

Signpost



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Including CCHS Annual
Report 2015

Bringing local history to life



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From the Editor

As I am putting this issue of Signpost together in February, I am reminded that it is now 32 years since the History Society held its first meeting on February 2nd 1984, its object "to advance the education of the general public in the history and archaeology of Chipping Campden and surrounding villages". For nearly 23 years, Signpost and its predecessor, Notes & Queries, have been part of this education, providing members with our research findings and information and talking to those members who are out of town or unable to attend the Thursday talks, Family History groups or other events. Also in recent years back copies of Signpost and Notes & Queries have been made available to a worldwide audience through the CCHS website. This edition contains yet another fascinating and very useful collection of articles: Clive Easter's details about the makers of the Noel monuments in St. James's church, my findings on more Woodroffe windows, Margaret Fisher's story about the last days in New Zealand of William Wray from Ebrington, Judith Ellis's research into the development of Allotments in Campden and Justine Bayliss's detective trail to find her great grandfather. The Annual Report on the activities of CCHS and the committee for the approaching AGM are also contained in the last five pages. Thank you to all contributors. Please keep your news, comments, research findings and articles coming in to me.

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Front cover illustration:

Edward and Juliana Noel's monument in St James's Church, Chipping Campden. See article on page 4.

Correspondence

Jackie Radford made contact in 2015 following her Spring 2013 article in Notes & Queries Vol. VII Issue 4 p.43 and after finding and meeting some of **Marmaduke Tennant's** descendants in Devon. She thought we would be interested in this item in their possession and hoped that we could shed some light on it. It is a beautiful piece of jewellery in a dark red velvet box, an image of a child, containing a lock of hair and an initial 'ME' on the reverse side. Who is she? The only 'ME' in the family (so far) is Mary Ebsworth. Could this be an image of **Mary Ebsworth** as a young girl, maybe a mourning locket? But when Mary died in 1847, her initials would have been 'MM' - Mary



Matthews, as she had married Charles Decimus Matthews, the Campden grocer c.1836. It was their daughter, Sarah, who married Marmaduke Tennant in 1864.

Alternatively could this be an unknown child or wife of another Ebsworth?

Can anyone help date this item through the clothing or tell us about its purpose or origin?



Pamela Moseley Richards wrote from Claremore, Oklahoma, USA, researching her Moseley/Mosely family and asking specifically about her possible ancestor, **William Moseley**, who as a young man was transported to colonial Virginia in 1650 as a 'headright' and subsequently patented thousands of acres for himself by transporting settlers to Virginia in the early 1660's. He might be the William named in the will dated 1st January 1663, proved 20th May, 1664, [PRO 11/314] of Thomas Moseley, Yeoman of Broad Campden, Gloucester, whose son William was living across the seas in 1663. The will contains the following bequests:

To daughter Mary £150.

To grandchild Mary Hayward £20 at age 21.

To the 5 children of beloved son-in-law Henry Hayward £10 apiece.

To his daughter Joan's 3 children £10 apiece.

To daughters Bridgett, Joan and Mary 20sh a piece in gold.

To brother Richard's son Richard £5 on ending his apprenticeship.

To cosen William Moseley's two children Mary & Cesily 10sh apiece.

To son William £40 if he returns from beyond the seas after my decease. If he shall not return within said terms then daughter Mary or her issue receives £20 thereof.

To the poore of the towne of Broad Campden 40sh.

To son Thomas all the rest of worldly goods and estate.

Appointed beloved friend Thomas Bonner as sole executor,

Overseers: Son Thomas Moseley and brother Richard Moseley.

Witnessed by: William Sowley (Sowling?) & Thomas Bravell

Pamela had also found a baptism which could be for the same William Moseley, mentioned Thomas Moseley's will above: William Mosely son of Thomas Mosely, baptised on 2nd February 1633 at Chipping Campden, Gloucester, England. Godfather: William Mosely.

The 'headright' system in Virginia is explained as follows: In order to encourage immigration into the colony, the Virginia Company, meeting in a Quarter Court held on 18th November 1618, passed a body of laws called Orders and Constitutions which came to be considered "the Great Charter of privileges, orders and laws" of the colony. Amongst these laws was a provision that any person, who paid their own passage and settled in Virginia or paid for the transportation expenses of another person who settled in Virginia, should be entitled to receive fifty acres of land for each immigrant. The right to receive fifty acres per person, or per head, was called a headright. The practice was continued under the royal government of Virginia after the dissolution of the Virginia Company and the Privy Council ordered on 22th July 1634 that patents for headrights be issued. A person who was entitled to a headright usually obtained a certificate of entitlement from a county court and then took the certificate to the office of the secretary of the colony, who issued the headright, or right to patent fifty acres of land. Next the holder of the headright arranged for a survey of the land by the county surveyor and then took the survey and the headright back to the capital to obtain a patent for the tract of land. When the patent was issued, the names of the immigrants, or headrights, were often included in the text of the document. As valuable properties, headrights could be bought and sold, so the person who obtained a patent to a tract of land under a headright might not have been the person who immigrated or who paid for the immigration of another person. Headrights were not always claimed immediately after immigration; there are instances in which several years elapsed between a person's entry into Virginia and the acquisition of a headright and sometimes even longer between then and the patenting of a tract of land.

The headright system was subject to a wide variety of abuses from outright fraud to multiple claims by a merchant and a ship's captain to a headright for the same immigrant passenger. Some prominent merchants and colonial officials received headrights for themselves each time they returned to Virginia from abroad. As a result of the abuses and of the transferable nature of the headrights, the system, which may have been intended initially to promote settlement and ownership of small plots of land by numerous immigrants, resulted in the accumulation of large tracts of land by a small number of merchants, shippers, and early land speculators. The presence of a name as a headright in a land patent, then establishes that a person of a certain name had entered Virginia prior to the date of the patent, but it does not prove when the person immigrated or who was initially entitled to the headright.

http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/va4_headrights.htm

In 1653, three years after his arrival, William Moseley, who was still young and unmarried, evidently leased land from William Underwood; his boundary line was cited on October 20th, 1653 (Va. Patents 3:36). In about 1657 William Moseley married Martha Brasseur, the daughter of Robert Brasseur, a French Huguenot, who patented land in nearby Nansemond County, Virginia. Martha and William Moseley had five children, a daughter and four sons. He served as an officer in the local British colonial militia in defence of Old Rappahannock County against Indian attack and soon became known as Captain Moseley. In 1665, he acted as a vestryman of Farnham Parish, Virginia.

William Moseley accumulated a vast amount of land through Virginia's land grant system as recorded: on February 20th, 1662 (Va. Patents 5:229), William Moseley and John Hull acquired a land grant of more than 5,798 acres for transportation of 116 persons to the colony. On 18th November 1663, (Va. Patents P.109), William Mosely, received a land grant for 1157 acres for transportation of 27 persons to the colony. It was common for individuals to indenture themselves in return for the cost of their passage to the colony. The terms of employment would be formalised in England before immigration. Such employees were not chattels and the right to a land grant was written into their contract. They were not wage-workers, but 'tenants at halves'.

One of William Moseley's last entries of land in Old Rappahannock may have been with Colonel Lawrence Washington, who referred in his last will & testament to land which he entered together with Captain Moseley. Colonel Washington died in June, 1677 (Old Rappahannock Wills 2) and neither lived to patent this claim. Captain William Moseley died in 1683 or early 1684. He was survived by his wife Martha and five children who were between 15 and 6 years of age.

We have had another interesting enquiry from **Ann Clarke**, a member of the **Guild of One Name Studies**. She was asking about a **Mrs Grace Freeman**, whose name appears in an inscription in a Tranah family hymn book: *"This book was presented to Mrs Grace Freeman of Campden in Gloucestershire by the Clergymen of the parish of Campden and given to Henry Tranah of Strood [Kent] by his very Dear Mother Mary Tranah."* Mary Tranah's maiden name was Freeman, but who was Mrs Grace Freeman? CCHS found a burial in the transcriptions of St James's Parish Records for a Grace Freeman residing in Campden on February 13th 1823, age 69, [so born c.1756] which seemed to fit the bill, but nothing else which fitted. Can anyone help with these names?

Ann Clarke also alerted us to a new website of interest. Census returns for 1921 and 1931 are not allowed by law to be available until 100 years after they were taken. However the **1939 Register** has been digitized by **Findmypast**. This is similar to a census and was taken so that the government would know who was in the country at the beginning of WWII. From this information an Identity Card was issued to each person, which then allowed them to be issued with a ration book. If you are interested in knowing where your family was at that time, log onto **www.findmypast.co.uk/1939register**, but there is a small fee. The names of people who were still alive after 1996 have been redacted.

Sue Smith, Co-ordinator, has advised us of the new season of regular Sunday **Winchcombe Walks** starting on Easter Sunday, 27th March (until the end of October). Meet the guide to start at 11am or 2.30pm at the Tourist Information Centre, by the Museum in the centre of town. It is a short and easy history tour about 1 mile taking an hour around the town centre, suitable for all ages and abilities, for which they welcome a small donation. Further information from **winchwalks.13@gmail.com**.

The **Historic England Archive** (the **Architectural Red Box Collection**) of over 600,000 photographic prints taken of cities, towns and villages around England, has now been scanned and is available online. You can browse this fantastic collection on the England's Places website: **http://historicengland.org.uk/englands-places**. The National Buildings Record (NBR) started the Architectural Red Box Collection in 1941 to document our built heritage, especially those buildings threatened or damaged by bombing during the Second World War. The initial core collection came from photographic records collected by Courtauld Institute of Art in the 1930s. Over the following years hundreds of thousands were added, including photography taken for the NBR and other collections acquired from both commercial and amateur photographers. The collection was closed to new material in 1991. Now you can explore the collection without the need to visit Swindon. The handwritten notes made on the back of each photograph have also been scanned providing further information about the photographer, date and particular view. Each card has a unique URL meaning you can share links easily with others.

Another new database source of interest: www.englandimmigrants.com. This site covers 64,000 names of Immigrants who from 1330 to 1550 were known to have migrated to England during the period of the Hundred Years' War and the Black Death, the Wars of the Roses and the Reformation. The information within this database has been drawn from a variety of published and un-published records – taxation assessments, letters of denization and protection, and a variety of other licences and grants and offers a valuable resource for anyone interested in the origins, destinations, occupations and identities of the people who chose to make England their home during this turbulent period.

A brief note on the Hicks and Noel monuments at Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire.

Dr. Clive J Easter FSA

Clive Easter has been looking at monuments in one form or another since childhood. An interest in brass rubbing when at school led him to exploring other monuments and tombs, especially those from the post-medieval period. A member of the Church Monuments Society from its earliest years, he became the society's Hon. Secretary and later moved to being Hon. Membership Secretary of the CMS council. An Arts degree with the Open University helped to develop a more interdisciplinary approach to commemorative art and a Plymouth University PhD, completed in 2006, further helped develop his knowledge and understanding. Clive has given lectures and written articles for many publications since, with current work focusing on London made monuments of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The great wool church of St James at Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, contains a number of interesting monuments dating from the very early fifteenth century to the late eighteenth century. Foremost amongst these are the four monuments to members of the Hicks and Noel families that dominate the south nave or Gainsborough chapel. Of these, the large freestanding monument to Baptist Hicks occupies the central space within the chapel. Hicks was a silk importer by trade and, through contracting business with the Court, managed to acquire a large fortune. Indeed, at his death he was rumoured to have been one of the richest men in the kingdom. Hicks was knighted in July 1603, created a baronet in 1620 and raised to the peerage as Viscount Campden in 1628.

Baptist Hicks died on 18th October 1629 and was buried in the south nave chapel. In the *History and Antiquities of Chipping Campden*, published in 1911, Percy Rushen states that the Bailiffs and Churchwardens had, in a memo of 30th August 1629, formerly conveyed to Hicks the south chapel of the church as “a place of sepulchre for himself and his heirs forever”.

The monument to Baptist Hicks and his wife Elizabeth, née May, unsurprisingly occupies the most prominent position within the chapel. It has a plain black marble indented base with white marble skirting and two recumbent white marble effigies placed on top of a low black marble sarcophagus, their heads resting on tasselled cushions. On each side of the heavy canopy are open segmental pediments each with a large heraldic panel in the centre topped with a triangular pediment. The whole superstructure is supported on 12 black marble columns that in turn act as a sort of cage for the effigies. The figures are depicted in their rich court clothes, complete with large elaborate ruffs and wearing coronets to denote their rank. The level of facial detail for each effigy suggests that they might be portraits especially that of Baptist Hicks which compares favourably with his portrait by Paul van Somer in the Middlesex Guildhall Art Collection.

The Hicks monument has, for quite some time been convincingly attributed to Nicholas Stone, master mason to both James I and Charles I. Katherine A Esdaile, writing in the *Antiquaries Journal* (volume 22) 1942 and citing an earlier reference in John le Neve's *Monumenta Anglicana* (volume 1 p116/7) 1717, likens the monument to that of Lord Spencer at Great Brington, Northamptonshire, which is a documented product by Nicholas Stone. What is unusual for such an elaborate piece is that the Hicks monument is not mentioned in the notebook and account book of Stone, published by the Walpole Society in 1919.

While the date of the erection of the Hicks monument is not known, it clearly shows the extent to which large-scale monuments had moved away from the elaborate structures of the later Elizabethan and Jacobean age. In monuments like that to Hicks, we can see considerable advancements and refinements in the ways in which classical architecture was applied and in the proper uses of classical architectural detail. Stone also broke new ground with the pose of his

figures. Both effigies are shown in very naturalistic ways: their eyes are open, their hands are not in prayer and the overall impression is one of great dignity without being stiff. Similarly, the rendering of the rich textiles of their clothes is handled with considerable delicacy. Baptist Hicks died without a male heir. By special Act of Parliament, the title of Viscount Campden passed to Edward Noel, the husband of Baptist's daughter Juliana. Their monument will be discussed below.

Sited either side of the east window of the chapel are two delightful half-effigy monuments to young women. That on the left commemorates Lady Anne Noel, died 1636, second daughter of



William Fielding, 1st Earl of Denbeigh and first wife of Baptist Noel, 3rd Viscount Campden. On the right is the monument to Penelope Noel, died 1633, unmarried daughter of Edward Noel. Legend has it that she died of blood poisoning after pricking her finger on a needle whilst sewing! Both monuments show the women wearing elaborate dresses with ruffs at the ends of the sleeves and with their hair falling in naturalistic curls. Lady Anne has her hands brought together as if in prayer with a small book between her palms. Lady Penelope has a book in her right hand, which is raised to her chest, and her left hand holds what could be a purse. These two monuments are clearly high quality pieces and so the obvious questions must be who made them and where?

Penelope's monument shows the half-length white marble bust placed within an architectural frame

which itself has a solid arched canopy supported on two columns and an inscription tablet on a black marble panel beneath the main shelf on which the figure is placed. Her hands are not in prayer. She holds a book in her right hand and what appears to be a small tasseled bag in the left hand. The monument to her sister-in-law Anne has a very similar architectural frame, but her figure has the hands in prayer and holding a small book. However, there are important differences between the monuments apart from the pose of the figures. The canopy on Anne's monument has two curved ends with an achievement of arms between them, the whole arrangement resting on a horizontal cornice. Two panels are placed beneath the main shelf, only one of which carries an inscription. A close look at the columns on Anne's monument shows that the capitals are quite distinctive in that they have, beneath a square top, an egg-and-dart moulding with a row of tiny beads. There is no such treatment of the columns on Penelope's monument.



Two other monuments, one in Devon and another in Leicestershire, are stylistically related to Anne and Penelope Noel's monuments and may help with trying to suggest a maker. At Combe Martin, Devon, a monument to Judith Ivatt is dated 1634. Her white marble half-figure shows her in the same pose as Penelope Noel and within an almost identical architectural frame. By way of an amalgamation of many of the features seen on all three monuments listed above, is the monument at North Luffenham, Leicestershire, to Susanna Noel who died in 1640. She was married to Henry Noel, one of the sons of Edward Noel and was sister-in-law to Anne Noel. What we see in

Susanna's monument is the same figure pose as seen on Penelope's monument and broadly the same architectural details as seen on Anne's monument. Another small but identifiable feature that links the monuments of Anne Noel, Judith Ivatt and Susanna Noel is the use of joined upper case letters in the inscription notably a T and H. When all the architectural and figurative features are taken together along with the close dates of death, the natural conclusion is that all the monuments had a common origin. Some of the details on these monuments are repeated elsewhere and can be associated with the workshop of John and Matthias Christmas, two brothers working in London, possibly in the parish of St Giles Cripplegate. On the evidence presented here, it is reasonable to suppose that the monument to Anne Noel can be firmly attributed to the Christmas brothers, while that to Penelope is almost certainly by the Christmas brothers. However, we have to be mindful of the fact that the actual figure carving might be the product of another unidentified, workshop.

Perhaps the most unusual of the four monuments in the Gainsborough chapel is that of Edward Noel, 2nd Viscount Campden and his wife Juliana Hicks, daughter of Sir Baptist Hicks. This large monument shows the two figures of Edward and Juliana holding hands and dressed in their burial shrouds. They stand on short plinths and appear to the spectator as if walking forward, the doors to their vault being opened to reveal them. Two lengthy inscriptions are carved on the doors, that on the spectator's left detailing the life and exploits of Edward, while on the right are further details of the family and the Viscount's successor, their son Baptist.

Above the figures is an architectural canopy with straight sides and with a large heraldic panel in the centre. Beneath that is a shallow segmental arch with a centrally placed wreathed skull. A small plate immediately beneath the skull carries the sculptor's signature, Joshua Marshall of London.

The design of the monument is very striking, but not completely original. At East Carlton, Northamptonshire is the monument to Sir Jeffrey Palmer (died 1670) and his wife Margret (died 1655). This was erected by Sir Jeffrey c1661 and is of exactly the same format as that to Edward Noel. The monument is unsigned, but clearly the work of Marshall.

With the Palmer monument, Marshall has portrayed the figures standing in their burial shrouds and holding hands, but even this monument was not entirely new. Joshua Marshall's father, Edward was an accomplished sculptor who was certainly working independently by 1630. At Amersham, Buckinghamshire is Edward Marshall's monument to Henry Curwen who died in 1636 at the age of 14. This shows the doors to his arched shrine held open by two slender angels to reveal the young man standing within, dressed in his burial shroud. Curwen's right hand rests on a celestial sphere while his right foot rests on a terrestrial globe. This is quite an accomplished and original piece that was clearly the inspiration for the Palmer and Noel monuments of a generation later.

The choice of Marshall for the Edward Noel monument was not a random one, as Marshall had already produced the monument to William Bartholomew who died in 1660, also in St James's church. Bartholomew had been the incumbent during the Civil War and Lady Juliana, patroness of the living, had given the commission for his monument to Marshall.

What can we say in conclusion? The Gainsborough chapel at St James's Chipping Campden holds four monuments by leading London sculptors to an important local family. To find such a collection is unusual and the quality of the sculpture demands scrutiny, but above all, appreciation. The Baptist Hicks monument is the work of the leading sculptor of the early seventeenth century, while that to his heir and successor is by one of the most important artists of the latter half of the century. The two charming busts to young women have here been shown to be the products of another leading firm of London based sculptors, albeit a little less well known than either Nicholas Stone or Joshua Marshall. It is testimony to the Hicks and Noel families that they patronised the best that was available and that we are able still to appreciate the work of these artists nearly four hundred years later.

More Woodroffe Windows in Leatherhead and Cardiff

Carol Jackson

This article continues from the previous research in Signpost 3, Autumn 2015, pp3.

The Catholic Church of Our Lady & St Peter in Leatherhead was built in 1923. Before 1914 Catholics in the area travelled to Epsom, Effingham or Dorking to hear Holy Mass. So, a mission was set up in 1915 with a Priest-in-Charge in two downstairs rooms of a house converted into a chapel, until new land was bought in 1922. Then, under leadership of Father Redaway and his successor, Father Reginald Pitts, and with the active support of Sir Edward Hulton, a successful newspaper proprietor and his Catholic wife, a new church was designed and completed by June 1923. The Architect was Edward Goldie, whose grandfather, Joseph Bonomi, had been architect in residence at the Vatican, Rome.

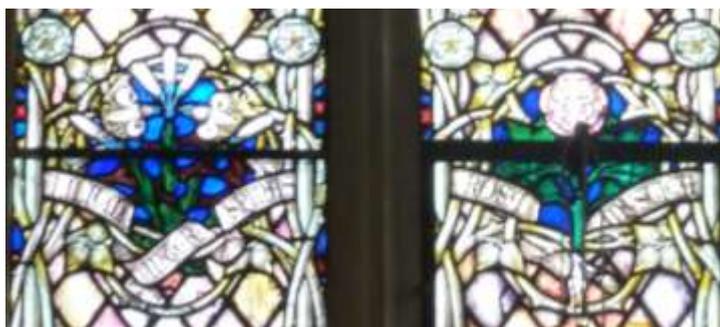
One of the Church's glories is the collection of Paul Woodroffe windows made in Chipping Campden. The East Window (see right) in five sections shows, a Pietà, the Incarnation and the Annunciation. It was commissioned by Sir Edward Hulton as a memorial to his parents and sister and bears the inscription 'In loving memory of Edward Hulton, his wife Mary and their daughter Mary Ellen. May they rest in peace.'



A north wall window next to the Lady Chapel, (see below left) depicts Christ giving St Peter charge of his church, showing the symbols of St Peter – an inverted cross and the keys; the inscription reads 'Pray for soul of Sir Edward Hulton – mindful of his many gifts. RIP' and was commissioned in 1928 by the congregation as a memorial.



Also on the South wall is a window dedicated to Our Lady (see below right). The left side had been originally ordered by Sir Edward as a specimen; the emblem is a lily among thorns 'Lilium inter spinas'; the right side with emblem 'Rosa Mystica', mystical rose was the gift of Father Pitts and made in 1928.





The West wall contains a magnificent Nativity Christmas Window, a blaze of colour, with the Three Magi on the right and the shepherds on the left. Parts of this window were depicted in the Royal Mail's 1992 Christmas stamps.

Two other windows complete the Woodroffe collection in this church. On the South wall of the Sanctuary (see below left) the Light of the World window was inspired by a William Holman Hunt painting in St Paul's Cathedral. Holman Hunt was married to Fanny Waugh of Leatherhead.



The window in the Lady Chapel (see right) depicts Our Lady appearing to St Bernadette.

A Millennium Window by Christine & Tony Benyon interestingly incorporates pieces of glass from the same batch originally manufactured for Paul Woodroffe in 1920s.

The Stations of the Cross dating from 1924/5 were carved by Eric Gill at Ditchling, so Woodroffe was in fine company here.



A CCHS outing to Cardiff in September 2015 also revealed some more fabulous Woodroffe windows. Cardiff Castle, originally a Roman fort, then a Norman motte and keep, was restored in Gothic Revival style by William Burges for the 3rd Earl of Bute, John Crichton-Stuart. They were both passionate about the Gothic style and the Middle Ages. The first stone was laid in 1869 and over the next thirty years craftsmen from all over the country were used for the fancy ceilings, wood carvings, painted tiles and stained glass. 3rd Earl died in 1900 before the project was finally completed, but his son the 4th Earl continued the project for the next few decades. In 1905 the 4th

Earl married Augusta Bellingham, grand-daughter of Charles George Noel, the 2nd Earl of Gainsborough.

It appears that there are three groups of Woodroffe windows in Cardiff Castle, dating to 1937, just after Paul Woodroffe left Campden. After the St Patrick's Cathedral, New York commission was completed in 1934, Woodroffe moved to Jayne's Court, Bisley, near Stroud in 1935, where he continued to accept commissions for stained glass. So could these Cardiff Castle 1937 windows, have been planned, designed, even started in his Westington Studio in Chipping Campden?

All windows contain lots of heraldry and historical features, velvet, texture and fur effects, with his tell-tale daisies at the foot of the depicted figure. Apparently Bute did not allow his craftsmen to leave their names on their work, so no small PW initials could be found. All of them depict the early owners of Cardiff Castle and some of these windows were used as the opening sequence for the BBC One 2013 television series 'The White Queen', Philippa Gregory's historical novel set during the War of the Roses.

In the Banqueting Hall Ante Room there were three sets of Woodroffe windows: the two smaller showing Ann Beauchamp and Richard Neville, Thomas Le Despencer and Constance Plantagenet (see right) and a larger six panelled window with Richard and Isabel Le Despencer, two Richard Beauchamps, Henry Beauchamp and Cecilia Neville.

The Entrance Hall contained two sets



depicting: King Henry VIII and Queen Jane Seymour on their own, a large six panelled one with Katherine Woodville and Jasper Tudor, King Henry VII and Elizabeth of York (see left), King Richard III and Anne Neville.

The windows in a corridor leading to Arab Room show: George Duke of Clarence and Isabelle Neville with a small Warwickshire Bear and Staff (see below right).

These windows could be some of the last that Woodroffe made. In Bisley there was less work and his health was poor. After leaving Campden he seems to have had wanderlust, staying only a few years at Jayne's Court in Bisley, moving to Coaxdon Hall at



Axminster, Dorset in 1939 where he lived for the duration of the World War II. In 1945 his last window was done for Camberley Catholic Church, but it was made by Lowndes & Drury in London. In the 1950's Paul relocated to Berkley Cottage at Mayfield, Sussex and he died in Eastbourne on 7th May 1954.

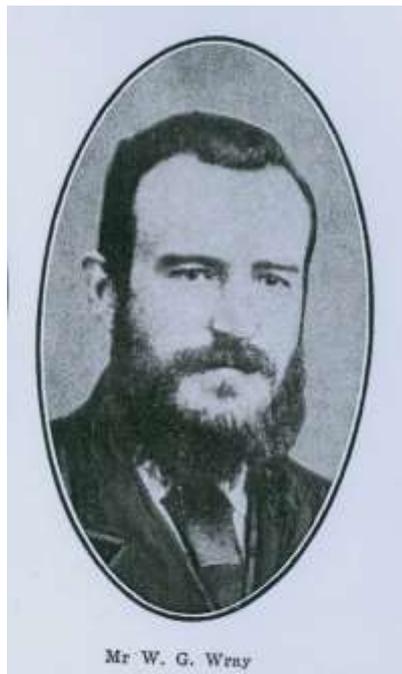
Photos: Sue Harrison, Clive Lockyer and Carol Jackson

William Wray's Last Years

Margaret Fisher and Pearl Mitchell

See Notes & Queries Vol.VI, Issue 5, pp 61 for the story of William Wray at Ebrington School: 'Then there was the School', Ref. 2009/286/DS C1S3BB.

Do you remember the story of William Wray, the Ebrington head teacher, who as a young man had fallen foul of the school governors in 1873? His misdemeanour was that he had 'an affair with a married woman from the Parish'. Dismissed, but allowed to resign in order to avoid a village scandal, William found that with no references his only option was to emigrate.



William and his wife chose New Zealand, at first teaching in Timaru, and then becoming headmaster of Spreydon School on the outskirts of Christchurch. Sadly, later on, he suffered from a mental disability and was eventually, due to his degenerating state of mind, committed to Seacliff Asylum (see right opposite) in a remote coastal area north of Dunedin. Established in 1878, this was New Zealand's only special institution for those with mental health problems and persons declared insane. The asylum had been modelled on the Norwich County Asylum in England with a magnificent main building complete with a 160 foot high tower following the Scottish baronial style. It was to remain the largest public building in New Zealand for the next fifty years, although, due to its remoteness from population, few were to see it and appreciate the grandeur of the architecture.

The recreation hall, built of brick and local Oamaru stone, was able to accommodate 900 people and contained two badminton courts. The curative effects of fresh air, outdoor sport and recreational activities were considered very important for the patients. This regime was overseen by Dr. Frederic Truby King, who had been appointed Medical Superintendent in 1889; by 1890 Seacliff was caring for 500 inmates.

From the excellent available records we know that Patient No. 1852, William George Wray, was admitted at 10am on 29th April 1885. His wife, Elizabeth, was totally exhausted with his violence and dementia and simply not able to cope any longer. From Seacliff's Medical Case Book we learn that William complained about the attendants, particularly one named John Furnell, who had been "rude to him and used bad language and spoken in a disrespectful manner". The Superintendent thought that this was probably correct and John Furnell was told to treat the patients with more respect or he would be dismissed.

In July 1889 the report in the case book tells us that William Wray had made no mental advance. The Superintendent stated: "He comes to me every month and says 'I demand my immediate dismissal to the Seacliff Hotel passenger steamer Coptic' or whichever he has seen in the newspapers is about to sail. He also writes a series of letters every month to the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford and others."

At this date we also learn that William was 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighed 10 stone 12 pounds. His eyes were greenish grey, he had an intelligent expression and his demeanour was said to be quiet, gentlemanly and courteous. He suffered from slight bronchitis, had a fair appetite, but his bowels were subject to constipation. As we would have expected from a teacher of many years standing, he was classed as well educated and wrote an excellent hand, but could be made no use of for clerical duties because of his delusions. Almost the only work he was able to do was to sew the

edges of canvas slippers. During most of his years at Seacliff, William regarded himself as a man of high position, thinking of himself as a knight and wrote to various dignitaries impeaching sundry persons with whom he disagreed. The medical report also notes that he sent imaginary telephonic messages using the bowl of his pipe as a transmitter and for some months in 1889 he was engaged in turning a book on mechanics into an ingenious but defective doggerel.



For the rest of his life, Elizabeth remained concerned about her husband, only able to visit infrequently from her home near Christchurch due to the remoteness of Seacliff and also her own poor health. She wrote regularly to enquire about him and his condition. Only about a year before his death, Elizabeth asked if she should pay a visit to Seacliff, but was told she would not be received very kindly by William as he considered her responsible for his incarceration.

The letter of reply to her questions ended with “this is simply a phase of his insanity for which he is no longer responsible.” During June 1897 she once again wrote from her home, ‘Locksley’ in Windsor on the outskirts of Christchurch, to enquire how he was. Pathetically she said “I know he thinks if I would make an effort and petition, he would be sent home and, until I do so, he will not take any notice of me.” She continued “Of one thing I am convinced; he is not fit to come home; if he were even likely to be better, I should be afraid to have him, for I suffered much before he left home and now I am so many years older, I would not cope with him.”

Elizabeth continued to enquire regularly after her husband and received progress reports on his wellbeing from Seacliff. In 1898 she was suffering from bad legs and for some time had been unable to walk. She remained very concerned about William until she received the sad news that on 2nd July William George Wray, aged fifty six years, had died at 12 noon, in the presence of A. W. Moore; the cause of death was



registered as Phthisis [*Ed. pulmonary tuberculosis or a similar progressive wasting disease*]. He had been incarcerated at Seacliff for the last 13 years of his life. Finally, after many hours of painstaking research in England and New Zealand, we have been able to complete the story of a young man, who had left Ebrington under a cloud 25 years previously and crossed the world together with his new wife, to begin a fresh life in New Zealand. Elizabeth lived on for another 20 years, dying in 1918 and they are both buried in the Old Burwood Cemetery overlooking the River Avon on the outskirts of Christchurch, hundreds of miles away from Ebrington.

Who was my Great Grandfather?

Justine Bayliss

This 2015 query, ref.15/064, interested me when it first came in, because through other Haines enquiries, I had already noticed a very odd name in the St James's Baptism Records – that of Mihály John Biró Haines on 23rd October 1911. His mother was Katherine Haines, a spinster of Chipping Campden, and no father was listed. It was noted in the record that the child was born in 1910. I had wondered who this Katherine was and whether the child's name gave some indication of the father. Previous enquiries about the Haines family, braziers at The Kettle, meant we were able to confirm details quickly for this enquirer's researches and this article results.

My great grandmother Katherine (Kate) Haines and her sister Bessie's family lived at The Kettle in Chipping Campden. Their grandfather was Peter Haines (1799-1853) the brazier and tin man. Kate Haines was unmarried and gave birth to my grandfather on 16th August 1910 at 46 Belvedere Road, Lambeth, London. The 1911 census shows Katherine, a dressmaker age 40, living in Chipping Campden with her mother, Elizabeth Haines, a 77 year old widow, and her son Mihály of 7 months at Stanley House, near to Woolstaplers Hall (Ashbee's House), between Braithwaite House (the old guest house of Ashbee's Guild) and the Lygon Arms, [Ed. maybe a cottage behind?]. I noted that Kate was 39 when her child was born and it was conceived c. November 1909. Who was the father and why did Kate go to London in 1910 for the birth?

I have found that Katherine was the daughter of James Haines and his wife, Elizabeth, née Hancock. James in his turn was the son of Peter Haines and his wife, Ann, née Atkins. James took over his father's business at The Kettle, so was variously a brazier, tinsmith, brewer, rate collector [Ed. see page 16] and later gas fitter. With his wife, Elizabeth, he had eleven children

between about 1861 and 1873: Frances Jemima, John, Peter, Martha Esther, James, Mary Ann, Elizabeth Jane, William, Katherine born about 1870, George Samuel and Alice Penelope Petronella.



My father has some beautiful carved wooden items, boxes, trays, bellows that were made by Kate; (see left) this wooden box is the only item which has KH initials and a date - 1894. I wondered if there may have been a link with the arts and

crafts movement. [Ed. The date 1894 would be too early for Ashbee's School of Arts & Crafts at Elm Tree House and the wood carving classes run there by Will Hart from 1904-1909, but some of the other undated items could be. The annual reports show that there were between 30 and 11 students in the carving classes. Was Kate Haines one of these?] Fiona MacCarthy's *The Simple Life* (p.85) records that Kate's sister, Martha Esther, (an assistant teacher at the infant school and married to Richard Dunn since 1886) was a friend and neighbour of the Ashbees and provided lodging for Guild members. [Ed. She lived across the road at the Malt House, next to Seymour House.] Martha said of their father, James "Tinker" Haines, that he hung on to old customs long after they had died out elsewhere and that they ate from pewter plates, cleaning them with elder twigs.



CCHS found a photo (in the Ashbee Collection at Kings College Archives, Cambridge) of Kate acting in a 1908 Guild

of Handicraft production of the Thomas Dekker play *Shoemaker's Holiday* (see left opposite, Kate with Harold Pymont and right, standing in centre with white hat and pinafore). She can also be recognised in the 1907 production of Sheridan's *The Critic*, in 1909 in Thomas Heywood's *The Fair Maid of the West* and also playing Audrey in Shakespeare's *As You Like It* in 1905. Performances usually took place in the Campden Town Hall in the period between Christmas and the New Year.



These photos would indicate that she knew the members of Ashbee's Guild well and was socialising with them.

Initially we wondered why my grandfather John Michael Haines (who was baptised Mihály John Biró Haines) was born in Lambeth, London rather than Campden. I now assume Kate went to stay with her brother James to have her baby, as I have found James living in Lambeth on the 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses.



We also wondered about the origin of the names Mihály and Biró. Family legend said the father of Kate's son was a Hungarian whose surname was Biró and who had a relationship with Kate whilst he was staying in Campden. Alan Crawford's book on C.R. Ashbee (Note 125 p. 441 relating to page 131, Chapter 5, *The Cotswolds*) gives the answer: Gyula Mandello, a Hungarian economist, socialist and professor at the Academy of Law in Bratislava from 1900-1910, for whom Ashbee was doing several designs, seems to have sent a student, Mihály Biró, to study under Ashbee in 1910, which would put him in Campden at the right time. After some internet searching, I found a Hungarian socialist poster artist named Mihály Biró who visited Campden to study under C.R. Ashbee and the dates match. The internet revealed much information about Biró and a self-portrait (left). It was exciting for us to see as his dark wavy hair, tantalisingly

similar to my grandfather's!

Internationally Biró is considered as the founder of the political poster art and is world-famous for his revolutionary designs from the 1910s. His works had great impact on the next generations of poster artists and his contemporaries all over Europe and the USA. His family was Jewish, his father changed the family name to Biró in 1895. Between 1904 and 1918 he studied at the Iparművészeti Iskola (School of Applied Arts) in Budapest. From 1908 to 1910 he travelled to Munich, Berlin and finally to England, where he became a pupil of C.R. Ashbee and won a "The Studio" magazine award. In the studio of Ashbee, Biró was definitely influenced by the English Arts & Crafts movement.

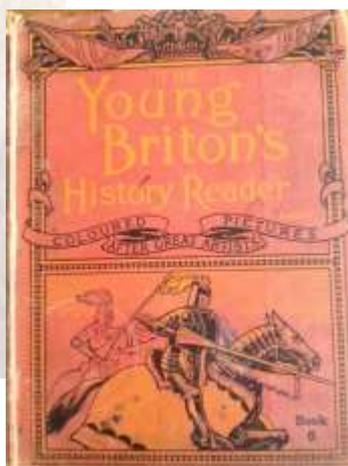
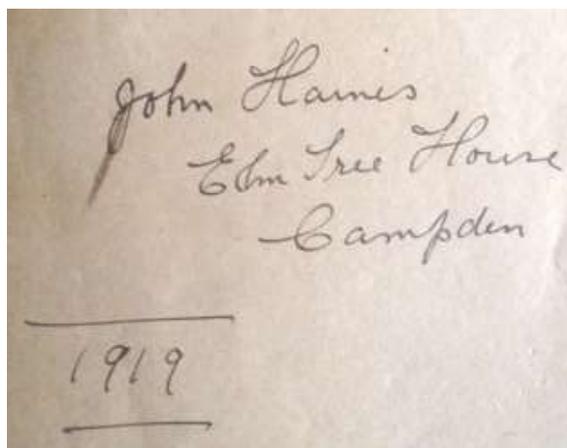


After returning to Budapest, he became the leading

graphic artist for a Socialist newspaper, Népszava (People's Voice). One of his most famous works is known as 'the red man with hammer'. During World War One, Biró served on the Serbian front, where he developed serious lung and heart problems, causing him health issues for the rest of his life. He was discharged from the military in 1917, returning to his political art career. However after the fall of the short-lived soviet regime, Biró had to flee. He worked in Berlin on poster art for leftist parties and commercial companies, but then fled from Germany because of the Nazi threat, first to Austria, then Slovakia and then to Paris. After the end of the war, in 1947, the socialist government of Hungary called him back and Biró received great honours, including a villa in Buda. Because of his serious illness he was unable to accept the university position that he was offered and he died in 1948.

Biro's posters are defined by the Secessionist or Art Nouveau style of the beginning of the century. His political posters are widely considered outstanding because of their expressive power, the political symbols, the red and black colours, the sickle and hammer, the red clenched fist, the male figure, etc. Besides the political posters, he also had a lighter and decorative side, seen in his commercial and theatre posters.

Kate's mother died in 1917 and by 1919 it is possible that Kate and 9 year old Mihály John Biró, known by now as John Michael, were living at Elm Tree House, since a history text book still in our family possession has a handwritten inscription inside: "John Haines Elm Tree House 1919".



left Campden at an unknown date and settled at 27, Windsor Road, Evesham, where she

lived with her sister Bessie and John Michael. This was the house where their brother, Peter, was living with his wife and daughter at the 1911 census and also where Kate and Bessie were living when John Michael married in July the 1940s, 50s and 60s, died in 1949.

1942. It became his family home through as it was where my father grew up. Kate

Outings for 2016 – have you sent in your form yet? Don't miss these great exploring opportunities!!

Wednesday 25th May Sulgrave Manor and Canons Ashby – guided tours of the two properties.
Cost: NT members £29, non NT members £38

Wednesday 20th July Blaeonavon National Coal Museum ("The Big Pit") and Three Choirs Vineyard, Newent. Cost: £37

Tuesday 6th September Dyrham Park and Cirencester Parish Church (St John the Baptist). Guided tour of the church. Cost NT members £23, non-NT members £36.

Booking forms are available from the CCHS Room or can be printed from the CCHS website.

“The Act is all humbug, no good”

Judith Ellis

Amongst the papers revealed by the cataloguing of the Exton Archives in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Record Office were some nineteenth century plans and correspondence about allotments in Campden, which led to a research study of the topic. The full story will be told at the April meeting of Chipping Campden History Society, but this is one incident in the history.

In 1887, Campden, like the rest of the countryside, was in the grip of agricultural depression and dissatisfaction amongst agricultural workers with the established order. In 1872 Joseph Arch, the charismatic leader of the National Agricultural Workers Union, had come to Campden to speak and although Campden men had not been heavily involved in the union, subsequently they had become more politically aware. At the 1885 election, following the previous year's Parliamentary Reform Act, Arch was elected as an MP, the first agricultural worker to enter Parliament. In the same election, A.B. Winterbotham was elected for East Gloucestershire and 'for a short time thereafter Campden (to the dismay of many) came to deserve the reputation of being “the most radical place in Gloucestershire”'.¹ There was a religious as well as political divide locally and nationally, with the Anglican establishment supporting the Conservatives and non-conformists supporting the Liberals.

Arch and Winterbotham were strongly in support of the provision of allotments, an issue taken up by Gladstone and his short-lived Liberal Government, but it was the Conservative Government of Lord Salisbury that passed the 1887 Allotment and Small holdings Act which empowered Rural Sanitary Authorities to compulsorily acquire land for allotments and to let them to local people at a reasonable rent.² Immediately some Campden residents saw the opportunity to improve their situation. On October 27th 1887 a petition signed by 31 inhabitants of Campden was presented to the Shipston Union Rural Sanitary Authority, asking for allotments. The Authority appointed a small committee, consisting of the Chairman (the Revd. C.E. Hornby, *see below*), the Vice- Chairman (Mr Timothy Smith) and one of the members for the Campden parish (Mr George Haines) to hold an enquiry at Campden to ascertain the circumstances of the case and report to the Authority.³



The inquiry was held in Campden Town Hall, but the result was predetermined, according to letters found in the Exton Archives. On 4th November 1887, the Chairman, Rev. Charles Hornby, who was Vicar of Ebrington, wrote to Col. Noel, the Gainsborough family member who was resident in Campden: '*... Meanwhile I have heard today that two of the applicants who were 30 in number are "felons". That sounds promising!*'

The 'felons' to whom he referred were probably Walter Radband and John James. In 1880 these two, with John Farman, were found guilty of committing an indecent assault on Ellen Hooper, a servant in Campden. James and Farman pleaded guilty; Radband pleaded not guilty, but the case was proved against him. The Bench sentenced them to three months hard labour at

Gloucester. In 1883 Radband, an agricultural labourer, married Fanny Ladbrook and by 1887 they

1 CADHAS. *Campden: A New History* 2005. p.201

2 Sanitary districts were established in England and Wales in 1875. The districts were of two types, based on existing structures: Urban Sanitary Districts in towns with existing local government bodies and Rural Sanitary Districts in the remaining rural areas of poor law unions. Each district was governed by a Sanitary Authority and was responsible for various public health matters such as providing clean drinking water, sewers, street cleaning and clearing slum housing.

3 Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Record Office (LLRO) DE3214/8921

had two children. Walter Radband headed the list of petitioners and was one of the most vociferous speakers at the inquiry, along with John James.

On 5th November Revd. Hornby wrote in more detail:

Dear Col. Noel

... I have myself considerable doubts whether this allotment application from Campden is [illegible] be granted. If we find on closer enquiry that the applicants are mainly, if not entirely, the 'loafers' of the place ... I believe that the correspondent or secretary or whatever he wants to be called whom the applicants appoint is one of the two 'felons' whom I mentioned in my letter yesterday. It cannot surely be the intention of the framers of this act that the benefits of the act should be expanded to such ... yet as I read the act I think it will be a very troublesome and difficult thing to exclude them. ...

I yesterday received a request from Mr Lewis the dissenting minister at Campden to postpone our enquiry about allotments for a day as the liberal association has for some time fixed and has had bills printed to call an important meeting on that day. This is not an unreasonable request ... I have acceded to it. Mr Lewis' reason for making it was that so many of the allotment applicants would also wish to attend the liberal (radical!) association meeting.

You as an ardent Home Ruler will be pleased to know that the Campden liberal association is supported by such worthy men as I think the applicants to be including the two felons.

Charles E Hornby.

This ironic comment sums up the underlying politics to the request for more allotments. The inquiry meeting went ahead, presented with a statement by Mr James Haines, the rate collector, showing that there were 253 allotments in the parish provided by the Earl of Gainsborough, 23 by the Oddfellows and 84 by other landowners. The meeting was reported in detail in the Evesham Journal:

'The main contention among the working classes present was that the rent of the present allotments was much too high. They also complained as to the small size and insufficient number of the lots ... Mr Radband said that if the Authority took action it would be of great benefit to the working men of the parish. There were plenty of men who had hard work to get a bit of firing and who went without food all day sometimes. If they had an allotment at a fair rent he thought the working men would hold a little higher position than they did now.'

Left l-r: Fred Bennett, Philip Merriman, 'Long Tom' Bennett, Robert Hands, Henry Newman



Philip Merriman then took up the argument, with a point probably calculated to appeal to the members of the inquiry, saying, 'I think if some people get bigger allotments it will keep a good many paupers off the parish, sir (Hear, hear)'. Philip Merriman was one of the five agricultural labourers who were featured with a photograph (see left) in the Evesham Journal in an article about their walk to London to mow the fields of Kensington. Henry Newman also spoke at the meeting. The Journal continued:

'A man remarked that they must start by having fresh men in the House of Commons. They would never get any land until they did, unless it was a bit down in the churchyard, and that they would have to pay dearly for.' Revd. Hornby, the Chairman, reiterated his point that 'It would be very wrong for an Act of Parliament to give an Authority compulsory powers to take land from the owners at the expense of the ratepayers, until all other means had been tried first and failed ... the Sanitary Authority would not take action under the

Act until the owners of land in the place had refused to grant allotments.' At the end 'Mr Radband then proposed a vote of thanks, seconded by Mr Merriman.'¹⁴

The inquiry members made a formal report to the Rural Sanitary Authority who decided to take no further action. Revd. Hornby's informal letter to Col. Noel was a little more frank:

11 Nov 1887

Dear Col. Noel

Our allotment enquiry meeting at Campden took us an hour. The practical outcome of it is that the Sanitary Authority have not any grounds to at present to take any further steps in the matter according to the opinion of myself and my co-magistrates ...

I think it was pretty evident that the labourers who were present had come under the impression that the new allotment act meant that they had only to come to ask the SA to give them allotments and then that they were bound to have them, and also pretty much at what rent they themselves thought fair. When I explained to them that the SA was the last thing to come to, after they had tried all other voluntary arrangements and failed, there was a groan and one man exclaimed 'oh then we shall never get any'. Another, 'the act is all humbug, no good, we cannot have a fresh one'. While a third shouted 'we shall do no good till we get another government'. However, this was all byplay of which we took no notice. When I asked them whether they had anything they wished to say to show cause why the Sanitary Authority should take action, while those who had got land wanted more, and those who hadn't wanted to have some, the great grievance seemed to be that the allotment grounds were, as they maintained, let at an exorbitant rent. £3.12.0 - £4 and even to £5 per acre being named as the prices that were paid. ...

I am not favourably impressed by the appearance of the labourers who appear and I question very much whether they were at all representative of the better class and I took it upon myself to tell them to their faces that the act was not intended to throw law into the hands of idle, drunken, loafing men who would always think [illegible] labour, but that it was meant to benefit those who were already showing that they were doing their best to help themselves. I don't suppose some of them liked this but they took it without open grumbling.

Following the refusal by the Sanitary Authority to take action until landowners had been approached, the men presented a petition on 23rd November, again headed by Walter Radband, to the agent for the Earl of Gainsborough:

'We the labourers of Campden do humbly ask your Lordship to well consider this petition for we assure you that the greater part of the working class are out of employ the greater part of the year & we believe that if we had allotments to the extent of one acre at a fair agricultural rent & a field near at home it would be a benefit to us as now there are from 30 to 40 men in our small town that have not any regular employment & to look forward to this winter with no employ & only the small crop we get off the small allotments we now hold under your Lordship is a very hard case for working men with families. This petition is signed by 45 working men who are really in want of these allotments & who would do their best to keep them in proper order.'

The Earl of Gainsborough's response is not to be found in the Exton papers, but it seems likely that it was not favourable. Two years later the Liberal MP for the area, Arthur Winterbotham, purchased land in Campden which he let as allotments, provoking another round of newspaper correspondence and reports of political meetings, the Conservatives deriding his scheme and the Liberals maintaining that he was there for the working man. The 1887 Allotments Act was generally resisted by local authorities and revision was required to strengthen the conditions. However, it was not until 1907 that an Act was passed that imposed further duties on local councils to ensure the provision of allotments, taking the main responsibility away from local landowners.

CCHS Annual Report 2015

Another year of History!

It has been another year of history - perhaps not making it, but certainly recording and celebrating the diversity of our town and district. The activities are many and various, engaging the interest of our community through meetings, reports and the website. Members of the Society have had the opportunity to pursue their interests and become involved in all sorts of ways. However, all this activity does require organisation – it doesn't just happen! – and we do need more people to join the CCHS Committee. Our constitution provides for a Committee of twelve people, but at present we have only seven and that inevitably means that individual loads have become greater than they should be. For the future health of the Society, we need new faces and ideas and contributions. Being one of twelve means that the role is not unduly onerous, nor does it need a large time commitment, but it is important for the well-being of the Society. So if you would like to consider joining the Committee, please feel free to talk to Judith Ellis, Alan Barclay or one of the other Committee members, about what is involved. You would be very welcome!



Last year the Committee made the decision, in the absence of an appointed “Archivist” (a somewhat daunting title) to focus on a team approach to cataloguing and researching, but we are still looking for someone to lead the team, as Archive Team Co-ordinator. However, the team has been self-motivated and much good work has been done, energised by new donations of documents and the interesting enquiries made by people. Luckily our Query Co-ordinator, Carol Jackson, has continued in her role, using her immense

knowledge to research and provide answers. Our volunteers were invited to a Christmas coffee morning, as thanks for their efforts.

Finances

2015 has been a steady year financially for the Society and has seen the finances remain in a relatively healthy state. Our subscription income has been maintained and we have managed to bring the underlying operational deficit down to approx. £300. The Society's reserves remain at approx. £17k. Full copies of the accounts for 2015 will be available at the AGM, or on request to the Treasurer.

We shall be facing some further pressure on expenditure in the next year or so, particularly as we are due a tri-annual rent review. (Rent and rates are by far our most significant item of expenditure.) The AGM last year agreed that more regular modest increases in membership subscription rates were preferable to irregular larger ones, and so the Committee is proposing to the 2016 AGM that the rates be increased to £17 (single) and £25 (joint).

Membership

Membership for 2015-16 stands at 254, compared with 267 for the previous year. 16 new members have joined, a much reduced figure compared with the remarkable 41 the previous year, and this is offset by 29 non-renewals, to give a net decrease of 13.

Archives

The History Society Archives have benefitted from two large donations of documents and photographs during the year, as well as some interesting individual items. One sizeable contribution came from the Haines family, including documents relating to the Frederick Trinder Charity and others which were combined into Campden United Charities in 1969. One day a researcher will find them an invaluable resource for a study of the help given to families over the last 100 years. A variety of photographs were included in the Haines collection and these have been scanned into our Photo Library, which now holds over 11,000 images, painstakingly catalogued by our Archive Team.

Another significant collection arrived unexpectedly one day in a large suitcase and box: this was very exciting, as it was revealed to be documents and photos from Miss Josephine Griffiths and her family, as reported in the last Signpost. Since then the computers have been humming as our researchers investigated the story of the Griffiths family and their home, Bedfont House. The gardens are of particular interest with enquiries now being made about plant nurseries in Japan one hundred years ago! We made the decision to have Miss Griffiths' sketchbook professionally digitised (*see above*), as it is very fragile, and we shall now be able to use the images in recreating her story.



As our profile is raised through the website and as we receive more donations, there is an issue for the Society: we are delighted to be given items about Campden's history, but we are running out of space in the Local History Room and there is a considerable cost in ensuring that we conserve the documents and photographs safely. We need to buy archival quality sleeves and boxes, which are expensive and are putting some pressure on our budget. This is a problem for all archives, as an increased interest in local history and awareness of the importance of saving records is resulting in more donated material.

Digitisation of documents is one way of saving space and also making documents more useful as they are searchable on a computer. This work can be tedious but very valuable – we have found that we learn more about the history as we go through the documents.

Programme

We are pleased to report that the increase in numbers attending talks, which we experienced last year, has held up well this year, with the Town Hall frequently filled to capacity. The year started with Alan Barclay's talk on Campden's Enclosure Act. Prof. Christopher Dyer, our President, came later and described his recent research at Compton Scorpion. We were also pleased that Carol Jackson was finally able to give her deferred talk on Finberg and the Alcuin Press. Next year we can look forward to our usual mix of topics, including talks on everyday life and accidental death in 16th Century Gloucestershire and the uses of DNA in family history research.

Research

Campden's Changing Landscape Group's continued analysis of documents from the Court Leet meetings in the last quarter of the 18th Century is proving to be very valuable in providing a glimpse into how farming worked at this time. It is fascinating to have such a sharp contrast between these pre-enclosure documents and the way enclosure transformed the organisation of the land. Close examination of the 1800 lease for Campden Hill Farm demonstrates something that we can

recognise as farming in the modern era. Newly-accessed documents from 1611 reveal considerable detail and will help to extend our research over a period of an additional 100 years. We have been pleased to begin the process of feeding back some of the findings of the group's hard work via, for example, Alan Barclay's talk on the Campden Enclosure Act.

Old Silk Mill - research continues with slowly-emerging detail relating to individuals who worked at the Mill. The Overseer had experience of working in mills in different parts of England. In 1851 the Mill Manager was evidently a keen Methodist and Chapel Steward at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in West End. Such knowledge gives greater insight into the lives of some of the mill workers who left neither letters nor diaries. The Mill is an important old building, which for over 70 years was the centre of the lives of many Campden residents.

Research into the history of Watery Lane/Park Road has continued, with some interesting family stories being uncovered: one armed pedlars, alcoholic chimney sweeps, poachers, silk weavers, gloveresses, agricultural labourers, supposed witches, Romany people, basket weavers, french polishers, bookbinders, cow men, French Huguenot refugees, a man falling into a mash tub of boiling water – and a murder! New residents are also getting involved and the research group hopes to report by the end of the year.

Although there have not been any public activities in the past year about Old Campden House, the Campden 'Howse' group continues to meet and do background research. A close examination of the archives in Gloucester, Leicester and elsewhere is revealing more detail about Sir Baptist Hicks and his wider family and associates. It is known that he was an extremely wealthy man, moneylender and mercer to King James I, but recent research has unearthed two 'love letters', albeit as a failed suitor, which tells us more about the man. Sadly the letters are not dated, but presumably were written before his marriage to Elizabeth May in 1584. There are a number of other possible lines of research on the house and gardens. A meeting was held in December with representatives from the Landmark Trust and Historic England and plans are now being made for further explorations of the site next year.



Chipping Campden School celebrated 575 years in 2015 with an event that included displays by the Archive Project, supported by CCHS. Families came to look at the photos and artifacts, adding their memories and information to the research. Two visitors were over 100 years old, a former teacher during WWII and a student who remembered his time at the school in the High Street before the new building was opened in 1928. The CCHS Archives are providing very valuable material for background to the stories that are being put on the website.

Photo: from Wendy Chapman

Archive Room Queries during in 2015

Between 1st January 2015 and 31st December 2015 Archive Room Volunteers received and dealt with 101 queries, 15 less, (-13%) than the previous year, yet still the third highest year for queries since the Archive Room opened. This does not include any correspondence which was specifically directed to officers or function-heads, or on-going correspondence relating to previous queries. The majority of them still come in through the website www.chippingcampdenhistory.org.uk or by email to the Archive Room computer, often stimulated by an article or a website posting. About 17% came from a visit to the Archive Room, a member or local contact. The average this year is

about 8 or 9 a month, (last year 9 or 10) with once again the January (26) & July (31) quarters of the year being busier than April (23) or October (21). The individual monthly break-down was: 4 queries in Dec, 7 in each June and Sep, 8 in each Jan, March, April, May & Oct, 9 in Nov, 10 in each Feb and Aug and 14 in July, a fairly even distribution over the year.

The breakdown of query type this year was slightly different: 36 (36%, ly 53%) were family history related, 16 (16%, ly 9%) were about specific well-known people, 28 (28%, ly 25%) were questions about places or houses and 21 (20%, ly 24%) were individual subject or general inquiries e.g., photos, maps, books, guided walks, general history help. This year enquirers were mostly from the UK, but there were some from USA, Japan, Ireland and Australia. Several enquirers have made good donations to our funds and some queries have developed into an interesting article for our journal *Signpost* or have prompted a note for the website. We do welcome articles for *Signpost* – it is a valuable method of recording members’ researches. Contact Carol Jackson via signpost@chippingcampdenhistory.org.uk.

We are grateful to the team which mans the Archive Room, helps answer queries and does work on transcription, digitization, cataloguing, research and articles. Dealing with a query is not only interesting for the individual query volunteer, valuable to the enquirer and financially useful for the society, but it is also good public relations for Campden and CCHS gains new contacts and information. Volunteers are welcomed – please contact us for more information.

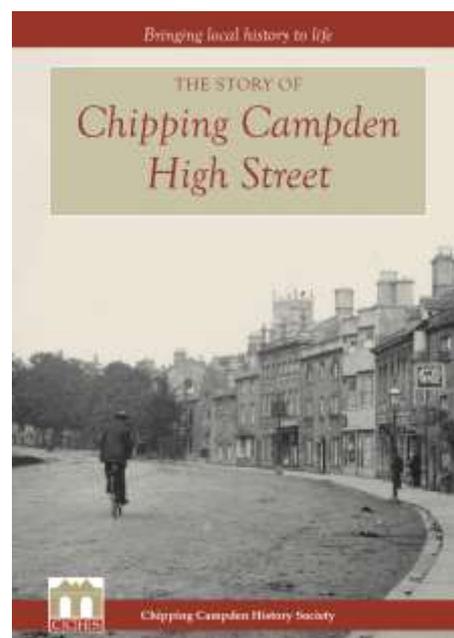
Family History Group

Our informal monthly gathering has continued to grow in numbers, attracted by a variety of talks, mainly given by members. Paul Hughes came to launch his new book about local men and women in WWI and 'Campden in yesteryear', a film show of clips from television and film, proved popular. Nicholas Cutts described the growth of 'Cutts of Campden', and another family story was 'Caumpedene Pigs' with David and Carole Webb, explaining how they started, and the trials and pleasures of animal husbandry.

Publications and Book Sales

The highlight of the past year has been the publication of “Chipping Campden High Street”, the fifth in our series of booklets on Campden. Published last August, this has proved to be a very popular booklet – by the end of December we had sold 264 copies. The other booklets in the series continue to sell steadily – it is clearly an attractive format. Other book sales have been relatively modest, although they continue to provide valuable funds for our budget!

Our 'new-look' journal, *Signpost*, has been welcomed, giving members a combination of articles and news from the Society.



Website

We continue to develop the website and thereby attract new visitors. In 2015 the number of visitors increased by 22% and visits to the site increased by 20% over the previous year. During the year we introduced a 'Paypal' facility, which means that people can order and pay for our publications online and whilst this may not have resulted in a huge increase in orders, it is interesting to note that the number of people viewing the Publications page has increased by 60%. It is gratifying too, that most of the enquiries to the Archive Room come via the website.

The way the website enables CCHS to reach out to people is demonstrated by a comment put on our 'Norton Hall Red Cross Hospital' webpage by a man living in Canada, who wrote 'The man in the

lower right-hand corner of the photo ... is my grandfather, Alan Cooper, who was a member of the Australian Expeditionary Force and wounded at Gallipoli. I have a postcard of the same photo with his comment on the back. He mentions that all the servicemen in the photo are Australians'. This kind of feedback is enormously helpful in adding to our pool of knowledge and will, we hope, bring in additional information from others doing family research.

Thank you to those members who have contributed articles for the website. We always need more to keep the information fresh and up-to-date. You can email your contributions – and suggestions for topics – to website@chippingcampdenhistory.org.uk.

We have made a tentative foray into using social media and now have a Facebook page which has also brought in some useful comments and photographs. Someone who is familiar with this technology would be welcomed to take it on and develop it further. Another new development in 2015 was an electronic mailing list for monthly reminders about the talks. It seems to have had the desired effect as attendance at meetings in the Town Hall substantially increased in 2015.

Outings 2015

John Aylen again organised an interesting and varied programme of outings, enjoyed by members of the History Society and the Campden Society together. On a very rainy day in May we visited the Rural Innovation Centre at Cirencester to hear a thought-provoking talk about the challenges facing the farming community and trudged outside to see pigs enjoying the mud! In the afternoon we travelled to Northleach for talks by members of the Cotswold Conservation Board, giving us interesting background to our understanding of local history. The two excellently guided tours of Bristol in July, reported in Signpost, refreshed the memories of some and gave others an incentive to make the journey again. The statues of Shaun the Sheep provided extra entertainment! Finally, in September we toured Cardiff Castle, discovering a local connection with glass windows designed by Paul Woodroffe. The outings for 2016 have been publicised and hopefully will be well supported. See page 16 for details. Your booking forms are required now.

CHIPPING CAMPDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

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