply disturbed to learn that in 1915 sheep were put onto the green to get the grass down and that five years later in 1920 a dance was held on the green to raise money for the improvements to the green and club.



This photograph of the green at the back of the Noel Arms is from the CADHAS Jesse Taylor glass plate collection taken at about this time. In 1922 the club entered the Moreton and District League, although it only joined the Gloucestershire Bowling Association in 1935. In 1936 the club's difficulties with premises started when a request for



a formal tenancy for the green was declined by the Noel Arms proprietor. The green was lengthened by two yards in 1937 and W.H.Warmington (Silversmith) was selected to play for the county in 1939. During the Second World War, a fundraising tournament was held in 1943 to support the Red Cross and the St John's fund and also a dance for the war effort. In this period the secretary tabled a motion that ladies should be allowed to practice on the green. There was much disgust and the resolution was aggressively rejected. The secretary resigned in disgust. Another dance was held in 1944, this time for "Salute the Soldier".

In 1945 Mr [Tommy] Knott celebrated 25 years as captain by deciding to donate a trophy to the club (the Knott Vase - see over. On close up the silver mark shows that it was made by W.H.Warmington. The inscription reads: 'The Knott Challenge Cup To Mark his 25<sup>th</sup> Year as Captain, 1922-1926' with the winner's name of each year around the base. It was decided that rubber shoes only would be worn on the green

and there is the first recorded mention of a ladies club being in existence. F.Collett was selected to play for the county. A Ladies Green is mentioned in 1947 and there was consideration given to widening the green to make 4 rinks. However, by 1957 membership numbers were down to 18 and an amalgamation with the ladies club was discussed, but rejected. Again two years later there was further discussion regarding joining with the ladies club and using their green (in the recreation ground we think).



The Golden Jubilee in 1960 was celebrated through a joint ladies and mens match with representatives invited from other local clubs. This was followed by a supper and a cake presented to the club by the ladies club. Rather patronisingly it is reported that the ladies gave “a very creditable account of themselves” during the game. The shelter at the green was re-thatched.

In 1962 Henry Hart was selected to play for the county and the old mower was sold to the ladies club, who then had to pay a fortune for it to be repaired! An extra rink was built in 1963 and a club tie was introduced in 1965. Once again a tenancy was requested and denied in 1970, and discussions were held with the Cricket Club regarding a joint project, but the cricket club was nearing the conclusion of its own arrangements. Then in 1972 Mr Sargant, the landlord at Noel Arms, indicated that he wished to build on the green in 1973. The ‘Watchhorn Cup’ was donated in memory of Reg Watchhorn in 1974. This was played for as a mixed triples. In 1975 J.Benfield reached the Worcestershire county singles final and qualified to play in the national finals at Worthing. The Knott vase was changed to a pairs competition.

In 1979 the green failed the county inspection making it ineligible for use in county competitions and in 1980 the club withdrew its membership from Gloucestershire Bowling Association and Saturday afternoon matches were dropped. Monday nights became practice night in 1981. In 1983 the pavilion roof blew off in a storm. In 1985 there was a proposal from the Cricket Club to lay a new green on their land, but it was dismissed due to lack of space. In 1988 it was reported that the Noel Arms had been sold and new owners would move in December. A letter was received stating that the green would be unavailable from the 1989 season onwards and so the search for an alternative site was started in earnest.

Having lost its home, the club discovered an old disused green behind the then Victoria Arms in Bretforton. This was intended to be a temporary location, whilst the club and the local authority sought alternatives back in Campden. This new green could not be watered or tended properly, despite the efforts of long time green keeper Frank Leadbeater and was described as ‘sporting’ by visitors within ear shot. However the green proved to be a home for longer than was expected and in 2000 the club received notification that this pub also was to be developed. The club then played two seasons of away-only matches. In this period and despite its absence from Campden, new members had continued to join the club replacing those ill or deceased, the club’s relaxed nature and lively banter being appreciated. Fundraising efforts were initially started under the leadership of David Feasey and then Peter Gardener, including the famous pig roasts at the December Victorian Evenings in Campden. By the time that two proper competing proposals emerged for Station Road, the club had raised over £60,000 by itself. When Dick Smith’s proposal won

the day, the club obtained a further grant of £25,000 from Cotswold District Council and finally in 2002 the £100,000 project of getting the green built up from a disused reservoir was attained with the help of voluntary labour from club members and friends. It was desperately sad to lose Roger Bragg and John Wadey, who were comparatively young and who had played important roles in the club, before the green was properly open.

Further major loans and grants were obtained from Bowls England, the National Lottery and the Foundation for the Sports and Arts to help build the beautiful clubhouse. Even then the building would not have got underway or been completed without the skills and financial backing of Clive Bennett, who also became Chairman, and his building firm. 2009 saw more improvements and fundraising to the inside of the building to make room for a longer indoor mat.

The club is now celebrating its centenary year. President Frank Leadbeater has been at the club for 50 years and the family of Chairman David Hart has been involved for most of the 100 years. This year the Club will welcome teams from Bowls England, Barbarians, the Friends of Bowls England and the Gloucestershire County President. Half of the current membership of sixty



has joined the club since the new green was laid and the aim is to reach one hundred members, with players of all levels and a growing fixture list of friendly and competitive games.

## **Did Abraham Lincoln Know Of The Campden Wonder?**

**Jill Wilson**

*This note coincides with the recent publication of Jill Wilson's account of the Campden Wonder 'Mr Harrison is missing', available from CADHAS Archive Room.*

In the Chipping Campden Public Library crime fiction section is a copy of a book temptingly entitled *100 Dastardly Little Detective Stories*.<sup>i</sup> All are well worth reading but I found 'The Traylor Murder Mystery,' by Abraham Lincoln<sup>ii</sup>, first published in 1843, of especial interest. Briefly the story tells of three brothers named Traylor who in 1841 lived a few miles apart in the state of Illinois<sup>iii</sup>. One brother, William, and an acquaintance named Fisher, who had the reputation of being a miser, went to visit Archibald Traylor who lived in Springfield. On the way they were joined by the third brother, Henry. In Springfield they lodged with Archibald's business partner, a man named Myers. One night after dinner Fisher was missing and searches for him that night and in the following days were unsuccessful. After a few days William set off back home in his buggy, Henry accompanying him en route as far as his own home.

One week later the Postmaster nearest William's home wrote to his opposite number in Springfield enquiring about Fisher, since William had been saying that Fisher was dead and had left him all his money. In the ensuing investigation Henry was questioned and after denying that any wrongdoing had taken place changed his story and accused his two brothers of murdering the old man and throwing his body into the millpond. His story gave much detail on how he was drawn in to help with the disposal of the body into a millpond. There was certain evidence, including buggy tracks that seemed to support his allegations. The body was not found, even when the milldam had been partly demolished.

William, Archibald and Henry were arrested and held in custody for murder – the first two firmly denying the charge. Then a Dr Gilmore arrived in Springfield saying that Fisher was alive but unwell at his house. This statement however was doubted and Myers set off to Gilmore's home to check if Fisher was really there. Then two judges held a hearing at which Henry repeated his accusations under oath. Various others gave circumstantial evidence for the prosecution that seemed to support his story. Gilmore was called for the defence and gave evidence that he had known Fisher for years and that he had found him unwell at his house without any explanation. The 'audience' (presumably the jury) believed him, so the Trailors were set free. A few days later Myers returned bringing Fisher back alive with him.

'Much of the matter remains in mystery to this day' and Lincoln considers that 'it may well be doubted whether a stranger affair ever really occurred.' The parallels with the Campden Wonder<sup>iv</sup> are so marked that the reader's immediate reaction is to question whether Abraham Lincoln knew of that story and if so how?

The text of the pamphlet published in 1676 was included in a collection of documents published in 1745<sup>v</sup> and thus might well have been available to him in 1843. This was the version used by Sir George Clark in the volume<sup>vi</sup> he edited which also included more recently discovered evidence, which indicated that at least the main facts of this extraordinary tale were not completely fictional, as had been believed by many up to that time. The question then arises whether Lincoln used the basic story, changing certain details to fit in with the Illinois of his own day. His final comment 'it is a principle of law that a conviction for murder shall not be had, unless the body of the deceased be discovered, it is to be remembered that Henry testified that he saw Fisher's dead body' reminds us that Lincoln was a lawyer and that he could well have been intrigued by the legal aspects of the story.

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<sup>iii</sup> *100 Dastardly Little Detective Stories*, ed. Robert Weinberg, Stefan Dziemianowicz and Martin Greenberg, Sterling Publishing Co. New York, (2003).

<sup>ii</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 527-533.

<sup>iii</sup> Although born in Kentucky, Abraham Lincoln (1809-65) lived in Illinois from 1830; was a member of the legislature from 1834-42 and was married in Springfield, the state capital in 1842. He did not become the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States until 1861.

<sup>iv</sup> In the Campden Wonder a man disappears mysteriously, a son accuses his mother and brother of murder providing a great deal of circumstantial evidence and admitting that he assisted them in throwing the body into the mill-pond. Eventually the missing man returns but in this case the three suspects have already been found guilty and hanged.

<sup>v</sup> *The Harleian Miscellany*, iii (1745), pp. 519-26, referred to by Sir George Clark.

<sup>vi</sup> *The Campden Wonder*, ed. Sir George Clark, OUP (1959).