



Campden & District Historical and Archæological Society

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NOTES & QUERIES

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From The Editor

This issue is the first part of Volume V of *Notes & Queries* and is produced with a new editor, although still under the watchful eye of Jill Wilson, who has been the editor since *Notes & Queries* began in autumn 1993. After twelve years, Jill feels that it is time for a rest and a fresh approach. CADHAS can only agree that she deserves a break and offers Jill the Society's grateful thanks for masterminding this publication during these past years, in addition to all the other jobs, which she does so diligently for the Society and for Campden. We thank her most warmly and sincerely. We must also thank our third President, David Smith, who resigned at the last AGM in April 2006 due to pressure of his main commitments. He has provided us with much support and advice during his term of office, including an item for this issue and we hope to retain him as a friend to the Society. This volume also includes an interesting slant on life in the 1500's from Roger Keight, contributions from our retired Editor and our Archivist and several other amusing and fascinating facts.

Editor: C.Jackson, Cadhas Archive Room, Old Police Station, High Street, Chipping Campden, Glos. GL55 6HB

Life in the 1500's

Roger Keight

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children, with last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying 'Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water'.

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying 'It's raining cats and dogs'.

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house from the roof. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying 'Dirt poor'. The wealthy had slate floors which would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the thresh hold.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme 'Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old'.

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could 'bring home the bacon'. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and 'chew the fat'.

Those with money had pewter plates. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and guests got the top, or 'the upper crust'.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around, eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be 'saved by the bell' or was considered a 'dead ringer'.

A Puzzle in the High Street: where did John Jenkes live?

Jill Wilson

The history of a building site over the centuries takes a great deal of unravelling. Equally complex is the attribution of an event to a specific location. However sometimes particular moments or incidents stand out and illuminate both the backgrounds to an event in the history of the town, the people involved and the type of building in which it took place. It is then sometimes possible tentatively to suggest where this might have been.

John Jenkes was one of the more important citizens of Chipping Campden in the early part of the seventeenth century. He held a house in the High Street for which he paid 9½ d a year as ground rent to the lord of the manor. He may have been "baylie" to Sir Baptist Hicks in 1612, but this is uncertain since the first name of the bailiff is not given. There was an Anthony Jenkes in the town in 1635/6 and a clergyman named Ambrose Jenkes in 1632.

In 1624 an important legal case in Chancery involving Sir Baptist Hicks was reaching a climax and it was necessary to obtain testimony from burgesses and others. Accordingly on 31st March 1624 Nicholas Marshall, John Izod, Thomas Butcher, alias Bason and Thomas Danyell met at John Jenkes' house to make formal statements. Another reference to John Jenkes (but was it the same man?) on 24th September 1627, describes him as 'the young innholder.' He supplied the church with wine at a price of £1 3s.4d. as shown in the *Churchwardens' Accounts* for 1629.

In the *Churchwardens' Accounts* for 1634/5 a fee of 6s. 8d is recorded for the burial of John Jenkes within the church, showing that he was a man of some wealth.

At this point conjecture enters because the link with a specific location relies on a lease dated 13th June 1632 relating to a house and garden formerly occupied by the widow Elinor Jenkes. An Ambrose Jenkes, clergyman, was also involved. This lease has been identified by Gloucestershire Record Office, as the earliest they possess relating to one of the pair of properties now forming the Old Police Station site. As yet it is uncertain if Elinor was the relict of John Jenkes. The dates do not appear to match, but if John died before 13th June 1632, it could be that the fee for the work for his burial and tombstone within the church was not settled until 1634, thus falling into the 1634/5 accounts. The identification of this site as the location of one of the significant scenes in the period of Sir Baptist Hicks's holding of the manor thus rests on the possible dilatory nature of the parish accounting system. This puzzle provides an opportunity for further investigation – is anyone prepared to have a go?

Query Corner: Nelly Erichsen at The Martins

Carol Jackson

In 2001 CADHAS received a telephone enquiry from a Peter Harkness of Henley – on-Thames, who was researching a topographical artist called Nelly Erichsen. He asked what we knew of her and how she came to be in Campden. He had identified an exact date to which he could locate her in Campden at The Martins as September 1909 when her publisher wrote to her twice there. He did not know how long she was there, as the publisher also wrote to her at an address in Elm Park Gardens (Chelsea) at about the same time. Mr Harkness also wondered if perhaps she was staying with friends at the Martins?

In trying to answer these questions, CADHAS identified that Nelly had illustrated the Derbyshire, Somerset and Wiltshire editions of the "Highways and Byways" series, of which the Daily Graphic wrote 'illustrated by exquisite sketches'. F.L.Griggs illustrated the Oxford and Cotswolds, London, Northampton & Rutland, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Cambridge & Ely, Sussex, South Wales, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire and Essex editions. We suggested therefore that Nelly's connection with Campden could be Frederick Griggs.

We also checked the Kelly's Directories of 1906, 1910 and 1914 to see who was living at the Martins. Miss Nelly Erichsen was not mentioned by name as a town resident. Neither was the Martins listed by name for these three dates. The 1891 census (enumerator plot number 50) recorded that Mrs Priscilla Freeman, a widow born in Pebworth, aged 78, was living there on her own means with an unmarried daughter Miss Mary Hanna Shekell Freeman of 48 years, born at Beckford. In 1901 census the same Miss Mary HS Freeman is living alone on her own means, as head of the household, with a cook and a housemaid. The 1909 electoral roll shows a Shekell Hilton Chambers as having a voting qualification for the Martins (described as a freehold house), although his place of abode is actually given as Pebworth, Stratford-on-Avon and the roll notes that he will vote in Pebworth. So Shekell Hilton Chambers of Pebworth was probably connected to the Freeman family and The Martins may therefore have been let.

CADHAS was also able to identify an item of interest at the Gloucester Record Office, the prescription book (GRO. reference D5119 1/1) of Hands, the Campden chemist shop, dating from the early part of the twentieth century. This document contained details of several undated prescriptions for Miss Erichsen. From a more detailed study it would be possible to identify the illnesses for which the medicines were prescribed and approximate dates.

A final piece of information came to light in April 2006, which has been communicated to Peter Harkness. This was found in the Kings College Library Archives, Cambridge, when Carol Jackson was looking at the Ashbee archives there. In Volume 21 (1909) of the Ashbee Journals, a letter, dated Feb 15th 1909, to Mr Ashbee (who was away from Campden visiting the Grand Canyon) from his secretary, Hilda Pook (known also as Phoebe). Amongst the various bits of Campden news of plays and the Guild, she writes 'Miss Erickson (sic) is installed at the Martins now & has made a beautiful little home of it I think & is very proud of it. She had me to tea there. Yours always sincerely, Phoebe'.

Can anyone add more about Nelly Erichsen?

A tithe dispute in Chipping Campden, 1644 -1649

David Smith

Introduction

While working at the National Archives a few months ago I came across an interesting document (E 134 24Chas1/Hil5). It records evidence in a dispute between the Vicar of Campden and John Norris, who held Pye Mill. Norris was refusing to pay his tithes and Easter dues, and it seems that he had not done so since about 1644. The document does not give the result, but the weight of evidence is such that there can be little doubt about whom was in the right.

In general tithes belonged to the rector, who owned a parish as tenant for life. When a vicar (from the Latin *vicarius* i.e. substitute) was appointed, he was usually given the right to the small tithes, otherwise known as privy tithes. The great tithes were payable on corn and hay and the small tithes on beasts, vegetables and some other produce. Honey and beeswax were often matters of dispute; titheable in some places but not in others.

The tithe was originally a tenth of the produce so it was a tax on revenue, not capital. Thus if a flock of 20 sheep bore 30 lambs the tithe due for that year would be three lambs. However the produce of farming rarely comes in convenient decimal units, so quite early on some parishes commuted their tithes to cash payments, sometimes known as compositions. Incidentally a tithe barn was not necessarily owned or formerly owned by the church, but merely a building large enough for the tithe of the threshed corn to be separated from the rest of the harvest.

Easter dues were not payable in every parish but only where this had customarily been so. Again these probably originated as payment in kind, such as eggs.

The timing of the dispute is interesting, coming as it does during the Civil War. Norris was a communicant, so not a dissenter, but was this apparent storm in a teacup a symptom of some wider divisions within Campden? Perhaps those with a better knowledge of the local scene at this period can set it in context.

The original document is long and repetitive so I have abstracted it. It provides much incidental information about local inhabitants and local practices, such as how the commuted tithes were calculated. In order to establish that he had a right to the tithes, the vicar of Campden had to show that he had been lawfully instituted. To show how much he was owed, he had to provide evidence of what the usual payments were for comparable properties and households.

Abstract of the evidence

William Bartholomew vicar of Chipping Campden v John Norris miller

Depositions taken at the house of Thomas Dennys at Chipping Campden on 29 January 1649 (new style).

Richard Bravell of Campden yeoman aged about 40

He has known both parties for about 10 years. The vicar was appointed by the late Edward Viscount Campden. Richard has paid tithes in kind or by composition to the

vicar. He has also paid Easter dues for himself, his wife and his servants at 2d per head and 6d in the £ for the servants' annual wages and has been present when others have paid dues at the same rate. He has a mill in Chipping Campden. He has paid a composition of 10s pa for tithes of the mill. He has paid 5s a year for tithe of the mill homes and other small tithes.

mill homes = small adjacent fields belonging to the mill

Margaret Farmer of Berrington widow aged about 60

She has known the parties for 8 or 9 years. She owns a mill in Campden. For the last 28 years she and her husband before her have paid tithe to the vicar on the profits of the mill and for the mill homes and grounds and for pigs, bees and other privy tithes by composition at 20s a year. For Easter dues they pay 2d per head for herself, her husband and children and she has paid a reckoning on servants' wages.

reckoning = agreed cash sum

Richard Rose of Broad Campden husbandman aged about 43

He has known the plaintiff for about 10 years and the defendant for about 30 years. Both now and in the time of the previous vicar Mr Lilley he has paid tithes either by composition or in kind on wool, lambs, colts and all other privy tithes. At Easter he has paid 2d each for himself his wife and his children and at the request of his servants has paid their dues at 2d per noble and 2d per head. As far as he knows this has always been so and he has often seen his neighbours paying at the same rates.

He does not know what the annual profits of Pye mill were in the years 1644-46, but the valuation for rates in the churchwardens' and constables' books is equivalent to 1½ yardlands. He has 1½ yardlands and pays 16s or 17s a year for his tithes. He was churchwarden during the years 1644-46 and in 1645 and 1646 John Norris, his wife and a son and a daughter all received communion at Easter and therefore should have paid 2d per head in Easter offerings.

noble = 6s 8d, so three nobles made £1, therefore the rate is the same as stated by Richard Bravell

William Moseley of Broad Campden husbandman aged about 32

He has known both parties for about 10 years. He and his father before him have always paid privy tithes and Easter dues to the vicar and he confirms the rates of the dues as deposed by Richard Rose. He says that Norris has had 4 communicants in his house for the last 5 years, being himself, his wife, his son and a daughter and for all except last year Norris also had a manservant who received communion. He knows that Norris keeps bees

Pye mill and its lands were rated at 2 yardlands until about 7 years ago when the valuation was reduced to the equivalent of 1½ yardlands. William Moseley has 1½ yardlands and pays 18s a year as composition for his tithes.

Robert Fletcher of Broad Campden gentleman aged about 51

He has known the plaintiff for 10 years and the defendant for more than 30 years. He confirms the type of produce on which privy tithes are due and the normal rate of Easter offerings. He says that Norris has 2 closes worth £4 10s a year which he mows or grazes and that Norris also keeps bees. He reckons that the Pye mill with the 2 closes (or homes) are worth about £13 10s a year and he would take them at that rent.

John Hieron of Westington yeoman aged about 40

He has known both parties for at least 10 years. For the last 20 years he has regularly paid tithe on wool, lambs, calves, honey and wax and a 1d for the birth of a colt when this happened. He pays Easter dues at 2d each for himself and his wife and 1d for his garden and he confirms the rates already given for dues on servants' wages.

John Lea of Chipping Campden glover aged about 67

He has known both parties for 11 or 12 years. He has been parish clerk for 28 years, throughout the time of Mr Robert Lilley who chose him, and to Mr Bartholomew for the last 11 or 12 years. He confirms the list of produce on which privy tithes are due and says that the vicar is also entitled to great tithes of hay and corn grown in private closes. He has never known anyone refuse to pay privy tithes until this defendant did so. The defendant paid his tithes and dues regularly until about 5 or 6 years ago.

private closes = enclosed fields no longer farmed as part of the open fields

John Wilson of Chipping Campden ropemaker aged about 54 was churchwarden when the vicar was inducted and confirms that he was properly installed.

John Davenport of Chipping Campden mercer aged about 50 was also present when the vicar was inducted and he signed as a witness to the process together with Richard Frewin, Thomas Sanford, John Willson and others.

John Gold of Chipping Campden fishmonger aged about 57

He has known the plaintiff for about 12 years and the defendant for about 30 years. He knows that the previous vicar Mr Lilley received tithes of honey because William Dayes sold John Gold some honey and paid tithe on it. Also about St James' tide in 1645 John Gold bought stocks of bees worth £3 from John Norris.

St James' tide : the feast of St James falls on 25 July

stocks of bees = swarms of bees (OED)

William Harrison of Chipping Campden gentleman aged about 53 has known the vicar for about 12 years and the defendant for about 17 years. He also witnessed the induction of the vicar by Mr Sellers, rector of Acton Subedge, performed by virtue of an instrument sealed by the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Henry Izod of Chipping Campden innholder aged about 47 also witnessed the induction of Wm Bartholomew.

Luke Barnard of Chipping Campden music teacher aged about 31 has known both parties for about 12 years. He was servant to Mr Robert Lilley and saw John Norris pay him his tithes and Easter offerings but doesn't know how much he paid.

William Moseley of Chipping Campden mercer aged about 50 also gave evidence, which merely supports previous statements.

The Archivist's Report

Rosemary E. Turner

Towards the end of the year 2005/6 Rosemary Turner retired after more than twelve years as the Society's Librarian & Archivist. This was a period that had seen dramatic changes in the location and size of the CADHAS collection. This article was prepared in February 2006 for the forthcoming Annual Report, but it was felt to be more appropriate to include it here, both as a tribute to Rosemary's sterling work and to let a wider audience know, as she herself wished to show, how many others have contributed to what has been a remarkable success story.

2005 has been a year of consolidation and steady progress, building on the big decisions and major investments of the last few years. We now feel so at home in the Police Station and are so comfortably established there, that it seems scarcely credible that it is only three years since the 'great migration.' In our present settled and organised state, we continue to acknowledge the debt we owe to our late chairman, Andrew Holden, who, in co-operation with Judith Ellis, laboured so persistently to secure the funding without which this enterprise could never have been envisaged, let alone have succeeded so remarkably.

The four volumes of that invaluable reference work, *The Placenames of Gloucestershire*, by A.H.Smith, were this year presented to the Archive by The Andrew Holden Memorial Fund in recognition of his lasting achievements as Chairman of CADHAS. Judith incidentally, together with our present Chairman, is still our dedicated and highly successful fund-raiser. Our heartfelt thanks are due too to the Chipping Campden Community Trust who, having helped us in our first three years with a generous grant towards the rental, have not only extended it for a further three year period, but have increased it to £750 per annum.

The receipt of considerable sums of money from charitable institutions is a matter for congratulation. But, as we all know, there is no such thing as a free lunch. It lays a compelling obligation on the Archivists to develop the Archive and to run it in a regular and business-like manner for the benefit of the society's members and for the interested public. We owe it to the loyalty of our volunteers and to their increasing skills in dealing with archive material, that we can continue to open as advertised on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The Volunteer Rota can be seen in the Archive Room. The participants are at present: Charles Ackerman, April Ashton, Monica Bedding, Joyce Boxall, Diana Evans, Jane Glennie, Carol Jackson, Hilary Kohler, Felicity Powell, Anne Ridgeway, Anne Smith and Jill Wilson – the same faithful band as in previous years! Any CADHAS member who would like to have a part in this rewarding work would be warmly received: it generally involves no more than a couple of hours a month; training sessions supply all the know-how required.

The Archivists themselves, in addition to countless hours of 'homework,' are regularly in the Police Station on Wednesday mornings, fulfilling their dual role of dealing with queries, by post, e-mail or in person, and of assessing and cataloguing the documents and artefacts which arrive in an endless stream – sometimes in large boxes! They see both these activities as essential parts of their brief: the only difficulty lies in balancing the one against the other in the time available. Enquiries, whether from members or

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strangers, are always welcome. We now have a reliable system (our Query File), in which our volunteers are quite expert, for recording and pursuing these queries.

Our descriptive Accessions List, now in its thirteenth year since I started it in 1992, entails examining all the incoming material, recording every item and assigning it a shelf place and a reference number. Olivia Amphlett then incorporates these details into her computer database. With the benefit of twelve years' experience, I can now see several ways of improving this scheme and I am sure that, with Monica's help, this is just what Olivia will do. Having Monica as Assistant Archivist has eased my burden enormously over the past two years, as has the stalwart support in research and recording provided by Jill Wilson, Diane Evans, Anne Ridgway and others, above all by Carol Jackson, unflagging as ever in enthusiasm and unmatched in knowledge of Campden history.

It would be pleasant here to record the main items presented to the CADHAS Archive during 2005 but restrictions on space prohibit it. So I will mention just one or two highlights. For the memorable gift by Professor Stephens of the 1676 *Account of the Tryal ...of William Harrison ...*, see *CADHAS Newsletter*, August 2005. Three crates of assorted papers (Parish Council and other records) were handed to us by Margaret Haines, too numerous for us to accommodate *in toto*, but many of which were gratefully accepted as original documents shedding light on Campden's history in the 20th century. The process of selection occupied Monica and me for six Wednesdays or more!

Personal reminiscences are a rarity in our collection and are always a pleasure to read. January 2006 brought a unique addition to the few we possess: a battered exercise book containing the gardening diary of Oliver & Mabel New of Ivy House, covering in fascinating detail the years 1909-1926 was the gift of their nephew Anthony New. Several bundles of deeds have been passed to us, either for copying or for retention, amongst these last, the deeds of 'Green Dragons' from Reg Martin and of the Volunteer Inn from Hilary Sinclair with documentation reaching back to 1762. They are invaluable historical evidence and vital for our knowledge of Campden's past. I should add that the name of the donor is always recorded in the catalogue entries of items given to the CADHAS Archive.

I must mention briefly two other important contributions from the Archive. We were delighted as usual to help with putting on the various exhibitions with which the Society aims to retain the interest of its members in the course of the year. We were also proud to have been the source of so much material for the new publication, *Campden – A New History*, as acknowledged by the editor in his Introduction.

It is with a certain sadness that I end this last of my reports and retire from responsibilities as CADHAS's first Archivist. It has been a major part of my life for the past twelve years and a source of infinite enjoyment and interest, arising not only from the amazing accumulation of historical material over that period, but from the pleasurable contacts and the many rewarding relationships that have arisen out of it – people for whom the collection and conservation of everything relating to Campden and its history is as vital and as fascinating as it is to me. I leave our Archive now with perfect confidence and assured optimism in the hands of Olivia and Monica and their many devoted helpers.

A Campden Connection – Alec Miller in the South Lakeland District.

Carol Jackson

A simple enquiry to the CADHAS archive room e-mail address in 2004 asked ‘do we know anything about an Alec Miller from Campden?’ The enquirer, Ian Lewis, was preparing an MA thesis with Lancaster University on war memorials in the South Lakeland area. He had found that a lych-gate outside St Mary’s Catholic Church in Ulverston contained a figure of the Virgin, which was sculpted by ‘Alexander Miller of Campden, Gloucester’. This enquiry led to further discoveries regarding Alec Miller in the Lake District.

Alec Miller was born in Glasgow in 1879, one of 7 children of a cabinetmaker. He was apprenticed in 1891, aged twelve & a half at 4/-per week to a woodcarving teacher, Miss Anstruther (who later became Mrs Duncan Mackay of Plockton). He also studied drawing and art. In 1898 he visited London and G.F.Watts’ studio. Mrs Mackay corresponded with C.R.Ashbee, who in 1902 offered Alec a job. It was to create and have charge of the woodcarving and modelling division of the Guild, when it moved to Campden. So, in 1902 aged 23, Alec Miller sailed from Scotland to Ireland & Bristol, then took a train via Honeybourne to Campden and walked from station carrying two bags, one containing his tools, to join the Guild of Handicraft, where Will Hart was appointed as his assistant.

After the Guild’s dissolution in 1908 ‘Messrs Miller and Hart, Architectural Sculptors and Carvers’, with Alec’s younger brother Fred Miller, set up at the Studio (now the Long House, Calf Lane) in Campden.

It appears that around 1910, Alec was commissioned to do some woodcarving at the Parish Church of St Mary & St Michael, Great Urswick, Lancs. This church is unique in that Miller did most of its carvings. The work was largely the gift of a Miss Petty of Ulverston in memory of her father and mother. The main entrance porch doors are decorated with carvings of St Mary and St Michael and bear an inscription ‘AD 1909 In memory of Thomas Shaw Petty.’

In the Chancel the wooden rood screen has a carving of a cross, flanked by angels and cherubs. To left of the arch is a statue of St James of Compostela, the pilgrim saint with scallop emblem and to the right is a carving of St John the Baptist.

The ends of choir stalls and organ case are carved with musical instruments and cherubs; ribbons, droplets and garland carvings decorate the pews; the sounding board above tiered pulpit is a palm. The vestry door is carved with the Annunciation scene with a Latin inscription. The oak reredos at the altar has figures of St Mary and St Michael framing a painting of the Last Supper by James Cranke the Elder, who was born in Urswick in 1707. A pretty prayer stool with a kneeling angel holding the lectern has an inscription ‘In loving memory of her father George Petty and Sarah Jane his sister this is given by Georgina Marianne Jackson and her daughters Mary and Doris 1926’.

The font lid is in a different style and elaborately carved with fish, with an inscription ‘To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Henry Richmond Highton Gale of Bardsea Hall and of Emma his wife this gift from their children 1921.’ The author is not sure that this is Alec Miller’s work due to the different style. It is also suggested

that Miller drew and painted the Roll of Honour '1914 -1918, Per laborem ad honorem' at the rear of the church.

In Ulverston, the main town near to Urswick, the Coronation Hall was built on site of the County Hotel which had burned down in 1911, to commemorate the coronation of George V and was completed in 1st WW about 1918. In Jane Wilgress's biography of her father she writes 'in the years of the first World War, he [Alec Miller] did a lot of work for the church and Hall at Ulverston, Lancs. The Ulverston work must have kept the wolf from the door in these difficult years for the arts.' At both Urswick, Ulverston and St Mary's Roman Catholic church it seems that the architect of the main projects was Dean John Brundritt, an Isle of Man architect (1870 - 1939), who had established his practice in Ulverston; in fact his office was just across the road from the Coronation Hall.

The original frontage of the Hall had more moulded plasterwork than can be seen currently, as it had deteriorated and has been removed over recent years for safety. However the interior hall with barrel-vault ceiling has painted plasterwork, foliage and putti, a modelled frieze decoration and a 'Brittania and the Empire' allegorical frieze above the proscenium. All this was originally cast in cement, then hand finished with carving by Alec Miller.

Websites for both Urswick and Ulverston Coronation Hall show some of this work, but photographs have been deposited in CADHAS's archive following my visit to the South Lakes in February 2005. I wish to encourage all members of CADHAS to use their eyes and dig around when they visit other parts of the country to find a Campden connection. Please report back.

Other Alec Miller war memorials in the South Lakes area, of which we now know, are at Dalton-in-Furness - it is a war memorial with a carved flame on the top opposite the Town Hall; at Millom - a 1922 very tall war memorial designed by Dean J. Brundritt, with a St George [or is it St Michael?] with pointed wings reminiscent of the Coventry Cathedral St Michael and with relief carved memorial side panels at the base; at Seascale - in front of St Cuthbert's Church a Celtic cross in red sandstone carved with vine tendrils, traditional Celtic patterns and the names of the fallen; at St. Bees - a large St George and the Dragon war memorial with curving side panels.

The CADHAS Clanger

Carol Jackson

Most members will have seen the large 19th century brass hand bell with ebonised handle used at the AGM and may have wondered about it. CADHAS bought it at an auction in March 1996 when the private Woolstaplers Hall Museum was closed and the Griffiths family, who had started the museum in 1970, was selling off all exhibits. The inscription engraved on the bell reads '*Presented to Revd. F.S. Forster MA by the bellringers of Campden on his marriage, Nov. 6th 1890.*'

Revd. Francis Samuel Forster, of Southend, Catford county of Kent, MA Brasenose College Oxford was vicar of Campden from March 1882 until June 1896. He married Lola Pauline Griffiths, the youngest daughter of William Higford Griffiths, Campden solicitor of Bedfont House, and his wife Ellen Sherborne of Heston, Middlesex. He died at Frindsbury Cottage, Lowe near Maidstone, Co. Kent on 11 December 1921. Much of this information was found in a Griffiths family tree in CADHAS Archives.

ABOVE LYNCHES WOOD

A Very Short, Very New History of Campden

with a few apologies to Dylan Thomas

Celia Jones

After the publication of the excellent Campden New History in 2005 (available from the CADHAS Archive Room at £18.50), one member felt that an abridged version (pocket edition?) would be useful!

To begin at the beginning. Dawn breaks over limestone, trees, grass, and sheep.

Over The Hoo in the early light stomp and stamp the Roman legionaries in pursuit of those lithe lambs. Listen, you can hear Marcus Fragilius: 'I'd die for one of those fleeces,' he sighs, lying down in a horse trough and shivering in the cold.

The sheep munch on, large and lion-maned.

It is morning, wild on the wold. Roger the Rug shuffles down the High Street driving his stolen sheep to the market. 'That Emma the Gardener's mutton dressed as lamb, and no better than she should be,' he says disapprovingly to nobody in particular.

The sheep munch on.

And now William Grevel emerges from the morning mists, stapling like there was no tomorrow. He makes a nice bit of brass, and builds a desirable residence, with ensuite privy and fitted bread oven, on the High Street. 'That'll be a good investment, flower,' says his watchful wife, smiling and spinning. 'House prices are set to double.'

The sheep munch on, wealth-bearing and wool-church-bestowing.

Middy, and look who's riding into town. It's Sir Baptist Hicks. He's had wool woven into pretty breeches for the King and he has Campden in his sights. But the Roundheads are coming. 'Stroike a loight!' says Sir Baptist, proud of his cockney connections. So the house burns and blazes as he gallops and gasps over the Coneygree.

Sheep stray into the ruins and munch on.

Silk worms and pigs come and go. Sprouts sprout. Noels beget Noels. Drink flows down Sheep Street and along Poppets Alley. The town drowns in drink.

It's afternoon, and here's C R Ashbee bicycling down the hill. 'O my golden town,' he says as he gazes on the affordable cottages, prices having gone down in the slump. 'And a sleeping silk mill!' Soon, on his tricycle, motorised and merrily noisy, F. L. Griggs roars to a halt in Campden. 'A peaceful rural place to spend one's days,' he says. 'Pity there's nowhere to park with all these sheep in the Square.' The Guild thrives and declines.

The sheep munch on.

Now in the late afternoon heat the coaches fume along the High Street. 'Do buy a fluffy pink gnome,' cries Gorgeous, over the noise of the traffic. The coffers ring with the cash.

Night falls on Dovers Hill, night, resounding with music from the Public Houses holding Curry Evenings and the Hotels hosting Wedding Events.

But listen. Above Lynches Wood in the shades and the shadows you too can hear the true sound of Campden, gilded and Guilded, stony and stoned, tourist trodden and building blighted.

Baa.

**Extract from *The Unexpected Years*, by Laurence Housman,
published in 1937, page 218**

Laurence Housman, (1865-1959) prolific playwright & novelist brother of the poet and academic A.E Housman and of Clemence Housman the artist, came frequently to Campden in the early 1900's, staying often at Braithwaite House. He became friends with Charles and Janet Ashbee, with whom he kept up a fifty year long correspondence.

Chipping Campden is a very beautiful and still unspoiled village; William Morris placed it second to Burford among the glories of the Cotswolds. I first encountered its charm when I began writing songs and plays for Joseph Moorat* to set to music. There, later, came C. R. Ashbee with his Essex House Press and a group of London craftsmen to experiment in Guild cooperation on the lines laid down by Morris; and it was there, after a lecture by Granville Barker on the Shakespearean theatre, that I received my call to write seriously for the stage, and not merely for settings to music: out of Campden, by Granville Barker, came Prunella, and after Prunella all the rest - now well over a hundred.

From Campden, too, comes a story of simple impropriety, which deserves preservation among the historic records of Victorianism. In the year of the old Queen's second jubilee [1897] a parish meeting was called, with the Rector in the chair and all Campden attending, to decide what most suitable memorial of the event should be added to its beauties. The Rector, after making a few pious suggestions, invited general discussion. Then up rose a local farmer, and spoke these words: `Well, Mr. Chairman, we all know as how Her Gracious Majesty has been very useful to this country for many years; so what we should want to be putting up to her memory is something that will go on being useful to us here.. Now what we in Campden most wants, I say, is a public urinal . . .'

There his speech ended, drowned in shouts of laughter; and when order was restored, the Rector tactfully remarked, `I think we will pass on to the next suggestion'. And so eventually some other less useful, and far less original memorial was proposed and adopted. And though that first proposition, put forward nearly forty years ago, then got such good publicity, and was in itself so honestly self-serving and sensible, the need, I am told, still remains; and the proposal not having been revived in the recent year of Jubilee, Campden still lacks its memorial, in that particular form, to the usefulness of Constitutional Monarchy.

** Paul Woodroffe's musician brother-in-law, who lived at The Cedars, now called Abbotsbury, at Westington.*

Chipping Campden & District and the Hereford Earthquake of 1896

Jill Wilson

At about 5.35 am on the morning of Thursday, 17th December, 1896, Mr J. R. Neve¹ of Chipping Campden was rudely awakened by a ‘quivering trembling sensation’ and a sound ‘like thunder dying away in the distance.’ He was not alone. For miles around people, whether roused from sleep or awake at the time, had been aware of some unusual event.

Charles Davison, a geologist and a Fellow of the Royal Society, was one of those who had felt the earthquake and, knowing what it was, had immediately prepared to collect information. Eventually he published the definitive book² on the subject. He began by writing to some 400 newspapers, national and local, asking for information to be sent to him.³ Most of them seem to have published his letter judging from the response he received from 62 different counties, cities or other areas. In addition he obtained copies of letters to the press giving personal accounts and wrote to fellow geologists seeking their records. He analysed and listed 2902 reports and letters relating to the principal earthquake and a further 190 relating to minor shocks.

Although at that time earthquakes were not as well understood as they are today, they were nevertheless attributed to movement along faultlines in the rocks at depth. Davison said in explanation ‘the friction generated by the sudden sliding of one huge mass of rock over and against the other must produce an intense jar in the solid crust around, a series of vibrations which, propagated outwards in all directions, produces at the surface what we call an earthquake shock.’⁴ His study includes enough data to indicate how widespread and frightening the event must have been.

At that time the intensity of earthquakes was measured by the 10 point Rossi-Forel Scale of Seismic Intensity.⁵ The responses to Davison’s enquiry from the counties adjacent to Hereford gave estimates ranging from 5 to 8 on that scale according to the location and distance from the epicentre. The worst damage to buildings was in and around Hereford and further afield, where the estimated level was lower, crockery was moved or even smashed, pictures fell or were jolted to odd angles and household ornaments were found to have shifted.

Few of those who felt its effects knew what had happened at the time as *The Evesham Journal* explained:

Early on Thursday morning the inhabitants of Evesham and a very wide tract of country all round, were awakened at an unearthly hour by a cause which many of them could not understand. People who went home early and went to bed quite sober were quite certain that at half-past five on Thursday morning they were either awakened by the bed behaving in a most unseemly manner, or while lying awake felt the bed begin to wobble and shake in the most unaccountable way. At the same time the windows rattled, and there was a banging of doors and shaking of crockery ware. Where the noises were not so loud the terrified occupants of the bed thought that a robber had hidden under it, and that

in making his exit to ransack the house he accidentally lifted up one side of the bedstead with his back.

The *Journal* went on to explain that those of a nervous disposition remained in bed whilst those, who were less timid, got out of bed to look. Later in the day ...

The only question in everybody's mouth on Thursday was "Did you feel the earthquake?" And those certain sound sleepers declared they noticed nothing, and unkindly suggested that their questioners had been drinking or had supped not wisely but too well the night before, but the earthquake proved to be a fact after all. ... The cathedral in Hereford was damaged and several buildings collapsed, while one elderly lady died from fright. The church bells rang at Malvern, while houses were shaken and clocks stopped over a very wide area.

The general description in the newspaper was followed by brief reports from round about. Inevitably they are somewhat repetitive, usually giving the estimated time, information about how beds swayed and creaked and what the sound was like where it had been heard. The record from Campden, though short, is of interest ...

Many people say they distinctly felt the shock – a shaking of beds and a peculiar vibration. Mr W.H. Griffiths says several bells in his house were rung. Mr J.B. Neve writes:- "I felt my bed tremble violently for a few seconds, and at the same time heard a low rumbling sound – like thunder dying away. Guessing what it was, I jumped up and took the time, which was 5.35 a.m. (Greenwich)." Many similar experiences are spoken of.

As Postmaster, Mr Neve would have known the time precisely since post-offices then had a clock linked by telephone to London. In addition to giving his account to the *Journal* he also wrote in reply to Charles Davison. His response was somewhat fuller⁶ giving the duration of the single shock as 'perhaps 10 seconds' and that he considered that it was not less than 5 on the Rossi-Forel scale.⁷ Mr Griffiths is not quoted in Davison's book so it must be assumed that he did not write in answer to the request in the newspaper.

A number of those who did reply from this locality also assessed the intensity as not less than 5 on the Rossi-Forel scale or even above, including the Rev. S. Jones of Moreton-in-Marsh (5 or more), the Rev. D. Royce (between (6 & 7) and J.E. Hookham (not below 5) both of Stow-on-the-Wold, the Rev. A. Grant Lane of Temple Guiting (6), Mr C.F. Hemsley of Broadway (6) who also contributed a record from Farncombe (6), Mr J.H. Warner of Ilmington (7).⁸

The occurrence of earthquakes of this intensity in this country is fortunately rare but this and other records indicate they can occur. This one was felt very far afield, Davison includes records from London, Isle of Wight and Ireland. Many came from clergymen – including the Rev. R.C. Scrimgeour of Exton,⁹ who reported that the shock was felt there.

Amongst the interesting contents of the pages of summarised accounts is the wide variety of descriptions of what the event was like. At Ilmington the sound was 'compared by others to the roaring of a very large fire' or to 'the noise made by a heap of masonry falling' and the shock was said to be 'a rocking like that felt on board ship in a slightly rough sea.'¹⁰ This was a simile that also occurred to the Rev. A. Grant Lane of Temple Guiting who said that 'the sensation was one of rocking or

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rather a vessel rolling in a choppy sea ...'¹¹ I. M Haynes of Evesham said that 'the bed was at first apparently shaken from west to east and directly after from north to south,' the sound '... grew in intensity, as if cannonballs were being tumbled about in the passage ...'¹² C.F. Hemsley of Broadway compared the sound to 'a distant explosion or approaching traction engine.'¹³

Notes

¹ Julius Robert Neve who died on 23rd March 1922, aged 74, is buried in St James' churchyard. It is presumed that this is the man who supplied Charles Davison with his recollections. He was the Postmaster at London House.

² *The Hereford Earthquake of December 17, 1896*, Charles Davison, Sc.D., F.G.S., Cornish Brothers, 37 New Street, Birmingham (1899).

³ His letter to the *Evesham Journal* appeared in the issue of 19th December, 1896, following a lengthy report of the 'Consternation and Alarm' felt in the district at the 'Earthquake Shock.' The letter gives his name incorrectly as Davidson, but gives his position as Secretary of the British Association Seismological Committee, and his address as 373, Gillott Road, Birmingham.

⁴ Davison; *op. cit.*, p. 205.

⁵ This has now been superseded by the Richter and Modified Mercalli scales. The Rossi-Forel Scale ran from 1, which would only be experienced by a seismograph or an experienced observer, to 10, which covered great disasters. Like the Mercalli scale it was based on the effects noted by observers.

⁶ Davison: *op. cit.*, p. 33.

⁷ Rossi-Forel scale : 5 = 'felt generally by everyone, disturbance of furniture and beds, ringing of some bells;' scale 6 = 'general awakening of those asleep; general ringing of bells; oscillation of chandeliers; stopping of clocks; visible disturbance of trees and shrubs; Some startled persons leave their dwellings;' scale 7 = 'overthrow of moveable objects, fall of plaster, ringing of church bells, general panic, without damage to buildings;' 8 = 'fall of chimneys, cracks in the walls of buildings.'

⁸ Davison: *op. cit.*, pp. 39, 42, 43, 47, 50 & 92.

⁹ Davison: *op. cit.*, p. 160.

¹⁰ Davison: *op. cit.*, p. 92

¹¹ Davison: *op. cit.*, p. 43.

¹² Davison: *op. cit.*, pp. 49-50.

¹³ Davison: *op. cit.*, p. 47.