

Signpost



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Bringing local history to life



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From the Editor

Another very interesting set of articles have come forward for this edition of Signpost. It is always amazing to me how we have had such clever and unique people in the history of Campden and its vicinity – both in recent years and in the past – two more now to add to our knowledge through the stories told by Vivienne McGhee of Dorothy Hodgkin and of Lady Frieda Harris by Richard Kaczynski. It is also good to have the background story from Vanessa Doe to the Campden owned Whissendine plots of land and the short period of activity of the Boys Brigade in Campden is vividly described by Judith Ellis. The photograph on the front cover, when linked with other documents in our Archives, has provided some useful answers to a query and with Jill Wilson's article we can imagine the Campden burgage layout in the 12th century. In preparation for the Annual General Meeting in April the Committee's Report on the exciting year we have had fill the last few pages. I hope you all enjoy reading yet another fascinating Signpost and my thanks to all contributors. Please keep your news, comments, research findings and articles coming in to me.

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Front cover illustration:

Photo by Jesse Taylor from CCHS Archives of Rolling Stone Orchard, Back Ends, taken before 1910 and before any building on these burgage plots. See Correspondence and Article on page 7 about Lady Frieda Harris and Aleister Crowley at Chipping Campden.

Correspondence

Colin Ashworth, who describes himself as a Tombstone Tourist, has notified CCHS of his new website: <https://findthatmi.wordpress.com>. It is a collection of links to enable researchers to find memorial inscriptions – very useful for family historians and an interesting browse. There is the list of churches, where memorials have been surveyed, but the results are only published online or locally as a hard copy; they may not have been published under the auspices of an area or county society. The background to the website is explained on the ‘About’ page and via the contact page Colin would be pleased to have comments and feedback.

CCHS has also had contact with **Ralph Hoyte**, a Bristol-based poet and writer working with Prof. Steve Poole of the University of the West of England on a historical geo-located app to do with notorious hangings and gibbettings in the Georgian West country. They are using the William Keeley of Chipping Campden murder of 1772 as one event (see note by Sue Allitt, *Notes & Queries Vol VII* page 50); other stories they are using are: Johny Walford in Nether Stowey, an Arn Hill hanging in Warminster and Goodere and Maloney in Bristol. He also asked for details of the Broadsheet poem printed by Willey of Cheltenham about Harriet Tarver who was executed on April 9th, 1836 for poisoning her husband (accessions ref no. 1998/073/DT Box F10 and see *Notes & Queries Vol VI* page 54 and *Vol II* page 62). The relevant websites are ralphhoyte.com and satsymph.co.uk SATSYMPH: geo-located soundscapes for dramatised heritage interpretation, contemporary music and contemporary poetry – so watch this space!

Archive Room volunteers have on separate recent occasions helped two different University students each researching the Cotswold Olympicks for their PhD or BA theses. Also an American authoress was in Campden in the Autumn researching the old Grammar School and life in the 1500s and was shown around two timber-framed High Street houses by two CCHS members. So we hope to receive copies of these research results in due course. We have heard of the sad death of Alan Izod in January 2016 from his son, David. Alan gave a talk to CADHAS in the early 1990s about his research into the worldwide Izod family and has always been available for help with queries. We are pleased that his son will guard his father’s work and it will be available too, once he has understood all Alan’s files.

The photo on the front cover showing part of Back Ends burgages taken from the Hoo, was found amongst the Jesse Taylor collection of glass plates and it proved really useful in helping an enquirer about Lady Frieda Harris and where she lived at Rolling Stone Orchard, see page 7. It is interesting in showing the two Woodbine Cottages in Back Ends with the gate to their right which, as today, leads to Grevel House gardens and barns and the empty plot of land with trees on its right, where now stands The Orchard, which was built about 1908 for Miss Gertrude Julia Williams. A Seymour House conveyance, recently deposited in CCHS Archives, dated 30.12.1910 mentions her. Behind the Woodbine Cottages, you can clearly see another area heavy with trees, where now stands the Surgery in Guthries Burgage and which must have been part of the land belonging to Ivy House, Barley Mow or Pinkneys on the High Street. Notice that Woodbine Cottages are linked by a wall to what looks like a barn and a coach house with land behind and an orchard to the left. The coach house and barn are now incorporated into a more modern house, Cornerstones, (previously called Rolling Stone Orchard, built c. mid 1960s by Dennis Hughes) and the wall is now gone, to allow access for the Surgery, Gyldestones, Nursery Cottage and Ivy House garden. The orchard, to the right of the tree on the far left of the photo, behind another wall, is now built upon with Rolling Stones, a close of 6 houses (built c. 1987) and which provides back access to Miles House and North End Terrace in Leysbourne. The land to the left of the tree (not shown) is Stanley’s Orchard where Griggs built his new Dovers House (in the late 1920s) and four other houses, Tara, Dovers Side, Croppers and Morva in Griggs Close were commissioned by Leda Homes of Dorridge in c.1972.

Dorothy Hodgkin – Cotswold Heroine

Vivienne McGhee

Vivienne McGhee is a Cotswold Warden Walks Leader, who, knowing about Dorothy Hodgkin, the only British woman to have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for her work on insulin, always drew Dorothy's former house in Grump Street, Ilmington to the attention of walkers when they passed. On one walk in 2016, surprisingly Dorothy's daughter, Elizabeth, was a walker and provided much family context and stories about her mother.

Dorothy Mary Crowfoot was born in Cairo in 1910 to John Winter Crowfoot (1873–1959), an archaeologist and classical scholar, and Grace Mary Crowfoot, née Hood (1877–1957), an archaeologist and expert on Ancient Egyptian textiles. Her father was working in the Cairo administration, before moving to Sudan. Her parents spent most of their time abroad, while Dorothy and her sisters were looked after and schooled in England with a nurse and extended family. Dorothy's interest in rocks and chemistry started at an early age of 10 and in 1921, she entered the Sir John Leman Grammar School in Beccles. She went up to Somerville College, Oxford in 1928, graduating with a first class degree in Chemistry in 1932. She chose x ray crystallography as her fourth year research subject and continued this with PhD studies at Cambridge. Her particular research was on the structure of Vitamin D, cholesterol and ergosterol. She returned to Oxford in 1934 to take up a fellowship. This involved a combination of teaching and research. Elizabeth told us that her Mother was not a skilled teacher, her skills lay in laboratory work and it was to that she committed her life. At this time someone sent her a protein to analyse and it turned out to be Insulin. She was to continue research on this for the next 34 years and it was for this work she was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1964. She had the ability to see in three dimensions, important for her research and also the ability to explain complicated scientific findings simply and accurately.

She married Thomas Lionel Hodgkin¹ in 1937 and had three children Luke (born 1938), Elizabeth (born 1941) and Toby (born 1946) and one miscarriage (1944). In 1938 at the age of only 28 she developed rheumatoid arthritis which was to get progressively worse throughout her life. For



most of this time Thomas was working away from home. He was involved in adult education and was later an adviser to the governments of African states planning independence. Her commitment to research was such that her day was timetabled between caring for the children and laboratory work. During World War II the research emphasis was on penicillin, which was proving a strategic importance for care of the troops. Dorothy was a key part of that work and identified many of the types of penicillin used today.

After the War there was a realignment of sciences and Dorothy was overlooked for a readership at Oxford. She applied to and was granted funding from the Rockefeller Foundation and went on a three month travelling fellowship in USA. Elizabeth told us how she, as a six year old, felt at the loss of her mother for that time. She can remember cycling round the garden brandishing a knife. In 1948 Thomas was abroad in Ghana, as it

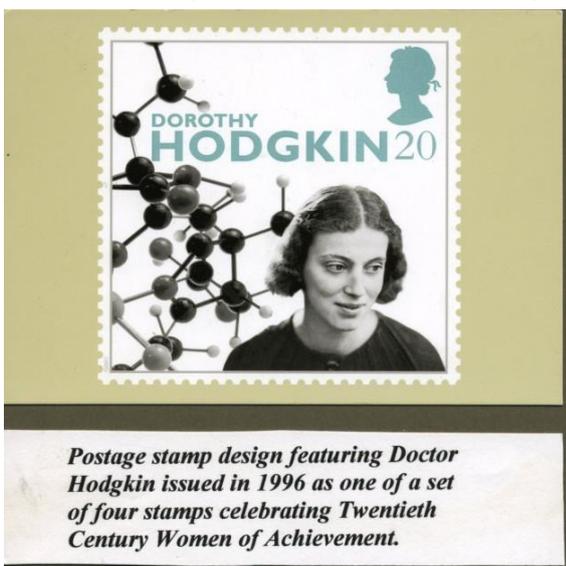
¹ It is interesting that Thomas's father was Robert Howard Hodgkin, who in a 1911 Kelly's directory is listed as a Fellow and Lecturer in Modern History at Queen's College Oxford. Robert and his wife Dorothy Forster Hodgkin, née Smith, were living at Corner Cottage in Broad Campden in 1934 and 1935 and at Cherry Orchard Cottage, Broad Campden in 1936. Robert died in Ilmington on 28th June 1951.

is now, Dorothy was looking after the children and home with help and working in the lab. Her focus changed to Vit. B12, which was essential in the treatment of pernicious anaemia. She welcomed researchers from all over the world, acquiring funding for them where necessary. She always encouraged them to return to their home countries to continue their research there. Hence her network was extensive. Margaret Thatcher (née Roberts) was one of her researchers. Dorothy solved the structure of Vit. B12 and was invited to Harvard University to present her findings. Her visa application was refused as she had declared membership of a science related peace organisation and this was the 'McCarthy' era. So she went to USSR instead. Her work then returned to the structure of insulin.

This chronology of her life does not reflect the nature and importance of Dorothy as a woman. She was one of the most generous researchers, sharing her knowledge widely. Elizabeth told us that her father was a social networker and would often throw parties, sometimes at Crab Mill in Ilmington. He would do the cooking and keep the conversation going, whilst Dorothy was a quiet person, often staring into the middle distance, presumably thinking about her work. She was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1964 for her work in developing protein crystallography and the Order of Merit from the Queen in 1965. She received many other awards both in UK and abroad, but the Nobel Prize changed her life. In 1969 she determined the structure of Insulin, continuing with her worldwide travel, lecturing and encouraging research. She officially retired in 1977, but Elizabeth said that she never retired and continued to travel extensively. Apart from her last trip in 1993, she travelled in economy class, believing that money would be better spent on research. She had strong social conscience, although was never a communist as some websites claim.



In 1990 she fell at Crab Mill, fractured her hip and never walked again. That did not stop her interest in research and in 1993 she suddenly decided to travel to Beijing for a conference. Her GP in Chipping Campden refused to declare her medically fit to travel but that did not stop her. She booked the flight, etc., travelled in a Laura Ashley dress with a high neckline and attended the conference, accompanied by Elizabeth. Dorothy had another fall at Crab Mill in July 1994 and died on 29th July 1994 there with all her family around her. She is buried in the Church graveyard at Ilmington.



She is remembered in many ways, in buildings named after her, by a Henry Moore bronze sculpture of her hands at the Royal Society and portrait by Maggie Hambling at the National Portrait Gallery, which is apparently in great demand and often out on loan. She also featured on two stamp issues - in the 1996 *Famous Women* and in 2010 *350 Years Anniversary of the Royal Society* and on BBC Radio 4 series *The New Elizabethans*. A woman for us all to know about and remember!

With recognition to *Dorothy Hodgkin, A Life* by Georgina Ferry and much on the Internet.

Campden Residents and the Faggot Votes in Rutland - the Campden Freeholders and the Whissendine One Acre Plots

Vanessa Doe

When in 2010 Tim Clough, the Editor of the Rutland Local History and Record Society, was working on the Rutland entries in the *Return of Owners of Land 1873* (RHLRS Occasional Publication 2010) he was struck by the fact that among the owners listed from outside Rutland there were an unusually large group of them in Whissendine whose homes were in Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire. Tim Clough gave a paper to CCHS on this curiosity in 2012 (see *Notes and Queries* Vol VI p. 9). It is to clarify questions arising from this that the research in this piece has been done.

There was of course a long historic association between the Noel's Exton Estate in Rutland and the smaller but originally more significant estate of the Hicks family centred on Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire and the Exton Estate Archives contain much material about the Campden estate and the connection with Rutland. There are for example several useful documents illustrating the close working relationship between the Stewards of the two estates in the nineteenth century and that they co-operated, among others, in matters involving the political fortunes of their employer, Sir Gerard Noel. In 1814, for example, there is a series of letters between the Campden Steward, John Hickman, and the Exton Steward, Thomas Dain, which shows, what appears to be the beginnings of the Whissendine freeholds. These small pieces of land established voting rights in Rutland for sixteen Campden residents, the plots of land about which questions were later raised. In the first letter in January 1814 Hickman tells Dain he would like to know what was being done to purchase the land 'as my friends are desirous of supporting Sir Gerard' and when the land was available he would have seven applications for it. The land in Whissendine came on the market when Mr Keene the landlord of the George Inn 'foundered' (was bankrupted) and his land was sold. On 13th May Dain was at hand to bid for it when it was sold for £1145. It was sold as 24 acres but Dain's surveyor, a Mr Wilson of Empingham, employed to set out the plots for the buyers from Campden, reckoned the area purchased amounted to 25 acres and Dain thought it was good value. He charged £145 for the auction expenses and the deposit and on 13th May Hickman wrote with a list of fifteen Campden names ready to purchase plots. The purchaser's names were listed with their trades and occupations. The plots were paid for on June 21st when Hickman told Dain he had sent the £1145 to Ramsbotham and Co of Lombard St and the details of the new proprietor's names to the Exton estate's solicitor, Mr Burley in London. They were all Campden residents as follows:

John Hickman gent	Robert Hickman farmer	James Tidmarsh gent
Charles Marshall gent	Thos Roberts Esquire	John Haines farmer
Stephan Hancock gent	Robert Haines gent	Richard Fletcher gent
John Stanley farmer	Thos Roberts draper	
Richard Hull joiner and cabinetmaker		John Griffin farmer
William Holmes farmer	William Izod gent	

This list was passed to 'the Commissioners' on 14th May and they were registered as freeholders in Rutland. At the end of the month, 31st May, Hickman saw the plan drawn up by Thomas Wilson of Empingham who writes 'I have sent a sketch of the Estate at Whissendine divided into sixteen parts. I have divided it that each lot have an entrance to the road. ... The Estate contains 25 acres and three perches.' A map showing the Estate in Whissendine, lying beside the main road from Oakham to Melton was mapped again on 26th September 1866 entitled Whissendine Freeholds. (DE3214/4590/1.) Each plot was typically just over one acre in extent.

In the 1850s an account of the land held by the Exton Estate, drawn up in connection with the administration of Sir Gerard Noel's will after his death in 1838 shows land accounted for in Whissendine. It paid no rent to the estate but was valued at £160 'for votes'. It should be seen

votes for each candidate was read out the crowd shouted that they were faggots, presumably hoping to stir a Parliamentary enquiry and overturn the election. Heathcote's 'faggots' were in Langham on land recently taken in by enclosure from the common and part of the church glebe. There may have been some Noel faggots there as well, as Langham was an Exton estate village. The main bulk of the Noel faggots, however, were in Whissendine and were genuine freeholds, legally bought sold and bequeathed as such, until at least the end of the century, by which time extension of the male franchise had rendered them unnecessary in Parliamentary terms. The small freeholds, all fenced and with access to the road, were subsequently developed for housing or as smallholdings and traces are still clearly visible today on land beside the main Oakham to Melton road to the east of the village centre.

Fig. 2 Aerial view of the remaining evidence of the acre plots in a Whissendine field in 1947 (RAF Aerial Survey 1947 Rutland County Museum, Oakham).



Faggot vote: A historical term for a manufactured vote created by the transferring property to an unqualified person to give him the status of an elector. C19; perhaps from the former use of faggot, meaning a person spuriously entered on a military roll. Oxford English Dictionary.

Dawnay: The family name of Viscount Downe, created Baron Downe in 1796. The Dawnays had acquired the manor of Ashwell by marriage in 1760s. The Barony of Downe died out in 1832, but the Viscountcy remained. William Henry Dawnay was a politician. He was MP for Rutland 1841 to 1846 when he succeeded his brother as Viscount Downe. He died in 1857. (VCH 11 109) There is a memorial window to him in Ashwell church.

All DE reference numbers are held at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (ROLLR).

The Langham History Society website for the Lincolnshire Chronicle and General Advertiser Reports on the results of the 1841 Election: <http://www.langhaminrutland.org.uk>

Cartomancy in the Cotswolds: Lady Frieda Harris and Aleister Crowley at Chipping Campden

Richard Kaczynski

Richard Kaczynski wrote to CCHS asking about Rolling Stone Orchard. He is the author of *Perdurabo: The Life of Aleister Crowley* (North Atlantic Books, 2010). He has also written academic articles on the Thoth Tarot, delivered a keynote address on Frieda Harris at the 2016 Trans-States Conference in Northampton and maintains the *Thoth Sightings* web page, which documents the deck's appearances in TV, movies and other forms of mass media/popular culture.

In early September 1939, Chipping Campden became home to a colourful and prestigious figure: the artist Frieda Lady Harris (1877–1962). World War II had just begun and, like many Londoners, she responded to mandatory blackouts and the threat of German air raids by seeking refuge in the countryside. She was not simply distancing herself from the war, but also dedicating herself to painting. She had been collaborating with author and occultist, Aleister Crowley (1875–1947) on a new deck of Tarot cards - the iconic *Thoth Tarot* - and needed quiet seclusion to complete her 78 original pieces.¹



Frieda Harris (right) with Aleister Crowley (centre), along with their acquaintance Katherine Falconer, c.1940. Photo courtesy of the Warburg Institute.

Her husband, Sir Percy Harris, Bt, was Labour Party MP for Bethnal Green. Except for occasional visits to the country, he remained in London at Morton House, Chiswick Mall, which in a 3rd September letter to Aleister Crowley, Frieda Harris described as living “under

the canopy of bombs” there.

[W]e have nightly air-raids & I hear bombs dropping & guns firing & I am alone & have the responsibility of the pictures. I get frightened which surprises me. Tonight I am going to sleep in the kitchen, it seems further away from the sky. Last night I did not sleep till 3 a.m. We have no sirens, so we don't know who is overhead, buzzing like a wasp & dropping bombs like an incontinent hen.²

Conditions four miles away at her artist's studio in 57, Petersham Road, Richmond were no better.

At the turn of the twentieth century, Chipping Campden had been the arts and crafts centre of Charles Robert Ashbee, a follower of William Morris, and colleagues, making it an apropos

¹ The 78 cards of the Tarot consist of 22 “major arcana” cards numbered 0 through 21, and 56 “minor arcana” cards whose organization resembles modern playing cards: four suits (wands, swords, cups, and disks or pantacles) consisting of ten card numbered ace through ten, plus four - rather than three - face cards.

² Letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 3 September [no year], Yorke Collection, Warburg Institute, University of London.

relocation for Harris. She had friends living at Woolstapler’s Hall and some of her early mail was (mis)sent there.³ Her new dwelling at Rolling Stone Orchard was in a loft:

“I am living here without any servant & in the top of a garage, no drains, no hot water, no electric light, only gas, but quite tolerable to me, as I am able to work without undue interruption. I have no telephone & no wireless & no friends here. I have to walk up a hen loft ladder to sleep in my studio. [...] For curtains I have American Cloth in the garage kitchen & in my studio 2 pink blankets which look alright. The blackout here is so complete that I fell down in the yard in the middle of the night, cut a lump out of my leg & bled so profusely I was quite alarmed. But I don’t mind because I have more leisure & less disturbance by telephone & the nervous vibrations of a political life. [...] I am not running my car at all, bicycling everywhere.⁴”



Right: Photograph of Rolling Stone Orchard taken before 1910 by Jesse Taylor with a coach house (foreground centre), fitting the description of the place to which Frieda Harris moved in September 1939. Photo courtesy of the CCHS Archives.

The lack of amenities notwithstanding, Harris was fond of the place, even as winter rolled in:

“The trees are incased in ice, I have never seen anything like it, & living & walking, everything ordinary has assumed a rare & dignified aspect with the elements completely out of control. Also, the howling wind, & this new invention "icisny" which is neither raining or snowing, keeps everyone away, so I can read, paint, or cook to my entire satisfaction, also slither up & down the ladder to my studio which provides the necessary exercise & danger to stimulate me & keep me warm.⁵”



R.A.C. The Golden Cockerel A.A.
 (Prop.: Miss HELEN HARGREAVE)
HIGH STREET, CHIPPING CAMPDEN
 When visiting the Cotswolds, an obvious stop for Luncheons, Dinners and Accommodation is THE GOLDEN COCKEREL. In this charming Cotswold inn you will find the best of food served in an old world atmosphere.
Reduced Winter Terms. Local Golf Course and Swimming Baths
 For Reservations, Accommodation & Meals Ring Campden 237
 Restaurant and Residential Licence

Given her penchant for colourful clothing, the sight of her on that ladder in an artist’s smock, secondhand ballet tights, or repurposed theatrical costumes must have been something to behold. When a work crew began installing a bath in her studio, Harris’s letters from this period refer to living in a caravan, some written on the stationery of venerable local establishments such as the Golden Cockerel (see left), Cotswold House and Fosseway Hotel.⁶

³ Letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 3 November 1939, Harris Papers, Special Collections Library, Pennsylvania State University Libraries. “The picture did not arrive because my friends at Woolstaplers Hall were away & the house shut up & you know I have never lived there [...] It would be much better to write to the above address” i.e., Rolling Stone Orchard.

⁴ Letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 7 November 1939, Yorke Collection.

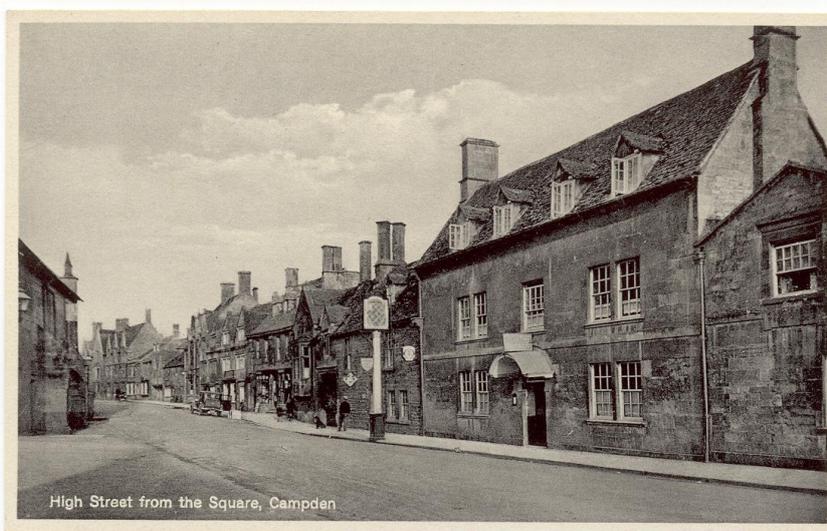
⁵ Letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 28 January 1940, Harris Papers.

The Tarot project had been well underway the year prior to the war's outbreak. It was ambitious and slow-going, however. Crowley would write out what he wanted to see in each card - occasionally accompanied by rough sketches - and Harris would execute the piece in her own style. The goal was to incorporate traditional imagery while updating it with Crowley's lifetime of study, all presented in a modern artistic style. Both of them were perfectionists, and one or the other often insisted that a card be re-painted.

The outbreak of war slowed their progress. Travel to London was difficult, even dangerous. Their formerly-regular meetings were replaced by correspondence, which was sometimes unreliable due to war conditions. Both were in their sixties and prone to illness: Harris complained of chilblains, eye-strain, and back trouble, while Crowley was often sidelined by lumbago, toothache and severe asthma. Due to limited electricity and blackout conditions, Harris could only paint during daylight hours, which became increasingly limited in the winter months. She was reluctant to ship her art, so finished pieces were photographed in batches by the local firm Steptoe⁷ and prints sent to Crowley for approval or critique. Occasionally, Harris invited her collaborator to the country to view the cards in person.

For example, shortly after arriving at Rolling Stone Orchard, Harris finished working on the swords suit. Although these symbolized the sharpness of intellect, under her current circumstances she ascribed warlike qualities to the cards, or at least to their creation. She was anxious for Crowley to approve them, writing, "I think it would be a good plan if you could arrange to come here one day next week & see the Swords. I have a superstitious horror of bringing them all unbalanced to London. As it is, we are driven mad with soldiers here & if I don't get on with the Pantacles this will be a garrison town."⁸

Crowley travelled to Chipping Campden on 15th November 1939. The next day, he noted in his diary, "Inspected Swords suit and K[night] and Q[ueen of] Disks. All pretty good: few alterations needed."⁹ He returned home the next day. It was the first of several brief visits during his work with Harris. He would return in February, May, July, and September. His diaries mention dining and staying at the Noel Arms Hotel (*see right*) on Harris's recommendation.¹⁰



⁶ See, for example, letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 12 September [no year], Yorke Collection, and Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, no date, Harris Papers.

⁷ See, e.g., letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 1 June 1940, Yorke Collection.

⁸ Letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 3 November 1939, Harris Papers.

⁹ Aleister Crowley, 16 November 1939 diary entry, Yorke Collection.

¹⁰ See Crowley's 1940 diary entries for 28 February – 6 March, 25–27 May, 2–6 July, and 24–26 September; also the letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, n.d., Harris Papers, where she writes "'I find the pub 'The Noel Arms' is quite nice. Would next Tuesday suit you?"

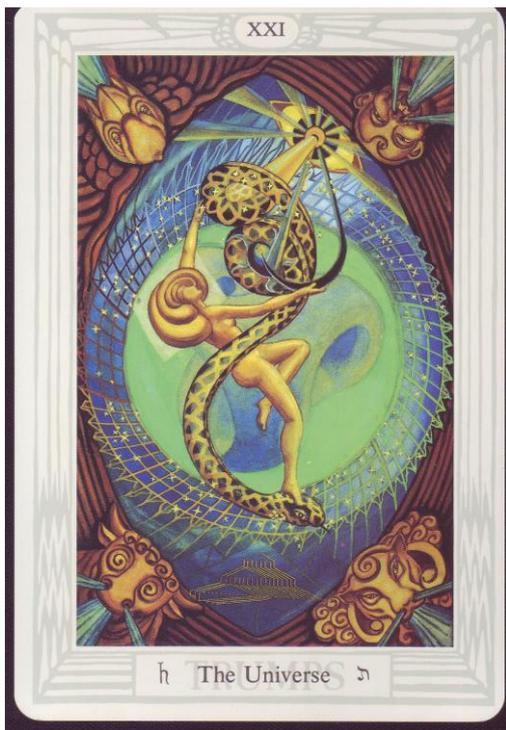
During his July visit, an unspecified problem involving Crowley's asthma machine forced him to move to the King's Arms (*see below*) where he got a "much better room."¹¹



Harris meanwhile pressed on with the remaining disks, along with various other cards. She was especially eager to work on "The Universe," the twenty-first and last "Atu" of the major arcana.¹² The card traditionally depicted a nude woman within an oval, or Vesica Piscis-shaped wreath surrounded by four kerubic beasts. Crowley liked to include scientific imagery in the cards where appropriate, and Harris had an idea to use science writer J.W.N. Sullivan's illustration of

the elements according to the periodic system. As she explained, "The diagram is in Sullivan's book [*The Bases of Modern Science*] & I have always wanted to use it, so it will come in well for the Universe I think."¹³ Crowley approved of the result, writing in his diary, "Frieda has done a superb [Atu] XXI."¹⁴ In his companion volume to the cards, *The Book of Thoth* (1944), he described this addition poetically: "In the center of the lower part of the card is represented the skeleton plan of the building of the house of Matter. It shows the ninety-two known

chemical elements, arranged according to their rank in the hierarchy"¹⁵ This is but one example of how Harris was able to incorporate her ideas into Crowley's specifications.



Left: Frieda Harris's painting of "The Universe" which Aleister Crowley called "superb." Image © and reproduced by permission of Ordo Templi Orientis.

On 25th May 1940, Crowley noted in his diary, "All cards now done; only a few small revisions and the four aces to do over." Crowley gave his "Final approval of all Taro bar VIII [Adjustment]" on July 3rd, and later that month, on 26th July, he noted "Frieda here with VIII, v. good." The project was not quite done, however. "The Magus" proved unsatisfactory, and as late as 13th May 1941 Crowley still referred to it as "the one trump that must be done again." Harris would ultimately paint seven iterations of the card before producing one that was mutually acceptable.

¹¹ Aleister Crowley, 3rd July 1940 diary entry, Yorke Collection.

¹² See letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 7 January 1940, Harris Papers, where she writes, "I am longing to have a go at Mercury, but I am determined to do the Universe first"; and her letter of 28th January 1940, where she adds, "But it is much too cold for you to brave the train, also I am not quite ready to show enough work. I should like to have the Universe done first, so I shall stop & take another brood on it."

¹³ Letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, n.d., Yorke Collection.

¹⁴ Aleister Crowley, 28th February 1940 diary, Yorke Collection.

¹⁵ The Master Therion [Aleister Crowley], *The Book of Thoth: A Short Essay on the Tarot of the Egyptians* (London: O.T.O., 1944), 119.

Completion of the paintings was a bittersweet prospect for Harris. In January 1940, with the end of their collaboration in sight, she wrote, "I am positively alarmed at the prospect of the end of this work, as if I do not get any more handed to me, I shall have to return to the awful life I have escaped from in my conscience during the last 2 years, and I doubt if I can."¹⁶ And in October, she again lamented, "I suppose my magical retirement is at an end. I have to return & I can't, Aleister, that is the trouble. It has all become impossible. I have got to go on painting."¹⁷

The end of this phase of the project nevertheless meant the beginning of next steps. Harris arranged lectures and exhibitions of the cards in hopes that someone would offer to finance the deck's printing. Meanwhile, Crowley continued writing and printing his companion volume, *The Book of Thoth*. The book would be published in 1944, featuring black-and-white reproductions of all the cards and a few tipped-in color plates. However, despite Harris trying over the years to get a deck printed, an official version did not appear until 1970. The deck would go on to be a sensational success, becoming one of the most popular Tarot decks of the twentieth century.

Editor's Post Script:

Recent study of the deeds of Miles House in Leysbourne revealed a 1923 mention of "an orchard lately occupied by Edmund Scholes with coach house, open shed, two cow pens and two brick pigsties" and on 20th Oct. 1926 reference to "an orchard with 105ft frontage to Back Ends and bounded on NE by passage or roadway from Back Ends to the back of certain houses in Leysbourne and on South by Miss Smith's property" (i.e. Miles House). On 26th April 1939, Mrs Newton, the owner of Miles House, sold part of its orchard to Frieda Mary Harris of Morton House, The Mall, Chiswick for £467.10.0 and later in a 1951 document Mrs Crosthwaite seems to have "acquired the orchard from Lady Harris". On 8th Aug. 1986 Mr & Mrs Steeds, the owners of Miles House, sold what remained of the orchard to Longborough Developments for £50,000 with the right of passage and soon after on 2nd Sep. 1986 they resold it to W.A. Cox of Evesham – so the close called Rolling Stones was probably built c. 1987.

I wonder if any Campden locals have stories to tell about Frieda? Does anyone know who were her friends at Woolstaplers Hall, which was shut up because they were away, as mentioned in a letter dated 3rd Nov. 1939? Frieda's letters to Crowley, sadly several of them undated or fragments, are quite fascinating with several references to Campden at this time – see www.beyondweird.com/crowley/liber/crowley-harris.html Correspondence between Aleister Crowley and Frieda Harris (mostly regarding Thoth Tarot designs) Original key entry by Fr. H.B. in New York 1/26/90 e.v. ASCII conversion by Bill Heidrick, T.G. of O.T.O. Copyright (c) O.T.O. O.T.O. P.O. Box 430 Fairfax, CA 94930 USA (415) 454-5176.

Frieda writes that she has tried to cut the "jungle around my caravan to look at these glorious apples and pears on my trees". She is found in the Campden Chemist's Poisons Register, on 6th Aug. 1940, 8th Aug. 1944 and 22nd Jan. 1945, buying weed and wasps' nests killer, presumably for use in the orchard, her address being given as Rolling Stone Orchard. She is either recorded as Lady Harris or Lady Frieda Harris, but only once does it say 'artist colour' in the occupation column. In one letter she writes "this place is full of interesting people and things I like. Except rats which apparently infest this farm building."

One Campden local, when asked, remembered Frieda who used to come to their family dairy at Haydon House. She remembered that Frieda got bitten by a dog at the dairy, but "she was all right about it." She was described as eccentric and flamboyantly dressed with her hair, which was red, always wrapped up in bright scarf. Does anyone else remember Frieda Harris in Campden?

¹⁶ Letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 7th January 1940, Harris Papers.

¹⁷ Letter of Frieda Harris to Aleister Crowley, 17th October 1940, Yorke Collection.

Campden Boys' Brigade

Judith Ellis

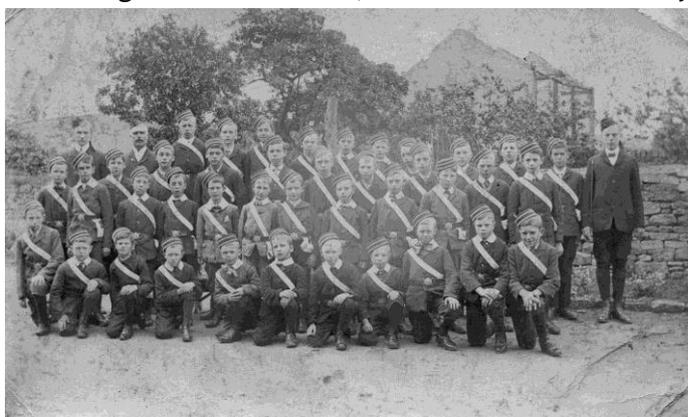
The Boys' Brigade was founded 1883 in Glasgow by William Alexander Smith, with the aims of 'the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect, and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness' (the word Obedience was added some 10 years later). Local interest in this topic was prompted by family history and photographs in the CCHS Archives; further research in Evesham Library and the Muniment Room of St James' Church added the details.

People in Campden were familiar with the Boys' Brigade: Evesham Journal reported on 29th April 1905 that "Three companies of the Boys' Brigade, hailing from Cheltenham, Leominster, and Worcester, were encamped during Easter week near Weston Park. On Easter Day they held a Church Parade at Mickleton, as they have encamped near the village in former years and are well-known in that locality. After the service they were met and played through the village by the Campden Town Band in their new uniforms, the return to camp being via Campden."

Jim Pyment, head of C.R. Ashbee's Guild of Handicraft, and his family had moved to Chipping Campden with the Guild in 1902, where he immediately immersed himself in local life. On the demise of the Guild he set up a family building and carpentry business, J.W. Pyment and Sons. Jim was active in many aspects of local society and is notably remembered for reviving Campden Town Band, which he conducted with great authority. Harry George (HG) Ellis was the town basket maker with an avowed interest in helping young people in Christian ways, and in military life. From sixteen years old he was a member of 'K Company' Volunteers, being presented with his long service testimonial in 1901. He remained in the Reservists and joined up in 1914 at 58 years old, being sent to Worcester to serve as a training sergeant.

Jim Pyment and H.G. Ellis had a shared interest in the well-being of boys and in 1909 they formed Campden Boys' Brigade.

"On Monday evening the Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade, recently formed by Messrs. H.G. Ellis and J.W. Pyment, forty strong and two officers, wore their uniform for the first time, and it being Empire Day paraded the town under the command of Capt. J. Pyment, and after some instructive drill sang the National Anthem near the Chestnut Tree and again in the Square. Before dismissal Sergt-Inst. H.G. Ellis, in addressing the boys, reminded them of their motto, 'Truth, Honour and Self-reliance', and said he hoped they would always adhere to these principles, and never disgrace their uniform, either now or should they wear one when they were older."¹



Left: Boys Brigade 1909

The Cheltenham Chronicle also gave an account of this first uniformed parade, in the sentiments of the time, "Col-Sergt-Inst. Ellis and Mr. Pyment, who have always the welfare of the youthful members of the community at heart, are to be congratulated on the excellent company they have got together, and if their efforts in such a good cause are sufficiently supported financially, a lasting

good to the youth of the town will be effected."

¹ Evesham Journal 29th May 1909

The Evesham Journal and the Campden Parish Magazine reported regularly on the activities of the Brigade - parades, drills and entertainment. In October 1909 the Campden Parish Magazine reported that "On Sunday Sept 19th the Company held a Church Parade at Campden [with visiting companies]. After the service they marched to the Square where they were inspected by Miss Maye Bruce, of Norton Hall, who afterwards addressed them."



Left: The Boys' Brigade parade in the Square with possibly Miss Bruce in the foreground.

But it was not all hard drills: "On Tuesday, October 19th, Mr. Dewey² very kindly gave the lads of the Boys' Brigade a most enjoyable treat, in the shape of a Magic Lantern Entertainment, in the Blue School, at the close of which the Vicar addressed the Brigade on the subject

of Discipline, concluding with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Dewey, which was received amongst much applause. After singing God save the King the Brigade fell into line and marched to the Square, where they disbanded."³

There was one particularly contentious issue for the national movement of the Boys Brigade - the perceived military connotations – and many were against training with guns, even dummy ones. "The Boys' Brigade does not concern itself about recruiting for Her Majesty's Services, but it holds that were all our forces largely leavened by men of the types aimed at in the training of the Boys, this country would be indebted to The Brigade."⁴

Campden Parish Magazine – January 1910

On Boxing Day, the Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade, 38 strong, paraded in the Square, under Capt. Ellison. Having been drilled for a short time by Col.-Sergt. Ellis, they marched to the Vicarage ... The officers have been fortunate enough to be able to obtain a loan of 24 carbines and 21 dummy rifles from Stow-on-the-Wold.

Right: Boys with their new guns and H.G.Ellis.

Cheltenham Chronicle & Gloucestershire Graphic - 16 April 1910:

"CHURCH PARADE OF CAMPDEN BOYS BRIGADE

Campden Boys' Brigade held a church parade on Sunday afternoon, and were joined by the Broadway Boy Scouts, Blockley Boy Scouts, and the Mickleton Boys' Brigade. Capt. F.



² Probably George William Dewey, 1911 census age 46, Elementary School Teacher living in Leysbourne.

³ Campden Parish Magazine

⁴ Campden Parish Magazine – January 1910

T. Ellison commanded the home brigade, and the total strength of the combination was 150. The Rev. O. F. Jacson gave the address, and afterwards entertained the lads to refreshments on the Vicarage lawn. Later on they were inspected by Major E. O. Skey, of the 4th Batt. Buffs, who addressed the lads in an encouraging tone.”

Campden Parish Magazine – July 1910

“On Thursday, the 23rd, the Company took part in the Fete, postponed from Whit Monday in consequence of the death of King Edward VII. The procession marched through the town to Westington, the Boys’ Brigade and Scouts acting as an escort to the May Queen. During the Fete a combined display by the Brigade and Scouts was much appreciated, although somewhat hampered by want of space. The Brigade was divided into two companies, one for defence, and the other for attack. The Scouts acting as signallers and ambulance party.”

Campden Parish Magazine - October 1911

“During last week the Boys’ Brigade had their first experience – and a very happy one it proved to be – of camp life. They were kindly invited by Col. Mainwaring Jacson, brother of the Rev. O.F Jacson, vicar of Campden, to Tedsmore Hall, West Felton, Salop. ... The week's activities were many and varied. ... On Thursday afternoon a programme of sports was carried out, and in the evening there was a camp fire. The catering was in the hands of Mr. Bert Clarke, of Oswestry, and gave the greatest satisfaction, the boys voting it splendid ... the beautiful surroundings and the excellent catering all helped to make the week a very pleasant one and one that will bring only the happiest recollections to the lads of the their first experience of camp life.”

Below: The boys also participated in swimming sports in the Campden Bathing Lake.



In August 1913 members of the Parish Church choir and the Boys’ Brigade went for a whole days’ excursion to Portsmouth, arriving at their destination at 10.30 a.m. After an excellent meal at Madden’s, most of the party sailed across to Ryde, passing through a large fleet of men-of-war, which had lately returned from the manoeuvres. They also had the satisfaction of seeing Mr Sopwith flying across the harbour in a waterplane en route for Cowes.

Campden Parish Magazine – January 1914

"The Campden Company of the Boys’ Brigade. This is still under the command of Captain T. Ellison, who is loyally supported by Instructor H. Ellis and Lieut. N. Izod. During the summer the drills were well attended, but since the outing to Portsmouth, we regret to say, there has been signs of considerable slackness amongst the lads, and the attendance at their Bible Class has been anything but good. We trust that all concerned will do their utmost to remedy this defect. This work amongst the lads is capable of rendering much help in the building up a strong characters, and should receive the hearty assistance of all."

Campden Parish Magazine - August 1914

"For some time past the question of converting our Company of the Boys' Brigade into a Company of the Church Lads' Brigade has been under consideration, and it has been decided that the time has now arrived when the change should take place.

Our chief reason for making the change is that by forming the C.L.B. we shall obtain stricter discipline, and be under the careful supervision of the Headquarters Staff in London. Our Company will be linked on to the Gloucester Regiment of the C.L.B., and we shall be placed under the command of Colonel Thoytes, who will at regular intervals inspect the Company."

The Campden Company of the Boys' Brigade therefore had a brief life, just five years, and there are intriguing hints of dissatisfaction in the news item in the Parish Magazine that announced the transfer to the Church Lads' Brigade. It appears that discipline was lacking. The decision may also have been influenced by probable anticipation of war.

Later

In September 1914, war was declared and many who had been involved in the Boys' Brigade enlisted. Frederick Ellison, the former Captain of the Boys' Brigade, joined the Royal Engineers and survived the War, later active in Campden life until his death in 1957. H.G. Ellis joined the Worcestershire Regiment as a sergeant-instructor, and the boys who were old enough went far afield. As there is no list of the members it is not known how many there were. Those who signed up included: Harold Pymont, Gordon Ellis (died 1915), Michael Grove, George Plested, Tom Plested (died 1916), Gerald Howell, John Howell, John Franklin and William Payne. Some, such as Arthur Ellis, enlisted later when they were old enough.

Editor's Did You Know? ...

Sumptuary laws (from Latin *sumptuariae lēgēs*) were Mediaeval laws intended to restrict private expenditure.

Black's *Law Dictionary* defines them as "Laws made for the purpose of restraining luxury or extravagance, particularly against inordinate expenditures in the matter of apparel, food, furniture, etc."

The Local History Companion by Stephen Friar notes that in 1336 Edward III attempted to curb excesses of extravagance in dress and cuisine by law; further laws were passed in 1363 and 1444, the latter controlling clothing when it was part of the servant's wage, permitting certain allowances to bailiffs (5s), principal (4s) and ordinary servants (3s 4d). A further statute in 1463 under Edward IV legislated for the control of persons of all ranks, with more laws up until 1532 forbidding untitled persons to wear such things as purple silk, gold chains and collars, cloth of gold and crimson velvet. There were additional controls for furs, the use of ermine being allowed only for nobility or by others close to the Crown with permission. There were similar acts in Scotland, but the Scottish sumptuary law of 1621 was the last of its kind in Britain.

Historically, society in many countries has used sumptuary laws for a variety of purposes - to regulate the balance of trade by limiting the market for expensive imported goods, to more easily identify social rank and privilege and to regulate and reinforce social hierarchies and morals and assist social discrimination by preventing commoners from imitating the appearance of aristocrats or limit the conspicuous consumption of the prosperous bourgeoisie. Such laws continued to be used for these purposes well into the 17th century.

This helps to explain why the position and connections of Michael Hicks in the Court of Queen Elizabeth I, when working for Lord Treasurer Burghley, and afterwards his son Sir Robert Cecil, was so important for his brother, Baptist Hicks, and the family mercer's business at Cheapside and why he became so wealthy. There are entries in the State Papers of Queen Elizabeth's Court e.g. 1597 "Aug. 1597 Bill for Silks, Satins, Velvets and Taffetas, sold by Baptist Hicks, Merchant ..." Frequent entries continue through the reign of King James e.g. "July 25th 1607, a warrant to repay to Sir Baptist Hicks ... part of a sum of £24,000 ... due to him from the Great Wardrobe.

Campden at (almost) 100

Jill Wilson

Campden's original charter has not survived, but sufficient references to it over the following centuries have enabled the date to be set at approximately 1175. The lord of the manor, Earl of Chester, Hugh de Kevilock, had chosen the wrong side in a revolt of the Barons and so King Henry II had temporarily deprived him of his lands, taking them under his own control. Hugh de Gondeville was sent in 1174 to the then solely agricultural manor of Campden to hold and administer it for the King, which he did until 1177. The new charter potentially increased the income from the manor for this permitted the setting up of a new Town and a weekly market.

The spot chosen was along an existing track or route where good flattish land to the north allowed long plots to be laid out, each with an identical frontage onto the new wide market street. Empty plots were made available to be leased by artisans, merchants and others. The rent would be 12d a year per plot, but each lessee would be responsible for erecting his own dwelling and workshops. The main building, at least, had to be completed within the first year. The first buildings were no doubt hastily erected, but before long they were replaced by more permanent dwellings and shops.

Almost 100 years later, the then lord of the manor, Sir Roger de Somery, Baron Dudley, died without a son who would be entitled to inherit the manors of Campden and Barrow-on-Soar [*Ed. a village in northern Leicestershire in the Soar Valley*], for he had held these by right of his first wife, Nichola de Albini. His only surviving son, Roger, was the child of his second marriage and would thus inherit only his many other lands and the title of Baron. Four daughters by his first wife survived him, each entitled to a quarter of the income from the two manors and therefore an Inquisition was set up to establish exactly what was involved and to specify which rents and leases would fall to each.

In 1996 Allan Warmington published *The Manor and Borough of Campden in 1273* which explained what occurred and gave as an appendix '*The Tenants and Burgesses of Campden and their Holdings in 1273*'. This detailed the partition, listing all those who were due to pay rent and/or service to the four husbands of the four daughters who were heirs to the income from the manor of Campden, it being the custom then to consider such things to be the right of the husband.

Thus we have a survey of the Borough almost 100 years after the original grant of the Charter that established it. Not surprisingly a great deal had changed. There were many more burgages than would appear likely to have been set up in 1175. Also there are many '½-burgages' and a few messuages and other items as well. There were in addition messuages in Gloucester and a burgage in Winchcombe - possibly part of the dower of Nichola d'Albini. Over the preceding decades there must have been many changes. The original tenants of the burgage plots will be long since deceased. New tenants and incomers are likely to have made it necessary to increase the total number of burgages. Then of course extensions, additions and adaptations will certainly have changed the actual buildings on each site. Extra workshops, barns and so on will have been built in the long back parts of some plots. However fires are likely to have destroyed some buildings – for they would have been timber framed and thatched. Therefore rents are not all the same as they would have been in the beginning, for renewals to descendants of old tenants and leases to new ones could well vary according to the actual buildings on the site and their condition.

The surviving documents had been carefully examined by Allan Warmington who was clearly puzzled by certain details. Taking the final list of the '*Holders of Burgages and Messuages in the Borough*' who were to pay rent to Sir Ralph de Crumwell, for example '*Master Roger de Campeden*' was listed only once, even though he was due to pay 3 shilling a year for 3 burgages. However John le Pape was listed twice being due to pay 1 shilling for 1 burgage and 2 shillings for 2 burgages.

Robert Caspy with 2 burgages was to pay 2 shillings and tuppence for the 2 burgages – but was he the same as the Robert Gaspy paying 1 shilling for a single burgage? The handwriting and spelling of names in those distant days made the latter uncertain. (There could well have been several copies of the original decision made by scribes who had difficulty in reading the writing on the original document and all we now have could be one of those copies.)

A more difficult problem was Thomas Quency (or Quincy or Quyncey). His name appeared twice in each of the records of the two initial basic surveys, as well as in the final partition as holding 2 parts of one burgage paying 13d a year and 2 parts of one burgage paying 12 pence a year. One can see the problem facing Allan Warmington, for after all, although a clerical error is possible, it is unlikely. But why then does the name of Thomas Quency not just appear once as the lessee of 4 parts of a burgage? Or did he hold parts of four different burgages?

One possibility for the apparent complications and duplication of names is that the Inquisitors were far more interested in the actual leases than the named persons. Thus Thomas Quency may well have had 2 separate leases, each for 2 parts of a burgage, taken out on different dates and for differing periods. The leases may not even have been for parcels of the same burgage. Without the original documents we shall never know. So much had happened during the preceding decades and one does tend to speculate whether some of the larger holdings, such as that of Master Roger, were ‘investments’ and were sublet to various artisans and other tenants.

I, and others, have often wondered when it was that the smaller plots possible on the south side of the High Street were established and when the number of long burgage plots on the north side was increased. Old large-scale maps and aerial photographs show that until some very recent decisions to permit the division of some old plots and the building of new houses at the far end adjacent to Back Ends, little in the way of significant changes had occurred since the burgages were originally established. It seems likely that the 1273 partition can give some sort of an answer.

Today a number of the long plots on the north side of the High Street, west of the junction with Sheep Street and especially those to the east of the Market Hall, as seen on early maps and aerial photographs, look as though they could be additions to the original burgage plots. On the south side of the High Street the length of plots is much shorter as a result of the land dropping away towards the Cam. Thus Calf Lane at the back of these plots is far closer to the High Street than is Back Lane. It may well be conjectured that some at least of the many ½ burgages included in the 1273 Partition document are these, for it seems very logical that by that date the south side of the High Street would have been leased to more traders and artisans – who perhaps could not afford the high rents of 12d or even more now charged for the full length plots. It is of course unlikely that documentary or even archaeological proof of the precise location of any of the leased town properties at this date will be established.

The division of rented properties between the four husbands may – or more probably may not – have been related to their location. The listing of leases in the borough cannot now be shown to be in particular parts and all four were given virgates in both fields. Those who arranged the partition were far more interested in ensuring that each of the four received as near as possible to a quarter of the total income and value from the manorial lands. Each received a sum from the area outside the Town, from both of the two fields, Westington and Berrington. The final result was that the sum each received from Campden manor was £7 4s and a few pence each year. The number of pence received was Sir Ralph de Crumwell 1d; Sir John le Strange 6d; Sir Walter de Sully 7½d and Henry de Erdington 9d. The Winchcombe burgage brought an extra 9d to le Strange and the Gloucester messuages added 7d to de Sully’s total. By far the most valuable assets at that time were the 2 arable fields, for each received over £5 10s - from the virgates listed. In addition Sully received as part of his rents, for land in the fields and a croft, 2 half pounds of pepper – then a valuable imported spice. A pound of cumin is also mentioned as being paid to Henry de Erdington as the rental of a single burgage. One supposes that those supplying these were not artisans but merchants or grocers and the spices came from their stock-in-trade.

The small difference in the cash income and the value of the spices given to each appears to have been balanced by the services of the customary tenants who paid no rent for the land they cultivated nor their entitlement to pasture their animals on the 2 common fields, but instead worked according to custom a specified time for the manor lord. The final partition shows the allocation: de Sully was given 5 virgates in Westington Field and 1 virgate and 3 separate halves in Berrington Field; Crumwell received 6½ and 1½ virgates; de Erdington 5 and 1 virgate plus 3 halves and four acres; whilst le Strange was granted 6 virgates and 2 halves respectively. Presumably the estimated worth of the service received would have resulted in equalising the value each received.

There is no mention of the manor house or any land or property not leased or held by customary tenants. However the number of virgates in Westington Field is significantly higher than in Berrington Field. Later the manor house is known to have been in Berrington and had surrounding land in that area. Alas the surviving documents appear to leave that area unaccounted for so it could well be that one or more of the four husbands held all or part of that area too.

Subsequent records suggest that there might have been a certain amount of swapping around or even official reallocation, for later each is considered to have held one quarter of the manor and it was only a few decades before the quarters became amalgamated into 2 halves. But that is another story.

CCHS Programme 2016-17

Meetings are held in the Town Hall, Chipping Campden at 7.30 pm and remaining meetings for the current season are:

Thursday 16th March : *'For the Record – developments in Gloucestershire Archives'*, Heather Forbes, Gloucestershire County Archivist

Thursday 20th April: AGM, followed by *'Secrets of the Suitcase - the Griffiths family at Bedfont House'*, Bedfont House Research Group

The new programme will restart on **Thursday 21st September**

The Family History Group meets at 7.30pm in the Court Room, Old Police Station, on the fourth Tuesday of the month and remaining meetings of the season are:

Tuesday 26th March: *'They met by Moonlight'*, Jeromy Hassell

Tuesday 25th April: *The Mitfords – what a family!*, Di Smith

Tuesday 23rd May: *Park Road families*, Park Road Research Group

The new programme will start again on 26th September

Annual Report 2016

The Society has continued to flourish in the past year and has maintained its accustomed range of meetings and activities, AND with one exciting addition – the start of our

Campden House Project

The high point of our year has undoubtedly been the award of a two-year Lottery grant for archaeological and archival research into the history of Campden House and Gardens. Preparation for the Lottery bid took place during the summer, involving an application for Scheduled Monument Consent to Historic England and consultation with the owners of the site, the Landmark Trust. Their support was crucial to the success of the bid and both organisations were enthusiastic about the prospect of discovering more about the house and garden. The first dig took place in late September on the parterre, the formal garden below the ruins. Sadly, but perhaps unsurprisingly, no revealing discoveries were made, but more is hoped from the second dig in the Spring, on the site of the House. Plans are being made for events later in the year and we continue to inform and involve members and the community through the website blog:



<http://www.campdenhousedig.org.uk/>.

Publications

'Chipping Campden's Treasures Family Trail' has proved a popular addition to our range of booklets and the sale of publications has been maintained, an important contribution to our finances and our profile.

Finances

The finances of the Society remain in a stable and relatively healthy state. The accounts for 2016 are somewhat unusual in that they reflect the significant grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the Campden House Project. However, if the "earmarked" funds relating to the Project are put to one side, the underlying operational activity of the Society has seen a modest surplus of £192 in 2016. After several years of annual deficits, this is an encouraging position. It reflects the impact of the increase in membership subscription rates agreed last year and has enabled us to cope with the increase in rent for the Archive Room in the Old Police Station, which followed the triennial rent review and the renewal of our lease from the Peelers Trust. In the light of this position, the Committee is proposing that membership rates remain unchanged for 2017.

Full copies of the 2016 Accounts will be available at the AGM in April, or on request to the Treasurer.

Membership

Membership for 2016-17 stands at 240, compared with 254 for the previous year. 14 new members joined and this is offset by 28 non-renewals and regrettably some deaths, giving a net decrease in membership of 14. This continues the pattern of the past couple of years of a modest decline in total membership, following the high point of 267 in 2014-15. Nevertheless, a membership of 240 still reflects a thriving and vibrant Society.

Archives

The ever-higher profile of the Society has resulted in an increase in the number of donations to the Archives during the year. Most notable was a collection of photographs, programmes and cuttings about performances by the Drama Society and youth groups. As few were dated, research and consultation with local people has been necessary – an enjoyable and 'memorable' time! We now have a file dedicated to the Drama Society and look forward to more contributions.



to the Grammar School performances have been passed on to the School Archives and will be recorded on their website, in the hope of eliciting more material and memories.

Photo left: A drama to be uncovered

More contributions put pressure on our space, but we have made good progress in digitising bulky papers, which will be made available to members on the website. They will be much easier to search and read. The hard copy papers are now stored away from the History Room, freeing up more boxes for new acquisitions. Percy Rushen's book *'The History of Campden'* (1911 edition) has now been professionally scanned, enabling more people to explore the information, but preserving the fragile paper pages.

The volunteer team has worked steadily and with great commitment to improving access to our resources and we are very grateful to the members on the rota who keep the CCHS Room open for visitors' enquiries, although most of our queries come through the website now. More volunteers would be welcome – contact either Judith Ellis or Carol Jackson.

Archive Queries

During the year Archive Room volunteers received and dealt with 88 queries, in addition to a significant on-going correspondence relating to previous queries. The majority of these still come in through by email, several this year stimulated by finding information on the website.



Photo left: The story of these German PoWs at Springhill camp was discovered through a website contact.

The breakdown of query type this year was: 28 (31%) were family history related, 24 (27%) were individual subject or general inquiries e.g. history help, photos, maps, books, 21 (24%) were questions about places or houses and 15 (17%) were about specific well-known local people. Several topics appear regularly, eg. Campden Wonder, Cotswold Olympicks, PoWs.

Enquirers were mostly from the UK, but we have corresponded or had visits from several family researchers from abroad and others –see

Correspondence page. A Yale affiliate and University of Detroit faculty academic's research query has resulted in an article for this Signpost. It is so valuable to have these external contacts; we learn more about our Campden history and apart from the welcome financial donations made to our funds, some queries develop into an interesting article for our twice annual research journal Signpost or a note for the website. It is evident that enquirers are finding us through our published researches.

CCHS Programme 2016

Numbers have still held up well in the current year, with the Town Hall normally full, especially with the first talk of the season from Professor Steven Gunn on “*Everyday life and accidental death in 16th Gloucestershire*” – sensational titles draw an audience! There was the usual mix of subjects, with Sue Honore's explanation of the uses of DNA in family history research definitely the most challenging!

Next year we can look forward to subjects as varied as the life and times of the grandson of Robert Dover and the ever popular Neil Holbrook on the discovery of the significant Bodicacia tombstone in Cirencester.

Research

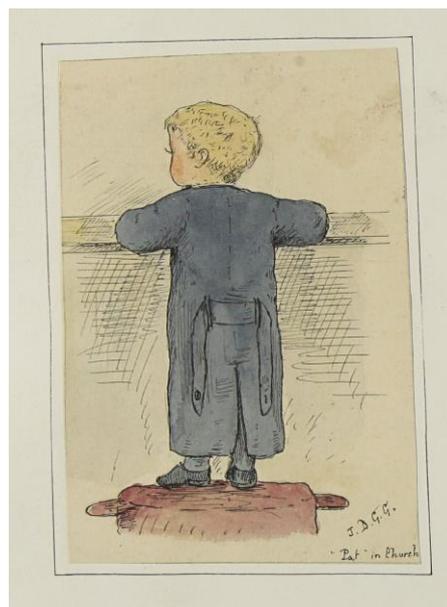
We have had another stimulating year of research into a number of different aspects of Campden's history. Local history has to look at a varying range of sources and materials in order to pull together a fuller picture of the past. Thus the “Changing Landscape” Group has walked fields, studied aerial photographs from the 1950s and 60s, maps from different centuries, talked to local farmers and land owners and examined buildings. Most recently documents are being analysed which relate to Campden's settlements and farmland from the early 17th century. These relate to a survey of Campden commissioned by Lionel Cranfield, a wealthy London merchant, who was considering investment in Campden at the same time as the ultimately successful purchase by Baptist Hicks. They provide data on the farms in Broad Campden and Berrington, including details of each land holder and the amount of arable land they had in the form of strips in the open, unfenced fields and their rights to graze a certain number of cattle and horses on the common. These documents are providing fascinating details from the Campden of 400 years ago.

Campden's mills: there has always been uncertainty about the number of mills within the parish, but confirmation of the existence of a mill in Broad Campden has been found in two recently transcribed wills confirming the miller's names in 1698 and 1707, both being members of the Curtis family. It always seemed likely that Broad Campden, as a separate tithing, would have had its own facilities for grinding corn, so this is a very satisfying discovery.

The Park Road Research Group has continued to explore the street's past, looking at the houses and colourful characters that made it a lively place to live - 'Burnt to death in a vat of water. Women fighting to death. Guns in the kitchen. A gentle story of Park Road!'

The Griffiths collection of papers and photographs has stimulated further research into the story of the family and Bedfont House, their home for 100 years.

Photo right: A sketch by Josephine Dora Griffiths, entitled 'Pat in Church'.



CCHS Websites

A glance at the statistics for usage of the CCHS website for 2016 shows that the number of visitors has significantly reduced. It is the case that 4 years on from its launch, the site is starting to look a bit old and tired and in need of a facelift! An important task for 2017 is to re-design and upgrade the website. We do need more contributors – specialist knowledge and expertise is not required and training is provided.



LOTTERY FUNDED

CCHS is also reaching people through social media (Facebook). We need to develop this further and also seek to encourage younger people to get involved. We are grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund grant for the Campden House Project, which is supporting these initiatives.

A personal message from the Chairman, Judith Ellis:

After eight years as Chairman I shall be giving up the post at this AGM. During the past few years we have seen the move from “CADHAS” to “Chipping Campden History Society” - it may not roll off the tongue so readily but we have got used to the acronym; and the new look to our presentation and publicity has brought us in line with the modern approach to promoting local history and encouraging engagement by a wide range of people in the community. We have seen all sorts of activity and events, none of which would have been possible without the very special efforts of the committee and individual CCHS members. It has been an exciting and rewarding time, but after eight years it is time for a new Chairman to take us forward. However, CCHS does not get rid of me that easily! We have been without an Archives Coordinator for the past two years and I am delighted to accept the Committee’s nomination to take on that role. I am very grateful for the support I have received from our committee members and from our President Prof. Chris Dyer and two Vice-Presidents, Jill Wilson and Carol Jackson, which I know will be extended to our new Chairman.

Committee 2016-17

Judith Ellis (Chairman)

Philip Ord (Vice-Chairman)

Vin Kelly (Secretary)

Alan Barclay (Treasurer)

Ann Hettich (Programme)

Vacancy (Archives Coordinator)

Other Committee members:

Stephen Nixon, Sue Badger, Bob Montgomery