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Contents

		Page
Letters to the Editor		2
Percy Charles Rushen (1874-1962): An Appreciation	Donald Holdsworth	5
In Search of the Mickleton Bennetts	Derek Bull	8
William Henry Baker: Pillar of Society to Bankrupt	Vanessa Doe	10

From The Editor

Another milestone is reached with this first issue of a Volume VII of Notes & Queries - six complete volumes since the first issue was launched in Autumn 1993. In this number Donald Holdsworth, a past CADHAS chairman, brings to your attention Percy Rushen and his important *History and Antiquities of Chipping Campden*, the second revised edition, which printed one hundred years ago in 1911 and which is still Campden's major history research source. Further interesting information has been received following researches into Miles Smith, Bishop of Gloucester, and also about Harriet Tarver, the Campden Poisoner. Not being a scientist, I found the medical detail in the latter very interesting, but do not read this if you are at all squeamish! The two articles from Derek Bull and Vanessa Doe are direct results of contacts made through the Archive Room. Thank you all for sending your various researches and queries and I look forward to your further articles for future Notes & Queries.

Letters to the Editor

In June I received a summary of all the information which **Diana Evans** has gleaned following her query in N&Q Vol. V No. 3, Autumn 2006. She writes:

‘**Miles Smith (1554-1624) was Bishop of Gloucester** from 1612 and one of the Oxford Group of translators of the King James Bible of 1611. He was also on the revision committee and wrote the beautifully-worded Preface. Probably in recognition of this work Miles Smith was appointed Bishop of Gloucester in 1612. You may recall that my interest in Miles Smith had been aroused by a book by Adam Nicolson, now called *'Power and Glory'* in its revised version, in which a picture of Miles Smith from Christ Church Oxford was shown under which it stated he 'famously walked out of one sermon which bored him to go to the pub'. Later in the text he stated this occurred in Chipping Campden.

Extensive research to authenticate this story involving many archivists, the author himself (who could not 'lay his hands' on his source) and Canon John Tiller, the author of the entry on Miles Smith in the Dictionary of National Biography, came to nought. There the matter rested.

In December 2010 I was contacted again by Canon Tiller. He is the retired Canon Librarian of Hereford Cathedral and was to give a lecture at the cathedral in January this year marking the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible and would be giving considerable attention to Miles Smith as a principal translator who had lifelong connections with Hereford Cathedral. He hoped that I had had success with the researches, as the anecdote could spice up his lecture! Canon Tiller was also in touch with Gloucester Cathedral over his lecture and in March this year George Marchant, a guide at the cathedral, had a breakthrough in finding a document in the Gloucestershire Archives (ref. GDR 115 Page 543) about an episcopal Visitation to Chipping Campden by Miles Smith in 1619 which states:

‘Mr Lilly preached and made a long sermon so that My Lord Bishop went to the inn as soon as sermon was ended and did not sit there'. It seems that he did not remain for the rest of the service or to transact the diocesan business such as taking the churchwardens' oaths, leaving his officials to conclude the business of the Visitation. Eureka! Presumably the Inn was the current Eight Bells. Everyone approached has entered into the fun of the chase with great spirit, so it is good to have a result of our researches after so much time and involving so many.

In January 2011 following N&Q Vol. VI No. 4 Spring 2010 which contained ‘**The Campden Poisoner**’ poem and story of **Harriet Tarver**. She was Harriet Tracey, born in 1815 in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, the daughter of William and Sarah Tracey, and she married Thomas Tarver there on 29th January 1834.

CADHAS member **Sue Allitt** alerted me to an article entitled ‘**Deadly Rice Pudding**’, on website: www.lewcock.net/index.php, written by Dead Rellies, from which I have extracted the key information and quote:

The inquest into the death after a very brief illness on 11th Dec. of Thomas Tarver, an inhabitant of Chipping Campden on 15th Dec. before Mr J. Cooke, coroner, was adjourned until 21st Dec. to obtain a more satisfactory analysis of the contents of the stomach of the deceased, who was supposed to have died of poison. On this occasion, the presence of arsenic in the deceased's stomach

was proved and following the evidence of several witnesses it was also proved that Harriet Tarver, wife of the deceased, had recently purchased two separate parcels of arsenic. No adequate motive for murder was shown, but, as some suspicious circumstances were adduced, the jury, after a long deliberation returned a verdict of 'wilful murder' against Harriet Tarver, who was then committed for trial. This was reported in the Gloucester Herald and on 31st December 1835 in The Times.

The Times of 12th April 1836 reported on the Spring assizes of the Oxford Circuit, which sat at Gloucester on Friday April 8th 1836:

"Harriet Tarver, a woman of very unprepossessing appearance, was charged with the wilful murder of her husband, Thomas Tarver, by poisoning him with arsenic on the 11th of last December. Mr Alexander and Mr Cripps conducted the prosecution, Mr Watson the defence. On Friday 11th December, the deceased went to his place of work between 4 and 5 in the morning at the Noel Arms in Campden. By 10 minutes afterwards he became sick and continued to get worse till 2 o'clock the same day, when he died. He complained of a great heat in the stomach and vomited much. About a week before the prisoner bought some arsenic at a shop in Campden and when two witnesses, who proved the fact, were examined before the coroner, she denied she had done so. She said on several occasions after his death that she hoped to God nothing would be found in her husband when he was opened. She had bought some rice pudding on the Wednesday before and she stated that she gave him some before he went out on the morning of his death. A man of the name of Holland had given the deceased two pills made of scorched wood-laurel, nitre and flour, on the Wednesday before, but he was quite well on the Thursday."

The report then went into great detail of how Thomas Tarver's stomach and its contents were tested for the presence of arsenic. Mr Hiron, a surgeon, opened the body and took out the stomach, which he found to contain half a pint of dark-coloured fluid, which he put in three phials, and took together with the stomach to Dr. Thomson of Stratford upon Avon.

Dr. Thomson said:

"I am accustomed to making experiments to ascertain the presence of poison. Mr Hiron brought me three phials and a galley-pot containing the stomach. The phials contained fluid. The outer surface of the stomach was a reddish pink colour. It was of a redder colour than it generally is; the inner surface was very red indeed, very much redder than in its ordinary state. There was a patch of a deep mulberry colour, three inches in diameter at the lower or pyloric extremity of the stomach. The internal surface was covered with a bloody gray mucus. I never saw a stomach at all like it from natural causes. I scraped off the mucus in several parts; that did not alter the colour of the membrane, which was not dependant of the mucus. The lining of the stomach was thicker, but not softer than usual. The minute vessels in several parts were highly injected with blood and turgid. I have seen appearances of that kind in two other cases, where the death arose from arsenic. The colour of the fluid in two of the bottles was a bloody red and opaque, and there was a deposit of gray mucus at the bottom of them. The other was of a bloody red colour, but transparent, having been filtered. I began my experiments with the filtered. I applied ammoniaco sulphate of copper and ammoniaco nitrate of silver; those are improvements on the nitrate of silver and sulphate of copper. The precipitate produced by the nitrate of silver was of a sulphur yellow colour and a good deal masked by the deep colour of

the fluid. The precipitate obtained by the sulphate of copper was of a greenish colour and also masked. Those are characteristics of arsenic being in the fluid. Those tests are trial tests. I tried the same tests with a small portion of the mucus scraped off the stomach and the results were very similar. I examined the stomach very carefully. I clipped it up into small pieces and put them into a glass flask and boiled them for nearly three quarters of an hour. I then filtered it through gauze and afterwards through paper, so to separate all the solid and fat portions from the fluid. The colour of the fluid was a light sherry wine colour, I applied the same tests to it, Ammoniaco nitrate of silver threw down a yellowish precipitate, which became brownish on exposure from some time to the air. That was characteristic of arsenic. That precipitate is called arsenite of silver. Ammoniaco sulphate of copper produced a precipitate between grass and apple green colour. That also denotes the presence of arsenic. That is called arsenite of copper. I then applied acetic acid, with a view of throwing down any animal matter which remained. I then passed a stream of sulphuretted hydrogen through about two ounces of it. That produced a sulphur yellow colour precipitate in great abundance, indicating the presence of a very great portion of arsenic that is sulphuret of arsenic, and is called orpiment. I separated the sulphuret from the fluid by filtering it, and then I dried it, with a view to bring it to its metallic state, by sublimating it. I mixed a portion of it with black flux, and put it into a small glass tube and applied a spirit lamp to it, and there was formed a metallic crust of arsenic on the inside. There is no other known metal which can be produced in the same manner. The metallic crust was then oxidated by chasing it up and down the tube with the spirit lamp flame. I cut off the portion of the tube containing the oxide, broke it into pieces, put into a larger tube and boiled it in distilled water for about 10 minutes, till the whole oxide was dissolved, so that I had brought it to a fluid state. I filtered it from the glass and applied the three tests as before. The precipitates obtained were the characteristic precipitates indicating the presence of arsenic. I continued my experiments on a larger scale, with the same results.”

Dr Thomson then produced a small glass tube containing the oxide and metallic crust, another tube containing oxide and a third containing a very distinct specimen of metallic crust.

“From the stomach and fluid I obtained 49.5 grains of sulphate of arsenic which is equal to about 27 or 28 grains of arsenic. The stomach was afterwards completely dissolved by boiling it in nitric acid, and a considerable portion of arsenic was discovered in it. If a person had vomited much he would have thrown up a large portion of what he had taken. I have not the slightest doubt that he died from arsenic. There is an instance of 30 grains having produced death. No other tests are to be depended upon besides those I used. When they concur they are considered unerring tests. They proceed upon the fixed qualities of certain bodies and fluids. Some tests formerly relied upon are now exploded. The smell of garlic is one, which is now not depended upon. I have never seen a case where scorched wood-laurel leaves have been taken. It is but little noticed in medical works. It is said to be an acrid poison. I think they would operate in the course of 10 or 12 hours at the furthest. I think, as the deceased was well the day after he took them, they had no injurious effect upon him”.

Mr Justice Williams summed up the case with the greatest accuracy, and after deliberating for an hour the jury returned a verdict of Guilty. The learned judge immediately passed the awful sentence upon her in a most impressive manner, and ordered her to be executed on Saturday. It appears that on her arrival at the gaol she confessed that she administered arsenic to her husband in rice pudding.

On Saturday 9th April 1836 at Gloucester Gaol, Harriet Tarver of Chipping Campden aged 21 years was the youngest woman to be hanged in Gloucestershire during the 19th century.

Percy Charles Rushen (1874-1962): An Appreciation

Donald Holdsworth

This year marks the centenary of the publication of Percy Rushen's enlarged *History and Antiquities of Chipping Campden*¹ and it is appropriate to consider this remarkable achievement and what is known of his life².

Basically he was "a hunter- gatherer" and accumulated a large amount of information on Chipping Campden, which he systematically arranged into a coherent collection. The first edition, in fact the first book entirely devoted to the historical development of Chipping Campden, was published privately in 1899³. The book was designed in such a way that each chapter could be expanded as time went on with the addition new factual information; however, it does lack an index. His information was obtained locally from The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Gainsborough, Rev. Thomas Carrington (Vicar of Campden from 1896-1909), K .H. Carrington, J. R. Neve, J. Hulls, R. Haydon, W. H. Griffiths, J. Plested and Mrs Richardson Senior, as well as his own personal researches.

Percy Charles was born in 1874 in Kilburn, Middlesex, the younger son of Edward and Martha Rushen, who had married in London in 1857. He came to know Campden as a young boy, when he stayed (with some of his siblings) for his holidays with his mother's sister, Rebecca Richardson and her husband Joseph, at their bakery in Market Square⁴. He tells us in the preface of his 1899 book, that 'he formed a deep love for and great goodwill towards the town, the outcome of many happy times being spent there'. He was only 24 years of age when he completed and published the first edition, quite an accomplishment considering that he was studying to become a patent attorney and was working in London as a Patent Agent's clerk. Originally he intended to finance the book by subscribers, but he was unable to obtain sufficient support and consequently sold it to the general public for five shillings and six pence, post free. He expressed the view that 'there will certainly be an out-of-pocket loss' in a letter to a purchaser⁵.

The new edition¹ of 1911 contained a large amount of new material, obtained from local people and his own researches. It was based on articles printed in the Evesham Journal between 1909 and 1910; this material was reprinted in the book with two narrow columns per page in newspaper style. It also had a general index and more specifically an index of people and of places. The book is not very easy to read, the type being quite small⁶. The number of photographs was increased to 21 and these are of good quality. The book, however, has no preface, but contains many personal comments on the attractiveness of Campden and its Cotswold stone buildings, which are interspaced with historical detail in most sections. The book has been (and is still) of immense value to local historians in Campden and district. It is perhaps unfortunate that the various sections have not been kept up-to-date, especially regarding the administration of the town and also the officers of the church administration before the local authority came into being. It is interesting to note that the second edition was adequate for the needs of local historians, until the succeeding history of Campden was published in 1958 by Christopher Whitfield, which was in a much more readable style⁷.

Before the publication of the monumental history in 1911, he also published a guide book to Campden and Neighbourhood in 1904, which contained information by his older brother William Naunton Rushen on the flora of Campden and district⁸. He was

always concerned with promoting Campden to tourists and the guide book was written for them. Connected with his professional work as a Patent Agent he did considerable detailed work on patents which resulted in several monographs.⁹⁻¹² In particular one on Patented Inventions, which is particularly interesting to local historians, deals with patents obtained by people in the surrounding counties, viz., Gloucester, Worcester, Warwick and Oxford⁹. Of significant interest to Campden is the patent of 1736 for using steam power to propel ships by Jonathan Hulls, a local man¹⁰. This book is printed in the same newspaper style of double columns as his History of Campden 1911 and is quite difficult to read; however, it contains a vast amount of useful information for industrial archæologists.

It is interesting to note that all the books and articles noted here were published before 1916, when he was actively studying to become a patent attorney. He successfully qualified in 1902 and was entered on the Register of Patent Attorneys in 1907. In 1908 he was elected a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents. From 1921 he worked for the firm Hesletine Lake & Co., London WC2 and continued until 1933 when he ceased to be a patent attorney. For most of this time he lived in London near to the Patent Office. He continued his genealogical work in London, becoming a Fellow of the Society of Genealogists in 1928. Little is known of this work, because during the early part of war the house he was living in was bombed and sadly he lost most of his work; only the work that already had been published survived^{13, 14}. He left London after that and went to live in Charlbury, Oxon. with one of his sisters, where he resided until his sudden death in 1962 aged 87. His will^{15, 16} was proved in October of that year.

Some insight into his character can be obtained by examining his professional career in dealing with patent applications. This is a daunting occupation requiring extensive and meticulous search in the Patents Office in order to prove the originality of a submitted patent application. It also requires insight into the nature of an invention and consulting appropriate technical witnesses. Moreover a considerable legal background is required, of which he was reported to have a considerable expertise on the legal aspects of leasehold and copyhold tenure. He had therefore a deep penetrating mind which was capable of searching different types of literature. In fact, he was ideally situated, working in Chancery Lane, to search for information on Campden in the Public Record Office, where his elder brother worked.

He seems to have taken a great interest in local affairs in Campden, some reported in the *Evesham Journal*. As early as 1910 he purchased some of the Fee Farm rents, also known as the Chief Rents of Campden, from Mrs Ellen Griffiths, the widow of William Higford Griffiths for £130¹⁷. In July 1924 he purchased Pike Cottage [*Ed. and Gainsborough Terrace?*] in Chipping Campden¹⁸, this was probably a holiday cottage for himself and some of his nephews and nieces. The only snippet of local information reported is that he was 'a little old man with little steel-rimmed spectacles who always wore a morning coat and a top hat'¹⁹.

In his will he left certain books and a legacy to the Society of Genealogists; however, in the 1980s Blackwell's *Antiquarian Book Catalogue* had his personal copies of the first and second editions of Campden History for sale. These were described as being annotated and intended for future revisions. The author was unsuccessful in purchasing them and their present location is not known, despite much enquiry. If anybody is aware of their present owner, the author or CADHAS would be very

interested to have further information. Likewise any additional information or comments about Rushen would be welcomed.

References and Notes

1. Rushen, Percy C. *The History and Antiquities of Chipping Campden in the County of Gloucester*. Published by the Author at 10, Warwick Court, High Holborn, London, 1911. (300 copies). This was printed by Harvey & Healing, Manchester Street, Cheltenham. Olive-green cloth hard-back cover, Crown Quarto 7½×10 inches.
2. A short biographical note is given in Holdsworth, D. (Compiler), *Chipping Campden Fact File*, p. 32, published by CADHAS, 2009 to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Society.
3. Rushen, Percy C. *The History and Antiquities of Chipping Campden in the County of Gloucester* pp. iv + 163, 12 prints of photographs taken by Mr Jesse Taylor, Published by the Author and printed by George Booth, Church Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk. 1899 Brown cloth hard-back Demy Octavo 5½×8¾ inches. 160 copies. This book has been reprinted as a soft-back book published by General Books, USA 2010.
4. Percy Rushen's father Edward James (b. 1835, Hackney, Mdx.) was in the timber trade; the family originally came from Tolleshunt, Essex. In 1859 he married Martha Naunton (b. 1835, Woodbridge, Suffolk) in Marylebone; her parents were William Naunton and Rebecca Johnson. The latter's mother Rebecca Johnson (b. 1794) was the daughter of Isaac Johnson of Woodbridge (1754-1835), a topographical artist of considerable eminence and also a land surveyor and map designer (see article by J.M Blatchly - *Oxford DNB*). Percy dedicated the book to his uncle and aunt, Joseph and Rebecca Richardson. His uncle was born in Campden and went to Mile End Old Town, London, where he was a shop keeper and where he married Rebecca Naunton (b. 1827), an older sister of the Martha Naunton (b. 1835), previously mentioned. The Richardsons had returned to Campden by 1881, where he was a baker and mealman, living in the High Street.
5. Copy of letter to J. Sheldon, Esq., 'Sheen', Ashbourne from P.C. Rushen living at 12 Fentiman Road 19 June 1899. CADHAS Archive.
6. Because of the value of this book to local historians the author is typing the whole volume using Microsoft Word[®] with added notes. A CD will be donated to the CADHAS Archives in due course.
7. Whitfield, C. *A History of Chipping Campden and Captain Dover's Olympic Games*. Shakespeare Head Press, Eton, Windsor: 1958
8. Rushen, P.C. (editor) *Handbook to Chipping Campden and its Neighbourhood* printed by George Booth, Church Street, Woodbridge pp. 38 n.d. [1904]
9. Rushen, Percy C. *Old Time Invention in the Four Shires – Gloucester, Worcester, Warwick and Oxford*. Published by W. H. Smith and Co., Evesham Journal, Worcestershire n.d [1916]
The contents of this book are discussed in the following articles, both of which include some genealogical information of the Rushen family: H. S. Torrens *A Forgotten Book on Early Gloucestershire Patent History*, *Glos. Soc. Ind. Archaeology*, 17-23, 1983, and by the same author *Early Warwickshire Patent History*, *Warwickshire History* VI No.1, 10-20, 1964.
See notes on Jonathan Hulls in Rushen, P.C., *History and Antiquities of Chipping Campden*, London, 1911 p.73-80, and in Holdsworth, D. (Compiler), *Chipping Campden Fact File*, p. 28, published by CADHAS, 2009
10. Rushen, Percy C, *A Critical Study of the form of Letters Patent for Inventions*.pp.124. 1908
11. Rushen, Percy C. *The Genealogist's Legal Dictionary*. 1909
12. Rushen, Percy. C. *The Records of Patented Inventions*. in Quarter Sessions etc.....pub. Chas. B. Bernau, Walton-on-Thames, 1909
13. Rushen, Percy C. *The Churchyard Inscriptions of the City of London* 1910 (50 copies)
14. Rushen, Percy C. *Transcripts of Parish Register of Letheringham, Suffolk* 1901 (50 copies)
15. Anon. *Obituary Notice: Percy Charles Rushen [1875-1962]*, *Genealogist's Magazine*, p.4, December 1962
16. The Will of Percy Charles Rushen accompanies the Probate document of 22nd October 1962 in which it was reported that his estate amounted to about £30,000. It contains interesting genealogical information citing his cousin William Johnson Naunton of Woodbridge, Suffolk and his son Dr. William Johnson Smith Naunton, a noted rubber chemist, another cousin William Albert Rushen, his nephew John Naunton Rushen and his niece Evelyn Edith Worester; the latter were the children of his elder brother William Naunton Rushen.
17. The Conveyance lists a number of properties, which included Ivy House, Montrose, Poppetts, The Old Eight Bells, Littleworth Orchard and The Rose and Crown House. Details of the ownership of these properties is also given. Shakespeare Centre Library & Archives, Stratford-upon-Avon, DR 1147/18-20.

18. The Deeds of Pike Cottage, CADHAS Archives 2003/176/DT
19. Warmington Alan. (editor) *Campden: A New History*, p. 217, pub. CADHAS 2005

Acknowledgements

I am greatly indebted to the Society of Genealogists, The Intellectual Property Office formerly The Patent Office, and The Chartered Institute of Patent Agents, for information from their records and also to Olivia Amphett for material from the CADHAS Archives and Carol Jackson for helpful suggestions and editing.

In Search of the Mickleton Bennetts

Derek Bull

Over the last few years the Archive Room has received at least five queries relating to Bennett family research and we have been able to link lost relatives to other family members and their roots. This article comes from a 2010 query and adds further knowledge. Again it is well timed, since the recent CADHAS publication, 'Campden Characters', was generously sponsored by the late Nancy Smith, a 3 x gr.grand-daughter of John Bennett, b. 1745.

I have been a garden guide at Hidcote Manor Garden for seven years now and was delighted to find an ancestor of mine had been a gardener there in the 1920s. During research into my great-grandmother's Bennett family from Mickleton, I have discovered that there have been Bennetts in the area for at least three hundred years and the family has populated parts of the North Cotswolds and West Warwickshire ever since. Indeed today, there are Estate Agents, Wine Merchants, Road Hauliers, Butchers and Bakers that are all descendants from that line. Following emigration in the nineteenth century there are now also descendants of John and Susannah Bennett in USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Parish records from Quinton in the late sixteenth century indicate that Thomas Bennett was married to Anne Bowker. Their descendants never moving far afield are recorded as living at Admington and then Mickleton. John Bennett was born in Mickleton in 1745 and married Susannah Hornby from Welford-on-Avon in 1777; they had two children, John¹ and Abel². John¹, born in 1777, married Mary Porter from Mickleton in 1804 and they had five children, Mary, George, Hannah, Charles Porter³ and Stephen. Charles Porter³ emigrated to USA and married Polly B. Child from Ulster County, New York in 1837 and he died in Oakland, Michigan in 1879. *[Ed. Hannah (the daughter of John¹) wrote many letters to her brother Charles Porter Bennett after he emigrated to America in 1830. He and his descendants kept these letters which have recently been donated to CADHAS Archives along with a book containing transcriptions and further information on the American family. Research is currently being done on these papers by the CADHAS Archivist.]*

Abel², born in 1780, married Sarah Brown from Mickleton in 1806 and they had seven children, Job, John⁴, Samuel, Thomas, William, Joseph and Abel⁵. William, born in 1814, married Susannah Butler from Chipping Campden in 1837 and they had one child, George, born in 1839 who married Diane Savage from Broadway in 1858. From this marriage there were nine children, William, Abel, Esther, Thomas, Charles, Sarah, Henry, George and Amelia Susan. In the 1881 census, George aged 40 was a roadman and Diana aged 42 was a Milliner and Dressmaker. The youngest, Amelia

Susan, born in 1877, (see below) married Charles Harding and the eldest of their eight



children was Ethel Maude (my maternal grandmother). Their family home was in one of the tiny cottages opposite the current butcher's shop in Mickleton. Before the First World War, my grandmother delivered newspapers during her school lunch break to Major Lawrence Johnston at Hidcote Manor. Ethel Maude married Wilfred Victor Sivyour from Evenlode at Chastleton in 1923 and they had two daughters, Emily and Frances (my mother).

Abel⁵ born in 1819, married first Harriet Tandy from Studley in 1846, but she died of TB in 1850; he then married her sister Lydia Tandy from Studley in 1852. They had eleven children, Susanna, William⁶, Harriet, Reuben, Albert, George, Lydia, Sarah, John, Thomas and Mabel. William⁶, born in 1854, emigrated to New Zealand and married Rose Humphrey from Otago in 1889.

During research into my family tree, I have met Linda Phelpstead [*Ed. CADHAS Archivist*] from Mickleton,

who is also a descendant of Abel² Bennett through his son John³ and her grand-father, Jack Bennett, was a gardener at Hidcote Manor during the 1920s. He lived at Admington and finally became a gardener for Mr B. M. Chandler at Hidcote House, Hidcote Boyce in 1925. A letter written to Jack Bennett, states that a cottage with electricity and a position with a salary of 36/- (£1.80) a week would be available and that Major Johnston could now be informed. Linda remembers Hidcote - *“playing in the gardens, avoiding the gardeners of course, with my best friend at school, Vivienne Handy, and two friends from Hidcote, Sandra & Linda Batchelor. They also went to Mickleton School. I would have been ten or eleven at the time circa 1960/61. I simply remember it as being totally unlike anywhere else I'd been.”*

Yet another line of the Bennett family was living in Hidcote Bartrim from 1905 until the 1970s - George and Annie Bennett. They had five children, Leonard, Walter, Alice & Ralph (one child sadly died). Walter married Lydia Wilkins in 1925 and was also a gardener at the Manor until his retirement in the 1970s. Their daughter May lives in Newbold-on-Stour.

I am indebted to Linda Phelpstead and Carol Chamberlain (both descendants of Abel²'s son John³ who married Asenath James from Chipping Campden in 1837) for their very kind help in explaining the widespread Bennett family tree. [*Ed. It is from this marriage of John³ and Asenath and their six sons – Abel, Enoch, Henry, Thomas, Joseph and Joseph Edward – that most of the Campden Bennetts descend - the Baker/Wine Merchant Bennetts, the Builder Bennetts, the late Nancy Smith, née Bennett and others.*]

William Henry Baker: Pillar of Society to Bankrupt

Vanessa Doe

Vanessa Doe, a retired Local History lecturer living in Rutland, is researching the life and times of Richard Westbrook Baker, the Agent on the Rutland estates of the Noel family from 1828 to his death in 1861 and in May 2011 she asked about William Henry Baker, who lived in Westington for a period. Some of the information has been obtained from Leicester Records which is shortly to re-start the cataloguing of the Exton Mss and she thanks Linda Phelpstead, CADHAS Archivist, and Robert Ovens, of Rutland, for their research help too.

William Henry Baker was born in Cottesmore, Rutland on 16th August 1832ⁱ and was baptised on February 1st 1833ⁱⁱ. His parents, Richard Westbrook Baker (1797-1861), the Land Agent on the Noel estates in Rutland, and Ann Hind-Brown of Melton Mowbray were married on 6th December 1820ⁱⁱⁱ and lived for a time in Market Overton, Rutland where their first children were born: Ann Caroline baptised on April 6th 1823 and Richard baptised on April 24th 1825^{iv}. In 1828 when Richard Westbrook Baker was appointed Agent to Sir Gerard Noel on the retirement of a Mr. Dollin, the family moved to a farm at the east end of Cottesmore village, which had a good house (to which the new estate office was later attached) with outbuildings and land which adjoined that of Hall Farm, Exton, also rented by Richard Westbrook Baker from the Exton estate. By 1851 Richard, in addition to all his duties on the estate, was farming 250 acres directly with the help of 13 men^v. William's elder sister, Sarah, born in Cottesmore and baptised in 1831, was the only child at home on the 1851 census night; their elder brother Richard had died aged 8 in October 1833 in the smallpox epidemic in Oakham^{vi} and Ann Caroline by this time had married John Startin, an East India Company agent, and moved away. The younger brother Edward George, baptised in Cottesmore in 1835, now aged 15 and William Henry Baker, aged 17, were in Rugby on census night, living with other scholars and pupils from Rugby school. This has been confirmed by reference to the Rugby School Register which shows William Henry Baker was admitted as a pupil in the school in August 1846 and his younger brother Edward George was admitted three years later in August 1849. In October 1854, Sarah married Charles Ransome, son of Robert Ransome of Ipswich, manufacturers of agricultural machinery including the Rutland plough. [Ed. See also *N&Q Vol. V No. 6 Spring 2008 pg. 68.*]

In the 1850s William Henry was trained by his father as a surveyor and worked on both the Exton and Campden estates. He directed matters for the Exton estate during the Thorpe by Water enclosure in 1852. He also corresponded regularly with his father on the valuation of farms in both Rutland and Gloucestershire beginning in 1850 and continuing in 1857 when Charles Noel, Lord Barham, was in financial difficulties and proposing to sell some or all the Campden properties^{vii}. In August 1856 he was reported in the *Farmers Magazine* to be one of the judges awarding prizes to holders of the Allotments, established in the 1830s by his father in the villages on the Exton estate. As William Henry Baker Esq. he was in the company of many county worthies including Lord Gainsborough and his retinue.

On November 15th 1856 at St James's Church, Chipping Campden William Henry Baker, aged 24, Land Agent, married Elizabeth Keen aged 26, daughter of John Keen, a farmer of Westington, Chipping Campden^{viii}. They were married by license. Their first son called William died aged 6 months in 1859 and was buried in Campden churchyard^{ix}. [Ed. In *St James's Churchyard a Keen tomb, CADHAS ref. A7, contains the inscription 'also of William Baker who died in infancy.'*] They had four other children,

Elizabeth K. born c.1858 (she was listed in the 1861 census as age 3, but no christening records in Campden have been found for her), Richard Westbrook in 1860, William Henry in c.1862 and Francis Edward Alphonse in c.1862. William's wife, Elizabeth, died soon after this in May 1863 and was buried in Campden^x.

In the meantime William's father Richard Westbrook Baker had died in Cottesmore, Rutland on January 30th 1861 and left William Henry properties in Exton, Glaston and Oakham. William had already raised money on the Glaston property from his father's solicitor, Richard Thompson of Stamford. By May 1861 the Exton property had been mortgaged as security against a loan of £2,500 from two local farmers at 4% interest and a £400 loan in 1861 from Charles Richardson, a builder. These loans were still outstanding when in 1865 a further loan was taken out with Joseph Phillips, a solicitor in Stamford, for £2,017 also secured against the Exton properties. While we know that from the 1861 census he was farming 300 acres in Westington and employing 2 indoor servants and a farm manager^{xi} and had every appearance of a prosperous and well established figure in Gloucestershire, William Henry, described as a lime burner, was eventually declared bankrupt in 1866, the Bankruptcy Court appointing one John Cave of Brambridge near Winchester as the Receiver. The Exton properties were sold to the Earl of Gainsborough for £5,500, the mortgages and loans were paid off leaving the receiver with the remainder to pay outstanding debts^{xii}.

Only eight months after his wife's death and presumably undeterred by his impending bankruptcy, William Henry had married a second time to Monica Farquharson Cave, aged 24, at a ceremony at Twyford in Hampshire^{xiii} on 21st January 1864, witnessed by her sister Christabel and her brother James. She was the second daughter of John Cave of Brambridge near Winchester who two years later was appointed receiver in his son-in-law's bankruptcy. The marriage appears to have been childless and by 1871 the couple, with their four children by William's first marriage had moved to Sussex. On census night the children, Elizabeth (13), Richard Westbrook (11), Francis (8) and William Henry (9) are recorded as living in Brooklands, a house in Broadwater, with their cousin Constanza Cave, together with two servants. However, their parents, William and Monica Baker, were obviously away from home on census night as there is no head of household included and no trace of them can be found. In 1881 William's son Richard Westbrook, aged 21 and born in Campden, Gloucestershire, is a Farm Pupil on a farm of 400 acres worked by George Dunn from West Newton in Yorkshire employing 9 men and 14 boys at the Manor House in Bury near Pulborough, Sussex. This Richard is then recorded in 1884 marrying in a Catholic ceremony at Tallington on the Rutland, Lincolnshire border^{xiv} and by the 1891 census he is back living in the Cedars, now Abbotsbury, in Westington, Campden as a gentleman of independent means with his wife, Sarah Emily, née Smith, and three daughters Mary aged 5, Adeline aged 2 and Gertrude aged 1^{xv}. [*Ed. Christenings of four children of Richard & Sarah Baker, née Smith, have been found at St Catharine's Church, Campden - on Aug. 27th 1885 Mary Emily Baker, on June 16th 1887 Mary Adeline Baker, on Aug. 15th 1891 Richard Westbrook Baker and on Mar. 8th 1893 Maria Bertha Josephine Baker. In the 1901 census Richard, his wife Sarah and family are in Brislington, Bristol; he is age 41 and a Cycle Agent.*]

William Henry's death was registered in Hastings in 1874. He was 42. In the 1881 census William's widow Monica F. Baker was living in 2 Havilland Terrace in Tooting Graveney, London, with her stepson William Henry Baker aged 19, a medical student. She then moved to Portsea, Portsmouth, where in the 1891 census she was working as a housekeeper for John Backwood, a brewer. Monica F. Baker aged 70 is

recorded as having died in 1909 in Portsmouth.

It may be of interest that the Cave and Baker families were further intertwined by the marriage in 1879 of Elizabeth Baker and her stepmother's much younger brother John Stanislaus Cave, born 1847 in Winchester Hants, and who appears on the census in 1871, aged 23 at the School of Military Engineering in Gillingham in Kent.

The cause of William Henry's bankruptcy is not yet known, but it seems likely that he was already in difficulties before his father's death in 1861, as it was to the younger brother, Edward George, that the family heirlooms were left^{xvi}. Nevertheless he will have appeared to many as a pillar of society both in Rutland and Gloucestershire. Between 1857 and 1861 he was involved with the churchwardens of St James's Church, Campden concerning the burial ground survey and plan and was Chairman of the Vestry committee^{xvii}. He was also a lieutenant in the North Cotswold Rifle Volunteer Corps in about 1860^{xviii}. In Rutland he was Trustee of Byrch's charity in Cottesmore and Barrow and carried on his father's role as a pedigree cattle breeder doing the rounds of the local agricultural shows. After his father's herd of cattle was sold in 1863^{xix} he did well in the show ring with cattle in his own herd - at the Rutland show in early December 1864, at the Birmingham and Midland Counties Cattle and Poultry Show where his 'Cottesmore ox' was much praised as 'handsome, level and true' and the unquestionable winner of his class and at the Smithfield show in London where in the winter of 1864 his shorthorn ox won first prize and a gold medal^{xx}.

William Henry was a well educated man, trained as a surveyor and clearly at home among the gentry and prosperous farming families in both Rutland and Gloucestershire. Eventually the cause of his downfall may emerge, but his children clearly thrived.

[Ed. In 2002 an enquirer, Sydney Delfs of U.S.A, asked about her great-grandfather Richard Westbrook Baker, living at the Cedars, Westington, in 1891 census. She wanted to know why his Westington-born son, R.W.Baker, had emigrated to Canada. She was always told her grandfather gave up all claims to any inheritance when he left England, but he never wanted to speak of why he left. He seems to have had several jobs. The marriage register says 'munitions worker' (1918). He also worked in the Delfs Pickle factory, where he lost his left index finger. This is his job on the Alien Reg. form of 1940.]

ⁱ As declared for tax purposes, Exton Mss. at Leicester Records DE3214 645/1-6

ⁱⁱ Cottesmore Parish Records

ⁱⁱⁱ Melton Registers

^{iv} Parish Registers

^v 1851 census

^{vi} Parish records plus plaque in Cottesmore church

^{vii} Exton Mss. at Leicester Records DE 3214 361/9 - 21

^{viii} Campden Parish Records PFC 81 in 1/5 3 of 5

^{ix} Campden Parish Records PFC 81 1/i8 1of 2

^x Campden Parish Records PCF 81 1/81 1of 2

^{xi} 1861 census

^{xii} Exton Mss. at Leicester Records DE3214 645/ 1 - 6

^{xiii} Twyford Marriages Book 1 p. 77 No153 21. 01 1864

^{xiv} CADHAS information, Sydney Delfs, gr.grand-daughter of R.W.Baker

^{xv} Census

^{xvi} RWB will A/CC 1982. 66

^{xvii} *General Accounts of the Churchwardens' of Chipping Campden, 1626-1907* Campden Record Series pub. 1992 p347-351

^{xviii} *Campden: A New History* CADHAS pub. 2005 p184

^{xix} Exton Mss. at Leicester Records DE3214 361/4

^{xx} *Farmers Magazine* 1865