

Campden & District Historical and Archæological Society

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NOTES & QUERIES

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From The Editor

This third issue of Volume Number VI seems to have developed its own theme of interesting people with quite complicated family history connections to Campden. We see new articles from two previous contributors to Notes & Queries: John Taplin from the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and member David Cotterell. A family history enquiry to the Archive Room has brought us new knowledge of a Campden resident and it is good to have received more facts from member Dorrie Ellis on the Post Office. Thank you all once again for sending such interesting and valuable contributions to Notes & Queries.

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

Letters to the Editor

Vera Watton, a visitor to Campden, wrote in July 2009, curious about Honeypot Cottage in Phoenix Place and the cottages behind the High Street reached through a passageway beside Stewart House. Had they been part of a larger building, staff or animal quarters?

We gave her this answer: There were originally 3 early settlements in Campden (Berrington - near St James's Church, Westington - the area with thatched cottages as you approach Campden and Broad Campden - a hamlet about a mile away). When Hugh de Gondeville became Lord of the Manor and obtained a market charter from the King in the late 12th century, he developed the centre of Campden as a 'New Town', joining up Berrington and Westington with a High St and a Market Square. The freemen of the town were allocated Burgage Plots along the High St and around the Square, so that they could start businesses on these plots. The first burgage plot holders also included some incomers - craftsmen and probably shopkeepers. They would have provided services for the surrounding villages and hamlets. One advantage for such people was that they were exempted from feudal service (work in the fields etc) to the lord of the manor and just had to pay ground rent. These burgage plots were long pieces of land, running back to the stream or hill, on both sides of the Street, with a back exit, allowing the business man to run his trade or shop at the front on the High St, build accommodation for himself, family and servants behind or above, with enough land have malt barns, stables, cart sheds, piggeries, hovels, wheelwrights, etc. and be able to take his animals out directly to the fields or hills behind his plot. Over the centuries the plots have been sub-divided, but the original layout is still visible on an ordnance survey map.

Stewart House is probably built on an old burgage plot and so the land behind it would have contained some of the types of buildings mentioned above. Over the years these may have been rebuilt, recycling original stone, their usages changed and some are now small houses. In fact behind many of the houses on the High St, there are alleys and converted buildings, sharing a common High St entrance. At one time (1850s-1901) Stuart House, now an antiques shop, was an Inn called 'Live and Let Live', with John Lane, the innkeeper in the early years. Phoenix Place, the name of the little alley behind where Honeypot Cottage is located, was also known as Lodging House Yard. In 1851 census, it was inhabited by the 46 year-old widowed Lodging House Keeper, Hannah Toft, and her 16 year-old daughter, Agnes and several lodgers from all over England – four bricklayers, four excavators and a hawker, probably in Campden at that time helping to build the railway. Agnes appears in the censuses with lodgers right until 1891. So Honeypot has probably had many usages, but most recently in 19th century a 'lodging house'.



Jean Peyton telephoned in July 2009 for the Peyton Society of Virginia and asked for the detail of the Grevel (Greville) coat of arms wondering why it was similar to that of the Peyton family [below right]. CADHAS answered giving the Grevel Arms detail [see left] as follows: Sable (black) or (gold) a cross within a bordure (the edge of the shield) both engrailed (sort of scalloped edges), with 5 roundels (discs in the cross) and in dexter chief (on the top left corner as you look at it) a pierced mullet (a 5 point star with a hole in it).

William Grevel of Campden, Lord of Milcote, was a wool merchant, who died in 1401. His large and important brass in St James's Church Campden shows these arms and a Latin inscription describing him as 'the flower of the wool merchants of England'. He is connected in later generations though his second son Ludovic with Fulke Greville, 1st Baron



Brooke, who obtained a grant of Warwick Castle from James 1st in 1604. A connection between the Peyton baronet of Doddington and the Grevels is not know, unless it is through the name Dashwood - a Henry Dashwood, died 1789, changed his name to Dashwood-Peyton and was 1st baronet of Doddington and a daughter of a Francis Dashwood married Fulke Greville, 5th Baron Brooke (of Warwick castle connection). However, we do not know if there is any connection between these two Dashwood lines. The earliest record of the Peyton Arms are in about 1300: Sable, (*black*) a cross engrailed or (*gold*) with a mullet (*5 point star*) argent (*silver*) in the first quarter. Even though these look similar to the Grevel arms, to a herald they would be quite different! The Peyton motto is said to mean - 'I endure I obtain'.

More on Campden's Postal Service History

Doris M Ellis

Campden's mail, probably mainly official papers and few personal letters, arrived by stagecoach along the main London to Worcester road through Moreton and was taken and collected by carrier from the top road and thence delivered. In 1840 the Postmaster General, Rowland Hill, introduced the system of payment by sender, introducing stamps and in the 1841 Campden census 63-year-old Sarah Barnes is listed as postmistress, as part of her son-in-law Thomas Griffiths's grocery business on the north side of High Street. [*Ed. Lewis P. Barnes is also listed as a letter carrier*] In the 1851 census, William Summerton is recorded as a grocer and postmaster at what is now the Co-op, but by 1871 the business had moved to Charlote, now part of Cotswold House Hotel, run by 67-year-old Henry Makepeace, a retired Police Superintendent with his daughter Emma as his assistant. By 1881, grocer Robert Keyte at Ardley House, now Kings, had taken over the post office business, with his 16 year-old telegraphist daughter, Rebecca, and 12-year-old son William a postal messenger. In 1880, Mr. Julius Neve and his family moved to Campden, set up a drapery business at London House, High Street and eventually took over the Post Office business from Robert Keyte, with the drapery on the right side of the front entrance and the post office counter on the left, with his daughter, Muriel, as his assistant. When she became Mrs Lewis Horne of Leysbourne Farm, Miss Ethel Harris came to Campden from Topsham, Devon, as Mr. Neve's next assistant. She met and married Harold Pymment and so joined the Guild 'family'.

The Evesham Journal of 24th June 1922 reported that correspondence between Mr. T. Davies, M.P. and the Postmaster General on the question of the installation of the telephone was read at a Farmer's Union Meeting. G.H. Hart wrote: "We want more than anything else, a public call-box at the Post Office and as the wires were laid on to this building it would be a simple matter to have the instruments connected. I rather think the question of laying the telephone on to individual houses an unnecessary expense, both to the Post Office and the individual. Practically all the calls would be trunk calls, and as anyone in the place could get to the Post Office in a few minutes, it would absurd to lay it on to private houses."

After Mr Neve's death in 1922, the business was taken over in the same premises by Mr Pritchard and subsequently by Mr Tucker, then Mr Gibb. In 1964, the Campden Parish Council's feared a loss of status when the town's Crown Post Office was closed down and its work put in the hands of a sub-postmaster, but Mr Stevenson, who by this time was running Elsley-Keeleys shop, opened the sub-post office there, where it has remained ever since. A more detailed account of the history of Campden Post Office, with photographs, newspaper extracts and recorded memories, will soon be placed in the CADHAS Archives.

The Buccaneer Doctor

David Cotterell

This article is a by-product of a member's researches into his Dover family connections.

What are the unlikely links between Robert Dover, the City of Bristol and the remote Pacific island of Juan Fernandez? The answer is Robert Dover's grandson, Thomas Dover, known both as the *Buccaneer Doctor* and *Doctor Quicksilver*, rescuer of Alexander Selkirk, (Defoe's Robinson Crusoe).

Thomas Dover matriculated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, qualified MB in medicine at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge in 1687 and completed his studies under his friend and tutor - the eminent physician, Dr. Thomas Sydenham. In the latter case there is a distinct anomaly: Sydenham had served with distinction in the Parliamentary army, while Thomas Dover's father, John Dover, had been a Royalist Captain. Magdalen Hall was a Puritan establishment and Thomas's bachelor brother, John Dover junior, also graduated there, so that it would seem that Robert Dover's grandchildren did not share the distaste for Puritanism that led to the establishment of the "Olympick" games.

Thomas practised medicine in Bristol in his early career and the City Council recorded their appreciation of the free treatment and medicine, which he gave to workhouse children. Restless and adventurous by nature, he is known to have travelled to the West Indies, possibly, but not definitely, connected with the slave trade. By 1708, he had acquired sufficient wealth to invest heavily in a Bristol-based syndicate backing Woodes Rogers in a privateering venture to the South Seas. Two frigates, the *Duke* and the *Duchess*, were commissioned with great care and due to the size of Dover's stake, his appointments included Second Captain of the *Duke* under Rogers, Captain of the Marines and, with two votes, President of the Council. (The Council was appointed by the Syndicate and had to agree all major issues).

Privateering, in decline in the 18th century, was in reality "piracy" by Royal Licence and vaguely justified as being a curb on Spanish and French influence in the seas around Latin America.

Apart from a mutiny off Tenerife, which Dover helped to quell, the voyage round Cape Horn was achieved without undue incident, but the curse of the seafarer - scurvy, had debilitated the crews to such an extent that the two ships headed for the remote island of Juan Fernandez to allow time for recovery. (Vitamin C deficiency had not then been identified as the cause, but Dover knew that fruit and fresh food alleviated an otherwise fatal disease). During the approach a light was seen on the shoreline and, fearing Spanish or French ships, Captain Dover and a force of marines went to investigate. They found only Alexander Selkirk who had been marooned on the island for just over four years and was destined to become Defoe's archetypal Robinson Crusoe.

What appears to have been a satisfactory relationship between Dover and Woodes Rogers, then deteriorated and it is likely that Selkirk, a skilled navigator but known troublemaker, intervened between them and undermined Dover's authority to his own advantage. William Dampier, himself a disgraced Royal Navy Captain come Pirate, and now the pilot of the expedition, knew Selkirk to be a competent navigator but, more significantly, that Captain Stradling of *The Cinque Ports*, who had marooned Selkirk on the island, disliked him intensely.

Dover, now at loggerheads with Woodes Rogers, apparently had to insist on leading the storming and looting of Guayaquil in Ecuador, but was accused of undue caution even though the city was taken with considerable booty. The accusation, fermented by Selkirk who was in the party, related to the fact that plague broke out in the city and Dover ordered a hasty departure without collecting the full ransom.

His eventual profit from the entire venture was £6,689 and, with the recovery of his capital he became a wealthy man, although he lost heavily in the South Sea Bubble.

Buccaneering days now behind him he returned to London and in 1721 was admitted a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, only to be admonished by the committee one year later for interference in another doctor's case. Plagued by South Sea Company debts, on the death of his wife Joanna, he returned temporarily to the Cotswolds to sell the Dover property in Barton on the Heath before returning to casual practice in the capital. Acerbic and confrontational by nature, he accused apothecaries of overcharging and labelled the College of Physicians a "clan of prejudiced gentlemen". He was forever "swimming against the tide" and it was suggested that his language was more suited to the quarterdeck than the medical profession.

Despite all his problems he was an innovative practitioner and even today some of his holistic methods are well recognised. In 1732 he published "*The Ancient Physicians Legacy to his Country*" in which his espousal of mercury for the treatment of many diseases earned him the name of "*the Quicksilver Doctor*" but also set out symptoms so clearly that patients could "self-diagnose". (It is possible that patients did not live long enough in those days to suffer the secondary effects of mercury poisoning). He developed the effective painkiller "*Dover's Powder*", a mixture of *opium* and *ipecac* that invoked regurgitation if taken in overdose, and it remained in general use for pain relief until the 1930s when replaced by aspirin. His book went through many editions and translations, largely without revision and if he had contained his tongue he might have achieved great things.

Retiring to live with his friend and cousin Sir John Tracy at Stanway House, he died there in 1742 and is buried in the Tracy family vault in Stanway Church.

So what do we make of our buccaneer doctor or for that matter his onetime partner in crime, Woodes Rogers?

Both appear to have been vain, difficult, publicity seeking and jealously contemptuous of each other's notoriety. Neither had any compunction regarding profit from piracy, slavery or the looting of Guayaquil, but both then became successful in other fields. Woodes Roger became Governor of Jamaica and reconciled the pirate community with law and order. Dover exposed a lot of ignorance and malpractice within the medical profession of the day and would treat poor patients without payment.

References "*Doctor Quicksilver*" L.A.G. Strong

"*A Cruising Voyage Round the World*" Woodes Rogers

"*A Voyage to the South Sea*" Capt. Edward Cooke 1712

Wikipedia

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

A Journey To Find Rolf Clayton

Alan Clayton

This article came about through an email enquiry to CADHAS from Cairns, Australia, about the author's great uncle Joseph Clayton F.R.Hist.S. (b.Clerkenwell 1868, d.Chipping Campden Gloucestershire 1943). We were able to link this enquiry to an item in the Archives and so answer some of the enquirer's questions. In this process we have learnt much of the person behind a past resident of Campden.

My father, Hugh Clayton, was born in Morden, Surrey in October 1906 and emigrated to Australia on the ship *Orama* that arrived in Sydney on 4 April, 1927. Just why he emigrated is a little unclear, although family legend has it that he had wanted to go to Oxford but his father had wanted him to become a commercial clerk and to work with his uncle.

Soon after he arrived in Australia, he moved to Queensland to take up a job as station hand on Bingera Cattle Station, just west of Bundaberg. It was while he was working at Bingera that he met Winifred Bishop and they married in 1937. While he was working at Bingera he studied radio theory and later was employed by Wyper Brothers of Bundaberg, servicing and installing radios. He received further training in electrical engineering as part of his military service during WWII. After the war he returned to Wypers for a short time before becoming chief engineer at the radio station 4BU in Bundaberg.

Shortly after his death in Caloundra in 1985, I found that in a state of depression prior to his death, he had disposed of all Clayton family records with the exception of his birth and marriage certificates and a badly preserved medallion that I guessed was of his mother, Florence (née Hannam) who died in London in 1907. By the time I became interested in family research in 1999, Winifred, my mother was suffering from Alzheimer's. So armed with the documents I had and a few hazy memories of stories dad had told – he refused to be drawn on his family background, I started. His birth certificate led me to my grandfather, Rolf Bruno Clayton, a journalist and my grandmother Florence who I later discovered was an artist.

A short search and a few dollars later, I had their marriage certificate. Rolf was 29 years of age and his deceased father, Francis Murros Clayton had been a newspaper editor. Florence was aged 36 years and her father, Edward Jasper Hannam, was a master watchmaker.

So far it had been pretty easy and then I hit the wall. I could not find a birth record for Rolf Bruno Clayton in or around 1876, although I could find a Ralph Clayton, a junior commercial clerk in the 1891 census, born 1876 with father Francis. I recalled that dad had mentioned that his father came from a large family and this Ralph Clayton had eight brothers and sisters. My research training has taught me to be cautious in drawing conclusions, so I began quietly to gather information about Ralph and his siblings, in the hope that I could confirm the connections with Rolf. It was during this search that I discovered Joseph Clayton.

At the same time, I began to look further at my great grandfather Francis, variously a gas collector, journalist and newspaper proprietor. He married Julia, née Clayton, and back a further generation Francis's father, a draper, and Julia's father, a printer, were brothers. It was during this searching that I realised it was the stories that interested

me most: Francis, who was imprisoned for nine months after standing guarantor for a friend, which did not work out, his eldest son Francis Meuross who became the perpetual curate at Chadwell St Mary and his sons Francis and Christopher, both of whom were killed in France in WW1.

Later, I got access to the 1901 census and there was Rolf Bruno Clayton, a commercial traveller, aged 23 and born in Brompton, but I could not find Ralph born 1876 in Islington. Were the two one and the same? Surely there could not be a Rolf and a Ralph, both with a father Francis who was a newspaper editor/owner? Was it just coincidence that this Francis's eldest son had the second name of *Meuross* when Rolf's marriage certificate shows his father as Francis *Murros*?

Well, to save you reading about several more years of trying to confirm the link between Rolf and Ralph, I found that Rolf had remarried twice and that Edward Jasper Hannam had a half brother John Bennett Budd Hannam. In turn this led me to make contact with Donald Hannam and his son Anthony, who were compiling the family history of the Hannam family. Donald found a marriage photograph in his collection that he could not place. The moment I saw it I knew that it was, in all probability, that of Rolf and Florence but the clothing did not really match with my understanding of wedding attire for the 1905 era. What I had to do was find another photograph that showed one of Rolf's siblings that I could then match with the wedding photograph.

I chose Joseph for many reasons. I thought that I had the best chance with him, because there seemed to be quite a lot written about him and also because I had become intrigued by the stories I was reading. Joseph was a Christian Socialist when he attended Worcester College, Oxford and later became a fairly well known historian. He is the author of more than 25 books with largely religious and social themes and at least three novels. He was also a prolific writer of articles for various newspapers and journals. He became a fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 1920 and was the editor and proprietor of the *New Age*, an independent weekly newspaper in 1906-7. In 1910 Joseph converted to Catholicism and was received into the Church. He also became a strong and active supporter of the suffragette movement and married Margaret Souter, a suffragette, in 1898. He was also asked by the Society of Women's Suffrage to stand as an Independent member for Salford South, which he declined.

In 1910 he was one of the vice presidents of the Hackney Peace Union and there is an account in *The Times* on 4th July, 1910 of his appearance in the North London Court following his arrest for assault. It was alleged:

“On Sunday morning, it was stated that a pro-Boer meeting was held in Victoria Park, and was conducted by the prisoner and others. There was strong opposition and ultimately the platform was stormed and broken up. As Joseph was being conducted from the Park, it was alleged that he struck a man who was said to be an onlooker behind the left ear...”

Perhaps not the best course of action for the secretary of the Hackney Peace Union!

Joseph and Margaret moved to Chipping Campden in about 1937. Until a couple of weeks ago I knew very little about this phase of their lives, but I was still looking for that elusive photograph that would solve my Rolf/Ralph dilemma. I wrote first to the local librarian, who was most helpful and sent me a copy of Joseph's obituary from the local newspaper. Well, what an insight that was. The appreciation was signed by

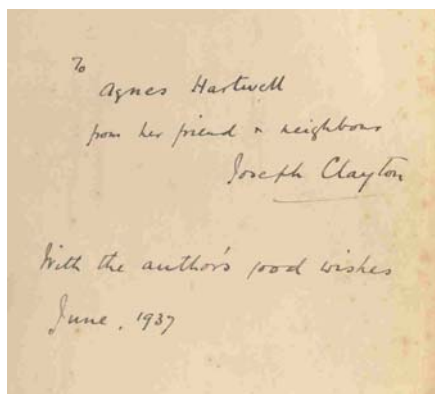
R.G.A (*Ed. and dated November 24th 1943*). I do not yet know who this was, but he said of Joseph:

“He was an intensely human individual, with a Dickensian interest in everything and everybody. There were informal gatherings in his house in late years, which stand out in the minds of those privileged to attend them. He would lie on his sofa, smoking his pipe and discoursing on anything and everything from the more obscure passages of Catholic history to the exact wording of an unusual publication. Dickens was a never failing joy to him and to hear him read one of the fruitier episodes was to realise how Dickens himself would have rejoiced in him...

“He gave me a flash of his character once when I met him by accident in a street in Clapham. He told me he was speaking that night at a meeting of a Parliamentary candidate, who was a ‘Socialist’ and a Catholic... Foolishly I asked him why he thought it necessary to support a Socialist on the ground that the Socialist was a Catholic. He retorted strongly. And stupidly, I began “Well of course, I admire you” – “But” he interrupted, as his eyes glittered, and sharply rebuked “I don’t want your damned admiration”. Then I realised that here was a man whose conviction nobody would treat lightly or foolishly”.

But still there was no photograph. The obituary did mention a daughter, Miss Clayton and two other close family members, Mr Eric Ward and Miss Waldham. So I had new avenues to follow. [*Ed. CADHAS members will be interested to read this too: ‘The church was almost filled with Campden friends of Mr Clayton and included the Misses Cresswell, Mrs Davis, Mrs Claxton, Mrs H Eaton, Mrs Rathbone, the Rev C E and Mrs Couchman, Mrs Crump, Miss Carter and Miss R Carter, Mrs Keeley, the Misses Riley, Mrs Cotterell, Mrs Benet-Clark, Mr Horsfield, the Rev Dennis Lane, Mrs Swinstead, Miss Griggs, Miss Bright, Mrs Ingram, Miss Cotterell, Miss Griffiths, Mr K E Kittson, Mr Keeley, Professor Campagnac, Mrs Devas, the Rev O R and Mrs Smith and Mr P Moran. ... Often I have entered the cottage in Campden with his friend and mine Frederick Landseer Maur Griggs R.. A. F.S.A.- mostly on a Sunday morning after Mass. These two witty men would exchange light badinage, Mrs Clayton joining in with a sweet quaintness of humour, which gave their home an almost Hans Anderson air, as if husband and wife were a couple of children who had only partly grown up.*]

The librarian also referred me to the Campden and District Historical and Archaeological Society (CADHAS) and members were able to provide me with a wealth of information including burial dates for Joseph and Margaret in St Catharine’s graveyard [*Joseph died Nov 19, buried Nov 23 1943 age 75, Margaret Souter died June 18 1944, buried June 21 1944 age 81*]. They also found a head stone for Margaret M Clayton, sister of Joseph [*died 5.9.1948, age 92*]. My records have a Margaret E Clayton as Joseph’s sister, so this also needs some further exploration.

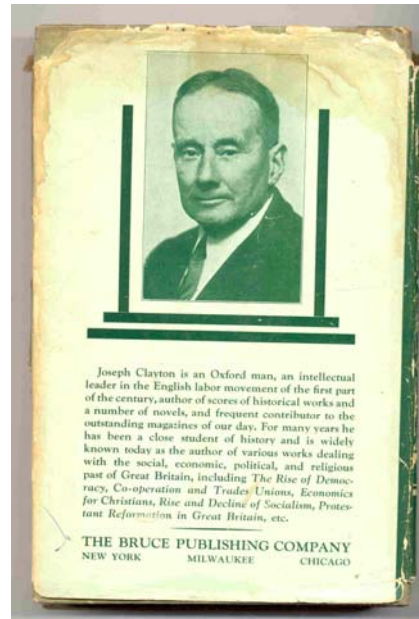


As luck would have it, Joseph was the neighbour of the great aunt of one of the society’s members and she had given to the society a signed copy of Joseph’s book ‘Luther and his Work’ published in 1937. The inscription reads:

“To Agnes Hartwell from her friend and neighbour Joseph Clayton with the author’s good wishes, June 1937”. [*Ed. Agnes Hartwell was a CADHAS member’s great aunt who died c.1960 & lived at Number 1 West End Terrace, which is near St Catharine’s Catholic church, so Joseph presumably*

lived in that vicinity. The author's preface on page xxviii finishes 'signed JC, Chipping Campden, Glos. England'. This date gives us a clue that he was in Campden at least from 1937 to 1943.]

The flyleaf of a book also has a photograph of Joseph. So I now have a sample of Joseph's writing, as well as his photograph. Of course I tried to match this photograph of Joseph with those in the wedding photograph taken in 1905. The family resemblance is strong and surprisingly his handwriting is not unlike my father's. Happy endings? - well not quite, the face of the person most likely to be Joseph in the photograph is partly obscured, so my dilemma remains, but what an exciting time it has been in the last couple of weeks and what an insight I now have into my great uncle Joseph (well I'm claiming him anyway until I can prove it one way or the other). My special thanks to the priest at St Catharine's, the staff at Chipping Campden library and members of CADHAS for opening up this new vista into Joseph's life at Chipping Campden.



If there is anyone who has stories about, or photographs of Joseph, Margaret, Miss Clayton, Mr Eric Ward or Miss Waldham, I would be pleased to hear from you. Just drop a note to the N&Q Editor or me on aclayton@bigpond.net.au. So, did Ralph change his name to Rolf sometime between 1891 and 1901? I think so but my search for a photo of one of the other siblings continues.

Ed. Does anyone remember Joseph Clayton before 1943? Where exactly did he live?

The Noel Family's Shakespeare Connections – Part 2

John Taplin

A third Noel-Shakespeare connection, though somewhat more tenuous in that it relates principally to property, occurs in the eighteenth century and concerns the estates of the ancient Cloptons of Stratford, builders of Shakespeare's old Stratford home, New Place, and nearby Clopton House. A comprehensive explanation of this connection requires an in-depth examination of the histories of these properties and their ownership. Clopton House, today a beautiful Carolean mansion nestling on the edge of the Welcombe Hills overlooking Stratford, was the principal home of the family which has a common ancestry with the Cloptons of Long Melford in Suffolk, though the Warwickshire Cloptons had been settled at Stratford since at least the early thirteenth century. New Place in Chapel Street, Stratford, had been built in the 1480s by Hugh Clopton who, as a younger son, was apprenticed as a mercer in London where he made a fortune and became mayor of that city in 1491-2. A bachelor, he was a generous benefactor to Stratford where his 'great stone bridge' still spans the Avon. He was also responsible for the building of the nave and tower of the chapel of the Guild of the Holy Cross opposite New Place, and for the Clopton Chapel at Holy Trinity Church.

Sir Hugh Clopton died, unmarried, in London in 1496 and was buried there at St. Margaret, Lothbury. His estates passed through his elder brother, Thomas, to his grandson, William Clopton. The tenure of New Place, whilst remaining in the ownership of the Cloptons, was granted or leased to various persons by them after Sir Hugh's death. Robert Paget held tenure until his death in 1504 and in 1543, William Clopton's son, also William, granted a lease, later life tenure, to Dr. Thomas Bentley. Bentley's death in 1549 and the re-marriage of his widow saw the lease forfeited, William Clopton retaking possession of the house. Clopton died on 4 January 1559-60 and Stopes quotes from his Inquisition Post Mortem as his 'freehold estate then in the tenure of William Bott'.ⁱ Bott, a lawyer of dubious reputation, managed by some means, probably underhand, to secure ownership of New Place from Clopton's son and heir, another William. In July 1565 Bott was expelled from his seat on the Stratford Town Council, providing the opening for the election of John Shakespeare, the Poet's father, as an alderman. It was from Bott and his wife, Elizabeth, and one Alban Heton that William Underhill, founder of the Idlicote branch of that family, purchased 'one messuage and one garden in Stretford upon Aven', this being New Place, on 12 November 1567.

A local Stratford tradition maintains that Bott had murdered his daughter at New Place. A generation later in 1597, Shakespeare was to buy the property from Underhill's son, also William, and murder again surrounds this transaction. Shortly after Shakespeare's acquisition of New Place, William Underhill died suddenly. Suspicion fell on his eldest son, Fulk, who was accused of poisoning his father and he was, reputedly, subsequently tried and hanged at Warwick for his crime.ⁱⁱ The possible doubt William Underhill's death may have thrown upon the validity of his New Place transaction with Shakespeare led to Shakespeare obtaining later, at some expense, an Exemplification for his purchase, additional legal proof should any of Underhill's heirs challenge his ownership of the property. New Place was to remain in the hands of Shakespeare and his descendants for over seventy years passing successively from Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna, to her daughter, Elizabeth, Lady Bernard; but with her death, childless, in February 1670 the property eventually passed out of the hands of the Shakespeares to return to the Clopton family.

In 1675, Sir Edward Walker purchased New Place from the executor, Edward Bagley, and the surviving trustee, Henry Smith, of the will of Shakespeare's granddaughter, Lady Bernard. Walker's death a little more than a year later saw New Place pass to his daughter, Barbara, and her husband, Sir John Clopton. The house, now substantially modernized, if not completely rebuilt, was gifted by Sir John Clopton to his third son, Hugh, upon the occasion of his marriage in 1702 to Elizabeth Milward. Hugh, later Sir Hugh Clopton, had two daughters who survived to adulthood. The eldest, Anne, married Thomas Boothby of Norbury, Staffordshire, who later adopted his mother's maiden name becoming Boothby Skrymsher, whilst the younger daughter, Katherine, married Henry Talbot, a younger son of William Talbot, bishop of Durham. Sir Hugh died at New Place, aged 80, in 1751 and his daughter, Anne Boothby Skrymsher, and his son-in-law Henry Talbot, sold his estate, including New Place, to a Cheshire clergyman, the Reverend Francis Gastrell, vicar of Frodsham. Hence the Clopton association with Shakespeare's Stratford home ended. The fate of New Place itself was to be an unhappy one under Gastrell's tenure and it was he who, in 1759, demolished the entire house following a dispute over tax issues with the Stratford Corporation.

The eldest son of Sir John Clopton was Edward, and it was to him the Clopton estate passed on his father's death in 1719. Edward Clopton married Martha Combe, the daughter of William Combe of the College, Old Stratford, and of the same family as Thomas Combe to whom Shakespeare had bequeathed his sword. Edward and Martha Clopton's granddaughter, Frances Clopton Partheriche,ⁱⁱⁱ died without issue in 1792 and the Clopton estate defaulted to Charles Boothby Skrymsher, grandson of Sir Hugh Clopton. Charles, who lived in London, was the only surviving son and heir of Anne and Thomas Boothby Skrymsher. He took the surname of Clopton on succeeding to the Clopton estate in accordance with the will of Frances Clopton Partheriche. He was born about 1740 and was a friend in later life of Beau Brummell. A rake and gambler, Charles was also known as 'Prince' Boothby, a nickname acquired as a result of his dress and life-style as a dilettante, and was caricatured a 'Prince of the old school' by Gillray. Bellew states that he died childless, by his own hand, in 1815 owing considerable debts, but he was in error as to the date of his death as the will of Charles Boothby Clopton was proved in 1800.^{iv} In fact, he did commit suicide in 1800 and an account of this is given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for August that year, though to compound the confusion of the names he used, he is referred to as John Skrimshire Boothby Clopton.^v With his death the Clopton estate eventually defaulted to his sister, Mrs. Maria Noel.

Born about 1739, Maria Boothby Skrymsher married Rowney Noel of Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire, at St. George's, Hanover Square, London on 21 July 1768, a witness being her brother, Charles.^{vi} Rowney was the fifth son of Sir Clobery Noel M.P. and sheriff of Leicestershire, and his wife, Elizabeth Rowney. The Noels of Kirkby Mallory were descended from John Noel, a younger half-brother of Sir Andrew Noel, husband of Mabel Harrington [*Ed. Andrew and Mabel are the ancestors of the Campden Noel line*]. John Noel's grandson, Sir Vere or Verney Noel, was created 1st baronet of Kirkby Mallory in 1660 and his son, Sir William Noel, 2nd baronet, married as his second wife, Frances, the third daughter of Humble Ward, 1st Lord Birmingham, who had inherited the Dudley estates and titles of the Sutton family, whose relationship to the Harringtons was outlined in Part 1 of this study. [*Ed. Notes & Queries Vol. VI, No 2*] Their daughter, Frances Sneyd née Noel,^{vii} married secondly, Sir Charles Skrymsher of Norbury, Staffordshire, whose daughter, Elizabeth from his first marriage to Hester Taylor, married Thomas Boothby of Tooley Park, Peckleton, Leicestershire.^{viii} It was their son, Thomas, who adopted the name Boothby Skrymsher and married Anne Clopton, daughter of Sir Hugh Clopton. The baronetcy of Kirkby Mallory descended to Rowney Noel's father, Sir Clobery, as 5th baronet in 1697. Rowney Noel was born on 26 July 1726 and matriculated at St. John's College, Oxford, on 1 November 1743, aged 17. He graduated B.A. from All Souls' College in 1747, proceeding M.A. in 1751 and B.D. in 1759. He became rector of Kirkby Mallory and Elmsthorpe, Leicestershire, and dean of Salisbury from 1780 until his death on 26 June 1786.^{ix} Maria survived him some thirty-five years, dying at Bath in 1831.^x

Maria Noel had sold the reversion of the Clopton estate to her nephew, Charles Meynell in September 1811, apparently according to Bellew, to raise money to pay off the debts incurred by Charles Boothby Skrymsher Clopton. Charles Meynell was the son of Hugo Meynell the elder, who was the deceased husband of Ann Boothby Skrymsher, Maria Noel's sister. With the sale of its reversion to Charles Meynell, the association of the Clopton name to the estate continued through the female lineage of the Clopton family as late as 1815 when Charles Meynell died. At his death the

reversion passed to his widow, Elizabeth Thomas, whom he married on 23 February 1815 at St. Oswald's, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, shortly before his death.^{xi} She remarried to Samuel Stoddart and in October 1830 George Lloyd of Welcombe, Stratford, bought the whole estate, thus ending the last vestige of Clopton and Noel connection to it. Today the site of New Place is maintained by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust as part of the garden to Nash's House, a property once owned by Thomas Nash and Shakespeare's granddaughter, Elizabeth. Clopton House became apartments in the 1980s and part of the former estate grounds surrounding it has become a country park open to the public.

ⁱ Charlotte Carmichael Stopes, *Shakespeare's Warwickshire Contemporaries*, p.216, 1907.

ⁱⁱ J.H. Morrison, *The Underhills of Warwickshire*, pp.148-153, Cambridge University Press, 1932. Another account of Fulk's death maintains not that he was hanged, but that his involvement in his father's death only emerged after his death in 1599. E.A.B Barnard, *New Links with Shakespeare* Cambridge University Press 1930, pp.120-1.

ⁱⁱⁱ Frances Clopton was baptised on 1 July 1718. She died on 21 October 1792. Her will, PROB 11/1225, 114/143 & 144, was dated 8 May 1792 and proved 21 November 1792. Under the terms of her will successors to the Clopton inheritance had to take the name Clopton.

^{iv} J.C.M. Bellew, *Shakespeare's Home at New Place, Stratford upon Avon* pp. 351-2, 1863; PROB 11/1346, 94/113, will of Charles Boothby Clopton, proved 25 August 1800. Charles Boothby Skrymsher Clopton aka 'Prince' Boothby, born about 1740.

^v An account of the suicide of "Charles Scrimshire Boothby Clopton, of Clarges St. Piccadilly" is given in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, LXX pt.2, p.800, for 1800.

^{vi} Transcripts of the marriage registers of St. George, Hanover Square, London.

^{vii} Frances Sneyd, widow of Ralph Sneyd of Keele, married Sir Charles Skrymsher on 18 August 1699 at Keele, Staffordshire. She married twice more after the death of Sir Charles; her third husband was Sir John Chester 4th Baronet Chichley, and her last, Charles Adderley of Hams Hall. See PROB 11/792, 57/60, will of Dame Frances Chester, Widow of Hams Hall near Coleshill, Warwickshire, dated 24 October 1747 and proved 31 January 1752.

^{viii} PROB 11/797, 397/400,401 & 402, will of Thomas Boothby, proved 13 November 1752. Thomas Boothby married firstly, Elizabeth Skrymsher at Norbury, Staffordshire, on 20 July 1697. 'Tom of Tooley' (1681-1752), as he was known, was probably the greatest sportsman of his day. Also called the Father of Foxhunting, he founded a pack that became formalised as the Quorn Hunt under Hugo Meynell, who married his granddaughter, Ann Boothby Skrymsher. Boothby married three times, besides keeping a mistress, Catherine Holmes. Although he confuses Boothby's wives, an interesting description of Thomas Boothby's life is related in J. Gillies Shields 'Old Tom of Tooley' – *Father of the Quorn – His Life and Times*, published privately (limited edition of 350) in 1998. Boothby's second wife, Hester Skrymsher, was a distant cousin of his first wife, and an aunt of Dr. Samuel Johnson.

^{ix} Joseph Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses*, Noel, Rowney. Some pedigrees give his death as 6 July 1786, though I suspect this date refers to his burial.

^x PROB 11/1784, 292/266, will of Maria Noel née Boothby Skrymsher, dated 1 July 1829 and proved 28 April 1831. She died at Bath, Somerset, in 1831. See Noel of Kirkby Mallory entry in Burke's *Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies etc.*

^{xi} PROB 11/1567, 329/274 & 275, will of Charles Meynell of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, dated 30 July 1814 and proved 28 April 1815.