NOTES & QUERIES

Volume III; No. 2

Spring 2000

Price: £1.00p.
(Post free: £1.50p.)
(members: Free
(extra copies: 50p.)

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From *The Editor*

It is hoped that at first glance this issue appears to be laid out very much in the same way as earlier issues. However previous issues of *Notes & Queries* have been prepared using an Amstrad computer and *Locoscript.* This one is on a different computer using *Microsoft Word*. I have yet to find out how to get the latter software to do certain things I took for granted from the former! However I'm hoping that the general appearance isn't too different.

Once again the results of the current research project on fields and farms is in evidence. This time two contributions shed more light on farming in the 19th century. The second part of Allan Warmington's study based on the accounts of an actual farm is fascinating – and part 3 is scheduled for the next issue. The result of the problems faced by farm labourers trying to manage on the low pay is seen in Celia Jones's article on agricultural unrest. She includes a report of an occasion when, in the second half of the century, Joseph Arch, president of the Labourers' Union, came himself to speak in Campden. The historic elm tree opposite the end of Sheep Street was witness to this event.

In the same century a family dispute over a will led to a courtroom in London. Geoffrey Lane shares with us a rather sad episode in his family's history. The father of the protagonists was a well known plumber in the town – the Lanes appear in the *Churchwardens' Accounts* and the name is inscribed on lead from the church roof now displayed in the Muniment Room.

Editor: Jill Wilson; 14 Pear Tree Close, Chipping Campden, Glos., GL55 6DB

History Netted

The following list of websites may prove useful to those members, increasing in number, who have access to the internet. (Campden Library can help here.)

www.bbc.co.uk/history This is the BBC's new History website. It is intended to include information from TV & radio programmes, commissioned articles and museums, archives and libraries. At present it mainly covers UK history but it is planned to include wider interests as time goes by.

Family History, it seems, is the second most popular internet feature! However the following websites and addresses may also produce information of interest to local historians as well. After all a great many aspects of research involve finding out more about individual people in the past.

www.pro.gov.uk	The Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU; Tel:020 8876 3444.
www.pro.gov.uk/about/frc/default.htm	The Family Records Centre, 1 Myddelton Street, London, EC1R 1UW; Tel: 020 8392 5300, Certificate enquiries 0151471 4800 or [Textphone] 01514714530.
www.pro.gov.uk/genealogy/starthere.htm	The Family Records Centre's 'Quick Start on Genealogy' gives online information especially for beginners in either family history or doing it ion the internet.
www.rootsweb.com	Described as the internet's oldest genealogy site.
www.earl.org.uk/familia	This site lists family history resources in public libraries.
www.ffhs.org.uk	The Federation of Family History Societies, The Benson Room, Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham,B3 3BS; Tel: 070 41 492032.
http://www.cindislist.com	Run by Cyndi Howells in America is said to be one of the most famous family history sites and to have over 41,000 links to similar sites world-wide.
http://www.familysearch.org	The Church of Latter Day Saints (the Mormons) includes indexes & the IGI, and also has links to other family history websites.

The above is from an information leaflet – BBC History 200, issue one Jan 2000, and from *The Genealogical Services Directory*. This is a 360 page book, newly published, stuffed with valuable information, addresses and advice. It also includes feature articles. It is published by GR Specialist Information Services, 33 Nursery Road, York, YO26 6NN at £4.95; by post inc. p. & p. £7.
For further details – www.genealogical.co.uk

Agricultural Unrest in the 1870s

Celia Jones

'An Old Shepherd' reminiscing wrote in The Evesham Journal *in 1892 that just before 1870 farmers began buying pianos for their daughters and stud horses for their sons, "which opened the labourers' eyes." Then Joseph Arch sprang up and told his fellow-men to ask for a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, "which gave offence." So the farmer began discharging his men and the result was migration by the thousand.*

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the English villager was in a desperate plight. Enclosure had robbed him of the strip of land he farmed, of his share in the village common where he grazed his cow, and of turf from the village land which he used for his fire. At the same time the growth of factory production in the towns cut down the cottage industries at which the villager's wife and children worked. The labourer was therefore dependent on wages paid by the farmer. Low wages were supplemented out of poor relief, so in fact most labourers became paupers. The formation of trade unions by farm labourers led to swift oppression and the story of the Tolpuddle Martyrs, who were deported in 1834 for holding illegal meetings. A movement of protest swept England, and several years later, before the completion of their seven-year sentence, they returned to England.

However, there was still oppression for farm workers. The reform of the Poor Law in 1834 ended outdoor relief and all aid was only to be given in the workhouse. This left labourers in greater poverty than ever. The repeal of the Corn Laws (acts which had limited the import of corn and so kept up prices) made landlords put pressure on workers to sign petitions. The labourers showed that resistance in villages was not dead. In Barford, Warwickshire, Joseph Arch's father refused to sign such a petition and faced years of persecution.

Not until trade and industry brought a general rise in wages in the 1850s did labourers' conditions improve at all. Then wages rose very slowly. In the growing prosperity of the country the farm workers had little share. But things were to change gradually. The non-conformist chapels were the most powerful influence for independent action by the country poor. Their very establishment was often an act of rebellion, a voluntary association free of, and often in opposition to, the squire and parson. In the chapels the labourers learned self-respect, self-government and self-reliance. They learned to speak publicly, read, write, and lead their fellows.

Gradually there were movements to improve their lot. Through the 1870s labourers were beginning to combine. The countryside was ready for a trade union organisation. The story of the farm workers' first national trade union begins in Barford, where Joseph Arch, the son of the labourer and protester, Arch, was also a labourer. He had known a childhood of poverty and the rebellion of his father. A group of men asked Joseph Arch to lead them and he agreed to speak on 14 February at Wellesbourne. A week later an even larger meeting under the chestnut tree at Wellesbourne led to the formation of an agricultural union with demands for fairer wages and conditions.

Meanwhile in Campden the early 1870s were a time of much dissension, social between landowners, farmers, tradesmen on the one hand and labourers on the other; and religious between the established church and non-conformists. To complicate matters, the family of the earls of Gainsborough, had recently joined the Roman

Catholic Church, which was treated with suspicion particularly by non-conformists. There was a political divide too: the Anglican Church clergy and some farmers led the Conservative Party, whilst the Liberal leaders were nearly all non-conformists.

In June 1872 a meeting was held under the elm tree to form an agricultural union, and the local non-conformists supported this. Mr G. C. Smith, a leading Blockley Baptist, was voted to the chair and put the proposition, which was carried, that the meeting would support, in every possible manner, the interests of the union. The Rev. W. R. Irvine, Baptist minister in Campden, was also deeply involved in these political struggles. An old farm worker named Job Benfield was called upon and he complained about the lingering not living which he had been obliged to suffer.

A poorly attended second meeting was held in July, but then in September Joseph Arch himself came down to speak to a well-attended public meeting. The main speaker was met by a large group of people, headed by the Broadway brass band who marched in procession to the elm tree where a wagon was drawn up as an impromptu platform. *The Evesham Journal* reported that the speaker for more than two hours enlarged on the past and present grievances of he labourers, and denounced everyone except the peasant.

> 'His language seemed to suit the larger portion of the audience, but we venture to say that had he been really desirous of doing good between employed and employers he would have addressed them more in the spirit shown by Mr Arch. Mr Yeat's arguments were in our opinion calculated to sow dissension between men and masters and also to promote Republican sympathies.'

Obviously the establishment was beginning to fear the changes that might come. The Earl of Gainsborough took the rise of the union seriously and himself took the chair at the annual meeting in May 1873 of the Britannia Benefit Society (a friendly society that existed to help its members in time of illness or unemployment), for the first time since *The Evesham Journal* began reporting the meetings. The whole of the membership put in an appearance. The unionists wore blue rosettes in their hats and engaged their own band. After the usual parade through the streets the unions withdrew from the ranks and marched themselves to the strains of their own band.

At the following dinner there was trouble when the Earl of Gainsborough suggested that labourers should stop agitating, because if they asked the farmers would give them what they wanted. The labourers shouted out that they had tried that and the uproar was so great that that the Earl had to sit down. A toast was proposed to the Rev. Horace Noel, but before he could respond, a labourer got up and proposed the health of Joseph Arch and Henry Taylor, president and secretary to the Labourers' Union. These names were received with enthusiastic demonstrations. *The Evesham Journal* played down the agitation, putting 'uproar' in brackets after an account of the Earl's speech.

The following July three men disrupted a service being conducted by the Rev. Noel under the elm tree. They were subsequently convicted of being drunk and riotous and of using blasphemous language. A union meeting under the elm tree in September abused the clergy in strong language though the speeches concluded with what *The Evesham Journal* called 'sensible remarks' to encourage labourers to emigrate to Australia.

In the second half of the 1870s there was a move to restore good relations. The Campden Cottagers Horticultural society and show was formed in 1874 to help re-establish the good relations that once existed between the different classes. But this

process was overtaken by the agricultural depression that then set in. The harvest of 1875 was bad. In 1878 the crop failure was desperate, and there was very heavy snow. By 1879 Britain was acknowledged to be in an agricultural depression. The Britannia Society did its best to help members, many of whom had suffered from illness during the severe winters.

Campden survived however, and in 1882 a group of farmers met to establish a prize teg show with first and second prizes for any tenant farmer in England occupying no more than 500 acres of land and first and second prizes for farmers within four miles of Campden. Local self-awareness was developing and a returning stability in agriculture towards the end of the 1880s contributed to this.

The leader of a new generation of farmers was taking the initiative in the reassertion of local agriculture. This was Ulric Stanley. He argued for relevant education for farm workers to prevent what he saw as the brain drain from farming. In 1889 he helped to found the North Cotswold Farmers' Association, which he wanted to call the Agricultural Association so as not to exclude labourers. He was at least trying to respond to change and not resist it, and this was a hopeful sign.

Sources

Craig Fees, Doctoral Thesis on Chipping Campden (1988)
Reg. Groves, *Sharpen the Sickle*, Merlin Press (1981), first pub. Porcupine Press (1949)
Allan Warmington, Research on Baptists in Campden and Blockley

Query and Comment

Issue 6 of Volume I included, on page 74, a note giving the results of responses to request for information on a list of houses in the High Street bearing initials and dates. One of these was WHL, 1881, on a house then occupied by Treasures Antiques. Geoffrey Lane writes:-

"I feel I should belatedly query the references to my grandfather, the schoolmaster William Henry Lane (1854 – 1936). Harry Lane did not "come to Campden" after living in London. He was the son of Henry Warden Lane, born in Broadway of a thoroughly Campden family, and attended Campden Grammar School where he did well. He clearly wanted to break away from the old family trade by becoming a schoolmaster, and so went to London in his thirties to study with the Royal College of Preceptors (1888 – 91). Having obtained his ACP . . . he ran his own private boys' school, first at Long Eaton, Derbyshire, and later at Northampton House, Cheltenham. As far as I know he did not return to Campden until after 1891, although Peter Gordon tells me he bought Elm Tree House that year. He may He may have toyed with the idea of using it as a school; if so he abandoned the plan, and . . . sold the house to C.R.Ashbee in 1902. He apparently continued to own another Campden house [see above - with his initials etc] until 1922."

This raises several questions since he does not appear to have taught in Campden after his studies with the RCP. If he did at all it may have been before 1888 which suggests he was not the 'Hammer' Lane recorded as a local teacher.

Query

If you can contribute to solving this puzzle please reply in writing to the editor.

When did William Henry Lane acquire the house on the south side of the High Street that bears his initials? Was he then living elsewhere and was the house therefore an investment or a place to stay in the vacations? Was he also known as 'Hammer' Lane and if not who was? [035]

Review

Tim Jones

Jerrold Northrop Moore, *F.L.Griggs: The Architecture of Dreams,* O.U.P., (1999), published at £70 (but see note below).

Chipping Campden has been home both to a great designer, C.R.Ashbee, briefly, and to a great artist, Frederick Griggs, for most of his adult life. Jerrold Northrop Moore's biography of the latter has been long awaited and it does not disappoint. It will take its place in many a reader's library of essential Campden books.

While Campden gave a daily focus to Griggs's personal nostalgia for a mythic England of a medieval golden age, it also involved him in a passionate defence of everything that was old and beautiful. As Moore says, " . . . Griggs came to see the entire Campden district as his parish for preservation – if need be from the townspeople themselves." So, he helped to save St. James's church from absurd restoration in 1911, founded the Campden Society, helped secure Dover's Hill and the Coneygree for the National Trust and campaigned to have new electricity and telephone lines routed underground. He also designed local war memorials and inn signs, built with meticulous, even obsessive, attention to detail a magnificent house for himself (New Dover's House), and published a book of Campden etchings. Campden owes him much.

Yet, Grigg's life ended in tragedy: the 1929 fall in the etchings market snatched away most of his livelihood and plunged him into debt, so that he had to put his fine house up for sale, and he died at the early age of sixty-two.

He was a great artist, particularly in line, as the recent exhibitions at the Ashmolean and Fine Art Society reveal. Many of his best works are reproduced in this volume (though they look better in the more expensively produced but now rare Comstock collection, *A Gothic Vision* (1966).

Jerrold Moore has explored Grigg's life exhaustively and sympathetically. He looks closely – if to my taste sometimes fancifully – at the major drawings. It is hard to believe that his biography will be superseded for many years.

> *F.L.Griggs: the architecture of Dreams,* by Jerrold Northrop Moore is at present available at the Campden Bookshop at the special price of £55.

Work on a Local 19th Century Farm
Part 2

Allan Warmington

Most employment on Norton farm in1836 was by the day, but a proportion of the work done by fairly regular workers, including Joseph Butler and William Keeley, consists of specialist jobs done on piece work, or task work. There is no indication of the type of work done on day work. However the items of piece work recorded give some idea of the work of the farm, and of the costs of the work. The items recorded are given below. In October and November there are the post harvest tasks of Autumn:

		£	s	d
Oct 15	Setled with w. Smith for 2a 3r 5p of stubble baging at 2s & 3d per acre	6	2	
Oct 18	pd Tho Harris …... for 5sc of Fagiting at 6d		2	6
Oct 20	Setled with J. Eden & Co for 12a 3r 7p of Bresplowing at 7s per acre	4	9	6
Oct 20	pd J. Butler 4a 2r 7p of Stubble baging at 2s 3d		10	3
Nov 14	Setled with Thomas James for 7 square thaching and 1 quarter at 3s per square	1	1	9
Nov 15	Setled with isaac Serman for dung spreading in Atlepin		12	6
Do	Setled with isaac Serman for levveling 1 quar Bank		14	
Dec 3	Setled with Jos Butler for 4a 1r 14p of stubble Baging at 2s per acre		8	8

"Stubble baging" seems to be of some importance in the later months of the year. OED defines the verb "bag" and "bagging" as "to cut corn, beans or peas with a bagging or badging hook" and quotes from several nineteenth century sources describing methods of doing this. A bagging hook, or what was known in Campden as a fagging hook, is a large sickle. Stubble bagging was a way of cutting down the stubble left after reaping to near ground level before ploughing began. Could "Bresplowing" actually mean breast ploughing – of nearly 13 acres? A hard job indeed on heavy soil.

Then during the winter and early spring come the tasks of hedging, ditching, threshing, etc. with in March the setting (sowing) of beans. "Kids" are faggots of wood, which were cut, bundled and paid for by the score;

		£	s	d
Dec 17	pd Wm Tracy for 4 pigs Pounded			8
Do	Setled with Wm Keley for 22 perch of Hedge Cutting at 6d per perch		11	
Dec 31	pd Wm Keeley for 16sc of Fagitting at 6d per score		8	
Jan 9	Setled with Wm Wain & co for 200 and 34 Perch of Draining at 3 ½ d per perch	3	8	3
Feb 8	Pd Wm Smith for Thrasing of 40 bags of wheat at 1s per bag	2		
Mar 2	Pd John Restel for seting of 24 Bushells of Beans at 1s 7d pr Bushel	1	18	
Mar 3	Pd Richard Smith for seting of 30 Bushells and Half of Beans at 1s 7d per Bushell	2	8	3 ½
Mar 11	pd William Keeley for 13 pearch of hedgecutting At 6d per pearch		6	6
Mar 11	pd William Keeley for 8 ½ pearch of hedgecutting At 4d per pearch		2	10
Mar 11	pd William Keeley for 8 scoar of kids At 6d per scoar		4	
Apl 8	pd William Wain for 20 pearch of draining At 3 ½ d per pearch		5	10
Apl 12	Pd Richard smith for diging and loading gravil		19	

Apl 13	pd thomas James for 3 squar of thaching At 3s per squar		9	
Apl 23	pd Richard Smith for diging Gravel At 6d per yard – 9 yards		4	6
Apl 25	pd William Smith for thrashing 52 Bags And 2 Bushels of Wheat At 1s per bag	2	12	8
		£	s	d
May 6	pd William Keeley for 18 pearch of hedgecutting At 6d per pearch		9	
May 6	pd William Keeley for 9 scoar And 15 kids At 6d per scoar		4	10 ½

A "bag" of wheat is clearly three bushels. Reading some of these jobs, one is struck by the hardness of work in those days, as well as by the lowness of pay for it. In February William Smith thrashed by hand 120 bushels of wheat at 4d a bushel; and William Keeley cut over 70 yards of hedge for 6s 6d.

By May onwards, into July and August the cultivation of the crops is well under way, and hoeing is now paid for on piece work. (There seems to have been a double payment, or at least a double entry for the hoeing of wheat in Wilderness Piece on 12th and 15th July):

		£	s	d
May 17	pd Richard Smith And Joseph Butler for oving wheat in Attlepin At 2s 9d per acker 13A	1	15	9
May 17	pd Richard Smith And Joseph Butler for oving wheat in Barnets hill 8A 2R At 3s per Acker	1	5	6
May 27	pd Charles Wain for Hoving 10 acres of Beans At 4s per Acre	2		
Jun 12	pd Richard Blotheridge for oaving beans in the Long Ground		16	
Jun 15	pd John Lancit for hoaving 8A 2R of Wheat in Barnets Hill At 2s 8d per Acker	1	2	8
Jun 17	pd James Treacy and William Ray for hoving Wheat in Attlepin 13 a At 2s 6d per A	1	12	6
Jun 21	pd James treacy and William Ray for oaving beans in the Long Ground		8	
Jun 21	pd James Treacy for turning Mould		10	
Jun 24	pd Charles Wain for oving theches		4	6
Jul 1	pd William Smith for thrashing 51 bags and 2 Bushel At 1s per bag	2	11	8
Jul 12	pd Charles Wain for oaving 7ac of Wheat in the Wilderness Piece At 3s per Acker	1	1	
Jul 15	pd Charles Wain for hoving 7Ac of Wheat in the Wilderness Piece At 3s per Acker	1	1	
Aug 5	pd William Keeley for hoving oats 4 Ac 1r At 2s 8d per Acker		11	4

And by the middle of August the harvest began with the cutting of peas:

		£	s	d
Aug 5	Pd William Bleakman and henery Alcock for cutting peas At 5s 3d per Acker 2A 3R 30P		15	5
Aug 5	pd William Bleakman and henery Alcock for turning menuar		9	
Aug 5	pd Charles Wain And William keeley And Thomas Coopper for cuting 3A 3R 10P of Peas At 5s3d per Acker	1		
Aug 12	pd William Smith for oaving swedes in the Lower Roufground	4		

During September most of the work recorded is harvest work, paid for by the day at almost double the normal daily rate, and the only piece work noted is the threshing of 24 bags of wheat and for thatching 3 ricks.

So the expenses come to an end at the end of September. The total wage bill for the twelve months comes to approximately £195.

The money was obviously paid out by Charles Aston. How did he obtain the cash to pay for it? The answer is given on the specimen page shown in the earlier article. Most of it came from regular payments received from Mr Griffiths. (Mr J.R.Griffiths of Bedfont House, the Campden solicitor) who seems to have rented the land from the earl or from another landowner. His payments were usually in sums of £5 a time, occasionally only £1 or £2, paid as required. There was obviously a check kept on the accounts, and summaries are made in a different hand at the end of January1837 and again at the end of September, when it appears that a balance was due to Charles Aston of £9 14 7 ¼ d – seemingly a large sum for a man whose weekly wage was 13s 0d.

But apart from these allocations, quite a large proportion of the cash incomings came from sales of mutton, beef, wheat and skins and occasionally ewes, to local people, often the labourers themselves. Meat and wheat is bought in remarkably large quantities, and one wonders whether the labourers – and possibly Charles Aston himself – were not using their wages to buy meat to resell locally at a profit. For instance in December William Keeley bought 19lb of mutton at 2 ½ d a pound and the following month John Wakefield bought 20 lb of beef and Charles Aston "wayed to self" 23 lb of beef, both purchases at 3d a pound. Altogether during the year some 217 lb of mutton and nearly 60 lb of beef were sold from the farm. About 65 bushels of wheat and a further 38 bushels of "tailing" or inferior wheat were sold in quantities of up to six bushels (at about 6s 0d a bushel for wheat and 5s 0d or 5s 3d a bushel for tailing wheat) as are several scores of kids, thorns or thorn kids.

Throughout the year there are sales of lamb skins and sheep skins, the most frequent buyer being John Booker, who also bough several ewes, lambs, two weakly tegs and a ram. A John Booker is recorded in the 1841 and later censuses as a butcher living in Campden High Street, but one wonders why he bought lamb skins. Was he also a tanner or did he have outlet to a tanner elsewhere? There were at that time a considerable number of outworkers in the glove industry in the district. This could have provided an outlet for lambskins. There is also a sale of cherries in July to Joseph Mitchell, who was a confectioner in Campden High Street.

In the first part of this article, *Notes & Queries,* Vol. III, No.1, p.11, I stated that George Ray was only 10 years old in 1841. I am grateful to Mr Denis Granger for referring me to later censuses (1851 & 1861) which show he was in fact 15 in 1841, and therefore 10 or 11 in 1836 and 1837. This was a much more typical age for a small boy to have been working on a farm in those days, possibly as a ploughboy or bird scaring, or looking after animals.

A Note on Job Sermon

It is probable that the Isaac Sermon mentioned in the above article was a relative of another Chipping Campden labourer, Job Sermon. In August 1830, aged 20, at the Summer Assizes in Gloucester he was sentenced to be transported for life to Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania). He sailed on 24 October on the *Red Rover* together with Stephen Blakeman, also a labourer of Chipping Campden similarly sentenced at the same time. The latter may perhaps be of the same family as the William Bleakman mentioned above. Stephen is recorded as being aged 42 and formerly a soldier in the 63rd Regiment of Foot. As yet nothing is known of the crimes they of which they were accused. However the sentence of transportation was given for what today might be considered relatively minor offences.

A Note on Campden's Postal Services in the 19th Century

Jill Wilson

Trade Directories in the 19th century normally include information about postal services. The following summaries illustrate the development and expansion of such services in Chipping Campden during this period.

Pigot's Directory of Gloucestershire, 1844

POST OFFICE, Sarah Barnes Post Mistress.
Letters from Oxford and London arrive 8.30am daily.
Letters to Oxford and London despatched 6.50 pm daily.
Letters from Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and the North arrive 9 am daily
Letters to Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and the North despatched 3 pm daily.

The railway arrived in 1844 but the timing of the arrival and despatching of mail had not changed greatly by 1863.

Post Office Directory of Gloucestershire, 1863

Post Office, William Summerton postmaster.
Money orders 9 am to 6 pm.
Letters delivered 7.30 a, from the south.
Letters delivered 9 am from the north.
Letters despatched 3.20 pm
and 6 pm.

A Directory of 1876 however suggests that business had increased substantially by that date.

(Perhaps?) Gell & Bradshaw's Directory of Gloucestershire, 1876. (From a photocopy without title).

POST OFFICE AND POSTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE
Miss Emma Makepeace, Postmistress.
Letters from all parts delivered at 7.50 am. Box cleared for the North Mail at 5.10 pm, and for London and the south at 5.55 pm
Money orders issued and paid, and savings bank business transacted from 9 am until 5.40 pm; Saturdays until 8 pm.
Telegraph Office – Open from 8 am to 8 pm.
Letter Box, Broad Campden – Cleared at 4 pm on week-days only.

QUERY

If you can contribute to the answer to this query, please write to the editor.

An enquirer is seeking information about the parents of James Tracy/Tracey who married Elizabeth Averill in Campden on 4th November 1839. Their marriage certificate says that he was 'of full age' – that is over 21, and records that his father was 'dead.' They had eight children all born in Campden. The last of these was William Henry Tracy, born on 26th December 1856. James Tracy was buried in Campden on 23rd October 1886, aged 69. Can anyone add to this information please especially on earlier generations? [036]

Lane v Lane and Griffiths

Geoffrey Lane

The hearings: On 22 December 1827, two brothers from Campden faced each other in the Prerogative Court in London to settle a dispute over their widowed mother's wills. Caroline Lane had destroyed one, but three other wills remained. The most recent left all her property to the youngest of her four surviving sons, Henry, even though his elder brother Charles had stayed at home to help her with the business after her husband's death. But could her last will and testament be relied on, or was it the product of a sick mind? Here the judgement is handed down by Sir John Dodson, as reported in the next day's *Times*:

> At the time of her death [Caroline Lane] was possessed of personal property in the amount of some £500, and some real estate of the value of £250, subject to a mortgage of £200. Three wills had been laid before the Court; the first dated in 1851, which was admitted to be valid, unless revoked by a later instrument; the second dated 28 December 1854; and the third dated 13 October 1855, which was the one propounded by Henry Warden Lane. There was a fourth will of May 1854, but it was stated that the testatrix had destroyed it in her lifetime. . . .
> The question for the court to consider was whether the deceased, when she made the will of October 1855, was competent to dispose of her property. That will was opposed by Charles, on the ground that in April 1854, his mother had a convulsive fit, accompanied by paralysis, from the effects of which she never thoroughly recovered, but continued from that period to her death of unsound mind and incapable of doing anything requiring thought, judgement and discretion. He [Charles] alleged that the wills of May and December 1854 were made merely for the purpose of pacifying his mother, and therefore, although the will of 1854 gave him the entire property, he relied entirely upon the will of 1851.
> The learned judge went through the evidence adduced on either side, beginning with that of the medical men who had attended the deceased, one of whom was unable to say whether she sufficiently recovered her first attack to be capable of making a will, while another said that after the first attack she was perfectly rational, but in his opinion she must have been incompetent to make a will after the second attack.
> The managing clerk to the solicitor who had drawn up the will of October 1855 [stated] that the deceased told him that her son Charles had used her so badly that she wished to alter her will in favour of Henry. He added that Charles had never advised him that the deceased was of unsound mind, or that the wills of 1854 were executed merely to pacify her. Mr. Griffiths, the solicitor . . . . and another witness . . . . gave similar evidence. . . . Under all the circumstances he should pronounce for the will.

So Henry won his case. Charles had to pay £30 costs and move his wife and children out of the family home – a house almost midway between the Noel Arms and the Red Lion provisionally identified as Grafton House. (Their name lives on in Lane's Yard, behind the houses thereabouts). Henry, who had been plumbing and glazing in Broadway, returned to Campden with his family and took over.

Though descended from Henry, I can't help thinking that Charles had a raw deal. Many people will know from experience how irrational and vindictive some stroke patients can be towards those trying to care for them. The legal issue of competence can never be easy to decide, but I suspect a modern judge might not have dismissed the medical evidence quite so easily. (The mere fact that Caroline had two doctors might have aroused his suspicions).

The two brothers continued to ply their trade in the town, but it's not known whether they came to an amicable agreement, or even made up their quarrel. For a time Charles lived at West End Terrace, near the Volunteer Inn. Later he settled further

along the High Street, about midway between the Lygon Arms and the Swan Inn – perhaps in one of the pair of bow-windowed, stucco houses. He eventually retired to Broad Campden, where he died in 1887. Henry stayed put, and died in 1883. A cutting from *The Times* was found amongst his personal effects.

The background: Charles and Henry – last in a long line of Campden plumbers and glaziers – were the second and fourth sons of the family, and unusually, it was the youngest who inherited. How this came about is still not entirely clear. Their father William Lane (1788 – 1842) married a local girl, Caroline Hows, in 1813, and over the next ten years, they had four boys who survived into adulthood, James Scott (1814), Charles (1816), William (1820), and Henry Warden (1822). Clearly the family had a surplus of young men. Some would have to take their trade elsewhere, or adopt a different occupation. But similar difficulties had been resolved before – when William's father died, he urged his eldest sons to take up his stock in trade and working tools jointly, "or if not then either to take the same alone." The sons do seem to have come to an amicable arrangement: William's brother Richard, who lived in Woolstapler's Hall, did some glazing work, but branched out as a painter, with a sideline in monumental masonry; two younger brothers went their separate ways, John as a carpenter in Campden, James Stephen first as a plumber/glazier in Moreton and later landlord of The Bell at Blockley.

It appears a similar arrangement began to happen this time – by 1841 the younger boys, William and Henry, had left home, leaving James and Charles working with their father (the Churchwardens' Accounts include bills from J & C Lane.) James was married by this time and his wife was also living at the house when the 1841 census was taken. But the following winter William died, still in his early fifties. James, as eldest son, should have been next in line, but within months he had left home: by 1843 he was plumbing and glazing at Alderminster and in 1846 he was in Preston-on-Stour. His wife Sarah later returned to Campden with two children, gave birth to a third, and by 1851 had taken up work as a laundress. There is no further sign of James – what kept him away from Campden is a mystery (the censuses show Sarah as a widow in 1861 but still a married woman in 1851).

The third brother, William turns up in the 1851 census as landlord of an unnamed pub in Blockley and then is also lost to view. *The Times* report indicates that James and William were both alive in 1857, though not parties to the action. Henry, as we have seen, was pursuing the family trade in Broadway.

It was the second son, Charles, who stayed at home in Campden, dutifully running the plumbing and glazing business with his mother up to her death in October 1855, and with every prospect of taking over thereafter. So what went wrong? One possible clue is that Charles's problems with his mother began soon after his marriage (about 1853). Ten years earlier, James seems to have left home shortly after he got married. So was Caroline a difficult and possessive mother even before illness affected her judgement? Against that, there must have been strong bonds of affection – James, Charles and William all called their first-born daughters Caroline. Only Henry did not adopt his mother's name for either of his girls.

Sources: *The Times* (23.12.1857); *The General Accounts of the Churchwardens of Chipping Campden* (Campden Record Series, 1992); Census Returns 1841 – 81.