



Campden and District Historical and Archaeological Society

Regd. Charity No. 1034379

NOTES & QUERIES

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From The Editors

In this, the first issue of the second volume, it is with regret we have to report the death of our first President, Mrs Jacquetta Priestley. Her warm enthusiasm encouraged us on our way with the new enterprise of a twice yearly journal. Now we welcome as President the founding chairman of the Society and a contributor to Volume I, Colonel Geoffrey Powell. It is hoped that he will continue to find time for further articles for publication.

It is very unusual to be able to find much more than the barest details of the lives of people in past times - apart from the very great - so it was with delight that we learned of the existence of a journal, letters and other memoirs of a man born in eighteenth century Campden. Thanks to the generosity of a descendent we have copies of published transcripts of these documents and many more. Francis Tomes emigrated to the United States early last century - and thanks to the work on the papers by an American now living in Campden we have a biography, which will be published in parts. Although Francis Tomes left Campden in his youth and never returned, we feel that the story of his life is an important contribution to the industrial history of the Midlands and, as Ben Holme puts it, "as an example of the thrusting energy, ambition, character and intelligence which made Victorian England a great mercantile nation. He is even a distillation of these qualities."

Ebrington features next with a brief history setting it in its local context and another vignette of mediæval Campden with the strange moment when a merchant of Southampton held the manor. We are pleased to welcome once again further news of the Guild of Handicraft Trust - and would remind members who have yet to visit, there is a fascinating display in the new exhibition room.

Editorial Committee: Frank Johnson, Allan Warmington, Jill Wilson; 14 Pear Tree Close, Chipping Campden, Glos., GL55 6DB

Unanswered

Jill Wilson

Twenty-seven questions were asked in volume one - and replies, complete or partial, were received and published to eleven. One further answer is to be found in this issue.

The queries varied considerably; most, of course, related to family history research but the remainder ranged widely. The history of buildings, the location and names of inns, placenames - and, interestingly, wartime airfields, all figure prominently. One thing is certain, there is a never-ending well of curiosity amongst our readers - the only problem seems to be how to turn on the tap of information in reply!

One method is to spur more members to carry out their own research into topics of interest. Indeed, research into Inns and Public Houses has proved of such attraction to one that I gather he is going to take it up very seriously - in documents at the Record Office, I hasten to add. Have you always wanted to know more about some particular aspect of your own corner of Campden and District? If so, don't delay; take it up this winter. If you haven't any idea how or where to start, don't let that put you off. If you contact any Committee member at a meeting or write to the Editors of *N & Q* someone will gladly help get you started. It need not take up too much time - though be warned, research can be addictive - and it is always fun and rewarding. If you would like to try your hand but haven't a suitable subject in mind, there is a list of matters where documents are available - in Campden - and are awaiting someone's attention! - and we still have sixteen Queries waiting for replies.

With more members involved in research, when Volume three begins, there will be far fewer questions remaining unanswered.

Mr Lilley's Steps

Jill Wilson

As part of the Campden Curiosities Event at Christmas 1995, I confessed to members the origin of the place-name used in the diagram for the Churchyard Survey. For the sake of future place-name historians it is repeated here.

Robert Lilley was the vicar of Campden for 20 years from 1616; in the Churchwardens' Accounts for 1629 is a record of work done in the Churchyard which mentions a repair to 'the gate next Mr Lilly's'. Now some while before producing the Sketch-plan of the Churchyard I'd been trying to sort out all the early references to burials and the Churchyard wall and gates and had got most of it sorted. But this one foxed me for a bit - and then walking round, I had an idea! The old Vicarage is later than this work but the seventeenth century vicarage was probably on the same site. After all the sites of buildings didn't move around so much in past times! The now disused flight of steps at the corner of the churchyard on the bend of the road led directly to the Vicarage. Stand at the top and you'll see. Could the position of the 'gate by Mr Lilley's' be the way the vicar entered the Churchyard? Whether there was a flight of steps then or not I can't be sure, but in my notes for the Survey, I started calling them this as a useful landmark, and the name seems to be catching on.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Jacquetta Priestley, O.B.E., D.Litt., F.S.A

With some temerity I approached Jacquetta in early 1986 to ask if she would take on the presidency of our fledgling society, then but three years of age. Was I trespassing on a friendship only recently formed? Would she take it as an impertinence? Maybe she would accept but only through her innate good manners

We were fortunate. The enthusiasm she straight away brought to the role belied my reservations. She was to take a close interest in all our activities, providing help when needed and stimulating us even when her age began to take its toll.

As Jacquetta Hawkes she was known professionally, a person of distinction in archæology, letters and public life. Having established her reputation as a practising archæologist in the pre-war years, she set aside her trowel for her pen when it was over. Those who would wish to know more about her, to gain some understanding of her complex philosophy and beliefs, should as a start read her two most famous books. In *The Land* she uses geology and archæology to reconcile nature, man and art; *The Pursuit of Love* is a mystical and revealing autobiographical novel.

The goodwill message she sent to the first edition of this publication was 'May the past be brought alive.' Her life had been devoted to so doing.

To those who did not know her, this rather austere and most handsome lady could seem forbidding. Closer acquaintance revealed a warm and generous person and a delightful companion, the breadth of whose formidable intellect matched her wide interests.

Finally, we must acknowledge the most generous gift of £500 left by her to CADHAS in her will.

We are indeed fortunate to have been given such support by so distinguished a person, one we remember with affection and respect.

GSP

Francis Tomes

Part 1

Benjamin Holme

The information we have about Francis Tomes comes principally from his journals, and from letters to his youngest child Mary, although genealogies of the Tomes family and the *Private Memoirs* of his son Robert, written in 1879, provide other information. The various sources sometimes contradict each other, making it necessary to decide which is the most credible.

The journals cover only portions of the years 1837 to 1839, when Francis was 57 to 59, and the letters from 1840 to 1868, the year before he died in Derbyshire at the age of 89. These are in part very explicit, and contain references to other periods of his life, but leave large periods blank. In fact, one of the fascinations of these papers, supplied to us by James S. Tomes - one of his descendants - is the manner in which Francis and his family appear from time to time in bold relief and then vanish into the shadows, leaving us to speculate about their lives in the interim. Robert's *Memoirs* fill some of these gaps. Although the available documents provide a great deal of information about other members of the family past and present, this is of marginal interest to Campdonians. What follows, therefore, focuses on Francis and his wife.

The Tomes family were a numerous brood at Bidford, a few miles from Chipping Campden, in the early eighteenth century, where Richard Tomes, one of 11 children, was baptised on March 1, 1745. He married Sarah Hawks of Shipston-on-Stour. Richard seems to have moved to Chipping Campden - perhaps because he had too many siblings in Bidford - where according to the genealogy he became a sackmaker; but his grandson Robert says that he was a farmer - whether as landowner or tenant Robert does not know, but probably the latter - and "... may have added some mechanical skills to his occupation ...". Robert thinks he "... must have been a man of tolerably good income." Nevertheless, also according to Robert, grandfather died "leaving ... no fortune" and in fact nothing of great value. One tends to believe the statement of the genealogy, and that Richard's principal occupation was that of sackmaker. Robert's information on this and perhaps other matters may be suspect, as he thinks that his father Francis was one of five children although the genealogy shows there were six. The fourth of these was Francis, born in Campden October 27, 1780 (as he gives his birthday several times in letters), and perhaps baptised the same day. The genealogy gives his baptismal date as 14 October, which is inconsistent with the other evidence.

Nothing of his subsequent life in England can be gleaned directly from his letters and journals, except that he married Maria Roberts of Dolgelly, Wales (on January 20, 1813 according to the genealogy) - ten years his junior - and that by the time they went to the United States in 1815 two of their nine children had already been born; these were Francis in 1813 and Charles in 1814, both in Birmingham. The rest - Robert (1817), George and Maria, twins (1819), Richard (1823), Margaret (1824), Benjamin (1826) and Mary (1828) were born in the United States.

Maria Roberts came - according to Robert's *Memoirs* - from a family of some substance, but became an orphan at an early age. Her family had nevertheless left enough money to provide for her education and a dowry of a thousand pounds - then of course quite a substantial sum. She was staying with her sister in Birmingham when she and Francis met. It appears from Robert's *Memoirs* that Maria had some rather prominent and wealthy connections, including

a Sir Richard Richards who, according to Robert, was Chief Baron of the Exchequer, in whose family she spent some of her childhood. Robert says:

“My father, I think, was always greatly wearied, if not annoyed, by my mother’s constant allusions to Lady Richards & believed that this grand dame either directly or indirectly exercised a malign influence upon his wife, and was one of the causes of her discontent and want of sympathy with him & his simple ways, thus creating a discord between them which widened with age, and finally led to a practical though not a legal separation.”

This source of friction began on the honeymoon, when the bridal couple were accompanied by her bridesmaid, a young woman who had been apprenticed to Aunt Clarke’s Birmingham millinery establishment and who, although according to Robert (how could he have known?) was “lady-like and charming,” seems to have been regarded by the bride as lower class and who produced a “shock” to the bride’s “genteel sensibility”. It seems that Maria, who was 23 and perhaps slightly over age for a single girl, considered herself to have married below her station.

Robert Tomes’s *Memoirs* report that his father Francis (having suffered from smallpox in childhood) went from Campden to Birmingham at the age of about 14 to become apprenticed to a hardware factor - a wholesaler - who probably specialised in “brass-founders’ articles in all their variety, curtain bands & pins, cornices, door knockers &c.” According to Robert, Francis Tomes may have benefited in this connection from the Aunt Clarke who had a millinery business in Birmingham. We know also, from the genealogy, that there was a Samuel Tomes, born 1780 in Birmingham, who may have been a cousin.

When Francis completed his apprenticeship he was taken into the factor’s firm, according to his son Robert, as a traveller and chief clerk. He left this job after a while to start his own business, using his wife’s dowry. This business failed, taking her money with it, and apparently so led to Francis’s decision to take his wife and two children to New York, to import hardware from England for the fast growing American market. He nevertheless seems to have left many friends and a reputation for good character behind him in Birmingham. The move to New York proved to be the opportunity for him to make his fortune.

His first American business organisation was with a partner named Lewis, under the name Lewis & Tomes; it appears from Robert’s *Memoirs* that Lewis supplied the venture capital and managed the Birmingham end. The main grist of the business on Francis’s end was the solicitation of orders for the firm’s wares and the forwarding of instructions to Lewis in Birmingham for their fulfillment. Francis then received the goods in New York and distributed them to the customers. In the early days, according to Robert, Francis had only one clerk, a young Englishman by the name of Hassall, and had to conduct the commercial transactions of the firm as well as keep the books, write the letters, make out the invoices and see to their collection, and attend to the custom house business. This kept him busy from morning until bed time, and Robert recalls: “... for years my kiss was given and my ‘goodnight’ said to my father while he was still bending over his desk.”

Francis travelled frequently on business: “He must have made twenty-five voyages (going and coming) at least to Europe or fifty passages across the Atlantic!” He also made “... business journeys into the interior of America for some years, I think at regular intervals for he had provided himself with ... a gig & horse for this purpose.” He also visited his Hawks relatives in Newbern, North Carolina.

A devastating epidemic of yellow fever broke out in New York in 1823, while Francis was in England. Maria with her children - and presumably anyone else who could manage it - left the city for the safety of the country. During this mass evacuation, every house of substance was burgled and vandalised, according to Robert, including the Tomes residence on Cortlandt Street. When Francis returned, to find the mess left by the burglars, he also discovered that his English clerk, Hassall, had been ordering watch parts from the firm's Birmingham supplier and selling them on his own account. Francis of course dismissed him, and Hassall subsequently went from bad to worse, finally returning to England where his habits did not improve and thence, with other transported malefactors, to Botany Bay.

The family later moved to Washington Street, in New York, and it was then that Francis stopped working from home and opened a shop at 98 Maiden Lane (later moved to Number 6). At about the same time he hired a Connecticut lad named Miller, who eventually became a partner in the business.

Maria, however "... tired of her experience of housekeeping." gave up the Washington Street house after a year, and moved with the children to an establishment which Robert calls "a fashionable boarding house" - apparently a common mode of life in New York at the time. He says his mother "... was disposed to turn the ordinary molehills of life ... into impassable mountains." The oldest boys were at boarding schools, and the homeless nature of their lives, for which he blames his mother - although he says he loves her dearly - made for a good deal of childhood unhappiness. The family later - in 1829 - rented a house in Broome Street, which gave the children a home "... and we were thankful for it."

Francis was by this time "a thriving merchant" who had established "... an extensive connection throughout the country, especially in the extreme southern states, South Carolina, Mississippi & Louisiana", and had expanded his original hardware business to include, amongst other things, gilt buttons and sporting guns which "... were in high repute and great demand." He was beginning to accumulate a capital.

to be continued

Note

If, as recorded by the family, Maria Roberts of Dolgelly was related to Sir Richard Richards she was indeed well connected. According to the *Dictionary of National Biography* Richard Richards was born at Dolgelly on 5 November, 1752. By his death on 11 November, 1823, he had held a number of important positions including appointment as the queen's attorney (1801), was MP for Helston from 1796 until he took the Chiltern Hundreds in 1807, and was appointed chief justice for the county palatine of Chester (1813) but resigned on appointment as a baron of the exchequer (1814). He was knighted by the prince regent in the same year. In 1817 he became lord chief baron of the exchequer and was sworn a member of the privy council a little later the same year. In 1819 he was appointed speaker of the House of Lords. He has been described as "greatly respected for his amiability and benevolence".

Ebrington - a Brief History

Stephen Ball

Although there are no known prehistoric sites worked flints of the Neolithic period (c.3500 - 1900 BC) and of the Bronze Age (c.2000 - 650 BC) can be found in all parts of the parish. No Iron Age artifacts or sites are known. Two areas however have field names which may indicate prehistoric sites - Stow Hill and Hoarston. *Stow* or *Stowe* derives from a Saxon word denoting a 'holy place,' which may be a church site, burial mound or a sanctuary of some kind. *Hearh* is another Saxon word denoting a sacred site. It is worth noting that a standing stone is still in place near Hoarston Farm and that a number of standing stones and barrows in the Cotswolds are called Hoarston or Hoarstone.

The most obvious monument of the Roman period is the bathing establishment at The Grove, unfortunately no longer visible, and a scheduled ancient monument. This may have been a bath house attached to a villa which to date has not been properly located or it may have been a shrine to a water goddess in which case a substantial range of ancillary buildings still awaits future location and investigation. Whichever is the case the size of the bath and the high quality of the painted wall plaster and imported marble attests to the undoubted high status of the site. Other sites of this date in the parish include that at Harrowby House on the north side of the church, where a short length of defensive ditch suggests the possibility of a small fortlet or posting station, with other features indicating substantial buildings. At Ledley House, just above the villa site, a coin hoard was found in 1850. Potsherds can also be found in the garden. The base of a small rotary quern was found behind 'The Old Stores' next to the village school, and at Charingworth Farm potsherds and coins have been found in the fields, as also at Manor Farm, Hidcote Bartrim.

Reports in newspapers attest to numerous skeletons with Saxon arms and armour being found during stone digging 'near the mansion' in 1804, whilst an article in *The Gentleman's Magazine* in 1861, describes further skeletons with grave goods being found both about 1830 and in 1861. All these were found along Vicarage Lane near the vicarage - now The Grange - and descriptions of the grave goods place them firmly as Saxon 6th - 7th century. Half a 6th century brooch was found in the garden of Harrowby House, with an early Saxon baked clay loom weight and two fragments of similar loom weights from the same location. During archaeological excavations at Harrowby House pottery of the 10th and 11th centuries was recovered.

The church displays a number of features of the late 11th or early 12th century especially the south doorway which, apart from late Victorian replacement jamb shafts, is still in pristine condition. Thirteenth century features include the tower and the porch, the latter having well preserved the beautiful Norman doorway.

Remains of a 12th century dwelling were unearthed during excavations at Harrowby House. The Great Hall of the Rectory, remains of which have been excavated at Harrowby House, dates from about 1200 AD with the principal chambers - the present structure comprising Harrowby House - being added to the north side about 1300. The earliest surviving part of the Manor, situated to the south west of the church can be dated to 1280, with the main part being Elizabethan. Mediæval potsherds can occasionally be found throughout the village and at Charingworth Farm a large quantity of sherds with a date range from 11th to 14th century have been picked up from an area of two or three acres. The remains of the vicarage,

built circa 1380 - 90, can be found in Church End, the top cottage in the row on the north side of the churchyard. Although drastically rebuilt from a derelict condition in 1838/9, it still retains a window, minus central mullion, and a pair of massive crucks in its internal wall of 14th century date.

Two mill sites are known, Charingworth Mill and Pudlicote Mill. The latter, mentioned in documents as far back as 1212, was still a working mill until this century. Charingworth Mill, part of the Charingworth Manor estate as early as the 15th century, no longer stands but the site consists of the huge earthworks of the millponds, leats and mill site itself. To the south of the manor house is the Red Pool, a massive fish pond, now dry.

The village displays a varied but traditional style of architecture of all periods, all but three of the pre-twentieth century houses being of Cotswold stone. An unusual, but very attractive, feature is the number of small cottages which have retained their thatched roofs. The other outstanding feature is the way the cottages on both sides throughout the village stand above the road, often reached only by steep and narrow paths, and this, together with the general air of timelessness and tranquility, makes Ebrington an interesting and delightful place in which to wander.

Query

If you can contribute to the answer to the following question or to any that have appeared in earlier issues, please contact "The Editors", 14 Pear Tree Close, Chipping Campden, GL55 6DB. A written answer would be most helpful.

Mabel Scriven illuminated a few copies of a book, *The Life of Cardinal Wolsey*, by Cavendish, published by the Alcuin Press at Elm Tree House in 1930. The headpieces, tailpieces and initial letters were designed by Paul Woodroffe and, as said above, a few of these were illuminated by Mabel Scriven. Has anyone any information on her? - did she live in Campden? Did she work for the Press? Was she a local artist or craftswoman? Or was she perhaps a contact of Paul Woodroffe, or was the work sent away to be done? Or could Scriven even be a *nom-de-plume* from 'scrivener' = a copyist or drafter of documents! Any facts or suggestions would be welcome. [028]

Reply

The Editors would like to thank the contributors to this reply.

[020] Mary Tomes née Allcock, married William Tomes, stonemason of Broad Campden, and died 7 March, 1916, her death being registered in Shipston. Possible reasons for the recording there include this being the registration district that included Campden, or that she died in hospital there.

Campden in the Hands of a Southampton Merchant

Allan Warmington

Ranulf de Blundeville, earl of Chester and Lincoln, Campden's great medieval lord, died in 1232. Although he had been married twice, he left no legitimate sons or daughters, and his many lands were inherited by the heirs of four of his sisters (not his daughters, as Whitfield states). These were: Maud, or Matilda, who had married the brother of the king of Scotland, and whose son, John le Scot, inherited the earldom of Chester; Mabel (Mabilia) widow of William de Albini, the third earl of Arundel, who had died in 1231 on the way back from the crusades; Agnes, wife of William of Ferrars, the powerful earl of Derby; and Hawisia, who had married at least twice, and through whom the earldom of Lincoln passed to the de Lacys, the hereditary constables of Chester, one of whom had married a daughter of Hawisia.

Obviously there was a lot of negotiation about the proper division of Ranulf's lands between these heirs. Suffice it here to say that Campden fell to the lot of the earls of Arundel. The third earl's eldest son had also been killed in the Crusades, fighting, it is said, by the side of his uncle Ranulf, just four years before Ranulf himself died. So Campden, and a number of other estates, were inherited by a younger son, Hugh de Albini, fifth earl of Arundel. Hugh, however, was still a minor.

Now, what generally happened when a minor inherited an estate was that the lands were taken into the king's hands to be administered for the king until the heir should be of age and able to pay homage for his land. Usually the king would appoint the sheriff to administer the land for him. Or, in some cases the lands would be granted temporarily to a favourite of the king, who would have the profits of them while they were in his hands.

And so it was when Hugh de Albini inherited Campden. On 24th November 1232, by letters patent, Walter le Fleming of Southampton was appointed to hold the manor of Campden at farm 'for the current year at a rent of 100 marks, to wit 50 marks at Easter and 50 marks at Michaelmas'.

Who was Walter le Fleming, and what connection if any did he have with Campden?

He was, it appears, a leading citizen of Southampton, the owner of many houses and warehouses there, a merchant and shipowner. His partner, Benedict Ace, was mayor of Southampton at this time and Walter was a Bailiff of the town. Now one vague connection is that Campden exported wool to the continent via both Bristol and Southampton, and Walter le Fleming's ships often carried wool into France and Italy, and brought back wine. And, further, there is one incident that took place a few years earlier which connects Walter with Ranulf de Blundeville.

In 1229, that inexperienced and immature youth, Henry III, having rather prematurely taken the reins of government into his own hands, came under increasing pressure from his continental nobles to mount a military campaign against the continuing depredations in Normandy of the equally youthful French king, Louis IX. A large and enthusiastic army was assembled at Portsmouth, but the campaign was frustrated, allegedly as a result of the inefficiency and neglect of the Justiciar, Hubert de Burgh, who is said to have failed to issue the proper writs to the ports, or to assemble a sufficient transport fleet or to provide other essential supplies and equipment.

The impetuous young king on the quay at Portsmouth, in the words of an eighteenth century historian “branded the minister with the name of traitor and drawing his sword, would have killed him on the spot had it not been for the interposition of the earl of Chester”.

The connection of this emergency with Walter le Fleming comes from some orders issued by the king himself in August and September 1229. In August a ship belonging to Walter le Fleming and carrying a cargo of wool was ordered to be arrested in Jersey and returned immediately to Portsmouth for the service of the king. And in September either this or another ship of Walter, called ‘La Haytee’, was requisitioned there for the use of the earl of Chester (as were a number of other ships for other nobles). The impression is that this was an attempt to recover from the military bungling and get the expedition off to France. Eventually however the whole operation had to be abandoned until the following year.

The people of Campden were probably hardly aware of any of these events (though one wonders whether there may not have been a few Campdonians serving with the earl in the army at Portsmouth). However, Walter le Fleming’s ship may even then have been carrying a cargo of wool from Campden to Italy or France.

The king, it appears, may have owed Walter le Fleming other debts, beside the one cited above. Benedict Ace was at this time Keeper of the King’s wines at Southampton, and there are a number of letters from the King ordering Fleming’s ships with their cargoes of wine to be handed over to the king. So in 1230, two years before the grant of Campden to him, the king ordered Walter and his partner to reserve for the king’s use seven score casks of Gascon wine “of the best whatsoever there may be, whether from the lands of the king or elsewhere”, for which the king makes a vague promise of some reward being attached to Walter. And as late as 1235 the king commanded Walter to cause his boat which had lately come into Southampton carrying a cargo of Angevin wines “to come to London with as much haste as he can” for the use of the king, and “as for the price of these wines, whatever they may be worth when they shall come thither, the lord king will satisfy him”. How satisfied he was in the event is uncertain, for the next month another letter speaks of “so many of the casks of wine as there shall be, seized from the ship of Walter le Fleming at London”.

Now, Hugh de Albini, only a few years younger than the king, was also a young man in a hurry. Indeed, he later became a rather disreputable young man. At any rate, in November 1233, the king issued an acknowledgement that Hugh de Albini “has made a fine with the king for 2,050 marks to have seisin and tenement of the king until he is of lawful age of all the lands and estates with their appurtenances” which he had inherited from his brother, and also of those “which were of R. the earl of Chester and Lincoln, his uncle, and which remain in the custody of the king by reason of his age”.

So Walter le Fleming’s tenure of Campden lasted only one year. The short tenure did however cause one hiccup, that seems rather typical of Hugh de Albini’s various transactions. For the following letter was written by the king in August 1234:

The king to Hugh de Albini. greeting. Be it known that when we granted to our beloved and faithful Walter le Fleming the revenues of the manor of Campden we granted it to him with all its appurtenances, and he then received none of the hay [*fenum*] in that manor. A certain servant of yours kept his hay back from him in this, the eighteenth year of our reign, so he declares.

Wherefor we command you that you should make recompense to him for his hay for the aforesaid year, paid for, as much as is due and assized on the men of the borough of Campden; and in the same way

with his other arrears you will permit the said Walter to collect them without impediment, nor to have recourse to bring his complaints to us again.

It is a question whether the 'hay' referred to was the hay itself, or the revenues that the lord would have expected in respect of the crop of hay from his demesne - possibly the assessed revenues of the meadows. Hugh's servants could hardly have been expected to permit the manor to be denuded of the hay crop needed for fodder for that winter.

The other interesting point in this letter is the distinction it appears to make between the manor of Campden, which had been held by Walter, and the borough, whose burgesses were to make good the debt to him. Without further evidence it is difficult to explain what is meant by this.

It may be interesting to cite one further incident concerning Walter le Fleming later in his life. As a ship owner he was expected, rather like the Elizabethan privateers three hundred years later, to harry the king's enemies during the wars, and he got a lot of credit from time to time for capturing cargoes of wine from French ships and ports. However, one incident laid him open to censure. In 1257 during a temporary truce 'the men of a ship of Walter le Fleming, burgess of the Cinque Ports' entered the port of *Nigrum Monasterium* in Poitou (Possibly Niort, or the island of Noirmoutiers) and took 132 tuns of wine from Bernard Papin, Count of Poitiers, the brother of the king of France 'by violence'. The king of France complained, and after an inquest Walter was made to pay a fine of 300 marks to Bernard for his offence,

"and if he do not pay he promises to give him 5s. a day for the expenses of one merchant, with one horse and servant, wherever that merchant may be, until the payment of the whole sum, such compensation not to be considered in the principal of the debt or as a pretext for holding back the said debt".

I suppose this was looked on as a penal clause compensating Bernard for any failure to pay the fine on time. But it looks also very much like an early form of usury. Taking the 5s. a day alone, the interest rate works out at 75 per cent per annum - and among the guarantors to this agreement were Master Rustard, the papal sub-deacon and chaplain of the Cross, and Roger of Canterbury, guardian of the house of the Friars Minors in London! So far had the church apparently departed from their opposition to usury!

MUNIMENT ROOM EXTRACTS 1

The Muniment Room in St James Church contains some records and documents of historical interest. Occasional extracts will be included from time to time.

On Monday morning, the 9th inst. the town of Campden in Gloucestershire was alarmed by a violent shock, which was at first thought to be an earthquake, but which afterwards appeared to arise from an explosion of gun-powder at a house in that town, where a person had designedly, in consequence of a disagreement between himself and one of his family, set fire to a quantity of gun-powder in the garret of his son's house, which destroyed every thing in the house leaving it a mere shell. The misguided perpetrator was blown above 100 yards, but no person was killed except himself.

manuscript date, 1717

Muniment Room file D4.1

Can anyone say which house suffered this damage? or which family feud caused this violence?

From the **Guild of Handicraft Trust**

Frank Johnson

Visitors to Chipping Campden cannot fail to experience a sense of history being communicated to them by the layout of the town and the buildings which front its streets. The preservation and protection of the town and the scale and quality of the 20th century development owes much to the individuals and societies who work to maintain a balance between preserving the old and creating the new.

It must come as something of a surprise and perhaps disappointment that there is no exhibition or display in Campden whereby they can supplement this experience. In an attempt to rectify this the Guild of Handicraft Trust has occupied a room on the ground floor of the Silk Mill in Sheep Street in which to show part of Campden's 20th century history - the part played by artists, craftsmen and women, and designers.

C. R. Ashbee came to Chipping Campden in 1902 with his Guild of Handicraft. The craftsmen occupied the Silk Mill and in so doing focussed national and international attention on the town through their activities. By coincidence or design the area attracted to it other notable figures in the fields of art, craft and design - an attraction which continues.

The first exhibition mounted by the Trust includes:

- drawings by **C. R. Ashbee**;
- drawings and plaster models by **Alec Miller** (woodcarver and modeller with the Guild);
- drawings by **George Hart** (silversmith with the Guild);
- collection of models, patterns and enamels from the Hart workshop;
- work from the **Hart** workshop;
- drawings by **Sidney Reeve** (silversmith with the Guild and later a member of staff at Leicester College of Art);
- work by **Arthur Penny** (silversmith with the Guild);
- examples from the **Essex House Press**;
- projects by **Pyments** (Builders: Jim Pymment was foreman of the Guild woodshop);
- design sketches, drawings and products by **Robert Welch**;
- jewellery by **Neil Jordan**;
- an 'Interactive Display' of part of a collection of photographs of buildings in Campden taken by **Jesse Taylor** and **William Greening** between c1895 and c1930.

Having embarked upon this venture the Trust hopes that it will be able to sustain its programme and make the exhibition a permanent, but changing, feature of the town. The permanency is far from secure since although people are generous with their praise and approval they are not, so far, inclined to give tangible support - either financially or with staffing. There are, of course, exceptions to this and their generosity and help are greatly valued and give us cause to be optimistic. Nevertheless without further support we will be unable to continue - we hope our optimism proves to be justified.